UNDP has been supporting the Government of Uzbekistan since 1993 in pursuing economic and social reforms and facilitating the country’s development amid the challenges emerging during the nation’s transition period. Over the years, UNDP’s programme has been shaped by Uzbekistan’s development priorities and challenges. During the programme cycle under review (2016-2020), the UNDP country programme focused on supporting the Government in advancing economic and democratic reforms and strengthening and fostering civil society participation in development processes at the national and local levels. The Independent Evaluation Office of UNDP conducted an Independent Country Programme Evaluation of Uzbekistan in 2019.

**Key findings and conclusions**

UNDP’s current country programme operated in a period of significant political changes that presented considerable opportunities but also implementation challenges. The broad nature of the country programme document allowed UNDP to respond to frequently changing government priorities and needs, but also affected the consolidation of efforts and synergies across its portfolio, leading to fragmentation of assistance in the absence of a clear programme theory. These challenges have had direct implications for the achievement of country programme objectives and impact in areas of UNDP’s engagement.

UNDP’s results-based management (RBM) practices are weak, particularly in terms of the quality of its monitoring and evaluation systems, procedures and practices and its results frameworks. These challenges represent a weakness of the CO in practising sound RBM approaches, which also compromise the visibility of UNDP’s achievements in the country.
UNDP has played a catalytic role in promoting sustainable economic growth, nationalizing the Sustainable Development Goals and facilitating a coordinated response to the Aral Sea disaster with significant contributions towards ensuring a coherent joint response through the Multi-Donor Trust Fund. Much of the work is still at an early stage to ensure stronger donor engagement in the MDTF. However, the support of the Government and UN agencies has brought significant leverage in recognizing the problem and its response.

UNDP support in the justice sector and public administration reform has been diverse and varied, with notable contributions in improving access to justice and public services and more transparency and participation in policymaking processes. However, the sustainability of these results is still fragile and depends on many political factors beyond UNDP’s control.

UNDP support within the environment and climate change reform agenda has made important contributions towards protection, mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity conservation. However, the sustainability of its work is partly hampered by the lack of most-needed regulatory frameworks, which also compromise the results of the efforts. UNDP and the UN Environment Programme’s recent joint efforts in securing Global Climate Fund support have opened doors to accelerate climate financing, potentially leading to tangible environmental benefits.