



## Water, Infrastructure and Climate Change

### Strengthening action in Uzbekistan on water and sanitation and protection of water resources from accidental pollution in the face of climate change



Accessing clean water in Uzbekistan, picture by Petro Kotze / SDC

UNECE supports Uzbekistan in a multi-hazard approach and comprehensive action in the WASH sector and sustainable water management to respond to water and sanitation needs and to prevent industrial accidents and water pollution.

#### Rationale

Sustainable, climate responsible and resilient development and the protection of natural resources, including water resources, is a key priority for Uzbekistan. Despite progress, gaps remain in equitable access to clean drinking water and safe sanitation, prevention of industrial and accidental water pollution as well as water resources governance and financing of WASH services.

Uzbekistan also has a rapidly developing mining industry and is therefore exposed to continuous and increasing risks to the environment and to the health of its population. The expected rise in the number and scale of tailings management facilities, can lead to water pollution with potential transboundary implications, if not sustainably managed.

Uzbekistan joined the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health as Party on 26 December 2023. At the same time Uzbekistan's environmental protection concept until 2030 includes its envisaged accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

#### Country:

Uzbekistan

#### Duration:

2023 – 2026

#### Total Budget:

CHF 1'380'000 SDC  
contribution to CHF 1'812'635

#### Partners:

Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change; Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan; Ministry of Health Sanitary and Epidemiological Welfare and Public Health Service; Ministry of Emergency Situations Ministry of Mining Industry and Geology; Specialized Analytical Control Centre in the field of environmental protection

#### Implementing Agency:

UNECE

## Overall goal

The project aims to improve governance and capacity of Uzbekistan in the areas of water and sanitation, prevention of accidental water pollution and resilience to climate change, including through transboundary cooperation and regional exchange.

## Outcomes and envisaged results

- National governance, policies and legislation on water and sanitation, mine tailings safety and prevention of accidental water pollution, and climate resilience are strengthened, and Uzbekistan acceded to and implements the Protocol on Water and Health and the Industrial Accidents Convention
- Transboundary cooperation and regional exchange in the areas of water, sanitation, mine tailings safety and prevention of accidental water pollution, and climate resilience are fostered
- Political and public awareness on water and sanitation, prevention of accidental water pollution, and climate resilience is raised

## Expected outputs

- Knowledge and capacity for implementing the Protocol on Water and Health and the Industrial Accidents Convention is enhanced
- Integrated, climate-resilient targets on water, sanitation, hygiene, and health under the Protocol on Water and Health are developed and national standards for wastewater treatment revised
- Multi-stakeholder policy dialogue to align national policies with the Industrial Accidents Convention and other international standards is facilitated and regional and transboundary cooperation to prevent industrial accidents and accidental water pollution strengthened
- Knowledge of international practices in water, sanitation, hygiene, and climate resilience is strengthened and awareness among stakeholders in the industry, water and sanitation sectors and the general public is raised

## Target groups

Ministries; Environmental protection administrations at regional and district levels; Operators of water and sanitation facilities and of mine tailings, and relevant river basin commissions; Civil society organizations

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