



UNITED NATIONS
TAJKISTAN



WALKING THE PATH OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Annual Results Report
2025 Tajikistan

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Acronyms

BOS - Business Operations Strategy	NCD - Non-Communicable Disease
CEDAW - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	NDC - Nationally Determined Contributions
CGEP - Country Gender Equality Profile	OMT - Operations Management Team
CHANGE - Challenging Harmful Attitudes and Norms for Gender Equality (joint programme)	OPD - Organization of Persons with Disabilities
COP - Conference of Parties (UNFCCC)	PHC - Primary Health Care
CRPD - Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	PMT - Programme Management Team
ESG - Environmental, Social and Governance	RBM - Results-Based Management
FIES - Food Insecurity Experience Scale	RCO - Resident Coordinator's Office
GBV - Gender-Based Violence	RT - Republic of Tajikistan
GEM - Gender Equality Marker	SDG - Sustainable Development Goal(s)
GEWE - Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	SiTan - Situation Analysis of Children and Women
GLOF - Glacial Lake Outburst Floods	SUN - Scaling Up Nutrition
HIV - Human Immunodeficiency Virus	SWAP - System-Wide Action Plan
LNOB - Leave No One Behind	TB - Tuberculosis
MTDP - Mid-Term Development Programme	UNCT - United Nations Country Team
	VR - Virtual Reality
	WASH - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



Foreword



Didor Sadulloev/UN Tajikistan

I am honored to present the UN Country Team Annual Results Report, capturing the joint achievements of the United Nations and the Government of Republic of Tajikistan, under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, in close collaboration with development partners, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, media, and other stakeholders. On behalf of the UN Country Team in Tajikistan, I wish to express heartfelt gratitude to all our partners for their unwavering commitment, steadfast dedication, and constructive collaboration in advancing national priorities and driving progress toward the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This Results Report highlights progress across United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) priorities aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and mirrors the Government's strategic focus on green and inclusive economic growth, productive employment, climate resilience, human capital development, social equity, human rights, and good governance. In 2025, the UN delivered USD 74 million through its programmes, achieving 78% of its targeted plan. Despite the funding challenges, the United Nations in Tajikistan maintained steady operations and footprint. Adjustments were done to ensure maximum outreach to the people in need across sectors.

Tajikistan marked steady economic development, resilient performance, and strengthened collaboration with global partners in 2025. Growth was supported by expansion in services and industry, robust domestic demand fueled by remittance inflows, and positive dynamics in energy, trade, agriculture, food production, and extractive industries. Human capital development advanced through expanded access to health and social services, despite financing challenges in social sectors and infrastructure. Education and workforce skills development emerged as a priority to ensure productive employment and decent jobs.

Regionally, 2025 was a historic year: the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic concluded a border treaty ending long-standing territorial disputes, followed by a landmark tri-state agreement with Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan on border demarcation and a declaration of friendship. These milestones will strengthen regional cooperation and restore collaboration among cross-border communities. The UN leverages regional initiatives on climate, gender, economic development, connectivity, youth and civil society engagement to support cooperation between the countries.

In 2025, Tajikistan together with the UN and partners, adopted the new Mid-Term Development Programme for 2026–2030. This forward-looking agenda emphasizes macroeconomic stabilization, green transformation, competitiveness, innovation, digitalization, balanced regional development, climate resilience, human capital, and cross-cutting priorities such as human rights, gender equality, and digital economy.

Tajikistan and the UN continued to lead global initiatives on climate change, water, and glaciers. The successful organization of the first High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation and the declaration of the International Year of Glaciers, following a Tajikistan-sponsored UNGA Resolution, elevated global attention to climate challenges. Strengthened and costed Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) underscored Tajikistan's commitment to tackling climate change impacts. Support to vulnerable groups remained central, with significant progress toward enabling environments for persons with disabilities and readiness to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This was highlighted during the International Disabilities Forum in Dushanbe.

Recognizing the need for diversified financing, Tajikistan and the UN finalized a Sustainable Finance Roadmap, introducing green bonds and innovative instruments to unlock climate financing. The Dushanbe International Investment Forum attracted investors and resulted in concluding new agreements and facilitated investments promotion to foster economic growth.

Tajikistan also demonstrated global leadership by sponsoring a UNGA Resolution on the role of Artificial Intelligence in sustainable development in Central Asia, advocating for ethical, human-centered AI. The Digital Tajikistan Forum further showcased the country's ambitions in digitalization and AI governance.

Looking ahead, the UN and the Government of Tajikistan have begun formulating the new UNSDCF for 2027–2030 to advance national priorities and ensure sustainable growth. The achievements of 2025 reflect the strength of our partnership and shared determination to build inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development. Together with the Government, the people of Tajikistan, and all partners, we will continue to accelerate progress toward the 2030 Agenda and shared prosperity for all.

Parvathy Ramaswami
UN Resident Coordinator
Tajikistan



UN Country Team in Tajikistan

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Tajikistan comprises 25 resident and non-resident United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes working collectively to support the country's development priorities through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023–2026 (UNSDCF). With a continuous in-country presence of over 30 years, the United Nations remains a trusted and reliable partner to the Government and the people of Tajikistan in advancing sustainable and inclusive development.

In 2025, the UNCT continued to draw on its diverse mandates, global expertise and operational capacities to provide integrated policy advice and coordinated programme support aligned with national priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Through joint planning and implementation, the UNCT promoted coherent and complementary interventions that support institutional strengthening, systems transformation and improved development outcomes across sectors.

Guided by the principles of leaving no one behind and a whole-of-society approach, the UNCT placed strong emphasis on human capital development, evidence-based analysis and capacity building at national and subnational levels. UNCT also continued to foster knowledge sharing, innovation and partnerships with government institutions, civil society, academia, the private sector and development partners, contributing to inclusive growth, resilience and sustainable progress on Tajikistan's development pathway.



Partners in Tajikistan

Partnership lies at the very core of the UN's pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals in Tajikistan. The work of the UN would not be possible without the cooperation and collaboration of a diverse set of stakeholders including government at national, regional and local levels, civil society organizations, the private sector, media, academia and development partners. Central to the UN's efforts is its strong partnership with the Government of the

Republic of Tajikistan, which serves as a cornerstone for driving policy-making, capacity-building and service delivery initiatives aligned with national priorities, the UNSDCF 2023-2026, and the 2030 Agenda. Working hand-in-hand with partners across all sectors, the UNCT performed in a participatory and inclusive manner, providing global expertise in enhancing people-centred development efforts.

