

COVER PAGE

Government of Uzbekistan

United Nations Development Programme

Assisting the Government of Uzbekistan in the formulation and implementation of ICT for development policy

Proposal ID: 00039651

Project ID: 00044565

Brief description

Two major interlinked objectives of the project will be: (1) to support the development of ICT in Uzbekistan and (2) to facilitate use of ICT by Government for achieving specific development goals in (a) poverty reduction, (b) public governance, (c) health care, (d) education, (e) environment and (f) gender areas. To reach the first objective, the project will pursue a wide range of activities aimed at triggering and supporting: (a) ICT friendly policy, (b) development of infrastructure for internet connectivity, (c) human resource development, (d) new technology, (e) development of partnership, and (f) awareness of benefits of ICT. The second objective will be achieved through both upstream advice and pilot projects to demonstrate benefits for ICT for development in specific areas.

[REVISED VERSION AS OF 10 JANUARY 2008]

SIGNATURE PAGE

Country: Uzbekistan

UNDAF Outcome: **Outcome 5:** Government and civil society capacity and partnership strengthened for more effective governance

Expected Outcome: **CP Outcome 5.** Enabling environment for civil society to participate actively in development processes

Expected Output: **CP Output 5.1** Awareness raised and capacity strengthened of Government and CSOs on participatory/ inclusive policy processes and the role of civil society

Core Result 18: Civil society participation and influence in policy dialogue and processes ensured, especially with regard to the MDGs and PRSP

Implementing partner: Coordination Council for development of computerization and information and communication technologies

Responsible parties: UNDP, Communication and Information Agency of Uzbekistan (UzACI)

Programme Period: Country Programme 2005-2009
Programme Component: MYFF Service line 2.5. E-Governance and access to information
Project Title: Assisting the Government of Uzbekistan in the formulation and implementation of ICT for development policy
Project ID: 00044565
Project Duration: 1 May 2005 – 31 December 2010 (5 years and 8 months)
Management Arrangements: NEX

Budget	USD 1,055,000
GMS Fee	n/a
Allocated resources:	
• UNDP TRAC	USD 1,055,000
• Other:	
• Government:	_____
• In kind contributions	_____
	Government: Office premises

Agreed by:  Mr. Abdulla Aripov
Deputy Prime Minister

Date: _____

Agreed by:  Mr. Fikret Akcura
UNDP Resident Representative

Date: _____

17 RHB 2008

SECTION I.

PART I. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Information-communication technologies (ICT) are being more and more widely used as a tool to reach goals of sustainable development by most of developing countries. Since becoming independent in 1991, Uzbekistan has also demonstrated its commitment to using ICT for development and has made strong efforts to build up legal and regulatory framework for promoting various aspects of ICT. In 2002 according to Decree of the President of Uzbekistan the Coordination Council for the Development of Computerization and ICT (ICT Council) has been established to spearhead the formulation of ICT enabling policy and pursue inter-agency coordination. Same decree transformed Agency of Post and Telecommunication into Communication and Information Agency of Uzbekistan and tasked it to also work as an executive body of the ICT Council. New Complex on ICT Issues has been established within the Cabinet of Ministers. Head of the Complex on ICT (Deputy Prime Minister) heads the ICT Council as well. In late 2004 the Secretariat of this complex has been scaled up to form the Department with additional responsibilities including the coordination of mass media and development of information resources.

To further develop ICTs in Uzbekistan, The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan PP#117 (from July 8, 2005) "On additional measures towards further development of information and communication technologies" established the Targets indicators for development of telecommunication and data networks and utilization of ICTs for the period until 2010, the Program on introduction of information and communication technologies in government organizations for the period until 2010, and the Program on establishment and development of National information search system.

Over the last years the Government has made considerable progress in promoting ICT for development. The legal base to enable the ICT development is being improved. The adopted laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On informatization", "On electronic commerce", "On electronic document flow", "On electronic digital signature", "On electronic payments" and others have established the legal environment for wider introduction of new ICTs into various fields of social life. As a specific example of supporting the ICT development, the Cabinet of Ministers ordered all governmental institutions to open up active websites and currently almost all major ministries, committees, agencies and regional administrations have their websites. Number of internet users in the country is currently approaching 2,000,000 and has been increasing by 2.5 times over the last two years whilst the number of mobile phone users is on average increasing 100% per annum. The total bandwidth of external connections to the Internet backbones out of Uzbekistan increased from 18 Mbit/s in 2002 to 240 Mbit/s in 2007 with number of licensed ISPs increasing from 135 in 2002 to 693 in 2007. Growing competition among ISPs pushed down the Internet access prices and widened the range of Internet services, thus making the Internet even more accessible for the population. The access of government organizations to the Internet is being improved, and currently 1012 ministries, agencies and other administrative organizations have access to the global network. The national zone in the Internet shows a stable growth. Currently there are 5,764 websites in .Uz domain zone, and the growth

