



LEGAL REFORM PROGRAM FACT SHEET

OVERVIEW

The USAID Legal Reform Program (LRP) supports Uzbekistan’s efforts to ensure further development of rule of law principles, build the capacity of legal professionals and training institutions, enhance citizens’ access to justice, improve the legal operating environment for civil society, promote gender equality, and create a healthier investment climate. USAID partners with the Ministry of Justice, Ombudsperson’s Office, Business Ombudsman’s Office, Chamber of Advocates, Higher Legal Education Institutions and technical law schools, and key actors in civil society to meet these objectives.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Develop rule of law in Uzbekistan
- Develop the legal profession in Uzbekistan
- Develop the legal enabling environment for civil society and non-governmental organizations in Uzbekistan

KEY RESULTS

GENDER

- Supported the development and public hearing of the country’s first-ever Gender Law “Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men,” adopted in 2019.
- Supported the country’s first legislation criminalizing gender-based violence and prescribing prison sentences for violent GBV-related crimes.
- Trained over **13,000** specialists, government officials, mahalla activists, journalists, and representatives of NGOs on the implementation of gender legislation; trained over **300** members of Parliament on gender approaches to

law-making and budgeting; trained over **200** journalists, bloggers, and journalism students on gender-sensitive reporting.

- Created the first handbook on legal-gender review of draft regulations, gender statistical data analysis, and methodology of legal studies from a gender perspective.
- Conducted research on domestic violence, gender-based harassment in the workplace, and gender aspects of the migration policy with recommendations for legislative improvement.

RULE OF LAW DEVELOPMENT

- Provided expert input to prepare a draft Model Investment Agreement for the Ministry of Justice. The Government of Uzbekistan used this model to negotiate **22** investment agreements that leveraged nearly **\$2 billion** in investments from the U.S., Canada, Germany, France, Turkey, UAE, and other countries.
- Supported the development of recommendations to incorporate international best practices into more than **30** legislative acts and reviewed **2,000** regulations to ensure they meet anti-corruption policy.
- Supported administrative justice reforms in Uzbekistan by using analysis of best practices of administrative justice to develop and submit draft regulations to the government.
- Co-developed a handbook on inter-parliamentary diplomacy that helps local deputies enforce their inter-parliamentary functions effectively.

LEGAL EDUCATION

- Trained over **6,000** legal professionals to improve their skills and knowledge of international best practices.
- Developed **47** new educational courses and incorporated them into the permanent curriculum of leading legal education institutions in Uzbekistan; over **13,000** students have already taken these courses.
- Presented more than **600** legal textbooks from the U.S. to libraries of Law Schools, enabling Uzbekistan's students to access knowledge from international sources.
- Assisted **14** technical law schools to develop and conduct online training courses using LRP-donated equipment.

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

- Over **4,000,000** citizens and counting are benefitting from the program-supported free legal website advice.uz, which hosts information on basic legal issues covering all areas of public life.
- NGOs provided free legal advice to over **650,000** citizens and increased the awareness of over **130,000** citizens about their rights and opportunities to access justice.

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