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Uzbekistan

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Remark

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Anmerkungen

Die Informationen aus dem Country Fact Sheet (Mai 2014) wurden von IOM im Zuge des Projektes der Staatendokumentation „Länderinformationen zur sozioökonomischen Lage in ausgewählten Herkunftsländern“ recherchiert. Dieses Projekt wurde im Rahmen des Europäischen Flüchtlingsfonds und des Bundesamtes für Fremdenwesen und Asyl finanziert.

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COUNTRY FACT SHEET

UZBEKISTAN

May 2014



INTRODUCTION

This Country Fact Sheet (CFS) was prepared by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) within the framework of the project "Production of Country Fact Sheets on the Economic and socioeconomic Situation of Selected Countries of Origin" funded by the Austrian Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (*Bundesamt für Fremdenwesen und Asyl*).

The general aim of the project and this document is to provide neutral, objective, duly researched and up-to-date information on countries of origin, with a focus on aspects that are important for potential returnees in order to make a well-informed decision regarding their assisted voluntary return and reintegration from Austria regarding their voluntary return from Austria, and secondarily to provide return counsellors and social workers with the basis for an assessment of reintegration perspectives in Uzbekistan.

The CFS provides information about the economic and socioeconomic situation in Uzbekistan. It aims to present up-to-date and complete information; however, in some instances distortions may exist as a result of rapidly altering data specifically in the context of economy, infrastructure, and socioeconomic situation requiring regular update.

1.1. Methodology and Sources

Under the guidance of IOM Austria, the CFS was developed on the basis of thorough desk research.

Taking into consideration that all entitlements in the Republic of Uzbekistan (to shelter, basic human needs, education, work, health and other) is based on citizenship, permanent residence and compulsory registration in Uzbekistan, high emphasis was placed on the laws and regulations governing return and mobility, difficulties returnees might face at the entry points, as well as on regulations on compulsory registration and residence permit.

The CFS is based on original sources gathered from publications of government institutions like the Government portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan, websites of the embassies of Uzbekistan in the US, the UK and other countries, national news agencies, as well as from websites of ministries, state inspections and committees.

In order to provide a balanced and comparative picture on Uzbekistan, information and statistical data of secondary sources published in international mass media, annual overviews and country reports of UNDP, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and others were used.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1. Geography

The Republic of Uzbekistan with an area of 447,000 square kilometers is situated in the central part of Central Asia between two rivers: the Amudarya and Syrdarya. Uzbekistan stretches 1,425 kilometers from west to east and 930 kilometers from north to south. Bordering Turkmenistan to the southwest, Kazakhstan to the north, and Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic to the south and east, Uzbekistan is not only one of the larger Central Asian states but also the only Central Asian state to border all of the other four. Uzbekistan also shares a short border with Afghanistan to the south.¹ The capital city of Uzbekistan is Tashkent.

The Aral Sea, situated in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, used to be the fourth largest lake in the world but soon this changed when the Soviet government, during the 1940s, implemented irrigation projects to supply water to its cotton farms. Since then so much water has been diverted that by 2007 the sea was one tenth of its initial size.²

2.2. Climate

Uzbekistan's climate is classified as continental, with hot summers and cool winters. Seasonal temperature difference is significant. Average winter temperature is lower than six degrees below zero, while average temperature in July is higher than 32 degrees above zero. Most of the country also is quite arid, with average annual rainfall amounting to between 100 and 200 millimeters and occurring mostly in winter and spring.³

2.3. Natural Resources

The Republic of Uzbekistan possesses large production and mineral resource potential, agricultural resources, significant volumes of prepared raw materials (semi-finished products), derived as a result of processing rich natural resources, and a developed infrastructure.

Modern level of prospecting minerals is connected with development of richest deposits of precious, non-ferrous and rare metals, all types of organic fuel – oil, natural gas and gas condensate, brown and low temperature coking coal, oil shale, uranium and many types of resources for construction materials.

Broad range of treasures of the soil, which includes more than 100 minerals, was found on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan and 60 of them are already used in the economy.

Uzbekistan's resources of gold, uranium, copper, natural gas, tungsten, potassium salts, phosphorus and kaolin rank among the highest in the world. Thus, Uzbekistan is the 4th largest on gold reserves, and is the 7th largest on mining hereof, 10th-11th – on copper reserves; uranium – 7th-8th, on mining – 11th-12th.⁴

2.4. Land Use

In Uzbekistan an exclusive state ownership of land was incorporated in the Uzbek Constitution of December 1992⁵ and subsequently reiterated in the 1998 Land Code.⁶

¹ The Government Portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan (undated), Geography; <http://www.gov.uz/en/helpinfo/geography> (accessed on 19/01/2014).

² Elia Morton, *Disastrous Effects of a Shrinking Sea* (2 May 2014); http://www.slate.com/blogs/atlas_obscura/2014/05/02/the_shrinking_of_the_aral_sea_has_resulted_in_a_toxic_disaster_area.html (accessed on 14/05/2014).

³ Muhiddin Mahmudovich (last updated in October 2006), Country Pasture/Forage Resource Profiles, Uzbekistan; <http://www.fao.org/ag/agp/AGPC/doc/Counprof/Uzbekistan/uzbekistan.htm> (accessed on 19/01/2014).

⁴ The State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Geology and Mineral Resources (2013), Uzbekistan: Country Report; http://www.adrc.asia/countryreport/UZB/2013/FY2013A_UZB_CR.pdf (accessed on 06/05/2014).

⁵ Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 1992, Chapter 12, Art. 55; <http://www.gov.uz/en/constitution/> (accessed on 19/01/2014).

Agricultural land is allocated to the users by the state, but without any rights of transfer. Land held by families in lifetime inheritable possession cannot be sold, given away as a gift, or exchanged; land leased from the state by individual users cannot be subleased. Users pay for the use of state-owned land in the form of land tax of lease payments.⁷

A large area of land is used for agriculture in Uzbekistan, with natural pastures occupying 40 per cent of the country and rain-fed and irrigated cropland accounting for an additional 12 per cent. Due to the arid conditions of the country, more than 85 per cent of Uzbekistan's cropland is irrigated. This irrigated cropland comprises approximately 10 per cent of the land area of the country. By area, cotton and wheat are the two major crops grown in Uzbekistan. Smaller areas are occupied by fodder crops, grapes, apples, barley, tomatoes, potatoes and rice. Although the area occupied by fruit and nut trees is relatively small in comparison to wheat and cotton, the prevailing climatic conditions are suitable for the expansion of their production area.⁸

2.5. Population

According to the preliminary data published by the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on statistics in March 2014, on 1 January 2014 the Republic of Uzbekistan had 30.5 million inhabitants. The population growth rate in 2013 reached 1.7 per cent and the urban population made 51 per cent of total population.⁹

According to the World Bank data for 2012, the population density was 70 persons per square kilometer of land area and life expectancy at birth was 68.1 years (64.8 for men and 71.5 for women). The World Bank estimated the rate of urban population in 2012 at 36.3 per cent and the population growth rate at 1.5 per cent.¹⁰

The capital city Tashkent has around 2.3 million residents.¹¹

Age structure (2014 est.)¹²

		male	female
0-14 years:	24.9%	3,693,838	3,514,734
15-24 years	20.5%	3,008,779	2,934,534
25-54 years	43%	6,178,921	6,255,715
55-64 years	4.8%	926,129	1,036,576
65 years and over	4.7%	588,881	791,609
Median age	27.1 years	26.6 years	27.7 years

Source: CIA World Factbook.

⁶ Land Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, General Provisions, Art. 1; http://fmc.uz/legisl.php?id=k_zem_01 (accessed on 19/01/2014).

⁷ Land Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Art. 16, 18; http://fmc.uz/legisl.php?id=k_zem_04 (accessed on 19/01/2014)

⁸ Lerman, Zvi (2007), Agricultural Development in Uzbekistan: The Effect of Ongoing Reforms; http://departments.agri.huji.ac.il/economics/en/publications/discussion_papers/2008/lerman-uzbek.pdf (accessed on 19/01/2014).

⁹ The State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics, Demographic Situation (19 March 2014); <http://www.stat.uz/en/press/5/8197/> (accessed on 06/05/2014).

¹⁰ The World Bank, World Development Indicators; <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/views/variableSelection/selectvariables.aspx?source=world-development-indicators> (accessed on 06/05/2014).

¹¹ National Information Agency (undated); <http://www.api.uz/ru/top/uzbekistan/> (accessed on 12/04/2014).

¹² CIA World Factbook (last update on 1 May 2014), Uzbekistan; <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/uz.html> (accessed on 06/05/2014).

Other Population Indicators (2014 est.)¹³

Age dependency ratio ¹⁴	49
Birth rate	17.02 births/1,000 population
Death rate	5.29 deaths/1,000 population
Total fertility rate	1.8 children born/woman
Literacy rate: adult total (per cent of people aged 15 and above)	99.4

Source: CIA World Factbook.

2.6. Ethnic Minorities

The latest available population census was carried out in 1989.¹⁵ Numbers on ethnic groups provided in various sources are roughly estimated.

Today, Uzbekistan is the most populous country in Central Asia and the third-largest state by population in CIS after the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Uzbeks comprise a majority (80%) of the total population. Other ethnic groups include Russians (5.5%), Tajiks (5%), Kazakhs (3%), Karakalpaks (2.5%) and Tatars (1.5%). There is some controversy about the percentage of the Tajik population. Official data from Uzbekistan that put the number of Tajiks at five per cent of the population do not include ethnic Tajiks who, for a variety of reasons, choose to identify themselves as Uzbeks in population census forms.

Uzbekistan has a big diaspora of Korean population. There are also small groups of Armenians, Georgians, Azerbaijanis, Ossetians and Chechens, Germans, Jews, Lithuanians, Poles, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Greeks, Turks, Iranians, Kirghizes, Uygurs, Dungans living in Uzbekistan.¹⁶

The country's Constitution guarantees equal rights and freedoms for every citizen irrespective of ethnic origin, religion and language.¹⁷ The country's all ethnic groups are represented in legislative, executive and judicial branches of power.¹⁸

According to the Minority Rights Group International, since the end of Communism and Uzbekistan's independence in 1991, Uzbek citizens started to emigrate from Uzbekistan substantially affecting the country's demographics. Thousands of ethnic Uzbeks have moved to the Russian Federation and other neighboring countries. Moreover, ethnic Russian, Crimean Tatars and other ethnicities have also massively left Uzbekistan.¹⁹

Yet, because of the repressive Islamic regime and the discriminatory practices by local authorities, large numbers of minorities have left the country. Particularly Tajiks, who form the 8 per cent of the general population, remain excluded from the Uzbek society. Furthermore, thousands of people are detained for religious or political reasons. In 2000, thousands of Tajik families were forced to resettle, as their villages were burnt and bombed, from the Sariasinsky district towards other areas because of their religious beliefs. On the other hand, Turkish-speaking Karakalpaks receive much greater protection, in both legal and practical

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Per cent of working-age population.

¹⁵ UN Statistics division (last update on 20 February 2014); <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/censusdates.htm> (accessed on 12/04/2014).

¹⁶ Minority Rights Group International (undated); <http://www.minorityrights.org/2479/uzbekistan/uzbekistan-overview.html> (accessed on 12/04/2014).

¹⁷ Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Chapter 5, Art.18; <http://www.gov.uz/en/constitution/> (accessed on 19/01/2014).

¹⁸ Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Chapter 2; <http://www.gov.uz/en/constitution/> (accessed on 19/01/2014); see also: Embassy of Uzbekistan to the United States (2012), news and events; <http://www.uzbekistan.org/news/archive/1160/?print=1> (accessed on 19/01/2014).

¹⁹ Ibid.

terms, than other minorities although Karakalpaks only represent 2 per cent of the total population.²⁰

However, ethnic conflicts may re-occur in Fergana valley around the distribution and use of water; conflicts may arise from the shortage of arable land, its distribution and the organization of access to it; conflicts may arise around borders, their changed status and control regime.²¹

2.7. Religions

According to the official website of the republic of Uzbekistan the country is a secular state and the Government does not differentiate between religious organizations due to their size or popularity in the country. All religious organizations – whether they are larger organization like the Administration of Muslims of Uzbekistan and the Tashkent and Central Asian Diocese of Russian Orthodox Church, or the small single religious organizations – all have similar rights and obligations (Article 18 of the Constitution of Uzbekistan). Constitution guarantees the rights of citizens for freedom of conscience. Everyone has the right to profess any religion or not profess any. Forced propagation of religious views is inadmissible (Article 31 of the Constitution).²²

The Law “On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations” adopted on 1 May 1998²³ defines in detail the role and status of the religious organizations and unions, as well as their relations with state bodies.

Nowadays, there are more than 2,200 religious organizations representing 16 denominations that have legal registration in Uzbekistan. The overwhelming majority – 2,042 or 92 per cent of total – are Muslim organizations, as approximately 88 per cent of population in Uzbekistan consider themselves as followers of Islam. Besides, 164 Christian organizations, eight Jewish communities, six Baha’i communities, one Krishna society and one Buddhist temple are also represented in the country.²⁴

According to the US Department of State (2012), “the constitution and some laws provide for religious freedom; however, other laws and policies restrict religious freedom and, in practice, the government generally enforced those restrictions. (...) The law restricts the religious freedom of unregistered groups and prohibits many activities, such as proselytizing. Many members of registered and unregistered minority religious groups faced heavy fines and short jail terms for violations of these laws. The government continued to deal harshly with Muslims who discussed religious issues outside of sanctioned mosques. However, the government generally did not interfere with worshippers at sanctioned mosques, and permitted the regular activities of religious groups traditionally present in the country, including the Muslim, Jewish, Catholic, and Russian Orthodox communities.”²⁵

2.8. Languages

The Uzbek language is the only official state language in the whole country, besides, in addition to Uzbek, Karakalpak language is recognized as statutory language in the

²⁰ Minority Rights Group International (undated); <http://www.minorityrights.org/2479/uzbekistan/uzbekistan-overview.html> (accessed on 12/04/2014).

²¹ The Inventory of Conflict & Environment (ICE) Case Studies (December 2011), <http://www1.american.edu/ted/ICE/ferghana.html> (accessed on 20/02/2014).

²² Governmental Portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan; <http://www.gov.uz/en/helpinfo/religion> (accessed on 16/01/2014).

²³ Lex.uz, Sobranie zakonodatel'stva Respubliki Uzbekistan, 2008 r., № 52, st. 513: http://www.lex.uz/pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=65089 (accessed on 16/01/2014).

²⁴ Embassy of Uzbekistan to the United States (undated), Freedom of Religion; www.uzbekistan.org/social_issues/religious_freedom/; (accessed on 19/01/2014).

²⁵ US Department of State. International Religious Freedom Report for 2012. Uzbekistan: <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/religiousfreedom/index.htm#wrapper> (accessed on 19/01/2014).

autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan.²⁶ Since 1992 Uzbek is officially written in the Latin alphabet. Cyrillic alphabet was introduced by Soviet authorities and was used until the fall of the Soviet Union. In 1993, Uzbekistan shifted back to the Latin script, which was modified in 1996 and has been taught in schools since 2005. Nevertheless, many signs and notices (including official government boards in the streets) are still written in Uzbek Cyrillic script. According to the CIA World Factbook, Uzbek is spoken by 74.3 per cent of the total population, Russian by 14.2 per cent, Tajik by 4.4 per cent and other languages by 7.1 per cent.²⁷

Russian is an important language for interethnic communication, especially in the cities, including much day-to-day technical, scientific, governmental and business use. Russian is the main language of over 14 per cent of the population and is spoken as a second language by many more. The use of Russian in remote rural areas has always been limited, and today most school children have no proficiency in Russian even in urban centers. However, over half of the population speak and understand Russian.²⁸

According to "Ethnologue", Uzbek is the only statutory national language and is used as a first language by 16,500,000 people in Uzbekistan. Other languages common in Uzbekistan include Russian (de facto national working language, spoken by 1,660,000 persons as their first language), Tajik (934,000 persons), Kazakh (808,000 persons), Karakalpak (407,000 persons) and Crimean Tatar (150,000 persons).²⁹

2.9. National Holidays

Each year Uzbekistan celebrates seven public holidays:

1 January	New Year
8 March	International Women's Day
21 March	Navruz
9 May	Memorial Day
1 September	Independence Day
1 October	Teacher's Day
8 December	Constitution Day

Two major Muslim holidays in Uzbekistan, Ramadan Khait and Kurban Khait, are days off and are celebrated each year according to the lunar calendar.³⁰

²⁶ Government of Karakalpakstan, Government (undated); <http://www.karakalpak.com/stangov.html> (accessed on 06/05/2014).

²⁷ CIA World Factbook (last update on 1 May 2014), Uzbekistan; <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/uz.html> (accessed on 16/05/2014).

²⁸ UZBEKISTAN Language Research; <http://www.usefoundation.org/view/886;http://enews.fergananews.com/mansur.html> (accessed on 21/01/2014).

²⁹ Ethnologue: Languages of the World (undated); <https://www.ethnologue.com/country/UZ/status> (accessed on 06/05/2014).

³⁰ Informational Portal of Uzbekistan uzbekistan.uz (last update on 17. July 2011), Nacional'nye prazdniki Uzbekistana; <http://www.xn--80abmghlx4ajd.uz/%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D1%8B%D0%B5-%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B7%D0%B4%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B8> (accessed on 25/01/2014).

3. INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

3.1. General Information

In accordance with the Constitution, adopted on December 8, 1992, the Republic of Uzbekistan is a sovereign, democratic, law-governed state with a presidential form of government. The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan is the Head of the State.³¹ The state power system includes the legislative, executive, and judicial powers.

On 31 August 1991, the 6th Extraordinary Session of the Supreme Council declared the political independence of the country, which was officially named the Republic of Uzbekistan. 1 September was proclaimed Independence Day. On December 29, 1991 Islam Karimov was elected the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the nationwide general elections.

From September 1991 to July 1993 the Republic of Uzbekistan was officially recognized by 160 states. On March 2, 1992 Uzbekistan joined the United Nations Organizations as an equal member, and joined the Helsinki process by signing the Final Act of the Summit for Security and Cooperation.