has been a result of reduction of domain name registration costs. Educational entities are also placing greater emphasis on using ICT in education: last year the Government reported 100% Internet access for higher education institutions.

The National Programs on ICT development have been formulated and currently are being implemented. With direct participation of UNDP in Uzbekistan, the professional Association of IT companies and organizations of Uzbekistan has been established and currently it unites around 50 leading ICT organizations in Uzbekistan. The activities of IT association are primarily targeting the establishment of favorable environment for “business – government – civil society institutions” system.

On December 17, 2007 the Cabinet of Ministers issued the Resolution #259 to further develop the online government portal. The resolution identified the common requirements for creating, developing, maintaining and supporting the government portal through establishing the relevant system architecture and ensuring the provision of relevant information by different government agencies. It is envisaged that the portal will serve as a platform for providing the online (interactive) government information services to the population and businesses.

However, along with these positive achievements, a number of problems remains. There are no really “online” governmental services for citizens and businesses in place. For example, most of the governmental websites are not updated on regular basis and do not contain adequate information. The level of equipping regional branches of governmental institutions, primary schools with modern PCs and getting them connected to the Internet remains insufficient. Cost of the Internet connection remains high in relation to average income and, as a result, large numbers of people cannot afford using Internet. This is especially acute in rural areas where high access costs are coupled with insufficient infrastructure and a lack of ICT awareness. ICT industry remains largely informal and contributes a negligible fraction to GDP. Despite all the pro-activeness of ICT Council, the implementation of ICT in education and healthcare services is not systematic due to the absence of established targets and indicators. E-business is still in its very initial stage and requires more efforts to realize its potential. The shortage of skilled ICT specialists caused by high market growth rates and insufficient quantity of prepared professionals as well as introduction of international standards within learning system must be addressed very promptly. The shortage of specialists is aggravated with their outflow to foreign countries or so-called “brain drain” issue caused by insufficient level of conditions at working place. Despite adopting important legislative acts, their realization has been slow, partly due to the inefficient follow up through sub-legislative acts, new standards and procedures.

Currently only the concepts of integration of information systems and implementation of unified e-government architecture are being formulated. There is a clear lack of well-founded recommendations on streamlining the activities of government agencies in the areas of development of information systems and information resources, as well as effective exchange of information. Major domestic customers of ICT products and services including government agencies are poorly informed about the technical and technological developments of domestic and foreign companies, which ultimately leads to selection of obsolete technologies and waste of funds. In addition, the issues of raising the computer literacy of government officials are of particular importance and must be stressed. The available educational courses for these

professionals are often cumbersome, poorly packaged, not standardized, which in turn doesn't allow assessing the level of their acquired knowledge in the process of learning.

In view of the above, there are two aspects of ICT policy that need to be addressed to unleash the full potential of ICT in Uzbekistan. The key strategic document of the Government in ICT area "The Programme on development of computerization and ICT for the years of 2002-2010", sets ambitious substantive and quantitative targets. However, this strategy is not supported by a comprehensive Action Plan outlining how those targets would be achieved. In the meantime, action plans in important ICT development areas such as e-governance, e-commerce and infrastructure development were formulated but not adopted. Therefore, there is an acute need for further ICT policy formulation and capacity development.

Another aspect absent from the ICT policy is any direct linkages to Uzbekistan's specific development goals in poverty reduction, education, health care, etc. Strategic documents including National Programme on Human Resources development, National Programme on Reforming the Healthcare, National Programme on Protection of Environment, programmes on export promotion, etc. that set out these goals do not fully account for ICT as a powerful instrument that facilitates their achievement. As a result, the benefits of ICT for increasing employment, income generation, more efficient governance and a number of other goals are not captured in a comprehensive manner.