Government partners:

- Agency for Export
- Agency for Hydrometeorology
- Agency of Land Reclamation and Irrigation
- Agency on Labour and Employment
- Agency on Social Protection of the Population
- Agency on Statistics under the President of RT
- Biodiversity and Biosafety Center (NBBC)
- Chief Department on Execution of Criminal Penalty of Ministry of Justice
- Child Rights Unit (CRU)
- Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of Tajikistan
- Committee of Youth and Sport under the Government of Tajikistan
- Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of Tajikistan
- Committee on Religious Affairs under the Government of Tajikistan
- Committee on Women and Family Affairs under the Government of Tajikistan
- Customs Service under the Government of Tajikistan
- Division on Human Rights, Executive Office of the President of RT
- Drug Control Agency under the President of RT
- Federation of Independent Trade Unions
- Forest Agency
- Human Rights Ombudsman
- Inter-Ministerial Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
- Migration service
- Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
- Ministry of Culture
- Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MoEDT)
- Ministry of Education and Science (MoES)
- Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MoEWR)
- Ministry of Finance (MoF)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
- Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population (MoHSPP)
- Ministry of Industry and New Technologies (MoINT)
- Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)
- Ministry of Justice (MOJ)
- Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment of the Population (MoLMEP)
- National Bank (NB)
- National Commission on Child Rights under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (NCCR)
- National Coordination Committee on HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria (NCC)
- National Development Council (NDC)
- National reproductive health center (NRHC)
- Ombudsman Office
- Parliament of Tajikistan (Majlisi Namoyandagon, Majlisi Oli)
- Prosecutor Office Tajikistan General Prosecutor Office
- State and Private Recruitment Agencies
- State Committee on Investments and State Property Management
- State Institution "Formation and Development of Entrepreneurship"
- Tajikistan Border Forces

Public Organizations:

- Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH)
- Public organization "Fund for Society Development"
- Public organization "Gender and Development"
- Public organization "Network Umed"
- Public organization "Ruhafzo"
- Public organization "Women lawyers for development"
- Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST)
- Tajikistan Journalists
- Tajikistan Mass Media
- Public organization Women in Tech
- Public organization National Union of Persons with Disabilities
- Workers' and Employers' organisations

Academia and research institute:

- Institute of Economics and Demography of the National Academy of Sciences
- National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan
- MoLMEP research institute
- Institute of Civil Servants

Private sector organizations:

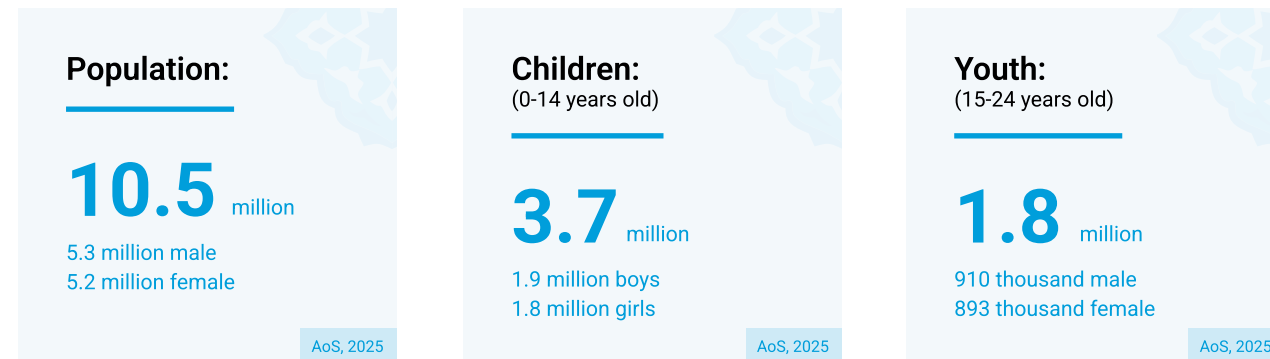
- AmCham Tajikistan
- Financial Organizations
- National Association of Small and Medium Business

International Partners:



Key Development Indicators

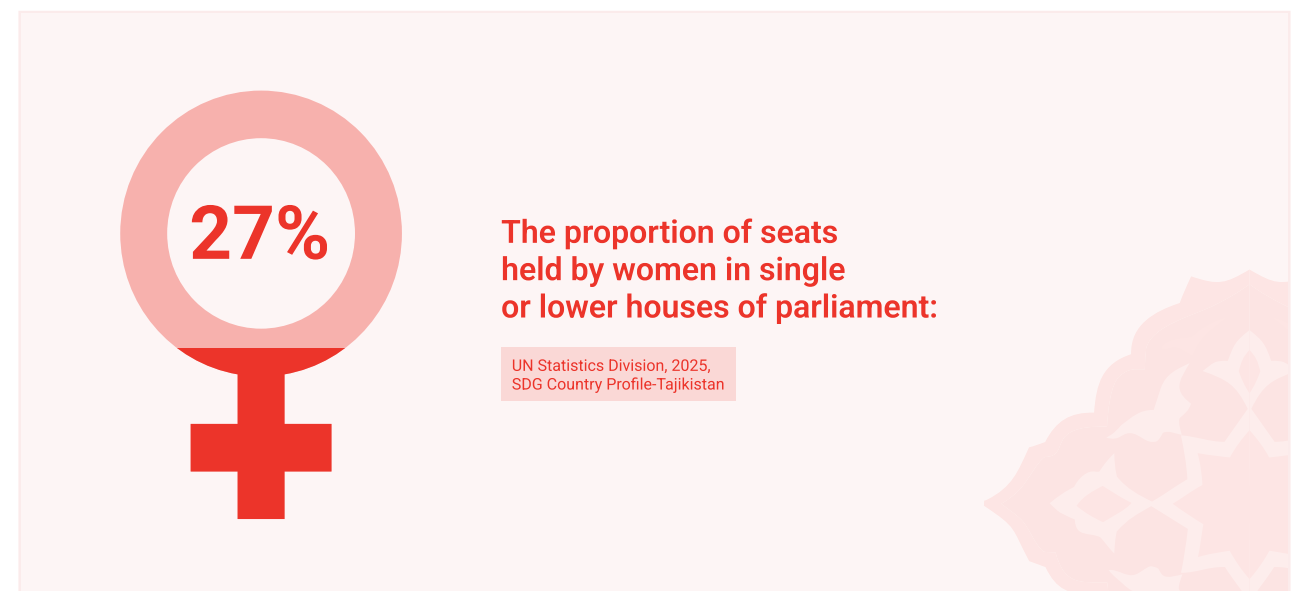
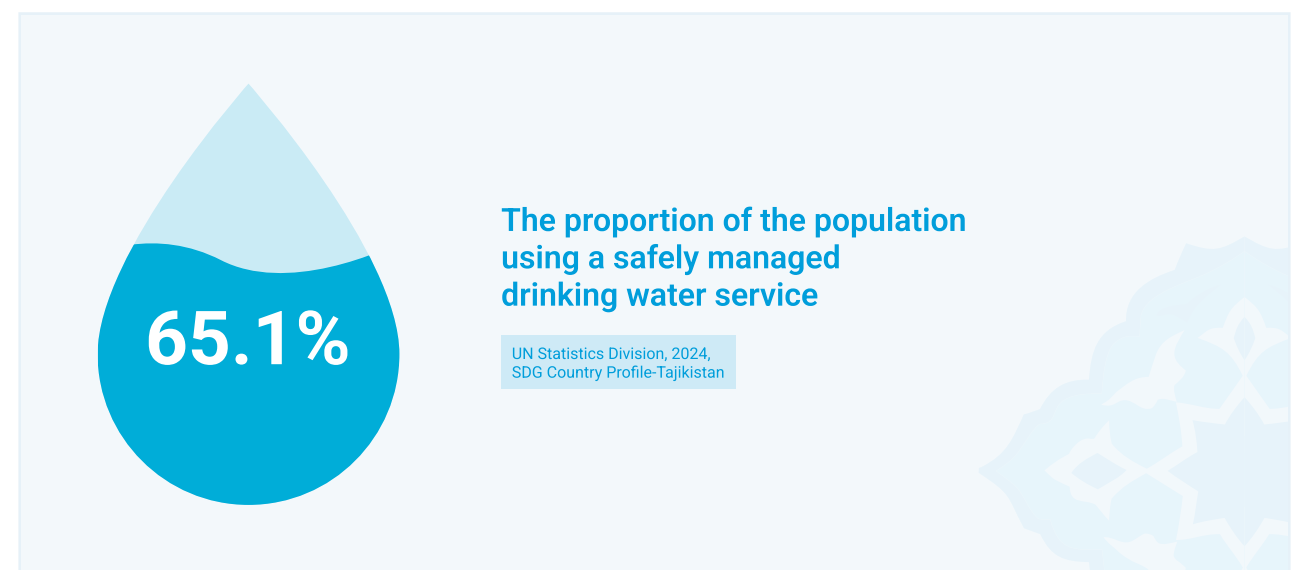
Demographic indicators:



Economic indicators:



Social indicators:



Sustainable Development Goals

In 2025, Tajikistan continued to make progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals, supported by national efforts and cooperation with the United Nations. Economic growth, social investments, and targeted policy measures contributed to improved living conditions and reduced poverty, while gaps remain in areas related to inequality, climate resilience, and access to services.

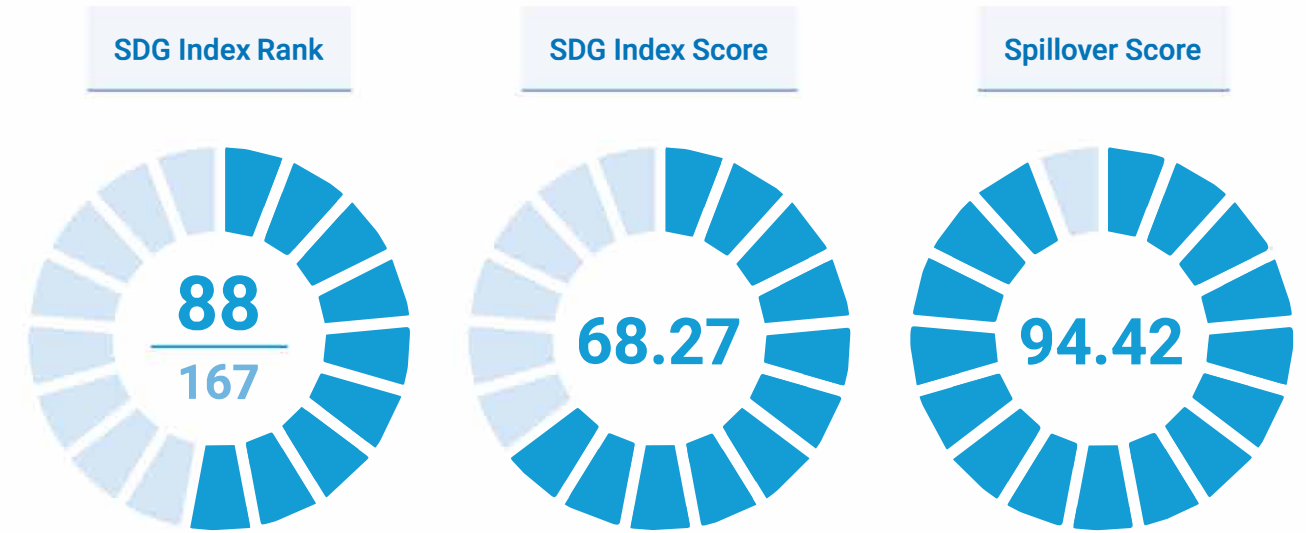
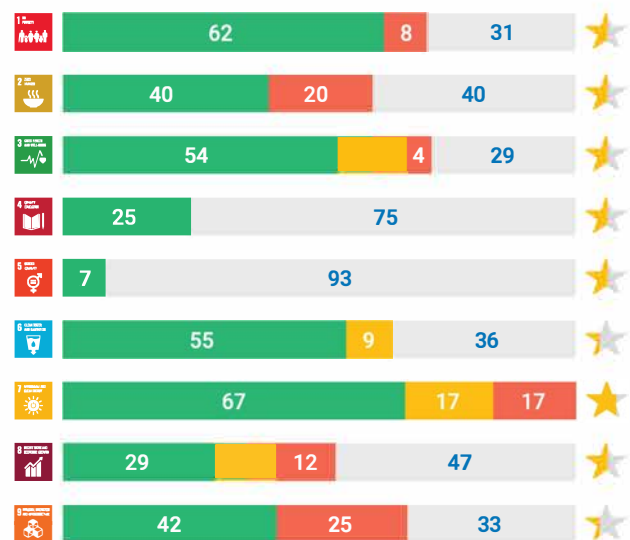
In 2025, the country maintained strong economic growth, supported by domestic demand, remittance inflows, increased incomes and ongoing public investments. These developments contributed to progress across several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in poverty reduction, economic growth, and access to basic services. At the same time, the Government and the UN system worked together to ensure that national priorities remain aligned with the 2030 Agenda, with a strong focus on leaving no one behind.

Tajikistan has made significant progress across multiple SDGs, including poverty reduction (SDG 1), access to health and social protection (SDG 3), access to education (SDG 4), access to energy (SDG 7) and partnership for goals (SDG17). Poverty levels continued to decline, bringing the national poverty rate to 19.8 % in 2024, supported by rising labor incomes, increased remittances and social protection measures. Investments in education, health, and social services were prioritized, helping to improve welfare and resilience, especially for vulnerable groups. Tajikistan's population has

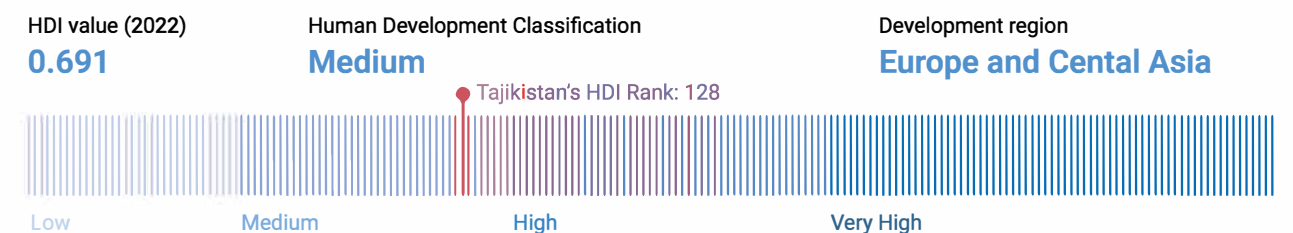
nearly universal access to electricity, supported by electrification projects in remote regions.