Today, Uzbekistan is also a member of leading economic and financial organizations such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Economic Association of Black Sea Countries, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and a number of other international organizations.³²

3.2. Administrative and Territorial System

Uzbekistan is divided into 12 viloyats (provinces), 163 tumans (districts), and 120 cities and towns. The autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan and the capital city Tashkent have a detached status.³³

The Councils of the People's Deputies and Khokims (governors), elected by the councils of people's deputies, constitute the basis of the government in the regions, districts and towns. The Khokim constitutes representative and executive power. The Khokims guarantee law and order, resolve the issues of economic and social development, form the local budget, etc. The Khokims of all levels (regional, district, town) perform their functions based on the principle of undivided authority. This means that they are personally responsible for their decisions and the actions of the subordinate bodies. The initiative for the recommendation of regional Khokims belongs to the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan, whereas the regional Khokims recommend the Khokims of towns and districts.³⁴

3.3. The President

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan is the Head of the State and the Head of the government (Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers); he ensures the coordinated operation and cooperation of the agencies of a state power. The current president, Islam Karimov, has been in office since 1991.

³¹ Press service of the President of Uzbekistan (undated), http://www.press-service.uz/ru/content/constitution/konstituciya_uzbekistana/page/6/# (accessed on 21/01/2014).

³² Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan (undated), International cooperation; <http://mfa.uz/en/cooperation/international/379/> (accessed on 21/01/2014).

³³ Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United Kingdom (undated), Regions; <http://www.uzbekembassy.org/e/regions/> (accessed on 21/01/2014).

³⁴ Embassy of Uzbekistan to the United States (undated), About Uzbekistan – Political Structure: Constitution and Government, <http://www.uzbekistan.org/uzbekistan/political/> (accessed on 21/01/2014).

In December 2011 Uzbekistan introduced changes to the Constitution to cut presidential term from seven years to five years.³⁵ The same person cannot be elected as the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan for more than two consecutive terms.³⁶

On 12 May 2014, a meeting of the Central Elections Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan was conducted. It was decided, that in accordance with the article 117 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Parliamentary Elections will be held on the first Sunday of the third Decade of December 2014, which falls to 21 December.³⁷ The Parliamentary elections date announcement, approximately indicates the date of the next Presidential Elections. According to the legislation of Uzbekistan, President's elections will be conducted 90 days after Parliamentary elections – approximately on 21-22 March 2015.³⁸

3.3.1. Latest Election Results

The last presidential elections were held in Uzbekistan on 23 December 2007.³⁹

Official results released by the Central Election Commission on December 24 showed Islam Karimov winning with 88.1 per cent of the vote, on a turnout rate that was placed at 90.6 per cent. Karimov was sworn in for his new term on January 16, 2008.

OSCE/ODHIR deployed a Limited Election Observation mission to these presidential elections. According to the Limited Election Observation Mission Final Report "The 23 December 2007 presidential election took place within a tightly controlled political environment and failed to meet many OSCE commitments for democratic elections as laid down in the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document. While there were four candidates, including one woman and one candidate nominated by an initiative group of voters, the voters were nonetheless left without a real choice as all contestants publicly endorsed the policies of the incumbent president, Mr. Islam Karimov. Legal and administrative obstacles prevented political movements representing alternative views from registering as political parties or initiative groups, thereby precluding them from fielding presidential candidates.

Some positive changes have been introduced to the electoral legislation since the previous presidential election in 2000, most notably the possibility for initiative groups of voters to nominate candidates. However, some other changes introduced between 1997 and 2000 to the original Law on Elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan seem to contradict constitutional provisions and international standards by making candidate registration excessively difficult. This is due to the increased number of supporting signatures required, and the exclusion of certain groups of citizens from running as candidates, such as persons convicted in the past or currently prosecuted."⁴⁰

3.4. Executive

Executive authority belongs to the government of Uzbekistan – the Cabinet of Ministers. Its members are appointed by the President and approved by Oliy Majlis, a supreme state representative body that exercises legislative power. The Cabinet of Ministers include the

³⁵ Uzbekistan National News Agency (25 March 2012), Senate Completes First Day of Eighth Plenary Session, <http://uza.uz/en/politics/2560/> (accessed on 21/01/2014).

³⁶ Government Portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan (undated), Vybory Prezidenta Respubliki Uzbekistan, <http://www.gov.uz/ru/president/23> (accessed on 20/03/2014).

³⁷ Central Elections Commission of Uzbekistan (13 May 2014), http://elections.uz/rus/novosti_i_sobitiya/novosti/v_entrlnoy_izbiratelnoy_komissii_12.mqr (accessed on 19/05/2014).

³⁸ Fergana.news Information Agency (13 May 2014), V Uzbekistane ob'yavlen den' parlamentskikh vyborov – oni proydet 21 dekabrya; <http://www.fergananews.com/news/22172> (accessed on 19/05/2014).

³⁹ Government Portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan (undated), President – Biography; <http://www.gov.uz/ru/president/> (accessed on 25/03/2014).

⁴⁰ OSCE/ODIHR (23 April 2008), Limited Election Observation Mission Final Report, page 2; <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/uzbekistan/31600> (accessed on 25/02/2014).

Prime Minister, First Deputy Prime Minister, Deputies of the Prime Minister, ministers, chairmen of state committees, heads of large state concerns and corporations, and the Chairman of Karakalpakstan's government. The Cabinet of Ministers ensures guidance over effective functioning of the economy, social and cultural development, execution of the laws, and other decisions of Oliy Majlis, as well as decrees and resolutions issued by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.⁴¹

The activity of the Cabinet of Ministers is based on a new edition of the law of the Republic of Uzbekistan № 524-II "On Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan" dated 29 August 2003.⁴²

3.5. Judiciary

According to the Law "On courts" the judicial authority of the Republic of Uzbekistan works independently from the legislative and executive authorities, political parties, and other public associations. The activity of courts in the Republic of Uzbekistan is governed by the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Courts" (new edition dated 14 December 2000).

The following types of courts work in the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- Constitutional Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan,
- Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan,
- Higher Economic Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan,
- Supreme Civil and Criminal Courts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan,
- Civil and Criminal Regional (Viloyat) and Tashkent City Courts,
- Civil Inter-district, District (city) Courts,
- Criminal District (city) Courts,
- Economic Court of the Republic of Karakalpakstan,
- Economic Courts of Regions (Viloyat) and Tashkent City,
- Martial Courts.

Courts can be specialized by categories based on nature of cases. The establishment of Extraordinary and Emergency Courts is not permitted.⁴³

The legal proceedings in the Republic of Uzbekistan are performed in Uzbek and Karakalpak languages or in the language of the majority of the population in the locality. Any person participating in court proceedings who does not know the language in which they are being conducted, shall have following right to be fully acquainted with the materials in the case, to have the services of an interpreter during the proceedings, and to address the court in his/her native language..⁴⁴

3.6. Legislative

Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan is a supreme state representative body that exercises legislative power. The Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan consists of two chambers — the Legislative Chamber (the Lower Chamber) and the Senate, the chamber of territorial representation (the Upper Chamber). The Legislative Chamber consists of 150 representatives.⁴⁵ The Senate consists of 100 representatives, 16 of them are appointed by the president, and 84 are elected by deputies of regional and local authorities.⁴⁶

⁴¹ Embassy of Uzbekistan to the United States (undated), About Uzbekistan – Political Structure: Constitution and Government; <http://www.uzbekistan.org/uzbekistan/political/> (accessed on 21/01/2014).

⁴² The Law of Uzbekistan on Cabinet of Ministers (new edition): http://www.lex.uz/pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=52278 (accessed on 20/03/2014).

⁴³ Law "On Courts" (amended), 14 December 2000, Art. 1-4: http://lex.uz/Pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=68521.

⁴⁴ Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Chapter XXII, Art. 115; <http://www.pravo.uz/english/resources/doc/constitution.php3#416> (accessed on 06/05/2014).

⁴⁵ Constitutional Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of 12 December 2002 Chapter I, Art. 2; http://www.lex.uz/pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=52069 (accessed on 29/03/2014).

⁴⁶ Constitutional Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Senate of Oliy Majlis of 12 December 2002, Chapter I, Art.2; http://lex.uz/Pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=52006 (accessed 06/05/2014).

The term of power of the Legislative chamber and the Senate of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan is five years.⁴⁷

3.6.1. Latest Election Results

Parliamentary elections were held in Uzbekistan on 27 December 2009 (first round) and 10 January 2010 (second round)⁴⁸ to elect the 150 members of the Legislative Chamber of Uzbekistan, the Lower Chamber of the Oliy Majlis. After the first round on 27 December, deputies were elected in 96 districts. Besides, 15 deputies were elected from the Ecological Movement political party (the latter has ten-percentage quota, i.e. 15 seats in the Lower Chamber of Oliy Majlis)⁴⁹ on the same day.

In the second round of voting, held on 10 January 2010, 3.96 million or 79.7 per cent of a total 4,969,547 eligible voters participated. They voted for one of the two candidates in each of 39 districts.

Summing up the results of the elections, the Liberal Democratic Party received 53 seats in the Lower Chamber, People's Democratic Party 32 seats, Milliy Tiklanish (National Revival) Democratic Party 31 seats, Adolat (Justice) Social Democratic Party 19 seats, and the Ecological Movement received 15 seats.

33 deputies or 22 per cent of all elected members of the Lower Chamber are women. 47 deputies or 31.3 per cent have been elected to the Lower Chamber for the second time.⁵⁰

In response to an invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the Republic of Uzbekistan to observe the parliamentary elections, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) undertook a needs assessment mission (NAM) to Uzbekistan from 21 to 22 October 2009. The mission report stated that "The OSCE/ODIHR NAM did not identify any significant improvements in the electoral framework that continues to fall short of OSCE commitments. Rather, two of the newly adopted amendments to the parliamentary elections law represent steps backwards. Furthermore, none of the key OSCE/ODIHR recommendations offered in the past for consideration appear to have been implemented. However, the Central Election Commission (CEC) stated that recommendations had been taken into account when amending the election law in 2008. All parliamentary political parties stated their support for the government. During meetings with the OSCE/ODIHR NAM, they defined their role as constructively supporting the authorities' efforts to ensure the development of Uzbekistan. In its report ODIHR concluded: "Given that fundamental freedoms continue to be limited, that the current political spectrum does not offer the electorate a genuine choice between competing political alternatives, that previous key OSCE/ODIHR recommendations remain unaddressed, and that no progress has been achieved in bringing the legal framework closer in line with OSCE commitments, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM does not consider the deployment of an election observation mission, even of a limited nature, meaningful."⁵¹

⁴⁷ The Governmental Portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan (undated), Oily Majlis – General Information; http://www.gov.uz/en/oliy_majlis/ (accessed on 21/01/2014).

⁴⁸ Uzbekistan National News Agency (12 January 2010), Vybory v Zakonodatel'nyu palate parlamenta Uzbekistana zaversheny; <http://uza.uz/ru/politics/9055/> (accessed on 21/01/2014).

⁴⁹ Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan is a political party established on 2 August 2008 and registered with the Ministry of Justice on 20 September. Cf. Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan (undated), http://elections.uz/rus/partii_i_dvijeniya/ekologicheskoe_dvijenie/ (accessed on 21/01/2014).

⁵⁰ Uzbekistan National News Agency (12 January 2010), Vybory v Zakonodatel'nyu palate parlamenta Uzbekistana zaversheny; <http://uza.uz/ru/politics/9055/> (accessed on 30/03/2014).

⁵¹ OSCE/ODIHR (6 November 2009), Needs Assessment Mission Report, page 1-2; <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/uzbekistan/40136> (accessed on 25/02/2014).

3.7. International Actors

Many international actors set up their offices in Tashkent:

Name	Website (accessed on 17/12/2013)
United Nations (UN)	www.un.uz
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	www.undp.uz
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	www.unfpa.uz
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	www.nato.bz/ru/uzbekistan.html
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)	www.osce.org/uzbekistan
United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	www.tashkent.unesco.org
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	www.unicef.org/uzbekistan
UN Office on Drugs and Crime	www.unodc.org/uzbekistan
World Health Organization (WHO)	www.euro.who.int/en/countries/uzbekistan
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	www.adb.org/uzbekistan
Regional Antiterrorist Structure of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)	www.ecrats.org
Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Uzbekistan	http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/uzbekistan/about_us/delegation_role/index_en.htm
World Bank	www.worldbank.org.uz
International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS)	www.iicas-unesco.org
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) – Regional Office	www.icrc.org

European Union (EU)

Address: International business center, 107B Amir Temur str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan 100 084
Phone: +998 71 120 16 01/02/03/04

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Address: 1 Turab Tula str., Tashkent Uzbekistan 700003
Phone: (+998 (71) 139-40-14;

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Address: 16 Mahmood Torobiy str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan 100090

Joined UN Programme on HIV/Aids

Representative office address:
75, Mustakillik Prospectus, 3rd floor, Business Centre "Inconel",
Tashkent 100000, Uzbekistan.

UNAIDS Country Coordinator in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan

Phone: +998 71 120 3082/83

UN Woman

Address: 14 Mahmud Torobiy str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan 700090

Phone: +998 (71) 120 56 97

Caritas

Address: 80/1 Musahanova str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan 100047,

Phone: +998 (71) 114 6426

Save the Children UK

Address: Address: 13 Ekhtirom-3 str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Phone: +998 (71) 1526436/37

3.8. National NGOs

In 2005, the Government mandated a process of re-registration for NGOs, which led to a significant reduction in the number of NGOs in the country. Barriers to activities of NGOs include:

- Burdensome and vague reporting requirements;
- NGOs' obligation to ensure governmental access to all its activities;
- Governmental approval required for particular NGO activities in advance;
- Harsh sanctions for violation of law;
- Governmental approval required in advance for conferences, international participants, etc.;
- Limits on foreign funding.

In December 2013 the government started to reconsider its approach towards civil society.

On 12 December 2013 Uzbek President issued a Decree on Additional Measures to Promote the Development of Civil Society Institutions, which contains progressive provisions aimed at simplifying procedures for the registration of civil society organisations and reducing registration fees by 80 per cent⁵².

In addition, President issued a state policy document that recognized the importance and usefulness of establishing and developing civil society institutions and NGOs in Uzbekistan.⁵³

⁵² Information Portal of the Independent Institute for Monitoring formation of civil society (13.12.2013); <http://www.nimfogo.uz/ru/node/429> (accessed on 21/04/2014).

⁵³ Ibid.

4. ECONOMY

4.1. General Information

The name of the currency in Uzbekistan is sum (UZS).

The exchange rate as of 21 January 2014 is: one US Dollar = UZS 2,203.39; one EUR = UZS 3,003.26.⁵⁴

According to official data the inflation rate made 6.8 per cent.⁵⁵ In 2013 the Asian Development Bank maintained its earlier inflation forecasts of 9.5 per cent for 2013 and 9.0 per cent for 2014.⁵⁶

From the first years of independence, Uzbekistan selected own course of development, the Uzbek Model of transition to socially oriented market economy based on five key principles: the priority of economics over politics; the state is the main reformer; the rule of law in all areas of life of the society; strong social policy; step-by-step transition to market relations.⁵⁷

According to the governmental sources Uzbekistan's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 8 per cent in 2013.⁵⁸ According to the World Bank, the GDP in 2012 grew by 8.2 per cent and in 2013 it was estimated to grow by 7.4 per cent.⁵⁹

The official sources informed also that manufacturing volumes increased in 2013 by 8.8 per cent, while agricultural goods production increased by 6.8 per cent. The capacities of construction works increased by 16.6 per cent, the volumes of services by 13.5 per cent, and the retail goods turnover increased by 14.8 per cent.⁶⁰

According to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis' forecast from November 2012, in 2013 the state budget revenues to GDP ratio were expected to amount to 21.3 per cent, expenses to 22.3 per cent and the deficit of the state budget was provided in the amount of 1 per cent to GDP.⁶¹

Gross public- and external debt-to-GDP ratios have been substantially reduced and remain at sustainable levels of around 10 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively.⁶²

The implementation of proactive investment policy on accelerated development and technological modernization of the manufacturing industry, of social, road-transport and communications infrastructure has facilitated the growth in the volumes of investments into capital asset by 11.3 per cent.⁶³

⁵⁴ National Bank of Uzbekistan; <http://bank.uz/currency/cb/> (accessed on 24/01/2014).

⁵⁵ Press Service of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan; http://president.uz/en/news/show/main/informacionnoe_sobshenie_o_zasedanii_6/# (accessed on 21/04/2014).

⁵⁶ Asian Development Outlook 2013 Update; <http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/pub/2013/ado2013-update.pdf#page=120> (accessed on 24/01/2014).

⁵⁷ The government Portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan (undated); <http://www.gov.uz/en/business/invest/> (accessed on 21/04/2014).

⁵⁸ Press Service of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (undated); http://president.uz/en/news/show/main/informacionnoe_sobshenie_o_zasedanii_6/# (accessed on 21/04/2014).

⁵⁹ The World Bank (2014); <http://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/global-economic-prospects/data?region=ECA> (accessed on 21/04/2014).

⁶⁰ Press Service of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan; http://president.uz/en/news/show/main/informacionnoe_sobshenie_o_zasedanii_6/# (accessed on 21/04/2014).

⁶¹ Information Portal of Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis (16 November 2012), Deputies adopted the State Budget for 2013; <http://www.parliament.gov.uz/en/events/chamber/7701> (accessed on 21/04/2014).

⁶² Deutsche Bank Research (February 2013), Uzbekistan Frontier Country Report; http://www.dbresearch.com/PROD/DBR_INTERNET_EN-PROD/PROD000000000302764/Uzbekistan.pdf (accessed on 21/04/2014).

⁶³ Asian Development Bank, Asian Development Outlook 2013 Update; <http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/pub/2013/ado2013-update.pdf#page=120> (accessed on 24/01/2014).