UNDP is well positioned to assist the Government to further enable main drivers of ICT policy and link ICT policy to the achievement of specific development goals. During the previous Programme cycle UNDP has been one of the main supporters of ICT policy formulation in Uzbekistan through its Digital Development Initiative Programme, Projects "Capacity Building for Internet Technologies Development and Promotion in Uzbekistan (UzSciNet)" and "Promotion of ICT Units in Rural Areas to Foster SME Development projects". In contrast to other donors involved in ICT development of Uzbekistan, UNDP has been closely involved with ICT policy formulation. As an active member of the ICT Council, UNDP has made a significant contribution into policy development through participation in its meetings and working groups, funding study tours of government officials and preparing research papers. Through its DDI Programme, UNDP helped to create an enabling environment for ICT development, prepare ICT development monitoring reports and policy papers, built capacity of key institutions and implemented pilot projects. It has accumulated knowledge and experience in Uzbekistan's ICT development area, which is very valuable in further formulation of and support to ICT Policy in Uzbekistan.

The key lessons UNDP learned from its past cooperation in ICT area can be summarized as follows: 1) Government of Uzbekistan is committed to the development of ICT, but often focuses on its technological rather than developmental aspects; 2) Focus of ICT development assistance should be both on ICT policy formulation and its implementation; 3) Potential of partnership with both local and international private companies is strong and needs to be tapped in future projects.

PART II. STRATEGY

The project contributes to meeting the objectives set out in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Uzbekistan and will be implemented within the Country Programme Action Plan for Uzbekistan for the period 2005-2009.

Two major interlinked objectives of the project will be: (1) to support the development of ICT in Uzbekistan and (2) to facilitate usage of ICT by Government for achieving specific development goals in (a) poverty reduction, (b) public governance, (c) health care, (d) education, (e) environment and (f) gender areas.

To reach the first objective, the project will pursue a wide range of activities aimed at triggering and supporting: (a) ICT friendly policy, (b) development of infrastructure for the Internet connectivity, (c) human resource development, (d) new technology, (e) development of partnership, and (f) awareness of benefits of ICT. The second objective will be achieved through both upstream advice and pilot projects to demonstrate benefits for ICT for development in specific areas.

Consequently, the project will produce the following main output:

PROJECT OUTPUT: Enhanced capacity of the Government of Uzbekistan to use ICT as a policy instrument for the reducing poverty, better governance, environmental sustainability, higher education and health care standards, as well as gender equality.

INDICATORS:

- Growth in number of websites and the quality of their contents, increase in number of Internet users and their online activity
- Increase in number of software and hardware producers, ICT industry as a percentage of GDP
- Increase in number and quality of provided online government information services
- Introduction of national standardized computer training and computer literacy assessment system for government employees
- Penetration of ICT into government, business, health care and education
- Increase in knowledge level of government employees and professional skills of ICT specialists

The following activities will be undertaken to produce the final project output:

Activity 1: Assisting the Government in enabling major drivers of ICT development

Sub-activities will include:

- Support to the formulation of ICT policy
 - Facilitation of Uzbekistan's participation in World Summit on Information Society issues
 - Improvement of system of indicators to monitor the ICT development in Uzbekistan

- Undertaking regular surveys of population, households, government entities and businesses on ICT penetration issues into their activities
 - Preparation of annual publication assessing the status of ICT development and its potential for growth
 - Holding annual ICT summits, conferences, workshops and exhibitions on the status and prospects for ICT development in Uzbekistan
 - Preparation and publication of guidelines on protection of intellectual property rights of software developers
 - Assistance in formulation and development of legal base in the areas of private data protection and security of archive documents
 - Supporting the Scientific engineering and marketing research center (SEMRC) in developing the information and analytical direction of ICT sphere (information and analytical Internet publication)
- Assistance in development of infrastructure for more universal Internet connectivity
 - Assistance in improvement of .UZ domain zone administration system
 - Research paper on the status and development perspectives of the broadband communication market and main directions towards reduction of costs of the Internet connection and expansion of coverage
 - Review paper on the best international practices of establishing rural telecenters (public access points) to increase the public awareness in ICTs and enhance the access of population to online government information services
 - Implementation of pilot projects to support the establishment of telecenters (public access points)
- Increasing the awareness of the Government on latest ICT development trends and decisions
 - Assistance in promotion and development of solutions based on use of free/open source software (FOSS) for development: preparation and publication of information and analytical documents and research papers, establishment of on-line resource center and creation of FOSS CDs, broadcasting of specialized TV programmes, conducting training courses, assisting the Linux society of Uzbekistan, organizing study tours and workshops on international practices of implementation of FOSS based solutions for government information systems
 - Piloting open source software based computer systems within telecenters
- Assisting the training of ICT specialists
 - Developing the curriculum, bringing new teaching methodologies and material to Tashkent University of Information Technologies
 - Assistance in professional development of lecturers of Tashkent University of Information Technologies through tailor made courses as well as financing their participation in Cisco Academy and similar courses
 - Enhancing the capacity of Young Developers Training and Support Center on training the young specialists
 - Support to the activities of ICT volunteers