However, progress remains uneven across goals, regions and communities. Rural areas and vulnerable communities face challenges in access to basic services, decent jobs and diversified livelihood opportunities. Income inequalities tend to rise and the poverty gap between urban and rural areas widens. Gender inequalities continue to impact women and girls. Climate risks and natural disasters continue to affect livelihoods and economic resilience.

Tracking of national SDG progress for Tajikistan highlights the need to accelerate progress in areas such as SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) – to ensure no one is left behind in Tajikistan's development trajectory. Addressing these gaps will require targeted policies, stronger local services, and continued support for inclusive growth. Improving inclusive services, investing in human capital, diversifying livelihood opportunities, strengthening climate resilience and strengthening governance mechanisms remain key priorities. Going forward, continued partnership between the Government, the United Nations, development partners, and civil society will be essential to sustaining progress and ensure that development gains are shared by all.



UNSDCF programme interventions in Tajikistan by regions





Chapter 1

Key developments in the country and regional context



With five years remaining to the 2030 Agenda deadline, Tajikistan continues to demonstrate steady progress toward sustainable development. Strong economic growth of 8.4 percent in 2024, sustained into 2025, supported improvements in living standards and reinforced national development priorities. Rising labor incomes, remittance inflows and increased social sector spending contributed to continued reductions in poverty and expanded access to essential services.

Improved social outcomes in 2025 were supported by the Government's continued prioritization of essential services. Education accounted for 21 percent of total government expenditure, health 8 percent, and social protection 14 percent, demonstrating sustained investment in human capital and inclusive development. Complementing these allocations, new strategies in inclusive education, public health and water services strengthened policy frameworks and institutional capacity.

Tajikistan also advanced its global leadership on climate and water. First High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation¹ elevated international cooperation on mountain ecosystems, while the adoption of the National Action Plan for Climate Change (2025–2027) strengthened the country's adaptation pathway². Efforts to enhance resilience are increasingly integrated into national planning, particularly in agriculture, infrastructure and disaster risk reduction.

Digital transformation gained momentum as a national priority. The declaration of 2025–2030 as the Years of Digital Economy and Innovation Development, progress in customs digitalization and the launch of the Digital Agriculture Programme signal a transition toward more modern, transparent and efficient governance systems. These reforms aim to improve competitiveness, reduce trade costs and expand economic opportunities.

At the same time, Tajikistan operates in a complex regional and global environment. External economic uncertainties, commodity price volatility and migration trends require continued attention to economic diversification and resilience.

Climate risks remain significant, particularly for rural communities³. Inequality between urban and rural areas and among different population groups underscores the continued importance of the Leave No One Behind principle⁴.

The development financing landscape suffered a setback with withdrawal of funding from donors, which affected programme delivery in the areas of Health, agriculture, governance and community development. The transition of these programmes required adjustments across the development system and created financing gaps in selected sectors. This context reinforced the importance of strengthened coordination, joint resource mobilization and sustainable financing approaches to safeguard development gains.

These developments shaped UN support in 2025. The United Nations system focused on strengthening resilience, supporting inclusive growth, advancing climate action and promoting institutional capacity. Increased coordination within the UN Country Team and engagement with international financial institutions and development partners aimed to ensure continuity of essential services and accelerate progress towards achievement of the SDGs.

Looking ahead, Tajikistan's continued progress will depend on sustaining economic growth, expanding jobs, reinforcing economic and social inclusion, strengthening climate and disaster resilience, improving institutional foundations for sustainable development and accelerating digital and green transitions. These priorities guide the UN Country Team's collective support under the Cooperation Framework.

¹ UNDP Tajikistan (2025) UNDP unites mountain nations to share practices on glacier preservation. <https://www.undp.org/tajikistan/stories/undp-unites-mountain-nations-share-practices-glacier-preservation>

² Government of Tajikistan approved the Action Plan for the National Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change 2025–2027 <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/government-tajikistan-endorses-action-plan-linking-climate-change-adaptation-and-human-mobility>

³ World Bank Group, & Asian Development Bank. (2021). Climate risk country profile: Tajikistan. World Bank Group and Asian Development Bank. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tajikistan/publication/ccdr>

⁴ Ziyaev, B., Lukins, S. C., Sarsenov, I., Albert, M. S. L., Calice, P., Rajabov, A., Sukhova, A., & Qurbonova, Z. (2025). Tajikistan economic update: Focusing on digital transformation of trade in Tajikistan. World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/099713007282542605>



Vasila Bozichaeva/UNESCO Tajikistan

UNCT data driven approach

The UN Country Analysis (UNCA) constituted a significant milestone in 2025, providing a rigorous, evidence-based assessment of Tajikistan's development landscape and underpinning both the formulation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2027–2030 (UNSDCF) and efforts to accelerate progress toward the SDGs. In addition to drawing extensively on available data and analytical contributions of an interagency UN team, the UNCA was strengthened by systems analysis and foresight methodologies, supported by UNSSC and UNDP IRH, ensuring a forward-looking, risk-informed, gender-sensitive, rights-based and integrated assessment. The analysis further drew on broad, multi-level consultations with diverse stakeholders, allowing for the meaningful inclusion of public and under-represented voices, elevating the UNCA beyond a solely technical document.

The UN – Republic of Tajikistan Country Gender Equality Profile (CGEP) was a flagship achievement in 2025, providing a robust evidence base on gender inequalities across education, health, economic participation, political representation, and gender-based violence, highlighting intersecting vulnerabilities among women, girls, and marginalized groups.

The CGEP directly informed the UN Country Analysis and UNSDCF 2027–2030, ensuring gender integration across planning, programming, and monitoring, while strengthened partnerships and sex-disaggregated data enabled more targeted policy responses.

UNFPA advanced evidence-based policy and SDG monitoring through the 2025 Demographic Profile and Metadata initiatives: UNFPA and the Agency on Statistics produced the Demographic Profile 2025, including national, regional, and district-level data, strengthening SDG monitoring. UNFPA also provided technical support to ensure that demographic data and population analysis from the 2020 Census and other official sources were integrated into the Mid-Term Development Programme 2026–2030, and supporting joint study on early and child marriage. Through the DCC Statistics Working Group and partnerships with government institutions, academia and civil society, UNFPA advanced statistical reforms, data accessibility, and evidence-based policymaking.