4.2. Importance of Sectors

Agriculture is one of the prior and large sectors of the national economy. Uzbekistan is one of the most favorable regions for growing various agricultural as well as industrial crops. Agriculture is a leading sector by number and proportion of all of the employed in the economy. The sector provides population with necessary food, and raw material to other branches of economy. The sector shares 28 per cent of the total national GDP.⁶⁴

The economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan represents by itself the multi-branched territorial-productive complex⁶⁵. Its basis consists of the following sectors of productive specialization: gas, oil, electric energy generation, non-ferrous and ferrous metallurgy, machine building, cotton ginning, textiles, chemical, and the others. Industry is the leading sector of national economy of Uzbekistan. It is the basis for the majority of territorial-production complexes, and it forms the complicated system of internal and inter-district trade and economic links.

Industry of the republic appeared and developed mainly on the basis of the requirements and needs of the main national economy branches: cotton growing, silk culture, fruit growing, astrakhan breeding. Further, it became the leading link of the national economic cotton complex. The industry of the republic is characterized by developed specialization and cooperation of its main branches.⁶⁶

The Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2013 of the Asian Development Bank anticipated that falling external demand and international prices for the country's main export commodities would narrow the trade surplus. The Asian Development Outlook 2013 Update thus maintained its current account surplus forecasts of 4.3 per cent for 2013 and 3.2 per cent for 2014.⁶⁷

According to the governmental sources, measures to support and encourage the development of industrial production improve competitiveness and expand the range of products contributed in the first nine months of 2013 to a growth of the industry by 9.4 per cent.⁶⁸

4.3. Foreign Investments

Official aid from the members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is USD 3,560,000 (2012 estimates).⁶⁹

According to the governmental sources, in 2013 the volume of foreign investments exceeded 3 billion USD, 72 per cent of which were direct foreign investments. As part of the Government's Investment Program, implemented between 2011 and 2015⁷⁰, 150 projects in the manufacturing industry totaling some USD 2.7 billion have been completed.⁷¹

⁶⁴ Government portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan (undated); <http://www.gov.uz/en/helpinfo/agriculture> (accessed on 24/01/2014).

⁶⁵ A territorial-production complex forms part of an economic region or sub-region; it comprises all interrelated industrial and agricultural enterprises within a particular territory.

⁶⁶ Press-service of the President of Uzbekistan (18 January 2014). Report of the President on results of socioeconomic development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2013: <http://www.press-service.uz/ru/news/4875/> (accessed on 19/05/2014).

⁶⁷ Asian Development Bank, Asian Development Outlook 2013 Update: www.adb.org/sites/default/files/pub/2013/ado2013-update.pdf#page=120 (accessed on 29/12/2013).

⁶⁸ UzA National Information Agency of Uzbekistan (29 October 2013); <http://uza.uz/ru/business/25842> (accessed on 21/04/2014).

⁶⁹ The World Bank (2013), <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/DC.DAC.CECL.CD> (accessed on 21/04/2014).

⁷⁰ World Bank Group (April 2014), Country Programme Snapshot; <http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/Uzbekistan-Snapshot.pdf> (accessed on 16/05/2014).

⁷¹ Uzbekistan National News Agency (21 January 2014); <http://uza.uz/en/documents/3929/> (accessed on 27/05/2014).

4.4. References and Contacts

Name	Website (accessed on 21/04/2014)
Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan	www.mineconomy.uz
Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan	www.mf.uz
Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, Investments and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan	www.mfer.uz
The State Committee On Statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan	www.stat.uz

5. INFRASTRUCTURE

5.1. Banking System⁷²

Uzbekistan has established a traditional two-tier banking system, headed by the Central Bank of the Republic Uzbekistan (CBU). Primary functions and tasks of the Central Bank are set in the Law on the Central Bank adopted on December 1995. Nowadays, the Central Bank is fulfilling the functions of a typical central monetary authority. The main aim of the Central Bank is to maintain stability of the national currency.

The Central Bank's major tasks are the following:

- working out/implementing the monetary, credit and foreign exchange policy of the country;
- introducing an effective payment system in Uzbekistan;
- licensing and regulating banking and finance activities;
- managing the cash service of the public budget jointly with the Ministry of Finance;
- managing state reserves of the Republic of Uzbekistan (currency, precious metals, etc.).

The commercial banks system, which is part of the Uzbek banking system, currently consists of about 32 licensed banks. The total number is relatively small both in relation to the size of the economy and the population of Uzbekistan, and compared with the banking systems in the main neighboring states such as Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.⁷³

Among the commercial banks of Uzbekistan the National Bank for Foreign Economic Activity (NBU) is the leading financial institution in Uzbekistan with a network of 96 offices. NBU boasts a nationwide presence catering to both corporate and retail clients and is ranked 562nd in The Banker's Top 1,000 world's largest banks. The bank has over 628 correspondent banks. NBU offers all types of banking and finance services to domestic and foreign customers. In order to attract inter-national capital to the republic, NBU actively cooperates with its foreign partners - investment banks.⁷⁴

The other commercial banks of Uzbekistan can be divided into three categories:

- Joint stock banks with variable state participation (from full, long-term perspective control through to temporary majority and minority stakes);
- Fully privately owned joint-stock banks;
- Joint-venture banks between local and foreign financial institutions.

Nowadays there are more than 30 banks and financial institutions in Uzbekistan, 18 of them have received a license for hard currency operations, and 11 also have a General License for all categories of international transactions and domestic operations.⁷⁵

The largest banks in Uzbekistan:

Name	Websites accessed on 18/12/2013
National Bank for Foreign Economic Activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan	www.nbu.com/
State-commercial "People's Bank"	www.xalqbank.com/

⁷² UZINFOINVEST Informational Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations (2013); http://www.uzinfoinvest.uz/rus/ob_uzbekistane/bankovsko_finsanovaya_sistema/ (accessed on 21/04/2014).

⁷³ Embassy of Uzbekistan to the UK (undated): http://www.uzbekembassy.org/e/financial_system_of_uzbekistan/ (accessed on 24/01/2014)

⁷⁴ The Governmental Portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan (undated); http://www.gov.uz/en/helpinfo/money_banking (accessed on 21/04/2014).

⁷⁵ The Governmental Portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan (undated); http://www.gov.uz/en/helpinfo/money_banking (accessed on 21/04/2014).

State joint stock bank "Asaka"	www.asakabank.com/
Joint stock mortgage bank "Ipoteka-bank"	www.ipotekabank.uz/
Uzbek joint stock commercialIndustrial construction bank	www.uzpsb.uz/
Joint stock commercial "Pahta Bank"	www.pakhtabank.com/
Republic joint stock commercialbank "Gallabank"	http://www.gallabank.com/
Joint stock commercial bank "Turon"	www.turonbank.uz/
Joint stock commercial "Aloqa ank"	www.alokabank.uz/
Joint stock innovation commercial bank "Ipak Yuli"	www.ipakyulibank.com/
Joint stock commercial bank Hamkorbank"	www.hamkorbank.uz/
Joint stock commercial bank "Kapitalbank"	www.kapitalbank.uz/
Private joint stock exchange bank "Trustbank"	www.trustbank.uz/
Private joint stock open commercial bank "Credit Standart"	www.credit-standard.uz/
Private joint stock open commercial bank "Ravnak Bank"	www.ravnakbank.uz/
"ABN AMRO Bank NB Uzbekistan PC"	www.abnamro.com/
Uzbek-German joint stock commercial bank "Savdogar"	www.savdogarbank.uz/

5.2. Telecommunication

5.2.1. Telephone

The prefix for calling Uzbekistan from abroad is +998. The prefix for calling Tashkent from abroad is + 998 71.

Costs: Local calls are free of charge if made from private landline telephones; hotels sometimes charge a small rate. Costs for mobile phones are from USD 100 to USD 500. Costs for making national calls from mobile phones are about USD 0.02 per minute. Landline and mobile phones are available and accessible in all cities of Uzbekistan and in the countryside.

Mobile communication

GSM 900 network is provided by a number of companies, such as:

- Beeline Uzbekistan GSM Standard
International dialing code: +998 90/91; www.beeline.uz (accessed on 19/12/2013);
- Ucell GSM 900/1800 Standard
International dialing code: +998 93/94; www.ucell.uz (accessed on 19/12/2013);
- UzMobile CDMA-450 Standard
International dialing code: +998 95; www.uzcdma.uz (accessed on 19/12/2013);
- Perfectum Mobile CDMA 2000 Standard
International dialing code: +998 98; www.cdma.uz (accessed on 19/12/2013).

5.2.2. Internet Services

There are numerous Internet service providers in Uzbekistan.

The biggest ones are:

- Sharq Telecom (www.st.uz);
- Sarkor Telecom (www.sarkor.uz);
- Beeline (www.beeline.uz).

There are free Wi-Fi internet zones in Tashkent hotels, restaurants, some shops and many internet cafes around downtown. It is common to have Internet access at home in Tashkent and other big cities of Uzbekistan. In small villages of Uzbekistan Internet is not available. Mobile phone operators also offer 3G USB Modem Internet services in Tashkent.

5.3. Postal Services

Main Post Office

Address: 7 Shahrizyabskaya Street (reference point -supermarket "DUNYO")

There are a number of international courier services based in major cities.

Contact details of courier services in Tashkent city:

- TNT Express

Tel: (99871) 1521786

Fax: (99871) 1523909

- Transcontinental Company, Authorized Service Contractor for UPS

Tel.: (9987) 1 120 38 38

Fax: (9987) 1 120 38 48

- FedEx Express

FedEx is represented in Uzbekistan by a nominated Service Contractor.

Tel: (99871) 1400700, 1400701

Fax: (99871) 1400068

- DHL Express

Tel: (99871) 1205525, 2539900

Fax: (99871) 1205507

- Express Mail Service

Express Mail Service (EMS FALCON) is an operator of world network express mail. Network EMS includes more than 190 countries-members of the Universal Postal Union; it is intended for the express delivery of urgent documents and cargoes in the shortest terms.

- International Post Office

Tel: (99871) 2322720, 2320196

Fax: (99871) 2320196

5.4. Transportation

5.4.1. Road

Roads of Uzbekistan are of common use. Today, the national road network of the Republic is 183,000 km, 2,127 of which is unpaved.⁷⁶ Out of 183,000 km of roads, 42,500 km are regular highways including 3,200 km of international motorways. 10 per cent of foreign trade and 88 per cent of domestic and cargo transportation is covered by motor transport. The annual growth rate of the motor transport's volume services is 20 per cent.⁷⁷

There are roads to Uzbekistan from the surrounding countries. Car roads are mostly developed in the cities of Uzbekistan.

Buses and taxis go to Uzbekistan from all neighboring countries:

From Kazakhstan:

There are two border crossings between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan:

⁷⁶ National Transportation company (undated): <http://www.uzavtoyul.uz/en/>; lists of international, national and rural roads can be accessed through <http://www.uzavtoyul.uz/en/roads/> (accessed on 29/01/2014).

⁷⁷ UZINFOINVEST, Transportation Network (undated); http://www.uzinfoinvest.uz/eng/living_in_uzbekistan/transportation_network/ (accessed on 16/05/2014).

Gisht Kuprik (Chernyaevka) between Shymkent, Kazakhstan, and Tashkent, Uzbekistan, is the main border crossing check point between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The border is open 7am to 9pm (Tashkent time). Arrivals have to walk over the border and to take a taxi from the border to Tashkent. There is another crossing between Beyneu in Western Kazakhstan and Kungrad in Uzbekistan.

From the Kyrgyz Republic:

Buses from Bishkek to Uzbekistan stop at Gisht Kuprik (Chernyaevka) border.

Taxi or minibus from Jalal Abad stop at Khanabad border.

Taxi or minibus from Osh stop at Dustlyk border. From the border taxi runs to Andijan city in Uzbekistan.

From Tajikistan:

The border check point is at Denau, Taxis run from the border to Samarkand.

From Turkmenistan

The border check point is between Dashoguz city, Turkmenistan, and Urgench city, Uzbekistan. Taxis run from the border to Urgench and Khorezm.

Urban Transport:

Underground exists only in Tashkent. The fare for underground services and local buses within all cities since 1st January 2013 is about UZS 800; and UZS 1,000 for minibuses.

5.4.2. Civil Aviation

Uzbekistan Airways is the state airline of Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan Airways operate scheduled flights to more than forty cities of the world including in America, Europe, Middle East, Southeast, Central Asia and the CIS.⁷⁸

“Tashkent” is the main international airport of Uzbekistan. It has various international carriers operating as well as the national Uzbekistan Airways. There are airports at Andijan, Bukhara, Ferghana, Karshi, Namangan, Nukus, Samarkand, Tashkent, Termez and Urgench.⁷⁹

There are no private airway companies in Uzbekistan.

5.4.3. Railroad Transportation

Railway communication services between the cities of Uzbekistan:

The main line Tashkent - Samarkand - Bukhara is served by two express trains named "Registon" and "Sharq": The "Registon" brings passengers from Tashkent in less than four hours to Samarkand and the "Sharq" makes the 600 kilometer journey Tashkent - Bukhara (with intermediate stop in Samarkand) in about seven and half hours. A daily overnight train from Tashkent to Bukhara offers the possibility to travel during the night and win one day.

Recently a new train "Afrosiob" started operating on the Tashkent - Samarkand line. This Talgo-250-type train makes a respective distance in two and half hours time. Unlike to ordinary local trains, there are three classes in "Afrosiob": Economy class costs UZS 46,000 (roughly USD 25 at official rate), business class – UZS 65,000 and VIP – UZS 80,000. It is planned to extend the "Afrosiob" line to Bukhara and, subsequently, to Khiva by 2014-2015.

Overnight trains also run from Tashkent and Samarkand to Urgench (three times weekly) and to Nukus - Kungrad (two times weekly), so it's also possible to travel to Khiva (30 kilometers

⁷⁸ The Governmental Portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan: http://www.gov.uz/en/citizen/transport_communication/1134 (accessed on 06/05.2014); Representations of Uzbekistan airways company abroad: <http://www.uzairways.com/represation/> (accessed on 27/01/2014).

⁷⁹ Official website of Uzbekistan Airways Company: <http://www.uzairways.com/airports/?lang=en> (accessed on 27-01/2014).

from Urgench, taxi/bus available) or to the Aral lake (Moynaq, 70 kilometer from Kungrad) by train.⁸⁰

Long distance passenger services exist to Kazakhstan and via Kazakhstan to the Russian Federation and the Ukraine. These include the following trains:

- Tashkent - Moscow (three times weekly):
Train # 6 Uzbekistan leaves Moscow on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 23:15 and arrives in Tashkent at 22:35 on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. The distance from Moscow to Tashkent by rail is 3,369 kilometers.
- Tashkent - Ufa (three times weekly),
- Tashkent - Celjabinsk (once weekly),
- Tashkent - Kharkov (once weekly),
- Tashkent - Saratov (every four days),
- Nukus - Tashkent - Almaty (once weekly).

There are also railway lines linking Uzbekistan to Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. However, the service to Turkmenistan is currently suspended.

A quadripartite transit agreement between Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Islamic Republic of Iran and Oman was planned to come into force until 20 March 2014.⁸¹ There was no information that this agreement came in force by the time of writing.

5.5. Energy and Electricity

The Power Industry of Uzbekistan operates in the framework of the State Joint Stock Company "Uzbekenergo", established in the form of an open joint stock company including the Coal Industry enterprises since 2001.⁸²

The company structure includes 54 enterprises and organizations, including 41 open joint-stock companies, 11 unitary enterprises and two societies with limited liability.

As for now, the company performs the centralized electric power supply of the national economy and population, and also the sale of thermal energy to industrial and domestic consumers in distinct cities of the republic.

The installed capacity of power plants of Uzbekistan exceeds 12.5 million kilowatt.⁸³

According to the *Yearbook Statistical Energy Review*, published by Enerdata, Uzbekistan is the second most energy-intensive economy worldwide in terms of energy intensity per unit of GDP.⁸⁴ According to the World Bank, Uzbekistan is using 2 times more energy than Kazakhstan. Such intensity has led to energy inefficiencies. The main problems that Uzbekistan is facing concerning its energy management are gas flaring, distribution losses and inefficiencies on the demand-side.⁸⁵

According to UZNEWS, "The majority of Uzbekistan's population is having a tough time this winter [2012] as the country's energy supply problems go from bad to worse. Unplanned

⁸⁰ Official Website of Uzbek Train Company: <http://www.uzrailway.uz/rus.html> (accessed on 27/01/2014).

⁸¹ 12 UZ News information portal (28 January 2014); <http://12uz.com/ru/news/show/economy/16317/#> (accessed on 27/01/2014).

⁸² The Governmental Portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan: http://www.gov.uz/en/other_institutions/companies/1588 (accessed on 23/01/2014).

⁸³ Uzbekenergo (2014), The present state and prospects of development of energy; <http://www.uzbekenergo.uz/ru/activities/energy/>; general information on the company: <http://www.uzbekenergo.uz/ru/about/uzbekenergo/> (both accessed on 14/04/2014).

⁸⁴ Enerdata, Energy intensity of GDP at constant purchasing power parities, *Yearbook Statistical Energy Review* 2010; <http://yearbook.enerdata.net/2009/energy-intensity-GDP-by-region.html> (accessed on 26/04/2014).

⁸⁵ A. Kochnakyan, S-K. Khosla, I. Buranov, K. Hofer, D. Hankinson and J. Finn, Uzbekistan Energy/Power Sector Issues Note (World Bank, 2013); http://www.dhinfrastructure.com/tl_files/denzel/pdfs/Uzbekistan%20Energy%20Sector%20Issues%20Note_final_eng.pdf (accessed on 16/05/2014).

power cuts and lengthy blackouts have become everyday occurrences in almost every Uzbek neighborhood."⁸⁶ The same source supports that the main reason why there is a shortage in energy for light and heat is the high rate of wastage that is occurring, as well as due to old or obsolete capacity and distribution networks. Moreover, problems have been occurring because of unprofessional managers, engineers and other technical staff.⁸⁷

5.6. Water Supply

Uzbekistan and its neighboring countries traditionally have limited water resources. Water usage over recent history was focused on harvesting a single crop, cotton, which dominates Uzbekistan's agriculture sector. Irrational management of the irrigation systems resulted in huge ecological problems, including the Aral Sea disaster.

Uzbekistan depends on its neighbours in the matter of uninterrupted supply from surface waters, since only 10 to 15 per cent of all water resources used in the country are formed on its territory.