- Facilitation of private and public partnership for the development of ICT
 - Assistance in increasing the capacity of IT association of Uzbekistan to enhance the partnership between the government and civil society and ensure better governance
 - Organization of ICT forums and professional workshops for ICT policy makers and private companies to facilitate the dialog on ICT development issues
 - ICT donor coordination meetings
- Raising awareness on ICT and their benefits
 - TV and radio shows on teaching ICT basics to broader audience and youth
 - Raising awareness of population on ICT development issues in Uzbekistan and other countries through mass media (newspapers, online resources, exhibitions)

Activity 2: Assisting the Government in using ICT as an instrument for development and achieving the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals)

Sub-activities will include:

- ICT for the reduction of poverty
 - Assistance in development of the Law on e-Payments
 - Assistance in developing of regulations and standards for the application of the Law on e-Signature
 - Assistance in development of Strategy for Uzbekistan's software and hardware industry
 - Conferences and travel for exploring outsourcing opportunities for Uzbekistan
 - Assistance to special government working group in reviewing the best international practices on establishing and operating the free scientific zones for the development of ICT industry, organization relevant study tours
 - Assistance in preparation and implementation of pilot project on application of ICT in tax administration (within tax administration project)
 - Support to the Ministry of Economy in development of the database on monitoring of investment projects
- ICT for better governance
 - Assistance in introduction and development of e-government in Uzbekistan to increase the accessibility of government information and raise the quality of provided government services
 - Implementation of unified technical web platform and development of common standards for government websites
 - Assistance in establishing of single portal (one-stop-shop) for government information services
 - Publication on the Status and Prospects for e-Governance in Uzbekistan
 - Assistance in development and launching of free online database of legal documents
 - Assistance in development of Concept and action plan for the establishment of Government Intranet, databases of Government agencies and a system of electronic document flow

- Supporting the development of e-Governance Competency Center under the IT association of Uzbekistan
 - Introduction and implementation of national standardized computer training and computer literacy assessment system for government employees
 - Assistance in building the capacity of the Academy of State and Social Construction under the President of the Republic for conducting the e-government trainings for government officials
 - Assistance to SEMRC in establishing the E-Signature Certification Center
 - Implementation of pilot initiative on introduction of e-government elements within regional administration (khokimiyat) in one of the regions of Uzbekistan
- ICT for the protection of environment
 - Raising awareness of population on application of ICTs for development of geographic information systems (GIS) and tracking the environment situation in Uzbekistan
- ICT for education
 - Assistance in introduction and implementation of ICTs in educational sphere
 - Assistance in formation of information resources and converting the printing media into digital format (digitization of hard copy materials)
 - Management of RE.UZ portal
 - Development and publication of second edition of ICT glossary
 - Assistance to educational establishments with development and maintenance of their websites
- ICT for the promotion of gender equality
 - Monitoring of the project on Introducing ICT in Women's Committee
 - Participation in conducting the Women's Internet Festival and Tech Age Girls contests
- ICT for healthcare
 - Assistance in preparation of the Program of the Development of e-health in Uzbekistan
 - Organization of special e-health section within ICT Summits, invitation of international and local speakers and experts for consultations and sharing the experiences
 - Organization of special videoconference sessions for healthcare system specialists

PART III. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The project will be implemented jointly with the Coordination Council for development of computerization and information-communication technologies (ICT Council). The project management will be facilitated from ICT Council side through the National Project Coordinator, representative of ICT Council executive body, at the level of Deputy General Director (UzACI). His/her terms of reference are included in the Annex I of this project document. He/she will

work closely with the UNDP Programme Officer heading the Good Governance Team of the UNDP Tashkent Office.