UNDP strengthening Civil Registration Systems and Evidence on Child Marriage for Improved Data Governance: In partnership with UNICEF and UNFPA, UNDP supported a national Child Marriage Survey conducted with the Center for Strategic Research. The finalized report provides evidence to inform policy, national knowledge products, and strengthen official statistics on social norms and behavioral drivers of child marriage. In 2025, UNDP modernized Tajikistan's civil registry by integrating birth and death registration, launching a new Civil Registry Portal, digitizing 2.5 million records, deploying 400+ computers to health facilities, and advancing a unified citizen ID and solar-powered registry offices to strengthen data governance and service continuity.

FAO advanced Agricultural Data and Food Security Monitoring in Tajikistan: In 2025, FAO advanced agricultural and food security monitoring by developing the Agricultural Census Strategy, including methodology, IT infrastructure, pilot surveys, and detailed work plans, while finalizing the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) to provide internationally comparable data.

These efforts enhanced national capacity for agricultural planning, food security monitoring, and SDG-aligned policymaking.

UNICEF strengthening child-focused evidence and data-driven programming: In 2025, UNICEF strengthened the UNCT's data-driven approach through key analytical and evidence-generation initiatives. The Situation Analysis of Children and Women (SiTan) and studies on IPC and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), school food environments, child marriage, and water vulnerability enhanced disaggregated data, cross-sectoral analysis, and evidence-base for the UNSDCF. UNICEF also commissioned the Generation 2050 (Gen2050) analysis to identify human capital investment priorities across health, education, nutrition, WASH, child protection, social protection, and youth employment. Using nationally validated data and collaborating with line ministries, Gen2050 informed sectoral programming, cross-government policy discussions, and UNSDCF priorities on human capital, equitable social services, and sustainable economic growth.



Didor Sadulloev/UN Tajikistan



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UNAIDS Strengthened HIV Strategic Information and Evidence-Based Decision-Making in Tajikistan: UNAIDS, with WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, and UN Women, strengthened HIV strategic information systems, harmonizing data across health databases, TB/HIV surveillance, SDG indicators, and the 95-95-95 cascade. Key results included the 2025 national GAM report, institutionalization of the National AIDS Spending Assessment, and evidence-based recommendations to support program planning and Global Fund grants.

UNEP strengthened national environmental data and GIS capacity: UNEP supported the development of Tajikistan's Atlas of Environmental Change by providing IT equipment, GIS software, and training for national experts, and facilitating inter-ministerial collaboration and technical inputs.

Using six decades of data, the Atlas highlights a 1.2°C temperature rise, loss of over 1,000 glaciers, and impacts on water, biodiversity, and livelihoods, while its interactive Geoportal enables policymakers to monitor change, plan infrastructure, guide conservation, and support evidence-based climate and nature action.

RCO promoted Gender-responsive RBM and data-driven system to mainstream gender across policy frameworks: In October 2025 the RCO in partnership with Regional UN Women Office organized a training to PMT, Data/M&E, and GTG teams, institutionalizing gender analysis, sex-disaggregated data, and integration of GEWE across the UNCA and UNSDCF. This led to a Joint Action Plan for coordinated gender results tracking, harmonized monitoring, and evidence-based decision-making.



Altyntomiris Baltabayeva/ UNESCO



Didor Sadulloev/UN Tajikistan

RCO contributed to the Global Assessment of the National Statistical System of Tajikistan: In May 2025 the RCO facilitated Tajikistan's Global Assessment of the National Statistical System with UNECE, Eurostat, and EFTA, strengthening collaboration between UN agencies and national authorities, identifying the potentials for improving statistical systems, enhancing SDG monitoring, and supporting evidence-based decision-making for integrated development planning.

RCO-led data management to drive evidence-based assessment and policy formulation: the RCO coordinated UN data management, analysis, (sub)/national consultations using UNINFO's data-driven approach that informed Evaluation of the UNSDCF 2023–2026 and the UNCT SWAP Comprehensive Assessment, providing a solid evidence base for a data-guided and gender-responsive UNSDCF 2027–2030.



Manuchehr Ruziev/UNICEF Tajikistan



Chapter 2

UN development system support to national development priorities through the Cooperation Framework