The share of water resources being formed directly on the territory of Uzbekistan makes 6 per cent in the Amudarya river basin 16 per cent in the Syrdarya river basin, and all over the country it makes about 8 per cent out of the total water yield of the Aral Sea Basin.⁸⁸

Therefore, modernization and improvement of the water systems, provision of safe drinking water, reducing water-borne diseases, particularly diarrheal diseases among children, strengthening the institutional capacity of the regional water supply and sanitation utilities became a priority task for the Uzbek government, and the subject of international financial support.

The following projects are in the process of implementation in Uzbekistan:

- "Water supply of cities of Bukhara and Samarqand", "Clean water, sanitation and human health", World Bank for Reconstruction and Development and International Development Association;
- "Improvement of the water supply system of the cities of Gulistan, Djizzak and Qarshi", Asian Development Bank;
- "Improvement of the potable water supply system in the Republic of Karkalpakstan and Khorezm Province," ADB and Iranian Export Development Bank;
- "Improvement of the water supply of the cities of Nukus and Urgench," Kuwait Economic Development Fund;
- "Improvement of the water supply system of the city of Tashkent," European Bank for Reconstruction and Development;
- "Reconstruction of the sewage treatment plants in the city of Qarshi with their additional purification and treatment of sediment," Islamic Development Bank;
- "Improvement of water supply in Bukhara Province," French Government and the Kingdom of Spain.⁸⁹

⁸⁶ UZNEWS (18 January, 2012), Uzbekistan's power crisis - why there is no heat and light?; <http://www.uznews.net/en/economy/18788-uzbekistans-power-crisis-why-is-there-no-heat-and-light> (accessed on 16/05/2014).

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ Abduraimov, Mansur (Country Water Partnership Coordinator), and Vokhid Akhmadjonov (Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Uzbekistan) (March 2013), National Consultations on Water in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, Page 3; <http://www.gwp.org/Global/GWP-CACENA/Images/News/Uzbekistan%20Final%20National%20Consultation%20Report.pdf> (accessed on 23/01/2014).

⁸⁹ Abduraimov, Mansur (Country Water Partnership Coordinator), and Vokhid Akhmadjonov (Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Uzbekistan) (March 2013), National Consultations on Water in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, Page 6; <http://www.gwp.org/Global/GWP-CACENA/Images/News/Uzbekistan%20Final%20National%20Consultation%20Report.pdf> (accessed on 23/01/2014).

6. SOCIOECONOMIC SITUATION

6.1. General information

6.1.1. Human Development Index

The Human Development Index (HDI) defines well-being and provides a combined determination of three dimensions of human development: education, health and income. According to the “Human Development Report 2013” published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2012, Uzbekistan’s HDI value for 2012 was 0.654 – in the medium human development category – positioning the country at 114 out of 187 countries and territories.⁹⁰

6.1.2. Population Below Poverty Line

In Uzbekistan, poverty is measured by a national food-based norm of 2,100 kilocalories per person per day.⁹¹ The State Statistics Committee of Uzbekistan conducts regular household budget surveys, the results of which are not available to the public. According to the UNDP Uzbekistan, in 2011 about 16 per cent of Uzbekistan's population lived below the poverty line and 75 percent of the population with low income lived in rural areas. This can be related, inter alia, to the low productivity of agriculture, the prevalence of the informal economy and the low number of working adults in comparison with the size of the families.⁹²

Poverty, according to official sources, has declined from 27.5 per cent of the population in 2001 to 15 per cent in 2012, due to rapid economic growth, large government investments in education, health, and infrastructure development, regular increases in public sector salaries, and increased remittances.

Additional pro-poor actions were taken in response to the recent global financial crisis. These included: supplementary wage, pension, and benefit increases; hikes in targeted social assistance; improved access to micro-lending; the provision of housing for orphaned children; and social assistance to single citizens in need. All regional authorities adopted additional measures on job creation in public works, municipal infrastructure improvements, construction, services, and cattle breeding in rural areas.⁹³

6.2. Social System

6.2.1. General Information

Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of 12 December 2012, № 350 amended the procedure for the appointment and payment of social grants and financial assistance to vulnerable families⁹⁴.

Social benefits are established on age, disability, loss of supporter, child allowances.⁹⁵

The social transfer system has gradually shifted toward targeted social support, which, however, still needs improvement, as there is considerable discretion and arbitrariness at the local level (neighborhood communities or mahallahs).

⁹⁰ UNDP, Human Development Report 2013 - Uzbekistan; <http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/Country-Profiles/UZB.pdf> (accessed on 15/04/2014).

⁹¹ UNDP (undated), Millennium Development Goals; <http://www.uz.undp.org/content/uzbekistan/ru/home/mdgoverview/overview/mdg1/> (accessed on 15/04/2014)

⁹² UNDP (undated), Country Profile Uzbekistan; <http://www.uz.undp.org/content/uzbekistan/ru/home/countryinfo/> (accessed on 14/04/2014).

⁹³ World Bank (October 2012), Uzbekistan Partnership: Country Program Snapshot; http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTUZBEKISTAN/Resources/294087-1285304341425/Uzbekistan_Snapshot.pdf (accessed on 06/05/2014).

⁹⁴ Med.uz, Postanovlenie kabineta ministrov Respubliki Uzbekistan o merakh po dal'neyshemu sovershenstvovaniyu poryadka naznacheniya i vyplaty social'nykh posobiy; <http://www.med.uz/documentation/detail.php?ID=31124> (accessed on 23/01/2014).

⁹⁵ Law of Uzbekistan on State Pensions, Art. 2: http://www.lex.uz/pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=112312 (accessed on 14/04/2014)

A number of new resolutions for social protection were adopted in 2010–13, for example, on the provision of housing for orphaned children, on social assistance to single citizens in need, provision with prosthetic devices, hearing aids, assistance to unemployed mothers for baby minding and so forth.⁹⁶

6.2.2. Minimum Wage

According to the Decree from December 15, 2013, in the Republic of Uzbekistan the minimum wage will be UZS 96,105 per month, age pensions – UZS 187,970, social allowances to the disabled from childhood – UZS 187,970, and allowances for the elderly and disabled citizens who do not have the required seniority – UZS 115,340.⁹⁷ The minimum wage is defined, as the lowest hourly, daily or monthly wage legally payable to the workers.⁹⁸

6.2.3. Child Allowance

Families can receive child allowance for minor children until 14 years. Since January 2013 child allowance is 50 per cent of minimum wage for the family with one child, 80 per cent for the family with two children and 120 per cent of minimum wage for the families with three and more children.⁹⁹

6.2.4. Pension System

In accordance with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan about state provision of pensions for citizens as of September 3, 1993 of No. 938-XII (last edition 07/10/2013), citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan have the right to the state provision of pensions according to the procedure determined by this Law.

The law establishes the following types of national pensions:

- on age,
- on disability,
- on the occasion of loss of the supporter.¹⁰⁰

Citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and also foreign citizens and stateless persons who are permanently living in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan have the right to accumulative provision of pensions.

The state guarantees to the citizens participating in the accumulative pension system safety and payment of the agents which have been saved up on individual accumulative retirement accounts. The Accumulative pension system is a system which allows the government to make pension payments to the beneficiaries at the expense of their insurance contributions.¹⁰¹

⁹⁶ See for instance: Resolution No.5 of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and Ministry of Finance No.19 of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 10 February 2012; http://norma.uz/publish/doc/text80122_o_vnesenii_izmeneniy_i_dopolneniya_v_postanovlenie_ob_utverjdenii_ins_trukcii_o_poryadke_obespecheniya_nujdayushchihsvy_grajdan_respubliki_uzbekistan_protezhno-ortopedicheskimi_izdeliyami_i_tehnicheskimi_sredstvami_reabilitacii (accessed on 14/04/2014); Norma. Legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan (02.08.2010), O merakh po obespecheniyu zhilymi pomeshcheniyam detey-sirot i detey, ostavshikhsya bez popecheniya roditeley; http://norma.uz/publish/doc/text56702_o_merakh_po_obespecheniyu_jilymi_pomeshcheniyami_detey-sirot_i_detey_ostavshihsvy_bez_popecheniya_roditeley (accessed 27/05/2014).

⁹⁷ Law of Uzbekistan on State Pensions: http://www.lex.uz/pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=112312 (accessed on 14/04/2014).

⁹⁸ Wikipedia (undated), Minimum Wage; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minimum_wage.

⁹⁹ Resolution of Cabinet of Ministers as of 12 December 2012; <http://www.med.uz/documentation/detail.php?ID=31124> (accessed on 23/01/2014).

¹⁰⁰ Law of Uzbekistan on State Pensions, Art. 2; http://www.lex.uz/pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=112312 (accessed on 14/04/2014).

¹⁰¹ B.Kh. Umurzakov (undated), Distinctive features of accumulative and distributive pension systems; <http://rea.uz/about/science/publications/detailed/?id=5> (accessed on 15.05.2014).

For employers, and also citizens working with an employment contract, participation in the accumulative pension system is obligatory if not stipulated otherwise by the legislation.

Individual entrepreneurs, members of dekhkansky (peasant) farms and also other citizens participate in the accumulative pension system on a voluntary basis.¹⁰²

Citizens who do not have an employment history and their family members have no right to national pensions under the Law on pensions. The procedure for their social security is determined by the Cabinet of Ministers.¹⁰³

6.2.5. Employee's Leave of Absence due to Illness or Disability

In case of an employee's leave of absence due to temporary illness or disability, the employee is paid from the State Social Insurance Fund in amounts varying from 75 per cent to 100 per cent of the employee's wage.¹⁰⁴

6.2.6. Maternity Leave

Paid maternity leave is for a minimum of 70 days prior to birth and 56 days after birth (up to 70 days in certain cases).

Maternity leave is paid by the employer at the employee's normal salary level but it is effectively reimbursed to the employer through deduction from the contributions due to the State Social Insurance Fund from the employer.¹⁰⁵

6.2.7. Unemployment Allowance

In accordance with the existing legislation unemployment allowance is not less than 50 per cent of the average wage in the former place of work, but it should not be less than the minimum wage established by law.

Unemployment benefit is paid for no more than:

- 26 calendar weeks during a twelve-month period for people who lost their jobs and income or seeking to return to work after long-term (over one year) break;
- 13 calendar weeks during a twelve-month period for people who have never worked and are looking for a job for the first time. Unemployment benefit is granted to persons who have been recognized unemployed in accordance with the Employment Law.¹⁰⁶

6.2.8. Preconditions and Administrative Requirements

Persons in need of social assistance do not face obstacles in getting social allowances.

For getting social benefits or allowances, working citizens should contact the personnel departments on the working place; not working citizens should approach the social welfare departments at the place of their residence. Assignment and payment of the pensions and other social allowances is carried out by district divisions of the off-budget pension fund at the place of permanent residence of the applicants. Comprehensive information on administrative requirements for obtaining allowances, samples of applications list of documents needed for various kinds of allowances can be found in the Instruction of the Ministry of Justice of Uzbekistan № 2282 as of 17 November 2012.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰² Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Cumulative Pensions" of 02 December 2004, № 702 g-II; http://uzjobs.com/r/publick_view-2-2-18.html (accessed on 14/04/2014).

¹⁰³ Law of Uzbekistan on State Pensions; http://lex.uz/Pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=112312 (accessed on 14.05.2014).

¹⁰⁴ Provision on State Insurance fund, chapter 2; http://www.pravo.uz/archive/get_data.php3?topic=423&sub=0#0 (accessed on 26/01/2014).

¹⁰⁵ Provision on State Insurance fund, chapter 2; http://www.pravo.uz/archive/get_data.php3?topic=423&sub=0#0 (accessed on 26/01/2014).

¹⁰⁶ Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Employment" of 13. January 1992; http://www.lex.uz/Pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=51763 (accessed on 14/04/2014).

¹⁰⁷ Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan; <http://pfru.uz/ru/article/127/> (accessed on 23/01/2014).

No information regarding the number of families receiving poverty family benefit and one-time financial assistance and the average size of monthly benefit is available.

6.2.9. References and Contacts

Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population

www.mehnat.uz/en/ (accessed on 26/12/2013).

Pension fund and Off-budget pension fund under the Ministry of Finance

Address: 5 Mustaqillik square, 100078 Tashkent, Uzbekistan

6.3. Housing

6.3.1. Housing Market Situation

The housing situation in Uzbekistan is considered to be difficult due to the low income of the majority of the population. In the early 1990s a process of privatization of state dwellings for the citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan was launched. The Act on the Protection of Private Ownership and Guarantees of the Rights of Property Owners¹⁰⁸ adopted in recent years is designed to strengthen the protection of private property, establish a system of effective guarantees for its inviolability, ensure further guarantees for the rights of property owners and set favorable conditions for the effective functioning of private ownership in the economy in order to promote the development of the country's market economy. Entrepreneurs have been given additional legal guarantees for the protection of their lawful right to own property (ownership rights and the use and disposal of one's property).¹⁰⁹

Only few categories of population have a right to a social dwelling from the state, for example: socially vulnerable persons with a monthly income less than established minimum wage¹¹⁰ and children from orphanages when they reach the age of 18. There is a system of special state institutions for elderly and disabled adults and children where they can stay for free.¹¹¹

6.3.2. Average Renting Costs

In the countryside prices for rent is from USD 50 to USD 100 irrespective of number of rooms.

In Tashkent city:

	Rent Month Median	Per /
Apartment (1 bedroom) in City Centre	USD 375.00	
Apartment (1 bedroom) Outside of Centre	USD 200.00	
Apartment (3 bedrooms) in City Centre	USD 910.73	
Apartment (3 bedrooms)	USD 400.00	

¹⁰⁸ Act on the Protection of Private Ownership and Guarantees of the Rights of Property Owners, enacted in 2012; <http://www.parliament.gov.uz/ru/law/2012/7499/> (accessed on 14/05/2014).

¹⁰⁹ The Law on Property in the Republic of Uzbekistan of 31 October, 1990; <http://faolex.fao.org/docs/texts/uzb50170.doc> (accessed on 23/01/2014).

¹¹⁰ Housing Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 01 April 1999; <http://uz.denemetr.com/docs/768/index-95213-1.html> (accessed on 23/01/2014).

¹¹¹ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on medical and social institutions of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Uzbekistan; http://www.lex.uz/Pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=1856116 (accessed on 23/01/2014).

Outside of Centre	
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Average purchasing costs:

	Apartment Price in Tashkent / Median ¹¹²
Price per Square Meter to Buy Apartment in City Centre	USD 1,500.00
Price per Square Meter to Buy Apartment Outside of Centre	USD 600.00

There are a few ways to find accommodation, e.g. through private real estate agencies (citizens have to pay service fee to the agency); newspaper announcements, posters, leaflets; the Internet.

6.3.3. Available State Programs

In 2014 Uzbekistan planned to build 11,000 individual houses on the territory of 353 rural areas. The government mobilized leading banks of the country ("Qishloq Qurilish bank", "Ipoteka bank" and the National bank of Foreign Economic Activities) to implement this programme costing UZS 1.4 trillion. In the first part of 2013 banks directed investments in total of UZS 315 billion.¹¹³

Citizens of Uzbekistan who are willing to obtain an individual house can choose a model project, contribute to the bank's their own funds as a down payment of 25 per cent of the home value and are given a preferential mortgage loan on favorable terms for a 15 years period, with annual debt repayment at a preferential interest rate of 7 per cent per annum, that is below the rate of the Central Bank, established at the level of 12 per cent per annum.

The state program "Young families - house" was launched in 2012 and continued in 2013. In particular, by the end of 2013, 105 multi-family homes, followed by the sale of mortgage loans were built in rural areas.¹¹⁴

6.3.4. References and Contacts

In order to apply for assistance within state programs and for obtaining mortgage, citizens of Uzbekistan have to apply directly to the leading banks of Uzbekistan¹¹⁵:

"Qishloq Qurilish bank"

Address: 36 Shahrisabzskaya str., Tashkent Uzbekistan, 100060;
Phone: (+998 71) 150-3993, (+998 71) 150-9339

"Ipoteka bank"

Address: 15 Mustaqillik str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Phone: (+998 71) 150-11-22;

National bank of Foreign Economic Activities

Address:
101 Amir Temur str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan 100084
Phone: (+998 71) 2359060; (+998 71) 2349060

¹¹² <http://www.torg.com/ru/catalog/prodazha> (accessed on 20/12/2013).

¹¹³ Uz Report Information Agency, November 2013: http://news.uzreport.uz/news_4_e_113937.html (accessed on 23/01/2014)

¹¹⁴ Uz Report Information Agency, March 2012: http://news.uzreport.uz/news_5_e_95006.html (accessed on 23/01/2014)

¹¹⁵ Procedure on how to obtain a mortgage loan from a bank: BankUz Information Portal <http://bank.uz/publish/doc/text931.html> (accessed on 16/04/2014)

6.4. Education

6.4.1. Educational System and Infrastructure

The educational system in the Republic of Uzbekistan consists of state and private educational institutions where teaching is based on State educational standards. Every citizen and stateless person in Uzbekistan has the right to free education.¹¹⁶

In Uzbekistan, 12 years of education is obligatory. The basis of the national model in education¹¹⁷ is to ensure continuity of education, which is represented as a system of universal compulsory free secondary 12 year cycle, which includes nine years of schooling and three years education, which continues in a professional college or an academic lyceum. Pupils can enter University after completing college or academic lyceums.

According to official sources, 12 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product is assigned for education.¹¹⁸

6.4.2. Preschool Education

There are both state and private preschool facilities in Uzbekistan. Since 1 January 2013 the average monthly fee of state preschool facilities for one child in Tashkent city is UZS 79,590 per month (five-day week); or UZS 96,304 per month (six-day week). For multi children families, it is UZS 56,590 per month (five-days week) or UZS 67,652 per month (six-day week).

In the regions, the monthly fee per month is UZS 55,713 for a five-days week and UZS 67,652 for a six-day week.¹¹⁹

The monthly fee for private nurseries ranges from USD 100 to USD 400.