The following staff will be hired to undertake project activities:

1. Project Manager
2. 2 National Consultants on e-governance
3. National Consultant on ICT policy
4. National Consultant on ICT solutions
5. National Consultant on ICT training and volunteers
6. Specialist on PR and Outreach
7. Designer/Developer
8. Project Assistant
9. Driver/Logistics
10. Cleaner/Caterer
11. Security team (3)

The UNDP country office will provide the following support services for the activities of the project:

- a) Identification and recruitment of the project personnel;
- b) Identification and facilitation of training activities;
- c) Procurement of goods and services, subcontracts
- d) Project coordination
- e) Financial management and direct payments.
- f) Technical reporting
- g) Monitoring and evaluation

At the end of each calendar year, the UNDP will submit request for cost-recovery for provided services (ISS), based on the latest Universal Price List.

The Government of Uzbekistan will provide in-kind contribution towards project costs in the form of office premises.

PART IV. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The project will be subject to monitoring by the UNDP Country Office in accordance with UNDP monitoring and evaluation guidelines.

Annual Project Work plans will be prepared and agreed by the project stakeholders. Such work plans will basically serve as a planning, coordination and monitoring tool.

Regular UNDP-ICT Council Secretariat working meetings will be organized to monitor project progress and implementation of project activities. Other parties may participate in the working meetings, as applicable. In addition monitoring visits by UNDP programme staff will take place at least once a year.

At the end of the project, an evaluation will be undertaken by local or international consultant to assess the project impact and lessons learnt.

PART V. LEGAL CONTEXT

This Project Document shall be the instrument referred to as the project document in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Government of Uzbekistan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), signed by the Parties on 10th June 1993.

The following types of revisions may be made to this project document with the signature of the UNDP Resident Representative, under the condition that the other signatories of the project document have no objection to the proposed changes:

- a. Revision of, or addition of, any of the annexes of the project document;
- b. Revisions which do not involve significant changes in the immediate objectives, outputs or activities of the project, but are caused by rearrangements of inputs agreed to or by cost increases due to inflation.
- c. Mandatory annual revisions which re-phase the delivery of agreed project inputs or increased expert or other costs due to inflation or take into account agency expenditure flexibility.

SECTION II - PROJECT RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK

<p>Intended Outcome as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resource Framework: Expected UNDAF outcome #5: Government and civil society capacity and partnership strengthened for more effective governance</p> <p>Country Programme expected outcome 5. Enabling environment for civil society to participate actively in development processes</p>			
<p>Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets. <i>Indicators:</i> Existence of mechanisms for consultations between government and CSOs on reform issues and programmes. <i>Baseline:</i> Weak mechanisms for dialogue and consultations with civil society during policy making process <i>Target:</i> CSO consultation mechanisms launched</p>			
<p>Applicable MYFF Service Line: 2.5. E-Governance and access to information</p>			
<p>Partnership Strategy: Coordination Council for development of computerization and information and communication technologies, UNDP, UzACI</p>			
<p>Project title: Assisting the Government of Uzbekistan in the formulation and implementation of ICT for development policy, Project ID: 00044565</p>			
Intended Outputs	Output Targets for (years)	Indicative Activities	Responsible parties
<p>Enhanced capacity of the Government of Uzbekistan to use ICT as a policy instrument for the reducing poverty, better governance, environmental sustainability, higher education and health care standards, as well as gender equality</p>	<p>Assistance in building e-government foundations in the country, increasing accessibility and quality of information resources and online government services, building capacity of government officials and professional skills of ICT specialists, strengthening partnership with IT Association of Uzbekistan, promoting innovative development of ICT industry in Uzbekistan, promoting national computer literacy certification system, raising awareness of population on ICT advantages.</p>	<p>Activity 1: Assisting the Government in enabling major drivers of ICT development</p> <p>Activity 2: Assisting the Government in using ICT as an instrument for development and achieving the MDGs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Inputs</p> <p>UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subcontracts • Travel • Project staff • Short-term consultants • Workshops • Equipment <p>Total: <u>USD 1,955,000</u></p> <p>ICT Council (in-kind contribution)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office premises