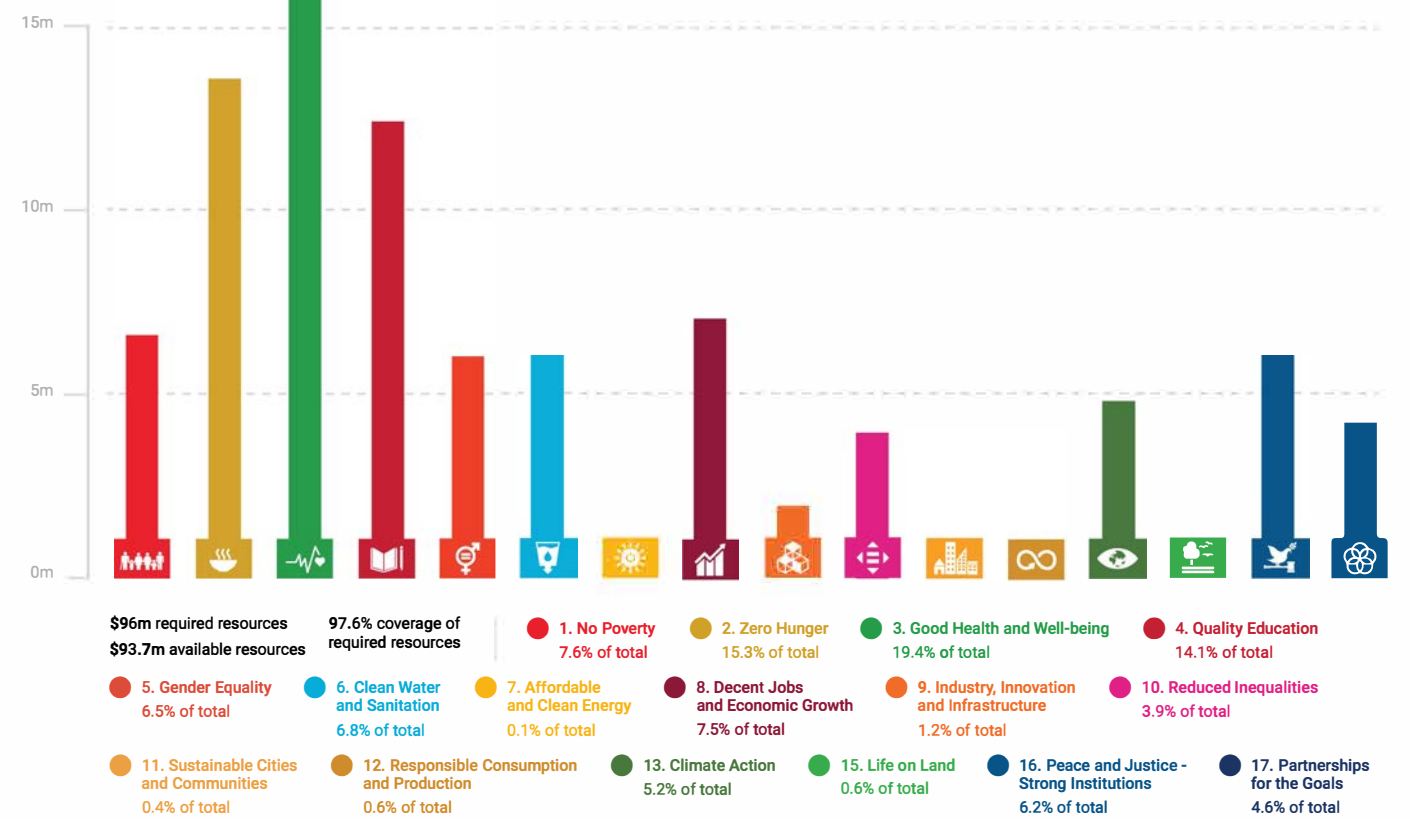


The United Nations in Tajikistan remained firmly committed to supporting the country in advancing its national development priorities and accelerating progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. Through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023–2026, the UN system demonstrated tangible progress across all three strategic priorities of the Cooperation Framework, reinforcing national institutions and strengthening resilience in a rapidly evolving development context.

How the UN contributes to the SDGs within UNSDCF



UNSDCF Funding gap by the SDGs



Inclusive human development

Progress under this priority was marked by **strengthened social sector financing**, expanded service coverage, and enhanced institutional capacity. Increased public investment in education, health, and social protection contributed to improved access and reduced financial barriers for vulnerable populations. **Vaccination coverage remained strong and pandemic preparedness systems were reinforced.** Education reforms expanded access to early childhood education and supported equitable progression through secondary education. At the policy level, national strategies and sectoral programmes in education, health, WASH, and social protection were developed and implemented, strengthening policy coherence and long-term sustainability. **Government ownership of social protection further deepened**, including concrete steps toward nationalizing school feeding and integrating social protection into climate commitments.

Shared, resilient prosperity and sustainable, climate-responsive development

Progress under this priority combined economic modernization with climate resilience. In support of sustainable and green economic growth, the adoption of the Programme for the Digitalisation of the Agricultural Sector established a national roadmap to modernize agriculture, enhance food security, and promote climate-resilient practices. Digitalization and AI emerged as defining highlights of 2025. The Digital Tajikistan Forum was successfully organized, creating a dynamic platform for dialogue on digital transformation and future-ready policies. Partnership with WOMENinTech, resulted in empowering women leaders in green technologies enabling gender inclusivity and reinforced the role of women as drivers of sustainable digital progress.

The operationalization of a fully **electronic customs management system modernized trade procedures, improved transparency**, and facilitated more efficient cross-border transactions, supporting economic diversification and private sector development.

In climate and environmental governance, with UN support, **Tajikistan adopted its first National Action Plan for Climate Change**, laying the foundation for a future National Adaptation Plan and strengthening climate risk management across key sectors. **District-level development planning integrated disaster risk reduction and climate resilience measures**, benefiting high-risk communities. Efforts to promote **agrobiodiversity and sustainable land use enhanced food and nutrition resilience** while creating livelihood opportunities, particularly for women.

People-centered governance and rule of law

Progress in governance and rule of law was reinforced through evidence-based policy dialogue and strengthened institutional capacities. A UN-supported study on child marriage and the first **Country Gender Equality Profile provided a robust foundation for legislative and policy reforms advancing gender equality.** Joint UN efforts also strengthened the **capacity of women legal professionals and enhanced the justice system's responsiveness to international human rights standards.**

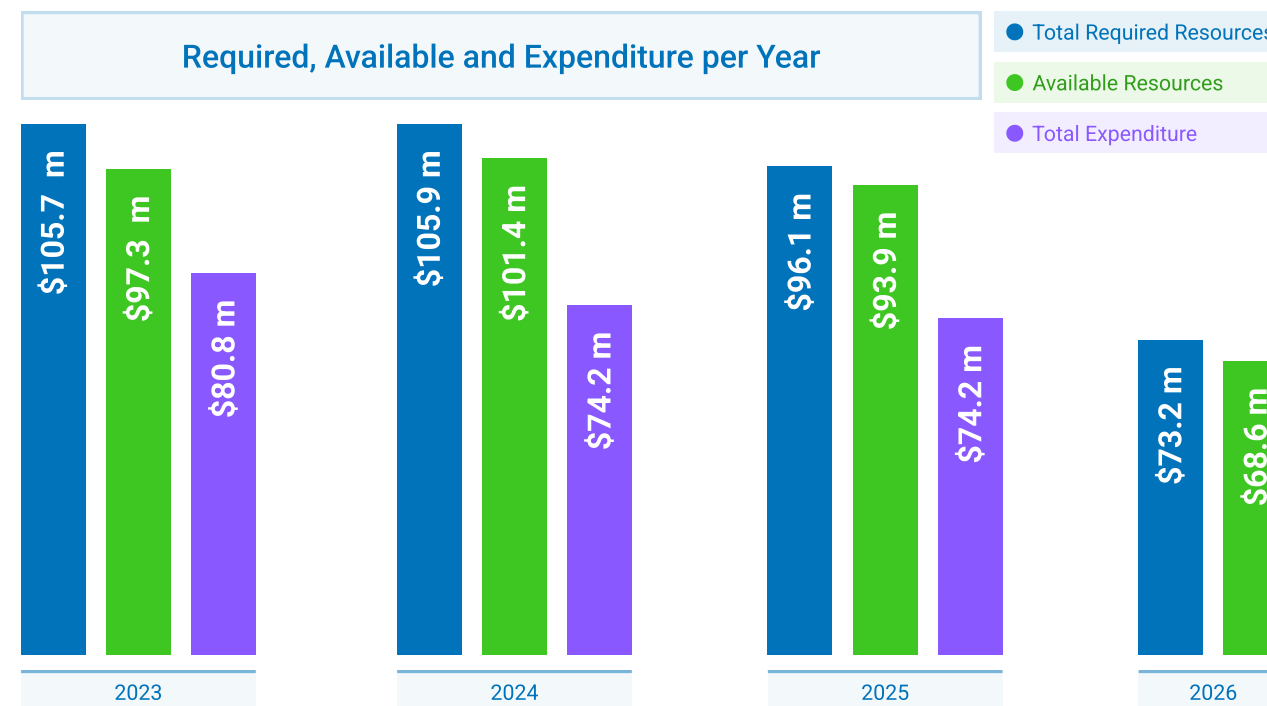
A major milestone in addressing GBV and early marriage was the establishment of a **Multisectoral Coordination Council on Prevention of Domestic Violence, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister.**

Together, these results demonstrate the continued relevance, adaptability, and added value of the UN system in supporting Tajikistan's sustainable and inclusive development trajectory.