Pre-school educational institutions of Uzbekistan are divided into the following types in accordance with the orientation of their activities:

- Nurseries, kindergarten, home-based day care (as an independent institution and branch).
- Establishment of early childhood and primary education (kindergarten, school).
- Pre-school educational institution with the priority of one or more areas of development of students (language, art - aesthetic, sports, etc.).
- Kindergarten of compensating type with a priority implementation of skilled correction of deviations in the physical and mental development of pupils.
- Nursery care and rehabilitation of weakened children with the implementation of health and hygiene, preventive and curative measures and procedures.
- Kindergarten of combined type (combined kindergarten may include general developmental, compensatory and health groups in different combinations).¹²⁰

Currently there are 6,135 pre-school educational institutions in Uzbekistan.

6.4.3. General Secondary Education

The structure of school education in Uzbekistan has a two-stage system: primary education (grades one to four) and general secondary education (grades five to nine).¹²¹ Pupils start to study at the age of six or seven. According to 2012-2013 statistics, there are 9,765

¹¹⁶ Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Chapter 9, Art. 41; http://www.lex.uz/Pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=35869 (accessed on 24/01/2014).

¹¹⁷ UZINFOINVEST Information Agency (undated); http://www.uzinfoinvest.uz/rus/ob_uzbekistane/obrazovanie/ (accessed on 24/01/2014).

¹¹⁸ Press service of the President of Uzbekistan; http://www.press-service.uz/ru/news/show/dokladi/doklad_prezidenta_respubliki_uzbekist_1/# (accessed on 24/01/2014).

¹¹⁹ Vesti.uz, Uzbekskie detskie sady ustanovili razmer oplaty za detey; http://vesti.uz/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=34459 (accessed on 24/01/2014).

¹²⁰ Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan: on adoption of legal acts in the sphere of pre-school education: 25 October 2007, N225; http://lex.uz/Pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=1259550#1259571 (accessed on 27/05/2014).

¹²¹ Educational portal Ziyonet; <http://ziyonet.uz/ru/education/system/school/> (accessed on 16/04/2014).

secondary institutions in Uzbekistan, including: elementary schools: - 68, nine year schools – 9,536, eleven year schools – 73, other specialized schools - 88.¹²²

Documents needed for admission to school:

- An application from either of the parents,
- a copy of the child's birth certificate,
- a child's medical records concerning diagnosis, vaccinations and a medical conclusion about the general state of a child's health,
- a photo of the child and the copy of parent's passports.¹²³

6.4.4. Higher Education

Higher education, access to which is granted after the completion of the mandatory 12-year specialized secondary and vocational education is a separate type of continuous education. Today there are 75 institutions of higher learning function in the republic, including 19 universities, 37 teacher training, medical, technical, economic, agricultural, and other institutes, two Academies, 11 branches, six branches of foreign universities.¹²⁴

The oldest higher Institutions in Uzbekistan are the National University named after Ulugbek (in the past - Tashkent State University)¹²⁵ and the Technical Institute (Polytechnic Institute)¹²⁶. Since 1991 the number of higher educational institutions has increased by 30 percent. New higher educational institutions have appeared: the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Academy of State and Public Structuring, Academy of Armed Forces, Academy of Ministry of Internal Affairs. Branches of international educational institutions were opened in Tashkent: Moscow University named after M. Lomonosov, Russian Academy of Economics named after Plekhanov, Oil and Gaz University named after I.N. Gubkin, Westminster University, Turin Polytechnic University, Singapore University.¹²⁷

System of higher education in Uzbekistan is based on government grants and on a paid contractual basis.

University fee at public and private universities ranges from USD 2,000 to USD 5,000 per year.

To enter an institute or university a student must submit:

- an application addressed to the head of the institute,
- certificate of completed secondary education,
- certificate of health (086/Y form),
- passport copy; 6 photos (3,5x4,5cm).¹²⁸

Winners of international or republican contests have to provide the relevant certificate; those who passed military service have to provide a recommendation from a military unit to enter the institute on preferential terms.

¹²² Ministry of Public Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan; <http://uzedu.uz/rus/info/pokazateli/20122013/> (accessed on 27/05/2014).

¹²³ Personal site of Irina Kuznetsova, director of the school No.64 in Tashkent; http://school64.uz/index/dokumenty_dlja_postuplenija_v_1_klass/0-5 (accessed on 16/04/2014).

¹²⁴ Portal of Ministry of Higher Education and Secondary Specialized Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan; <http://www.edu.uz/en/> (accessed on 15/04/2014).

¹²⁵ Uzinform informational portal; <http://www.uzinform.com/ru/news/2009/07/18/0001552.htm> (accessed on 28/05/2014).

¹²⁶ Tashkentskiy Gosudarstvennyy Tekhnicheskij Universitet imeni Abu Raykhana Beruni (TGTU); http://www.gigal.uz/objects/dir/tashkent/obuchenie_i_vospitanie/tashkentskiy_gosudarstvennyy_tekhnicheskij_universitet_imeni_abu_rayhana_beruni_tgtu.html?from=index (accessed on 28/05/2014).

¹²⁷ Top Universities of Uzbekistan: <http://www.4icu.org/uz/> (accessed on 28/05/2014).

¹²⁸ Ziyonet Information and Education network (undated); <http://ziyonet.uz/ru/abitur/article/reminder/> (accessed on 23/01/2014).

Applications and documents should be submitted from 20 June to 20 July every year. Then entrants have to pass Unified State Test Examination which starts every year on the 1st of August. Students can enter higher educational institutions in any city of Uzbekistan.¹²⁹ Higher education has two levels: Bachelor's and Master's degree. Baccalaureate is a basic higher educational qualification that includes basic and applied training knowledge with duration of at least four years. After completion of a Bachelor's Program, graduates are awarded the "Bachelor's Degree" on the basis of State Certification in training and receive a State Diploma.¹³⁰

The Master's degree or a graduate is a higher educational degree granted to individuals who have undergone study in basic and applied knowledge on a specific field of study or area of professional practice with the duration of study of at least two years. This Degree is accessed on a competitive basis and granted strictly to those students with a Bachelor's degree. Upon completion of Master's program, graduates are awarded the "Master Degree" on a specific field of study on the basis of State Certification and obtain a State Diploma.¹³¹

Higher education institutions are under supervision of the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan.¹³²

6.4.5. Professional Education and Initial Vocational Education¹³³

Secondary special vocational education, with a training period of three years, on the basis of general secondary education is a compulsory independent type of a continuous education and is implemented in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Education"¹³⁴ and "The National Program for Training Teachers" (both of 29 August 1997).¹³⁵ Secondary special vocational education provides in-depth study of the basic knowledge and training of junior experts on a chosen profession.

Examples for institutions with specialized, secondary and vocational education are academic lyceums and professional colleges.

An academic lyceum is a three years secondary special school that provides an intensive development of intellectual abilities, thorough, differentiated and professionally-oriented education for students.

A professional college is a three years secondary vocational school, providing in-depth development of professional aptitudes and skills of students receiving one or more specialties based on selected occupations to work in their professions or continue their studies to a further level. Colleges exist for about 450 professions.¹³⁶

¹²⁹ Norma. Legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan: Utverzhen poryadok provedeniya testovykh ispytaniy pri postuplenii v vuz; http://www.norma.uz/publish/doc/text63870_utverjden_poryadok_provedeniya_testovykh_ispytaniy_pri_postuplenii_v_vuz (accessed on 27/05/2014).

¹³⁰ Ziyonet Information and Education network (undated); <http://ziyonet.uz/ru/education/system/highschool/> (accessed on 23/01/2014).

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² Government Portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan; <http://www.gov.uz/en/authorities/ministries/1300> (accessed on 23/12/2014); The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on education; http://lex.uz/Pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=15622 (accessed on 23/01/2014).

¹³³ Ziyonet Information and Education network (undated); <http://ziyonet.uz/ru/education/system/college/> (accessed on 06/05/2014).

¹³⁴ Ministry of Public Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Law on Education of 29 August 1997; <http://uzedu.uz/rus/info/officially/rulaws/educationlaw/> (accessed on 16/04/2014).

¹³⁵ Ministry of Public Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Nacional'naya programma po podgotovke kadrov; <http://uzedu.uz/rus/info/officially/rulaws/nackadprog/> (accessed on 16/04/2014).

¹³⁶ The list can be found at: [http://mg.uz/publish/doc/text60498_kuda_poyti_uchitsya_kratkiy_obzor_kolledjey_tashkenta_\(chast_1\)](http://mg.uz/publish/doc/text60498_kuda_poyti_uchitsya_kratkiy_obzor_kolledjey_tashkenta_(chast_1)) (accessed on 24/01/2014).

Starting from the school year 2013/2014, Tashkent specialized industry professional college and Samarkand specialized professional college were given the status of professional colleges for people with disabilities.¹³⁷

On 24 February 1998, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted a special decree on organizing lyceums, colleges and their management.¹³⁸ The reason for their formation lies in the fact that students will acquire not only basic but also specialized knowledge on certain disciplines for further training in an institution of higher learning. Within three years boys and girls shall master up to two or three professions.

In 2013 there were 143 academic lyceums and 1,411 professional colleges in the republic.¹³⁹

6.4.6. Postgraduate Education

Postgraduate education is aimed at satisfying the demand for the scientific and scientific-pedagogical personnel and complying with creative, educational and professional interests of the individual. Postgraduate studies can be obtained at universities and research institutions (Postgraduate school or aspirantura, adyunktura or postgraduate, adjunct, PhD)¹⁴⁰. There are 34 scientific research institutes in the republic.¹⁴¹

6.4.7. Available State Programs

Grants for education are provided by the state and also by some commercial organizations, international organizations and foreign institutes.

State grants and scholarships are provided in public higher education institutions after a competitive selection procedure conducted by the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education.¹⁴² In 2014 19,120 students received grants for bachelor's study and 1,548 students for masters study.¹⁴³

6.4.8. Approval and Verification of Foreign Diplomas

The educational documents issued in former Soviet Union countries before 15 of May 1992 do not require recognition procedure in Uzbekistan as according to article 5 of the Agreement of Educational Cooperation signed in Tashkent in 1992, CIS member states guarantee termless recognition of education-confirming documents issued on their territories before the Agreement came into force. Participating countries are: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan.¹⁴⁴

The foreign diplomas recognition procedure is a competence of the Cabinet of Ministers. The decision on the recognition of foreign diplomas is taken on the basis of international bilateral agreements on the recognition of equivalent diplomas and obligations signed and ratified by

¹³⁷ UzReport Information Agency (September 2013); http://news.uzreport.uz/news_3_e_109054.html (accessed on 24/01/2014).

¹³⁸ http://www.lex.uz/pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=732551 (accessed on 16/04/2014).

¹³⁹ 12news Information Agency; <http://www.12news.uz/news/2013/11/28/%D0%B2-%D1%83%D0%B7%D0%B1%D0%B5%D0%BA%D0%B8%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B5-%D0%BE%D0%B1%D0%B5%D1%81%D0%BF%D0%B5%D1%87%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0%D0%BD%D1%8F%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D1%8C-3344/> (accessed on 16/04/2014).

¹⁴⁰ Ziyonet Information and Education network (undated); <http://info.ziyonet.uz/ru/post/view/education/postgraduate/> (accessed on 20/05/2014).

¹⁴¹ The list of scientific research institutes can be found in Internet catalogue of Uzbekistan: <http://www.search.uz/catalog/science-education/research-institutes.htm> (accessed on 23/02/2014).

¹⁴² UZINFOINVEST Information Agency (undated); http://www.uzinfoinvest.uz/rus/ob_uzbekistane/obrazovanie/ (accessed on 16/04/2014).

¹⁴³ Ziyonet Information and Education network (undated); <http://ziyonet.uz/ru/abitur/article/> (accessed on 16/04/2014).

¹⁴⁴ Executive Committee of the CIS, Соглашение о сотрудничестве в области образования (Ташкент, 15.05.92г.); <http://cis.minsk.by/page.php?id=7570> (accessed on 23/02/2014).

the Republic of Uzbekistan.¹⁴⁵ Bilateral agreements on recognition of equivalent diplomas with Member States of the European Union have not been signed.

6.4.9. References and Contacts

Website www.search.uz/catalog/science-education.htm (accessed on 22/12/2013)

On this website sites of the training centers which organize study courses are provided. Information about testing services and testing centers, at the national and international levels, can be found in the Training and Testing centers subsection. In addition, this section contains websites of the educational institutions of Uzbekistan, including schools, colleges and universities. Moreover, there are subsections for the sites of the libraries and research institutions in Uzbekistan.

Information about study disciplines can be found out at the sites collected in the subsection Disciplines. Scientific and educational publications are available at the sites of the Publications subsection.

Ministry of Public Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Address: 5, Mustakillik square, Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, 100095

Phones: +998 (71) 239-1735, +998 (71) 239-4214

www.uzedu.uz (accessed on 20/12/2013);

info@uzedu.uz (accessed on 20/12/2013);

Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Address: 96, 2-Chimboy str., Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, 100095

Phones: +998 (71) 246-0195, +998 (71) 246-0195

www.edu.uz; devonxona@edu.uz (accessed on 20/12/2013);

6.5. Employment

The official unemployment rate (per cent of labour force) for Uzbekistan was 4.9 per cent of the economically active population in the first quarter of 2013.¹⁴⁶ According to World Bank reports, the unemployment rate in 2013 was 0.2 per cent.¹⁴⁷

6.5.1. General Information

The Labor System including the Labor Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan regulates the employment of nationals and foreign citizens in Uzbekistan. Persons of pension age who receive a state pension also have a right to work. The Constitution prohibits forced labour except when fulfilling a court sentence or in other cases specified by the law.¹⁴⁸

Every employee has a right to work in a place of his choice where s/he is provided with fair working conditions (that cover the required standards of hygiene, safety and security), stable wages (not less than the settled minimum), medical services and insurance. At the working place employees should have opportunity to develop their skills by providing all necessary trainings and educational courses. Labor relations between employees and employers are regulated by collective agreements and individual employment contracts.

Before an employee signs an agreement s/he must be pre-informed about its details: conditions of work, salary and privileges, internal policies and risk of professional diseases. In case an employment contract is chosen it must meet the standards prescribed by Uzbek law. Written employment contracts are compulsory and are usually valid for an unlimited

¹⁴⁵ Competences of the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan in the field of education (undated); <http://ziyonet.uz/ru/education/system/common/> (accessed on 23/02/2014).

¹⁴⁶ National News Agency (09 May 2013); <http://www.uzdaily.com/articles-id-23074.htm> (accessed on 24/01/2014).

¹⁴⁷ World Bank evaluations (February 2013); http://www.economywatch.com/economic-statistics/Uzbekistan/Unemployment_Rate_Percentage_of_Labour_Force/ (accessed on 24/01/2014).

¹⁴⁸ Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Article 37; <http://www.gov.uz/en/constitution/> (accessed on 07/05/2014).

period. Other options, possible under certain conditions, are fixed-term contracts, either for five years or less, or for the duration of a project.

Foreign and local companies may hire employees directly, without using employment or recruitment agencies. An employer may set up a probation period which cannot exceed three months. Within this period the employer can dismiss an employee without any reason.

Every employee of Uzbek nationality must be provided with an individual workbook containing personal details and a record of his/her past and current work history. If an employee does not have a workbook, the employer must provide him/her with a new one within five days after commencing the employment. The workbook is used for determining the amount to be paid from the State Social Insurance Fund during employee's temporary illness or disability and for determining employee's rights to a state pension. The workbook is kept by the employer, who returns it to the employee upon dismissal.

The regular working week is 40 hours. Overtime work may be allowed only with the employee's consent and may not exceed four hours within two days and 120 hours per year. Overtime work must be compensated at a rate of at least 200 per cent of the employee's regular wage or by another day off. Night shift work is from 22pm to 6am and working schedule must be reduced by one hour with further reduction of a week. The minimum paid annual vacation is 15 working days. Certain categories of employees (underage workers, working disabled employees) may receive extended paid annual vacation of up to 30 working days.¹⁴⁹

The employer is not obliged to pay for an employee's leave of absence due to temporary illness or disability. The employee is paid from the State Social Insurance Fund in amounts varying from 75 per cent to 100 per cent of the employee's wage. Paid maternity leave is for a minimum of 70 days prior to birth and 56 days after birth (up to 70 days in certain cases). Maternity leave is paid by the employer at the employee's normal salary level but it is effectively reimbursed to the employer through deduction from the contributions due to the State Social Insurance Fund from the employer.¹⁵⁰

6.5.2. Looking for Employment

There are number of ways to look for a job in Uzbekistan. The easiest way is to search the job opportunities through internet. The most popular websites are (all accessed on 20/12/2013):

- <http://uzjobs.com/>
- www.myjob.uz
- www.birjatruda.uz
- www.superjob.uz
- www.trud.uz
- www.tashjobs.uz
- www.zarplata.uz

6.5.3. Placement Services

The government of Uzbekistan pays special attention to job placement for graduates of vocational colleges. Vocational colleges make contracts with enterprises for the practical training of future graduates and their subsequent recruitment.¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁹ Labor Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan; http://www.lex.uz/pages/getact.aspx?lact_id=145261 (accessed on 16/05/2014).

¹⁵⁰ Provision on State Insurance fund, chapter 2; http://www.pravo.uz/archive/get_data.php3?topic=423&sub=0#0 (accessed on 26/01/2014).

¹⁵¹ Voprosy trudoustroystva vypusnikov kolledzhey; <http://www.parliament.gov.uz/ru/events/other/5215> (accessed on 26/05/2014).

Employment centers are available in every district of Tashkent city, in all provinces of Uzbekistan. They provide information regarding the job market situation in the region as well as current supply/demand for labor force, register and assist unemployed people.

6.5.4. References and Contacts

Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Address: 20 Avloniy Street, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Phone: +998 (71) 239-4121, +998 (71) 239-4112

Employment center in Tashkent

Address: 34 Shahrisabz Street, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

6.6. Health Care

6.6.1. General Information

Common diseases and healthcare issues that afflict the population of Uzbekistan include pollution, cancer, hepatitis, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, dysentery, cholera, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and drug abuse.