SECTION III—THE TOTAL WORKPLAN AND BUDGET

Activities	Sub-activities	Total in USD
Activity 1: Assisting the Government in enabling major drivers of ICT development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to the formulation of ICT policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitation of Uzbekistan’s participation in World Summit on Information Society issues - Improvement of system of indicators to monitor the ICT development in Uzbekistan - Undertaking regular surveys of population, households, government entities and businesses on ICT penetration issues into their activities - Preparation of annual publication assessing the status of ICT development and its potential for growth - Holding annual ICT summits, conferences, workshops and exhibitions on the status and prospects for ICT development in Uzbekistan - Preparation and publication of guidelines on protection of intellectual property rights of software developers - Assistance in formulation and development of legal base in the areas of private data protection and security of archive documents - Supporting the Scientific engineering and marketing research center (SEMRC) in developing the information and analytical direction of ICT sphere (information and analytical Internet publication) 	\$130,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance in development of infrastructure for more universal Internet connectivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assistance in improvement of .UZ domain zone administration system - Research paper on the status and development perspectives of the broadband communication market and main directions towards reduction of costs of the Internet connection and expansion of coverage - Review paper on the best international practices of establishing rural telecenters (public access points) to increase the public awareness in ICTs and enhance the access of population to online government information services - Implementation of pilot projects to support the establishment of telecenters (public access points) 	\$55,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the awareness of the Government on latest ICT development trends and decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assistance in promotion and development of solutions based on use of free/open source software (FOSS) for development: preparation and publication of information and analytical 	\$35,000

	<p>documents and research papers, establishment of on-line resource center and creation of FOSS CDs, broadcasting of specialized TV programmes, conducting training courses, assisting the Linux society of Uzbekistan, organizing study tours and workshops on international practices of implementation of FOSS based solutions for government information systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Piloting open source software based computer systems within telecenters 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting the training of ICT specialists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing the curriculum, bringing new teaching methodologies and material to Tashkent University of Information Technologies - Assistance in professional development of lecturers of Tashkent University of Information Technologies through tailor made courses as well as financing their participation in Cisco Academy and similar courses - Enhancing the capacity of Young Developers Training and Support Center on training the young specialists - Support to the activities of ICT volunteers 	\$45,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitation of private and public partnership for the development of ICT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assistance in increasing the capacity of IT association of Uzbekistan to enhance the partnership between the government and civil society and ensure better governance - Organization of ICT forums and professional workshops for ICT policy makers and private companies to facilitate the dialog on ICT development issues - ICT donor coordination meetings 	\$40,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness on ICT and their benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TV and radio shows on teaching ICT basics to broader audience and youth - Raising awareness of population on ICT development issues in Uzbekistan and other countries through mass media (newspapers, online resources, exhibitions) 	\$50,000
	SUB-TOTAL FOR ACTIVITY 1 :	\$355,000
Activity 2: Supporting the Government in using ICT as an instrument for development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT for the reduction of poverty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assistance in development of the Law on e-Payments - Assistance in developing of regulations and standards for the application of the Law on e-Signature - Assistance in development of Strategy for Uzbekistan's software and hardware industry - Conferences and travel for exploring outsourcing opportunities for Uzbekistan - Assistance to special government working group in reviewing the best international practices on establishing and operating 	\$130,000

	<p>the free scientific zones for the development of ICT industry, organization relevant study tours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assistance in preparation and implementation of pilot project on application of ICT in tax administration (within tax administration project) - Support to the Ministry of Economy in development of the database on monitoring of investment projects 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT for better governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assistance in introduction and development of e-government in Uzbekistan to increase the accessibility of government information and raise the quality of provided government services - Implementation of unified technical web platform and development of common standards for government websites - Assistance in establishing of single portal (one-stop-shop) for government information services - Publication on the Status and Prospects for e-Governance in Uzbekistan - Assistance in development and launching of free online database of legal documents - Assistance in development of Concept and action plan for the establishment of Government Intranet, databases of Government agencies and a system of electronic document flow - Supporting the development of e-Governance Competency Center under the IT association of Uzbekistan - Introduction and implementation of national standardized computer training and computer literacy assessment system for government employees - Assistance in building the capacity of the Academy of State and Social Construction under the President of the Republic for conducting the e-government trainings for government officials - Assistance to SEMRC in establishing the E-Signature Certification Center - Implementation of pilot initiative on introduction of e-government elements within regional administration (khokimiyat) in one of the regions of Uzbekistan 	\$490,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT for education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assistance in introduction and implementation of ICTs in educational sphere - Assistance in formation of information resources and converting the printing media into digital format (digitization of hard copy materials) - Management of RE.UZ portal - Development and publication of second edition of ICT 	\$50,000