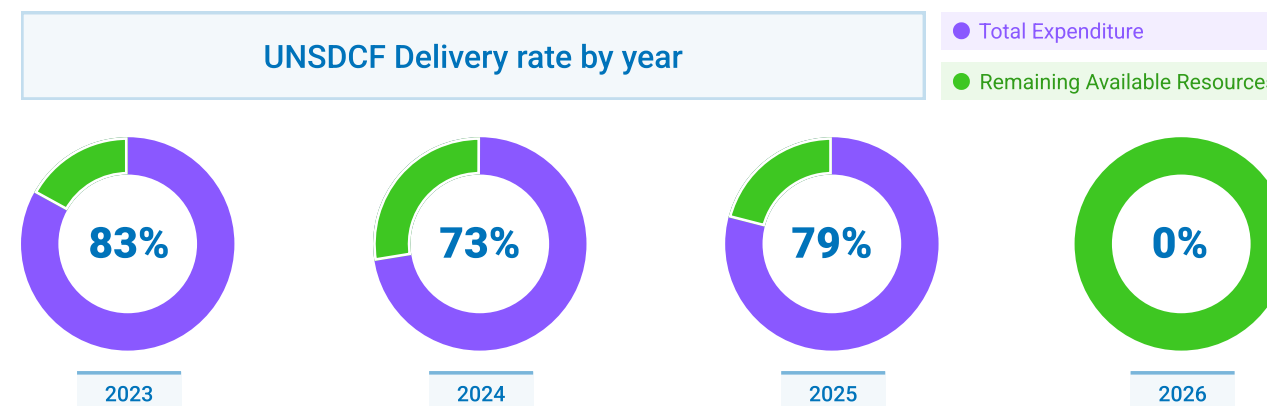
UNSDCF 2023-2026 Funding Framework



Required, Available and Expenditure per Year



UNSDCF Delivery rate by year



OUTCOME 1

Inclusive Human Development



Juraboy Jumaev/WHO Tajikistan

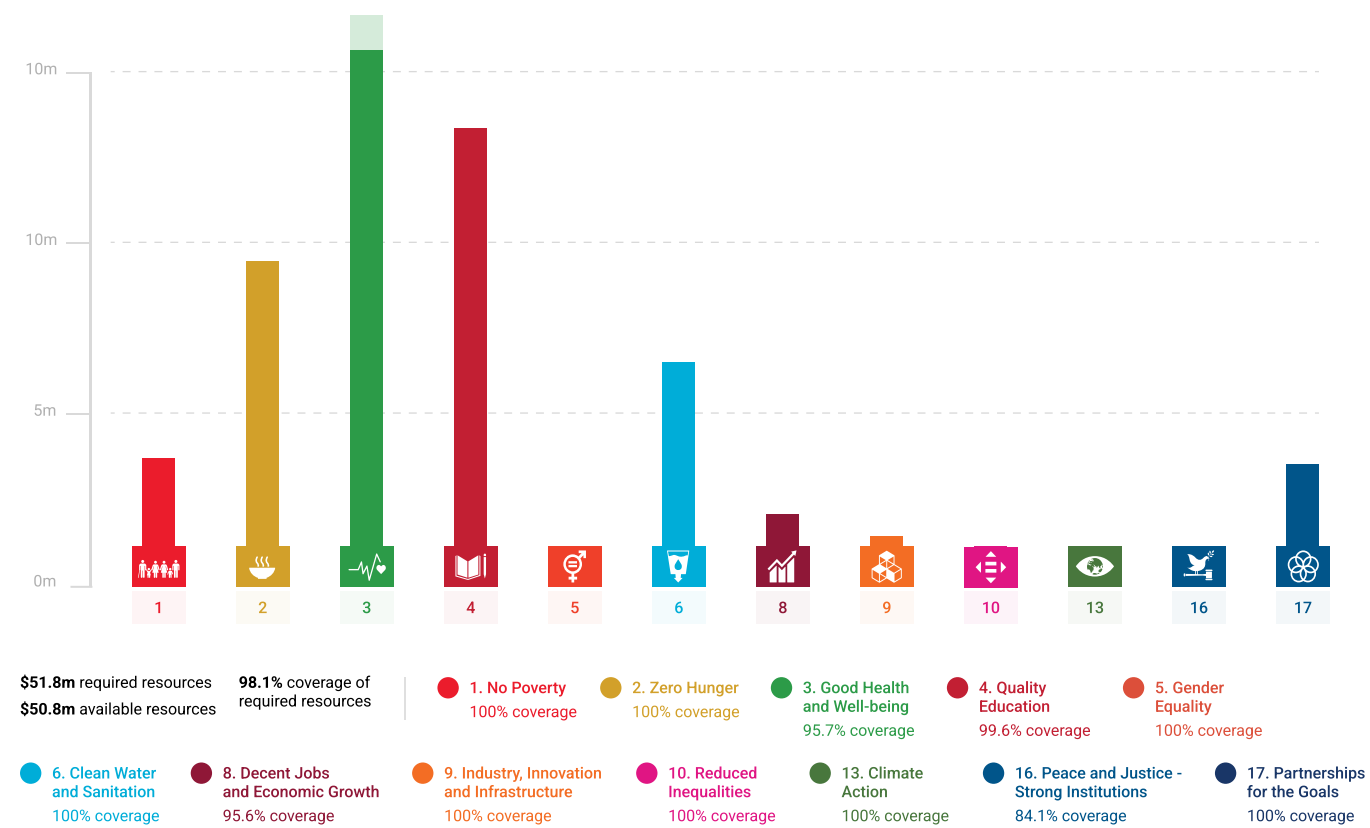
By 2026, health, food security and nutrition, education and social protection systems and services are more effective, inclusive, gender-sensitive, and adequately financed

Delivery

Budgeted: \$50.8 million

Spent: \$43 million

UN Funding gap by SDG in Tajikistan



In 2025, progress under Outcome 1 reflected strengthened national systems and increased domestic commitment to inclusive human development across health, social protection, education, WASH and food security and nutrition. Reforms focused on expanding access to essential services, reinforcing institutional frameworks, and enhancing financial sustainability, particularly for vulnerable populations.

Continued investments in public health and immunization sustained high vaccination coverage and improved pandemic preparedness, while expanded quality health services reached hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people. Increased domestic financing for family planning and adoption of key national health policies reinforced governance and sustainability in the health sector.

UN Agencies:



Funding partners:



Public expenditure prioritization further strengthened essential service delivery, with notable allocations to education, health and social protection. Social protection coverage expanded. Education reforms advanced inclusive and digital transformation agendas, with increased early childhood enrolment and adoption of long-term inclusive education strategies. Institutional strengthening in WASH and expanded access to basic water and sanitation services improved living conditions in underserved communities. Meanwhile, enhanced domestic financing for school feeding and large-scale preventive nutrition interventions strengthened food security and national ownership of social protection systems.