Many of these problems are associated with prolonged exposure to pollutants, such as the toxic dust that blows from the dried-up areas of the Aral Sea. Although the number of doctors, hospitals, and clinics did increase considerably while under Soviet rule, the doctors and other medical staff are not trained to handle these modern problems. The Uzbek government has responded to this issue by beginning a program where it sends the country's medical students to schools in the Russian Federation, Germany, the United Kingdom, Turkey, India, and Egypt. It is also trying to attract greater foreign donations and investments in its healthcare industry.¹⁵²

Special attention is given to the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis.¹⁵³

In recent years various sources reported about forced sterilization of women of reproductive age in Uzbekistan.¹⁵⁴ Data on sterilization of women in Uzbekistan are not confirmed by the authorities.¹⁵⁵

In Uzbekistan healthcare is financed from the budget of the state and makes up 9.9 per cent of the total budget expenditures. Annually over six million people in the country receive the free emergency medical aid guaranteed by state. According to the Constitution, the citizens of Uzbekistan enjoy the right to free medical service rendered via the network of state medical establishments - polyclinics, first aid stations, and state hospitals.¹⁵⁶

The most important directions of the government reforms are to create the logistical and practical conditions to increase the quality of healthcare, enhance the role and prestige of the medical personnel, improve the payment system and stimulate their labor. There are more than 72,000 doctors and more than 310,000 medical personnel in Uzbekistan.

The state pays special attention to supplying the treatment and prophylactic facilities with the latest treatment and diagnostic equipment. For instance, over 10,000 medical surgeries and other diagnostic procedures are annually held at the Republican specialized centers, which

¹⁵² The Governmental Portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan; <http://www.gov.uz/en/helpinfo/healthcare> (accessed on 26/01/2014).

¹⁵³ Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On prevention and treatment of tuberculosis" of 11 May 2001; http://www.lex.uz/Pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=4888 (accessed on 26/01/2014).

¹⁵⁴ Open Society Foundations (December 2013), Forced Sterilization of Women in Uzbekistan; http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1930_1387449018_sterilization-uzbek-20131212.pdf (accessed on 21/04/2014)

¹⁵⁵ UzDaily Information Agency (April 2012), Dannye o sterilizacii zhenshchin v Uzbekistane ne podtverzhdayutsya; <http://www.uzdaily.uz/articles-id-10721.htm> (accessed on 21/04/2014).

¹⁵⁶ The Governmental Portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan; <http://www.gov.uz/en/helpinfo/healthcare>; Embassy of Uzbekistan to the United States; <http://www.uzbekistan.org/uzbekistan/health/> (both accessed on 27/05/2014).

are established upon the Resolution of the President of Uzbekistan of 26 February 2003 “On measures to further reform the healthcare system”. Over 4,000 out of the aforementioned number of surgeries are high-tech surgeries and diagnostic procedures.

The private health sector in Uzbekistan is steadily growing.

6.6.2. Health Insurance System ¹⁵⁷

Health insurance in Uzbekistan is not obligatory and not developed. A net of insurance companies has been set up in Uzbekistan to provide various services including health insurance. The premium for insurance varies from UZS 200,000 and more depending on the range of medical services requested.

The government has implemented a program that involved the introduction of Uzbekistan health insurance and encouraged the further privatization of health services. The government works with the private sector to ensure that the quality of care meets state standards, and that free health care is provided for those who cannot afford to pay. So far, privatization has only involved small clinics and pharmacies. The government is expanding privatization to small dental and prenatal clinics. Private health facilities are markedly more expensive than public health centers.

To obtain medical assistance, a passport is required.

6.6.3. Health Care Services

One of the priority directions of the healthcare reforms is to establish the countryside medical stations (CMS), supply them with the latest medical equipment and provide with qualified cadres. At the moment, there are 3,000 countryside medical stations in the country. Before, the villagers used to travel to the central district hospital to seek treatment even for a simple disease.

To date, there are 92 enterprises in the Republic of Uzbekistan, which manufacture the medical produce. Their pharmaceutical activity is controlled based on the Law “On medicines and pharmaceutical activity”. More than 12 guideline documents, which regulate the quality and technology of medicines in the manufacturing enterprises, function in the country. Medication in public hospitals is provided free of charge.¹⁵⁸

Emergency assistance, treatment in public hospitals, clinics, immunization and vaccination against infectious diseases, specialized medical assistance in cases of tuberculosis, cancer, hormonal disorders, mental diseases, drug addiction and child delivery are free of charge.¹⁵⁹ Costs for treatment in private hospitals vary between UZS 50,000 and UZS 100,000 per day including medicines.

According to the World Bank reports out-of-pocket health expenditure¹⁶⁰ (per cent of private expenditure on health) in Uzbekistan is 90.2 per cent.¹⁶¹

As stated in the Compilation prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in April-May 2013, “UNCT observed that health system reforms had increased the availability of mother and child health care, although a more holistic approach might still be

¹⁵⁷ Health Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan; http://lex.uz/Pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=41329 (accessed on 16.05.2014).

¹⁵⁸ Medical Services in Medical and Preventive Establishments of the Republic of Uzbekistan; <http://www.med.uz/services/help.php> (accessed on 16/05/2014).

¹⁵⁹ Ministry of Health; <http://www.minzdrav.uz/documentation/detail.php?ID=9493> (accessed on 22/01/2013).

¹⁶⁰ Out of pocket expenditure is a direct outlay by households, including gratuities and in-kind payments, to health practitioners and suppliers of pharmaceuticals, therapeutic appliances, and other goods and services whose primary intent is to contribute to the restoration or enhancement of the health status of individuals or population groups. It is a part of private health expenditure. Cf. The World Bank; <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.XPD.OOPC.ZS> (accessed on 23/12/2013).

¹⁶¹ The World Bank; <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.XPD.OOPC.ZS> (accessed on 23/12/2013).

needed. UNCT also noted that there was no nationwide health insurance system and that the health system was often faced with shortages of essential medicines, water, electricity, heating, equipment and hygienic materials. Although, in principle, health services were free in government facilities, it appeared that informal fees were often collected, which created additional barriers for access to health care for low income families. Better monitoring of health services was needed.”¹⁶²

6.6.4. Health Information for Persons Arriving in Uzbekistan

Vaccination against hepatitis A is advised. No other vaccinations are required.

6.6.5. Care for the Elderly and the Disabled

To date, there are 33 “Sahovat” and “Muruvvat” retirement homes for single pensioners and disabled persons, 11 centers for medical, social and professional rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and eight sanatoriums in Uzbekistan. Three million pensioners and seven hundred thousand persons with disabilities are receiving social and medical assistance from the government.¹⁶³

Administrative requirements for placing elderly and disabled persons to retirement homes can be found at: <http://zakonuz.uzshar.com/?document=12836> (accessed on 23/12/2013).

More information on social protection of persons with disabilities can be found in the governmental portal: www.gov.uz/ru/citizen/population/4679 (accessed on 23/12/2013).

6.6.6. Treatment of Mental Health Conditions

At present Uzbekistan has an integrated network of mental disease dispensaries and specialized hospitals for persons suffering from mental health conditions. On 25 July 2013 the Government of Uzbekistan issued a resolution “On measures on further improving activities of mental health service in Uzbekistan”. The resolution approved a programme on further developing and strengthening material-technical base of mental health services for 2013-2017.

The resolution states that Uzbekistan will spend UZS 167.279 billion and USD 3.999 million in equivalent to implement the programme. At the same time, the resources for USD 3.999 million will be directed to equipment of the institutions. It is planned to reconstruct 12 and repair 11 mental health institutions in Uzbekistan.¹⁶⁴

6.6.7. HIV/AIDS

To date, 15 HIV/AIDS centers, 90 diagnostic laboratories and more than 220 confidence rooms are functioning in Uzbekistan.

There has been no hotline on HIV in Uzbekistan. In December 2013, the Ministry of Health decided officially to establish a hotline on HIV. The hotline is scheduled to be rolled out in the first half of 2014.¹⁶⁵

In June 2013 the Cabinet of Ministers has approved a regulation № 165 “On testing the citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan who arrived from abroad”. A lot of attention is also paid to voluntary testing of persons entering and leaving the country for a long time in order to work abroad. Testing is free of charge and of voluntary nature. For certain categories of persons testing for HIV is obligatory.¹⁶⁶

¹⁶² Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Sixteenth session Geneva, 22 April 2013–3 May 2013, Compilation prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21; http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1930_1366900780_g1310830.pdf (accessed 07/05/2014).

¹⁶³ Mahalla Website (30 November 2013), Sil’naya social’naya zashchita v deystvii; <http://mahallagzt.uz/ru/zashita/689-silnaya-sotsialnaya-zashchita-v-deystvii> (accessed on 27/05/2014).

¹⁶⁴ Uzdaily (July 2013) (accessed on 22/12/2013).

¹⁶⁵ Information provided by the staff of Democratic Governance United Nations Development Programme.

¹⁶⁶ The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on HIV/AIDS prevention. Art. 13, 14, 15; http://www.senat.uz/ru/laws/zru-353_23.09.2013.html; Srednyaya Aziya v Internet, Uzbekistan primet

On 23 September 2013 the government of Uzbekistan lifted all the restrictions on entry to Uzbekistan, stay and residence in Uzbekistan of persons living with HIV/AIDS.¹⁶⁷

6.6.8. References and Contacts

Ministry of Public Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Address: 12, Navoiy str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 100011

Phones: +998 (71) 241-1691, +998 (71) 244-1033

info@minzdrav.uz (accessed on 21/12/2013)

Republican HIV/AIDs Center

[E-Mail: uzbekspid@minzdrav.uz](mailto:uzbekspid@minzdrav.uz)

gosudarstvennuyu programmuy po bor'be s VICH, (13.12.2013);
¹⁶⁷ <http://centralasiaonline.com/ru/articles/caii/features/main/2013/12/13/feature-01> (both accessed on 27/05/2014).
UN AIDS, Press Statement (21 October 2013);
<http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2013/october/20131021travel/>
(accessed on 06/05/2014).

List of Hospitals

1. Republican Specialized Cardiology Center

Address: 4 Murtazaev street, Mirzo-Ulugbek district, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Postal code: 100000

Telephone: +998 (71) 236-08-16

Fax: +998 (71) 234-16-97

E-mail: info@cardiocenter.uz

Website: www.cardiocenter.uz (accessed on 18/12/2013)

2. Republican Specialized Center of Surgery named after academician V.Vakhidov

Address: 10, Kichik Khalqa Yoli, Chilanzar district, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Postal code: 100115

Telephone: +998 (71) 277-27-65

E-mail: vakhidov@uzsci.net

International cooperation with:

- Russian Research Center of Surgery of Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, Moscow, Russian Federation;
- Research Institute of Cardiovascular Surgery of Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine, Kiev, Ukraine;
- Research Institute of Transplantology and Artificial Organs of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation, Moscow, Russian Federation;
- Research Institute of Diseases of Circulation named after E.N.Meshalkin, Novosibirsk, Russian Federation;
- Center of Thoracic Surgery – Territorial Clinical Hospital #1, Krasnodar city; Russian Federation
- Ospedali Riuniti Bergamo, Italy;
- Institut Jantung Negara (National Institute of Heart), Kuala-Lumpur, Malaysia;
- «Milwaukee Heart and Vascular Clinic», Wisconsin, USA;
- Hospitalier Pitie-Salpetriere, Paris, France;
- The William Dorros-Isadore Feuer Inteventional Cardiovascular Disease Foundation, USA;
- Shanghai Children's Medical Center, Shanghai, People's Republic of China;
- International organization «TheHeart of Children» Italy;
- International organization «Aiutare i bambini», Italy;
- Yuksek Ihtisus Hostanasi, Ankara, Turkey.

3. Republican specialized Center of Urology

Address: 1st passage named after Khodjaev, 1, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Postal code: 100109

Telephone: +998 (71) 150-65-83

E-mail: urology@dostlink.net

4. Republican Specialized Eye Microsurgery Center

Address: Kichik Xalqa Yoli, 14, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Postal code: 100173

Telephone: +998 (71) 217-49-34 / +998 (71) 217-45-63 / +998 (71) 217-32-28

Fax: +998 (71) 217-49-37

E-mail: eye-center@inbox.ru

International cooperation with:

- “Acad. Feodorov Eye Microsurgery” Center, Moscow, Russian Federation;
- Eye Bank INTERNATIONAL SIGHT RESTORATION INC., USA;
- Kazakhstan Research Institute of Eye Diseases, St. Petersburg and Ekaterinburg branches of “Acad. Feodorov Eye Microsurgery” Center, Russian Federation.

5. Republican specialized scientific research medical center of phtiology and pulmonology

Address: 1, Alimov street, Shaykhantaur district, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Postal code: 100086

Telephone: +998 (71) 278-04-70 / +998 (71) 278-15-28

E-mail: info.rsnpmc_fip@minzdrav.uz (accessed on 18/12/2013)

International cooperation with:

- Supra-national Reference Laboratory at Gauting, Germany;
- Central Research Institute of TB of Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russian Federation;
- Research Institute of Phthisiopulmonology, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation;
- Research Institute of Phthisiopulmonology, Kyiv, Ukraine.

6. Republican Specialized Scientific-Practical Medical Center of Dermatology and Venereology

Address: 3, Farobi street, Almazar district, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Postal code: 100109

Telephone: +998 (71) 214-50-98

Fax: +998 (71) 214-50-68

E-mail: niidiv@mail.ru

Website: www.niidiv.uz (accessed on 18/12/2013)

International cooperation with:

- State Center of Dermatovenereology and Cosmetology, Russian Federation;
- State Medical Universities of Ukraine and Belorussia;
- European Association of Dermatovenereologists;
- Westminster University, United Kingdom;
- International League of Dermatologists.

7. Republican Specialized Scientific Practical Medical Center of Endocrinology

Address: 56, Mirzo-Ulugbek avenue, Mirzo-Ulugbek district, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Postal code: 100125

Telephone: +998 (71) 262-27-02 / +998 (71) 262-25-53 / +998 (71) 262-23-68

International cooperation with:

- Leading clinics of Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria, Greece, Australia;
- International Agency on Nuclear Energy.

8. Republican Specialized Scientific-Practical Medical Center of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Address: 132-a, Mirzo-Ulugbek street, Mirzo-Ulugbek district, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Postal code: 100124

Telephone: +998 (71) 263-78-33

Fax: +998 (71) 263-84-83

E-mail: info@akusherstvo.uz

Website: www.akusherstvo.uz (accessed on 18/12/2013)

International cooperation with:

- Training, research and medical institutions of the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, Japan;
- International organizations and NGOs, in particular with UNFPA, UNICEF, EuropaDonna, For Healthy Generation (Sog'lom Avlod Uchun), WHO.

9. Republican Specialized Scientific-Practical Medical Center of Pediatrics

Address: 3, Talant passage, Chimbay-2 community, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Postal code: 100179
Telephone: +998 (71) 229-38-74 / +998 (71) 229-41-22
Fax: +998 (71) 229-38-74

International cooperation with:

- Moscow Research Institute of Pediatrics and Pediatric Surgery;
- Research Center of Child Health of Russian Academy of Medical Sciences;
- Research Center of pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology of Ukraine;
- WHO, UNICEF.

10. Republican Specialized Scientific-Practical Medical Center of Therapy and Rehabilitation

Address: 4, Osiyo street, Yunusabad district, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Postal code: 100084
Telephone: +998 (71) 234-33-21 / +998 (71) 234-69-14.

11. Republican AIDS Center

Address: 12, Farkhad street, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Postal code: 100135
Telephone: +998 (71) 276-93-25 / +998 (71) 276-23-11
Fax: +998 (71) 276-37-76
E-mail: ubekspid@minzdrav.uz

International cooperation with:

- UNAIDS; UNICEF; UNESCO; UNDP; WHO; USAID; Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

12. Republican Mother and Child Screening Center

Address: #3, 5th passage, Bagishamal street, Yunusabad district, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Postal code: 100140
Telephone: +998 (71) 260-28-46
Fax: +998 (71) 260-28-56
E-mail: info.resp_skrining@minzdrav.uz
Website: www.med.uz/medgen (accessed on 18/12/2013).

13. Republican Pathologicoanatomic Center

Address: 11 Shifokor street, Olmazor district, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Telephone: +998 (71) 214-50-11
Fax: +998 (71) 214-50-11

International cooperation with:

- UNDP, WHO.

14. Republican Perinatal Center

Address: 223 J. Abidova street (TashPMI clinic), Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Telephone: +998 (71) 260-28-80
E-mail: info.rpc@minzdrav.uz
Website: www.rpc.uz (accessed on 18/12/2013)

Other Republican treatment-and-prophylactic establishments:

Clinic Tashkent State Medical Institute (TashGosMi) #1
Address: 103, Khamza str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

1-clinic TashGosMi #2
Address: 2, Khodjaeva str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

2-clinic TashGosMi #2

Address: 2, Farabi str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Clinic TashPMI 223,

Address: Jakhan Obidova str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Clinic of scientific research institute of traumatology and orthopedy

Address: 78, Musakhanova str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Clinic of scientific research institute of hematology and blood transfusion

Address: 138, U.Nosira str., Yakkasarayskiy rayon, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Clinic of scientific research institute of Sanitary, hygiene and occupational diseases

Address: 325, Tsialkovskogo str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Clinic of scientific research institute of medical rehabilitation and physiotherapy

Address: 4, Khurshid str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Clinic of Obstetrics and gynecology

Address: 132a, Habib Abdullaeva str. Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Clinic of scientific research institute epidemiological, microbiology and infectious diseases

Address: 2, Reshetova str., A.Ikramovsky rayon, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Clinic of scientific research institute of Pediatrics

Address: 3, Chimbay Talant str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Clinic of scientific research institute of dermatology and venereology

Address: 3, Farobi str., S.Rakhimovsky rayon, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Republican scientific center of emergency medical aid

Address: 2, Farkhadskey str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

The republican center of neurosurgery 5

Address: Kablukova str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Republican center of children's orthopaedy

Address: Kibraysky rayon, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Children's psychoneurologic hospital

Address: 1, Kolska str., M.Ulugbekski rayon, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Republican clinical psychiatric hospital

Address: 41, Chukursay str., S.Rakhimovsky rayon, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Psychiatric hospital with strict supervision

Address: 149, Chukursay str., S.Rakhimovsky rayon, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Clinic of scientific research institute of physiology and pulmonology

Address: 1, Almova str., Shayhantaurski rayon, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Center of purulent surgery and surgical complications of a diabetes

Address: 2, Farabi str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Children's poliomyelitis hospital

Address: Salar, Kibraysky rayon, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Republican clinical hospital #1

Address: 74, Azimova str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Republican center of bone-purulent surgery of consequences of traumas

Address: 2, Farabi str., S.Rahimovskiy rayon, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Republican scientific specialized allergologic center

Address: 2, Farabi str., S.Rakhimovsky rayon, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Republican clinical ophthalmologic hospital

Address: 12, Saidova str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

The center of mother and the child

Address: 5, Obidova str., Y.Abad rayon, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Republican medical - sports clinic

Address: 126, Turob Tula str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Republican stomatologic polyclinic

Address: 16a, Nurkhan str., Chilanzarsky rayon, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Republican center of surgery and rehabilitation of fingers of hands and large joints

Address: 2, Farabi str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Republican center of science of oncology

Address: 178, Farabi str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Clinic of scientific research institute of endocrinology

Address: 56, H.Abdullaeva str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Republican narcological center

Address: Salar, Kibraysky rayon, Tashkent region, Uzbekistan

Republican dermato-venereal clinic

Address: 62, T.Shevchenko str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Tashkent city psychoneurologic dispensary No. 1

Address: 94 Mukimi Str., Yakkasaray district, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Tashkent city psychoneurologic dispensary No. 2

Address: 25 Korasuv Str., Khamza district, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Andizhan region psychoneurologic dispensary

Address: 3 Atabekov Str., Andizhan, Uzbekistan

Jizzak region psychoneurologic dispensary

Address: U.Khatamov, Jizzak region, Uzbekistan

Karakalpakstan Republic psychoneurologic dispensary No.1

Address: 3 Babanov Str., Takhiatash, Uzbekistan

Kashkadarya region psychoneurologic dispensary No.2

Address: mahalla Tolzor, Kitab, Uzbekistan

Karakalpakstan Republic psychoneurologic dispensary No.2

Address: Kos-Kol, 114 Bekmanov Str, Nukus, Uzbekistan

Samarqand psychoneurologic dispensary
Address: 18 Barkamol Str., Samarqand, Uzbekistan

Tashkent region psychoneurologic dispensary
Address: 47 Neizvestna Street, Chirchik, Uzbekistan

Fergana region psychoneurologic dispensary
Address: 2b Rumi Str., Fergana, Uzbekistan

List of Insurance Companies

KAFOLAT
Address: 5 Mustaqillik square, office №, 918 Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Phone: (+998 71) 239 40 25, (+998 71) 239 48 86

FINANS SUGURTA
Address: 76 Said Baraka str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Phone: (+998 71) 254 11 77, (+998 71) 255 14 15

"UNIVERSAL SUGURTA"
Address: Niezbek yuli-A str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Phone: (+998 71) 129 00 99, (+998 71) 129 50 60

"ALFA INVEST"
Address: 10 Shaihtantur str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Phone: (+998 71) 120 68 00, (+998 71) 120 00 70, (+998 71) 120 00 80

"UNIPOLIS"
Address: 6 Murtazaeva str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Phone: (+998 71) 150 19 99

KAPITAL SUGURTA
Address: 2 Mahatma Ghandi str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Phone: (+998 71) 232 02 00, (+998 98) 302 70 79

MEGA INVEST INSURANCE
Address: 22/2 Taras Shevchenko str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Phone: (+998 71) 252 16 47

STANDARD INSURANCE
Address: 31 Taras Shevchenko str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Phone: (+998 71) 281 55 26, (+998 71) 281 55 71

7. MIGRATION FROM AND TO UZBEKISTAN, INCLUDING RETURN MIGRATION

7.1. General Information

A Law on Migration was first drafted in August 1999 and submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers. It was included in the working plan of the Parliament of Uzbekistan for the next five years. In view of the fact that migration issues were extremely low on the political agenda¹⁶⁸, the Law on Migration has not been adopted.

Within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Uzbekistan is a member to the "Agreement on the Movement of CIS citizens within the CIS Territory without Visa" (Minsk agreement) of October 1992. The Agreement foresees in its Article 2 that citizens of the CIS countries, which have signed the Agreement, have the right to enter, leave and move within the territory of these States without a visa.¹⁶⁹ Uzbekistan has established bilateral non-visa regime for the citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic (up to 60 days), Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

In 2013 Agreement between Government of the Russian Federation and Government of Uzbekistan on readmission and executive protocol on order of implementation of the agreement between Government of the Russian Federation and Government of Uzbekistan on readmission were signed¹⁷⁰.

In 2013 Agreement on Co-operation of the States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in Combating Illegal Migration, on condition that Uzbekistan would not be bound by Article 4(5) "Harmonization of the national legislation of the Parties in the field of responsibility for illegal migrants and for all categories of persons contributing to illegal migration" was ratified.¹⁷¹

Returnees do not face harassment by the authorities; however, they may face serious problems and difficulties in case they do not fulfill the requirements of existing regulations.

Return to Uzbekistan is regulated within the context of an existing national legal framework. According to the national law, all arriving persons (foreigners, stateless persons, migrants) can be admitted only with valid national passports and entry/transit visas (except of citizens of the countries with bilateral non-visa regime listed above).¹⁷²

7.2. Exit and Entry Procedures for Uzbekistan

Migration control is regulated by the Law on the State Border of the Republic of Uzbekistan, adopted on 20 August 1999 and by the Regulations on Entry to and Exit from the Republic of Uzbekistan for Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons of November 1996¹⁷³.

Uzbek citizens are required to obtain an exit permit prior to leaving the country. In order to obtain a temporary exit visa the citizens of Uzbekistan must apply to the Department of Internal Affairs in their home area, completing an application form and producing their

¹⁶⁸ UNHCR (August 2003), Background Information on the Situation in the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Context of the Return of Asylum Seekers; <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/3f6861782.pdf> (accessed on 06/05/2014).

¹⁶⁹ Soglashenie o bezvizovom perevizenii grazhdan gosudarstv sodruzhestva nezavisimyykh gosudarstv po territorii ego uchastnikov; http://www.carim-east.eu/media/legal%20module/1_CIS_RU.pdf (accessed on 06/05/2014).

¹⁷⁰ Official site of Federal Migration Service of Russian Federation (15 April 2013), Ispolnitel'nyy protokol o poryadke realizatsii soglasheniya mezhdru pravitel'stvom Rossiyskoy Federatsii i pravitel'stvom Respubliki Uzbekistan o readmissii; <http://www.fms.gov.ru/documentation/1131/details/75190/> (accessed on 27/05/2014).

¹⁷¹ Interfax Information Agency (28 March 2013), Tashkent s ogovorkoy prisoedinilsya k soglasheniyu SNG po bor'be s nelegal'noy migratsiey; <http://www.interfax.by/news/belarus/1127623> (accessed on 27/05/2014).

¹⁷² Regulations of Entry to and Exit from the Republic of Uzbekistan for Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons of 21 November 2009; http://www.lex.uz/pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=513096 (accessed on 16/05/2014).

¹⁷³ Regulations of Entry to and Exit from the Republic of Uzbekistan for Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons of 21 November 2009; http://www.lex.uz/pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=513096 (accessed on 16/05/2014).

passport. If granted, an exit visa is valid for temporary exit for a period of two years and allows the holder to freely leave and enter Uzbekistan any number of times within the prescribed two year period without reapplying. Annex 1 to the Resolution of the Council of Ministers No. 8, issued on 06 January 1995, provides that no penalties apply to someone who returns to Uzbekistan after the expiry of their exit permit. Normally, exit permits can be renewed at the Uzbekistan Embassy in the country where an Uzbek citizen is living.¹⁷⁴

According to the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan foreign citizens and stateless persons can enter Uzbekistan or travel through its territory for transit on the basis of entrance visas.

Entry into the territory of Uzbekistan may be denied to foreign citizens and stateless persons even if they have valid travel documents and visas, if it is in the interest of national security or public order; if it is necessary to protect the rights and legal interests of Uzbek citizens; if a person has been convicted of violating Uzbek law; if a foreigner is involved in terrorist, extremist and other forms of criminal activities; if a person during the previous stay in Uzbekistan violated regulations on entry and exit of foreigners in and from Uzbekistan; or if a person has a disease which represents a danger for the health of the society.

Illegal exit abroad or illegal entry into Uzbekistan is regulated by Article 223 of the Uzbek Criminal Code. Article 223 of the Uzbekistan Criminal Code (UCC) makes it an offence for a citizen to leave the country without permission – what is described as “illegal exit abroad”. The offence of “illegal exit abroad” is punishable by a fine or by imprisonment for between three to five years. However, as set out in the Uzbek Constitution, Article 223 does not apply to ‘foreigners and stateless persons’ who are political asylum seekers and entered Uzbekistan without proper entry documents.¹⁷⁵

Illegal entry of Uzbek citizens into the Republic of Uzbekistan, for example arrival in a third country on the way home is considered a violation of the established order and might carry consequences for the returnee.

The law does not allow dual citizenship. Returning citizens must prove to authorities that they did not acquire foreign citizenship while abroad or face loss of citizenship. Citizenship of Uzbekistan might be lost automatically if a person permanently staying abroad is not registered with the Consulate of Uzbekistan for valid reason within the period of five years (art. 21 of the Law on Citizenship).¹⁷⁶ In practice, there were no reports that failure to register rendered citizens residing abroad and their children born abroad stateless.

The Citizenship law does not contain clauses which would protect against loss of nationality without acquisition or guarantee of another nationality. According to Article 30 of the above law, the first and last instance for deciding matters on granting, re-establishment, secession and forfeiture of citizenship is the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Citizenship law does not provide for any other grounds, such as ethnic, cultural, education, social, family links to Uzbekistan as a legitimate basis for stay in Uzbekistan.¹⁷⁷

¹⁷⁴ European Migration Network, Ad-Hoc Query on Forced Return to Uzbekistan (18 April 2013); http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/ad-hoc-queries/return/463_emn_ad-hoc_query_on_forced_return_to_uzbekistan_wider_dissemination.pdf (accessed on 27/05/2014).

¹⁷⁵ Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Art. 223; http://www.lex.uz/pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=111457 (accessed on 16/05/2014).

¹⁷⁶ The Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Uzbekistan; http://www.lex.uz/Pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=4880 (accessed on 22/01/2014).

¹⁷⁷ The Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Uzbekistan; http://www.lex.uz/Pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=4880 (accessed on 22/01/2014).

7.3. Residence and Registration¹⁷⁸

All entitlements (to shelter, basic human needs, education, work, health, etc.) are based on a permanent residence and compulsory registration which makes it extremely difficult for returnees to reintegrate. The problem of special importance to migrants is registration and residence permit in some cities of Uzbekistan, especially in Tashkent. As residence registration is granted by permission of the Internal Affairs authorities and it is associated with heavy expenses and much time, the overwhelming majority of migrants and returnees live and work illegally. Law enforcement bodies always apply sanctions against migrants as they infringe passport regime. At any time they can be deported to the places of their permanent residence.

A residency permit for individuals and compulsory registration is conducted by the Internal Affairs authorities. Anyone arriving to Uzbekistan must within three days of the date of their arrival submit all documents necessary for registration to the authorities.

Permanent registration is issued in case if a person intends to permanently reside in a definite domicile. Following categories of persons have a right to permanent registration:

- citizens of Uzbekistan;
- foreigners, including the citizens of CIS countries;
- stateless persons

(on condition they have residence permits issued by the interior bodies of Uzbekistan).

Accordingly, these individuals must first be officially de-registered at their previous place of residency (for the period of stay for three days till six months withdrawal from the previous place of residency is not required). Confirmations of de-registering (withdrawal of residency) are issued by the Internal Affairs authorities at the place of one's permanent residence.

Temporary registration is compulsory for every person (foreigner, stateless, Uzbek national) who arrives at a location to study or take up temporary employment, and must do so within three days of arriving on location. If the person wishes to take a permanent job, s/he likewise will be necessary to obtain a permanent "propiska" - a permit for permanent residency.

For receiving a residency or a withdrawal permit, a state duty in amount of 20 per cent of the minimum wage¹⁷⁹ is charged at the rates set by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan as well as the "Regulations on the exercise of the passport system of the Republic of Uzbekistan," Decree of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan (29 March 1999).

Amendments introduced into the system of registering (propiska) residents in domiciles in Tashkent City and Tashkent Region¹⁸⁰ have complicated the lives of many socially vulnerable groups, including former residents of orphanages, which are now called Houses of Mercy.¹⁸¹

Passports and registrations are issued by district interior bodies in every city or village of Uzbekistan at the place of residence. Counseling on procedures of obtaining passports, registration and residency permits is also provided by the district interior bodies.

¹⁷⁸ Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Uzbekistan; <http://www.mvd.uz/%D1%80%D1%83%D1%81/2013-10-29-16-39-42/mvd-other-services/pasportno-vizovaya-deyatelnost/39-oformlenie-propiski-ili-vypiski-grazhdanina-respubliki-uzbekistan.html> (accessed 27/05/2014).

¹⁷⁹ Ministry of Interior of Uzbekistan; <http://www.mvd.uz/pyc/ru/content/st/43?mini=calendar/2007/08/all> (accessed on 21/01/2014).

¹⁸⁰ Registration Rules in Tashkent city and Tashkent Region; http://www.lex.uz/Pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=1869807 (accessed on 15/05/2014).

¹⁸¹ For more information please refer to Fergana news (21 August 2013); <http://enews.fergananews.com/articles/2848> (accessed on 26/12/2013).

7.4. Passport

The passport of an Uzbek national contains a record of the place of residence and permanent residence of the passport holder, temporary residence permits, as well as information on permits for travel abroad and visas for entry into foreign countries. The passport is issued to the citizens of Uzbekistan for internal use and international travels.

To obtain a passport a citizen has to provide:

- Statement according to the form established by Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- birth certificate, or former expired passport;
- two photographs (size of 35 x 45 mm).

An ordinary passport is issued to a person at 16 years and must be exchanged at the age of 25 and 45 years. The passport issued at the age of 45 has no expiry date. According to bilateral and multilateral agreements, the bearer of the Uzbek passport has the right to travel within Commonwealth of Independent States except neighboring Tajikistan and stay up to 90 days without any visa requirements.

Since 2010 Uzbekistan started switching gradually to the biometric passport system. The old (non-biometric) passports are valid until the date of expiry, but not later than 31 December 2015, both nationally and internationally.¹⁸²

7.4.1. Passport for Minors

Until 2015 photos of minors travelling with their parents/guardians should be pasted into their passports. In addition, the guardian has to provide a decision of the city administration on guardianship certified by notary office. In case the minor travels with an attendant, the latter should provide a written consent of the parents or guardian, certified at notary office, to the border control authorities.

Unaccompanied minors of 15-18 years old travelling on their own have to provide written consent of the parents or guardian certified at notary office.

Starting from the year 2015 biometric passports will be required for all minors travelling abroad. For the minors below two years passport will be issued for two years, for those below 16 years for five years. After expiry minor's passport should be returned to the Internal Affairs authorities at place of residence within one month.¹⁸³

7.5. Return of Unaccompanied Minors

The legal framework governing the situation and rights of minors in Uzbekistan is the Law on Child Rights Guarantees of 23 November 2008¹⁸⁴ and the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Guardianship" of November 2013¹⁸⁵. Diplomatic Missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan keep records of the children who are abroad, unaccompanied by legal representatives and together with the Interior bodies take measures for their return. Upon return guardianship bodies will be responsible for them¹⁸⁶.

7.6. Reintegration Support for Returnees

¹⁸² Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 07 July 2011; http://www.lex.uz/Pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=1833184 (accessed on 15/05/2014).

¹⁸³ Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 7 July 2011; http://www.lex.uz/Pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=1833184 (accessed on 15/05/2014).

¹⁸⁴ Law on Child Rights Guarantees; http://www.lex.uz/Pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=1297318 (accessed on 26/12/2013).

¹⁸⁵ Senat.uz (2 January 2014) Zakon Respubliki Uzbekistan ob opeke i popechitel'stve; http://www.senat.uz/ru/laws/zru-364_02.01.2014.html (accessed on 21/04/2014).

¹⁸⁶ Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Annex No. 2 to the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 12 April 1999 № 171; http://www.minjustuz.ru/ru/section.scm_sectionId=17474&contentId=17270.html (accessed on 21/04/2014).

There are no reintegration support programs in Uzbekistan.

The state provides assistance mostly to the victims of human trafficking. There is only one center in Uzbekistan named “National Rehabilitation Center for assistance and protection of human trafficking victims” run under the auspices of the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry. It was opened in November 2008 (Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers N 240 of November 5, 2008). The center creates favorable living conditions and personal hygiene, as well as nutrition and medicines to victims of human trafficking, provides urgent medical, psychological, social, legal and other assistance to victims of human trafficking and ensures their security. It also helps victims to contact their relatives and provides them with information on their rights and interests, as well as with assistance in their social rehabilitation. Victims of human trafficking, including citizens of Uzbekistan, foreigners and stateless persons, can stay at the rehabilitation center for up to 30 days, but the term can be extended if required. Assistance to each victim of human trafficking is rendered according to an individual plan, which is developed based on complex examination and evaluation of victim’s state of health. Activities of the center are financed from the state budget and other legal sources.¹⁸⁷

A project for Assisted Return and Reintegration for Victims of Trafficking is currently implemented by IOM Uzbekistan, in partnership with local NGO Istiqbolli Avlod. The project is part of the implementation of the USAID-funded Regional Programme “Combating Trafficking in Persons in Central Asia”.

The programme provides direct assistance to victims of trafficking and establishes an effective framework for assistance to victims of trafficking through a capable, strong and efficient network of cooperative non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international and governmental agencies.

The programme includes following elements: support of the NGO network, including their hotlines; preventive measures; training of community leaders; maintenance of two shelters in Tashkent and Bukhara; assistance in return and reintegration; and development sustainability of NGOs.¹⁸⁸

7.7. References and Contacts

Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Address: 1, Yunus Rajabiy str., Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, 100029

“National Rehabilitation Center for assistance and protection of human trafficking victims”

Address: 3 Chilanzar district-18, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Phones: +99871 277-66-92, +99871 277-65-83

Helpline: +99871 214-54-36; 214-30-76

¹⁸⁷ Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan; http://www.lex.uz/pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=1406843 (accessed on 15/05/2014).

¹⁸⁸ IOM Uzbekistan: <http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/where-we-work/europa/south-eastern-europe-eastern-eur/uzbekistan.html>; US Aid: <http://www.usaid.gov/uzbekistan> (both accessed on 18/01/2014).

8. VULNERABLE GROUPS

8.1. General Information

In Uzbekistan discrimination on the basis of race, ethnic background, religion or other characteristics is prohibited. Provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination are fully reflected in the national legislation.

According to article 18 of the Constitution all citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall have equal rights and freedoms, and shall be equal before the law, without discrimination by sex, race, nationality, language, religion, social origin, convictions, individual and social status. In article 46, the Constitution codifies the equality of rights of men and women.¹⁸⁹ Other legal acts (e.g. Family, Labor and Criminal Codes) also contain non-discrimination clauses.

Uzbekistan takes active part in international initiatives, including the Beijing Platform. The country was the first among the Central Asian states to join the UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women¹⁹⁰, as well as International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions No. 111 on Protection of Motherhood and No. 103 on Discrimination in Employment and Occupation.¹⁹¹ The government has adopted national platforms and the action plan to promote the status of women.

8.2. Rights of the Child

According to official data children make up 40 per cent of the population of Uzbekistan.¹⁹² According to the World Bank data, in 2012 children under 14 constituted 28.9 per cent of the whole population.¹⁹³

On 31 May 1998 the Republic of Uzbekistan accessed the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of Child Abduction of 25 October 1980.¹⁹⁴ The Ministry of Justice was appointed as a main organ to implement the provisions of the Convention (decree of Cabinet of Ministers No.192 of 18 May 2000). The Ministry of Justice together with Interior Affairs authorities deal with child trafficking and issues related to tracing the children independent of their legal status.¹⁹⁵

The Labor Code (25 December 2009) of the Republic of Uzbekistan sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years, with the written consent from one of the parents.¹⁹⁶ The Labor Code prohibits children less than 18 years of age from working in unfavorable labor conditions and establishes limited work hours for minors. Children between the ages of 14 and 16 may only work 10 hours per week while school is in session and 20 hours per week during school vacation. Children between 16 and 18 years may only work 15 hours per week when school is in session and 30 hours per week during school vacations. All working

¹⁸⁹ Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan: <http://www.gov.uz/en/constitution/> (accessed on 07/05/2014).

¹⁹⁰ United Nations Treaty Collection, Uzbekistan accessed the Convention on 19 July 1995; https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-8&chapter=4&lang=en (accessed on 07/05/2014).

¹⁹¹ http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11200:0::NO:11200:P11200_COUNTRY_ID:103538 (accessed on 07/05/2014).

¹⁹² Embassy of Uzbekistan to the United States; http://www.uzbekistan.org/social_issues/children_rights/ (accessed on 20/01/2014).

¹⁹³ The World Bank, World Development Indicators; <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/views/variableSelection/selectvariables.aspx?source=world-development-indicators> (accessed on 06/05/2014).

¹⁹⁴ http://www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=conventions.status&cid=24#nonmem (accessed on 07/05/2014).

¹⁹⁵ Decree of Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 18 May 2000; http://base.uzlaw.uz/show_doc.fwx?Rgn=16167 (accessed on 15/05/2014).

¹⁹⁶ Labour Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 01 April 1996, paragraph 2, art. 77; http://www.lex.uz/pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=145261&ONDATE=01.04.1996%2000#145691 (accessed on 15.05.2014).

children aged 14 to 18 years are required to obtain written permission from a parent or guardian, and work may not interfere with their studies.¹⁹⁷

The Committee of Experts in their Report on the Application of ILO Conventions expressed its serious concern that the government of Uzbekistan continues practice of mobilizing school children for work in the cotton harvest, often under hazardous conditions. The Committee observed “that while several sources indicate that there may have been a decline in the number of children under the minimum age for admission to work who are compelled to work in the cotton harvest, children between 16 and 18 years of age who attend colleges continue to be forced to work during this period, instead of attending school. (...) Therefore, in light of the broad consensus among the United Nations bodies, the representative organizations of workers and employers and non-governmental organizations with respect to the continued practice of mobilizing school children for work in the cotton harvest, often under hazardous conditions, the Committee must express its serious concern regarding the Government’s continued insistence that children are not involved in the cotton harvest in Uzbekistan.”¹⁹⁸

Between 11 September and 31 October 2013, experts of the ILO under the aegis of the Coordination Council on Child Labour consisting consists of senior officials of the Council of Federation of Trade Unions, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, the Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Farmers, conducted a monitoring of issues of child labour at the cotton harvest. According to the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan, the monitoring did not reveal any forced child labour use at systematic bases at cotton harvesting in Uzbekistan.¹⁹⁹

The Penal Code establishes punishment for people who profit from prostitution or maintain brothels, with higher penalties when a child is involved. The Penal Code prohibits the recruitment of children for the purposes of sexual exploitation, with higher penalties for taking children out of the country. Trafficking of children outside the country is punishable with five to eight years in prison. The penalty for recruitment for sexual or other exploitation is six months to three years in prison and up to USD 900 in fines. Enforcement of the law is carried out by the Prosecutor General and the Ministry of Interior’s criminal investigators.²⁰⁰ While enforcement appears effective to deter child labor in the formal sector, it is not effective in regulating children’s work in family-based employment and the agricultural sectors.²⁰¹

8.2.1. Educational Possibilities

In accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child – all children have free access to primary as well as secondary public schools, regardless as to whether they are staying legally in the country or not. Access to universities is however subject to fees and available only for persons staying legally in the country.²⁰²

8.2.2. Military Recruitment

In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Art. 52, and The Law on Universal Military service of 1992 No. 644 XII Defense of the Republic of Uzbekistan, military service is the duty of every citizen of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Regular service lasts for

¹⁹⁷ Labor Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 25 December 2009, Art. 77 and 239-247; http://fmc.uz/legisl.php?id=k_trud_14 (accessed 15/05/2014).

¹⁹⁸ International Labour Conference (2013), 102nd Session, p. 407; http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_205472.pdf (accessed on 21/04/2014).

¹⁹⁹ UzDaily Information Agency (April 2014); <http://www.uzdaily.com/articles-id-27344.htm> (accessed on 21/04/2014).

²⁰⁰ Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Art. 135; http://www.lex.uz/pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=111457&ONDATE=01.04.1995%2000#1393741 (accessed on 15.05.2014).

²⁰¹ Human Rights Brief (13 November 2012); <http://hrbrief.org/2012/11/cotton-picking-in-uzbekistan-a-child-labor-industry/> (accessed on 21/01/2014).

²⁰² The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Education; http://lex.uz/Pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=15622 (accessed on 15/05/2014).

one year;²⁰³ alternative service lasts 24 months, for graduates from universities and higher institutions 18 months.²⁰⁴

Male adolescents from multi children families and sick persons of call-up age have to perform alternative military service in accordance with procedure prescribed by the law. The call-up age in Uzbekistan is 16 years. In case if the person entered any kind of high school (university or institute), military service is postponed until he finishes his studies. In families without a male head of household, if the mother does not work and she has only one male child, the government releases her child from his military service obligation.

8.2.3. Child Care Centers

There are more than 3 500 children in 31 orphanages, and 772 children 0-3 years of age housed in infant homes in Uzbekistan, most of whom are “social orphans” with at least one living parent.²⁰⁵

8.3. Legal Gender Equality

Gender equality is a priority for Uzbekistan, which has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The rights of women in the state policy are being directed on enhancing the role of women in society.

According to the Family Code, men and women have the same rights to inheritance in Uzbekistan. However, it is common practice for the youngest son to stay at home to look after his parents, and hence he usually inherits the family home. Sisters often concede their inheritance rights to their brothers in order to avoid conflict and ensure the ongoing support of their natal family.

In addition to the provisions of the Family Code, the country has a system of Mahallah - Neighborhood Committees that deal with day-to-day family matters, provide support to vulnerable families and mediate in conflicts. While these committees have no legal authority, they can function as obstacles to women’s rights: for example, women are unable to obtain a divorce if their local Neighborhood Committee has not given its consent. In many cases, women seeking a divorce are pressured by the Mahallah into changing their minds, even in situations where they have been victims of domestic violence.²⁰⁶

8.4. Domestic Violence

To date, there is no specific law addressing domestic violence in Uzbekistan. Domestic violence is not penalized; it is subject to administrative punishment. In official discourse, the term ‘family conflict’ is used instead of domestic violence, meaning that women experiencing violence cannot recognize or name it as such, and state institutions can justify inaction on the grounds that ‘family conflict’ should be resolved within the family concerned. There are few convictions because the police officers often discourage victims from bringing charges against their husbands, in order to keep crime figures low. In certain cases, Mahallah may step in to settle disputes between spouses, however this often results in women being pressured to return to violent husbands or abusive mothers-in-law. Some assistance is provided to women who have been victims of violence in crisis centers.

Rape is punishable by law in Uzbekistan, but spousal rape is not specifically prohibited under the Criminal Code. Shame and fear of stigma often discourage victims of sexual violence from speaking out.

²⁰³ The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Universal Military Duty and Military Service” http://www.lex.uz/Pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=78721 (accessed on 21/01/2014).

²⁰⁴ http://www.lex.uz/pages/GetAct.aspx?lact_id=24295 (accessed on 21/01/2014).

²⁰⁵ The list of orphanages available at www.goldenpages.uz/rubrics/?Id=117 (accessed on 26/12/2013).

²⁰⁶ Human Rights Watch (June 2001), Sacrificing Women to Save the Family?, page 21; <http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/uzbek0701.pdf> (accessed on 26/01/2014).

The legal age of marriage is 18 for men and 17 for women. However, the average age of marriage for women is higher since the number of women marrying later is increasing, reflecting the access to free education and training.

Under the Family Code, marriages are only legal if they are founded on free consent and equality between the spouses.

Polygamy is prohibited by the Uzbekistani Penal Code. Although the Family Code states that entering into marriage in accordance with religious (Muslim) rites is considered as invalid²⁰⁷, legal framework is not settled yet. Provisions relate to 'cohabitation with two or more women on the basis of one household', causing some confusion as to whether a man can legally have two wives if they live in separate houses. The number of polygamous families is rising in Uzbekistan, because the law is not clear in prohibiting the practice, but also because of increased social acceptance among women and men. There are no statistics available to confirm this.²⁰⁸

8.5. Women's Shelters

There are no women's shelters for the victims of domestic violence in Uzbekistan. There are some shelters available for the victims of human trafficking. Three NGOs in Uzbekistan provide support and protection to victims of domestic violence, including legal consultations, psychological counseling, and vocational courses in sewing, hairdressing, and computing.

8.6. References and Contacts

Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Address: 100 Mirzo Ulugbek str., Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan 100000

Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Address: 1, Yunus Rajabiy str., Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, 100029

Phone: +998 (71) 233-3882

Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Address: 5, Saylgokh str., Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, 100047

Phone: +998 (71) 233-1305

Ministry of Public Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Address: 5, Mustakillik square, Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, 100095

Phone: +998 (71) 239-1735

Ministry of Labor and Social Security of the Republic of Uzbekistan

www.mehnat.uz (accessed on 26/12/2013)

Address: 20A A.Avloni Street, Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, 100100

Phone: +998 (71) 239-4121, 239-4112

UNICEF

www.unicef.org/uzbekistan

Address: 2nd Floor, Poytakht Business Centre, 16 Sharof Rashidov Street, Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, 100029

Phone: +998 (71) 233-9512, 232-0861, 233-9735, 232-1129

²⁰⁷ Family Code of Uzbekistan (01 September 1998), chapter II; http://fmc.uz/legisl.php?id=k_sem_2 (accessed on 21/01/2014).

²⁰⁸ SIGI – Social Institutions and Gender Index, Uzbekistan – Discriminatory Family Code; <http://genderindex.org/country/uzbekistan> (accessed on 26/01/2014).

Ombudsman

(interacts with various state bodies, non-governmental organizations, and mass media in order to ensure respect, promotion and protection of human rights).²⁰⁹

Address: Uzbekistan Avenue, 16a,
100027, Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan
Phone: (+ 998 71) 239 81 36,
Hotline: (+ 998 71) 239 82 07
E-mail: info@ombudsman.uz

NGO "Khimoya" (legal center)

Address: 72A Azimov str. Tashkent 700060, Uzbekistan

NGO Oydin Nuri ("Moonlight") Women's Crisis Center,

Address: 31, Rigaron str., Bukhara, Uzbekistan

NGO "Ael va Shodlik" Center for Social Protection of Women and Children

Address: 17, 8 March str., Angor city, Uzbekistan

²⁰⁹ Ombudsman: <http://www.ombudsman.gov.uz/main> (accessed on 26/01/2014).

9. CONTACT LISTS IN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

9.1. Ministries

Министерство внешних экономических связей, инвестиций и торговли Республики Узбекистан, www.mfer.uz;
Министерство внутренних дел Республики Узбекистан, www.mvd.uz;
Министерство высшего и среднего специального образования Республики Узбекистан, www.edu.uz;
Министерство здравоохранения Республики Узбекистан, www.minzdrav.uz;
Министерство иностранных дел Республики Узбекистан, www.mfa.uz;
Министерство народного образования Республики Узбекистан, www.uzedu.uz;
Министерство обороны Республики Узбекистан (address: Адрес: Республика Узбекистан, 100000, г.Ташкент, ул. М. Улугбека, 100);
Министерство по делам культуры и спорта Республики Узбекистан, www.mcs.uz;
Министерство по чрезвычайным ситуациям Республики Узбекистан, www.mchs.gov.uz;
Министерство сельского и водного хозяйства Республики Узбекистан, www.agro.uz;
Министерство труда и социальной защиты населения Республики Узбекистан, www.mehnat.uz;
Министерство финансов Республики Узбекистан, www.mf.uz;
Министерство экономики Республики Узбекистан, www.mineconomy.uz;
Министерство юстиции Республики Узбекистан, www.minjust.uz;

9.2. State Committees

Государственный комитет Республики Узбекистан по архитектуре и строительству, www.davarh.uz;
Государственный комитет Республики Узбекистан по геологии и минеральным ресурсам, www.uzgeolcom.uz;
Государственный комитет Республики Узбекистан по приватизации, демонополизации и развитию конкуренции, www.gki.uz;
Государственный комитет Республики Узбекистан по земельным ресурсам, геодезии, картографии и государственному кадастру, www.ygk.uz;
Государственный комитет Республики Узбекистан по охране природы, www.uznature.uz;
Государственный комитет Республики Узбекистан по статистике, www.stat.uz;
Государственный налоговый комитет Республики Узбекистан, www.soliq.uz;
Государственный таможенный комитет Республики Узбекистан, www.customs.uz;
Государственный комитет связи, информатизации и телекоммуникационных технологий Республики Узбекистан, www.ccitt.uz;

9.3. Agencies

Агентство "Узархив", www.archive.uz;
Агентство по драгоценным металлам при Центральном банке Республики Узбекистан, [www.cbu.uz/ru/section/subordinate/precious metals](http://www.cbu.uz/ru/section/subordinate/precious_metals);
Узбекское агентство "Узкоммунхизмат", www.uzkommunhizmat.uz;
Узбекское агентство автомобильного и речного транспорта, www.autotrans.uz;
Узбекское агентство по печати и информации, www.api.uz;
Узбекское агентство стандартизации, метрологии и сертификации, www.standart.uz;
Агентство по интеллектуальной собственности Республики Узбекистан, www.ima.uz;

9.4. State Inspections

Госавианадзор, www.uzcaa.uz;
Госводхознадзор, www.v-nadzor.gov.uz;
Саноатгеоконтехнадзора, www.sgktn.gov.uz;
Узгосжелдорнадзор, www.rwnadzor.uz;
Узгоснефтегазинспекция, www.uzngi.uz;
Узгосхлебинспекция, www.uzddi.uz;
Узгосэнергонадзор, www.energonazorat.uz/;

9.5. Committees

Комитет по делам религий при Кабинете Министров Республики Узбекистан, www.religions.uz;
Комитет по координации развития науки и технологий при Кабинете Министров Республики Узбекистан, www.uzscience.uz;
Комитет по управлению государственными резервами при Кабинете Министров Республики Узбекистан, www.udz.uz;

9.6. Funds

Республиканский благотворительный фонд "Махалля", www.mahallafond.uz;
Фонд "Нуроний" по социальной поддержке ветеранов Узбекистана, www.nuroniy.gov.uz;
Фонд реконструкции и развития Республики Узбекистан, www.ufrd.uz;

9.7. Scientific Establishments

Академия наук Республики Узбекистан, www.academy.uz;
Высшая аттестационная комиссия при Кабинете Министров Узбекистана, www.oak.uz;

9.8. Others

Молодежное движение "Камолот", www.kamolot.uz;
Республиканский центр пропаганды духовности, www.ezgulik.uz;
Торгово-промышленная палата Республики Узбекистан, www.chamber.uz;
Национальная библиотека Узбекистана им. А. Навои, www.natlib.uz;
Узбекская Республиканская Товарно-сырьевая биржа, www.uzex.uz;
Национальное информационное агентство Узбекистан, www.uza.uz;
Совет Федерации профсоюзов Узбекистана, www.kasaba.uz;
Scientific and Practical Center of the national idea and ideology: No site.

9.9. National NGOs

ННО «Истикболли авлод» (works in the area of counter trafficking)
The address has changed and is currently unknown.

ННО "Химоя" (legal consultation center)
Адрес: улица Садыка Азимова 72 А, Ташкент, Узбекистан 700060.

ННО «Ойдин Нури» (Women's Crisis Center, which provides support and protection to victims of domestic violence, including legal consultations, psychological counseling, and vocational courses in sewing, hairdressing, and computing);
Адрес: улица Ригарон 31, Бухара, Узбекистан.

ННО "Аел ва Шодлик" (Center for Social Protection of Women and Children)
Адрес: улица 8 марта, Ангор, Узбекистан.