Progress

Health

- Immunization coverage remained high, with **DTP3 coverage sustained at 97 per cent**, while the successful introduction of the **HPV vaccine reached 95.3 per cent** of girls aged 10–14.
- Pandemic preparedness improved, with the Country Preparedness Index rising to **Level 2 (60 per cent average capacity)**.
- More than **570 thousand vulnerable people**, including children and adolescents were targeted through increased quality of health services and improved health facilities (including HIV and TB).
- **Tajikistan institutionalized national instructions for the National AIDS Spending Assessment (NASA)**, marking its transition into a sustainable, government-owned process that strengthens evidence-based planning and advocacy.
- **Domestic financing for family planning commodities increased** to 22.5 percent in 2025, exceeding the national target of 21 percent.

- **Three national health policies** on PHC Pocket Book on child and adolescent health, New version of Health Code, and HIV & Hepatitis Programme 2026–2030 were **adopted strengthening governance for communicable and non-communicable diseases, sexual and reproductive health, HIV & Hepatitis, and pandemic preparedness**.

Social Protection

- **Public financing for essential services strengthened**, with government expenditure reaching 21 percent for education, 8 percent for health and 14 percent for social protection, contributing to improved access and reduced financial barriers for vulnerable populations.
- More than **1.16 million individuals**, including refugees, asylum seekers, and children under school feeding received social assistance through national systems.

Education

- **Pre-primary education enrollment increased** from 22 percent to 30.1 percent among children aged 3–6 years, and transition to upper secondary education reached 82.1 percent (82 per cent for girls), indicating strengthened progression across education levels⁵.
- **The Strategy for Inclusive Education up to 2045** and its Action Plan (2025–2029) were adopted, establishing a long-term institutional framework for inclusive reform.
- **Digital education governance** was strengthened through the establishment of a **Steering Committee on Education Technologies** and the development of strategic partnerships under the GIGA connectivity initiative and with the AI Council.

WASH

- At the institutional level, four **WASH sector policies and regulatory documents** – including two landmark reforms – were developed and endorsed by the Government. These include the **2040 Water Sector Strategy, State Programme for Drinking Water Supply and Wastewater Disposal (2025–2029), 2025-2030 Climate Adaptive WASH in Schools (CAWinS) Strategic Plan, Water Safety Plan for Dushanbe Vodokanal, and Internal Policy Guidelines on Water Quality Management for Dushanbe Vodokanal**.
- Almost **65,000 beneficiaries** gained access to **basic water supply, sanitation and hygiene services** through infrastructure improvements in 17 secondary-level health care facilities and implementation of a climate-resilient WASH project.

Food Security

- Domestic financing for school feeding increased by 60% (USD 2 million), enabling the handover of school feeding programmes in 94 schools to the Government of Tajikistan and advancing the nationalization process.
- A tripartite agreement on school feeding institutionalization marked a structural shift toward sustainability and reduced reliance on external funding.
- More than **1 million individuals** benefited from preventive nutrition interventions, including maternal nutrition and infant feeding counselling.

Challenges

Funding & Sustainability

- Limited coverage and outreach for health, HIV, social protection and refugee assistance, reduction in UN agency programme footprint and unpredictability in funding flows impact scalability.
- Sustainability is affected due to lack of accelerated nationalization of school feeding programme, limited expansion of social protection coverage and low level of investments in WASH infrastructure.

Capacity & Access

- Frequent and high turnover of trained personnel in health and public institutions affect the continuity of service delivery and retention of skilled workforce.
- Access barriers in remote areas constrain service delivery in health and WASH, while legal ambiguities limit refugee integration into national systems, including employment and social protection for persons with disabilities.
- Limited private sector readiness outside urban centers and high commercial advertising rates restrict partnerships and reach of nutrition/health messaging campaigns.

Systems & Coordination

- Fragmentation of social protection data systems and weak interoperability reduce the efficiency of service delivery and targeting of vulnerable populations.
- Coordination gaps persist in digital education transformation and nutrition programming, including inactivity of Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN).
- Timelines for policy approvals and regulatory processes are subject to delays, affecting the efficiency of reforms in WASH governance and health financing.

⁵ Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan. (2025). Statistical yearbook of education sphere of the Republic of Tajikistan 2024-2025 academic year.



Dilafuze Khudoikulova/ WHO Tajikistan

Clean Water, Safe Care: Transforming Health Facilities in Tajikistan through WASH

For years, the maternity department in Isfara Central District Hospital struggled without safe water or sanitation. “Keeping the hospital clean felt impossible,” says Muattara Kimsanova, the Head of Maternity Department of the Isfara Central District Hospital. This challenge was common across Tajikistan, where only a small share of health facilities had basic water, sanitation, or handwashing services, placing mothers, newborns, and health workers at constant risk.

Newly upgraded clinics now serve thousands of people with dignity and safety. “We finally have everything needed to protect patients,” says Nasiba Abdulhojaeva, head of the Sarichashma PHC.

Between 2021 and 2025, a EUR 30 million EU–UNICEF programme improved WASH services in over 1,500 health facilities, reaching 1.8 million people. Innovative technologies, such as solar-powered clean water systems, are now being piloted to keep clinics functional even during extreme weather.

A turning point came when UNICEF, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population, and partners carried out the country’s first nationwide WASH assessment, led by WHO and funded by JICA. Using this new evidence, UNICEF and the EU developed an investment plan and began rehabilitating facilities, installing safe water systems, modern handwashing stations, waste management solutions, and climate-resilient infrastructure.

For healthcare workers, these changes mean safer workplaces. For mothers and children, they bring cleaner wards and better care. And for Tajikistan, they mark a national commitment to ensuring that clean water and sanitation in health facilities are no longer a privilege—but a right, essential to a healthier future.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

From One Family to National Action: How Healthy Choices Are Shaping Tajikistan’s Future

Six years ago, Dilafuze Hudoikulova struggled with chronic pain and relied on daily medication. Working at the Republican Center for Healthy Lifestyle Development, she began learning about nutrition and NCD prevention and this knowledge slowly transformed her own life. By cutting back on salt and sugar, eating more fruits and vegetables, and staying active, her health improved dramatically.

Her family followed her example. Her mother, once limited by hypertension, now walks daily and feels stronger. Even Dilafuze’s children have shifted from sugary snacks to fresh fruit.

But Dilafuze knows families cannot fight unhealthy environments alone. That is why she is proud to contribute to the UN Joint Programme “Transforming Food Systems for Better Nutrition,”

funded by the UN Joint SDG Fund and implemented by FAO, UNICEF, WHO and WFP with the Government of Tajikistan.

While reviewing children’s TV advertising, she was shocked by how often unhealthy foods were promoted, reinforcing why national action is urgently needed.

Through this joint UN effort, WHO supports evidence-based policies to reduce NCD risks; UNICEF strengthens community and school engagement; FAO works to make healthy food more accessible; and WFP helps integrate nutrition education into schools.

For Dilafuze, the work is deeply personal. “I want to give my children a healthy future,” she says. “This programme helps mothers like me change not only our families, but the system itself.”



Aziz Akhmedov/UNICEF Tajikistan



OUTCOME 2

Sustainable, Inclusive, And Green Economic Growth



Nozim Kalandarov/FAO Tajikistan

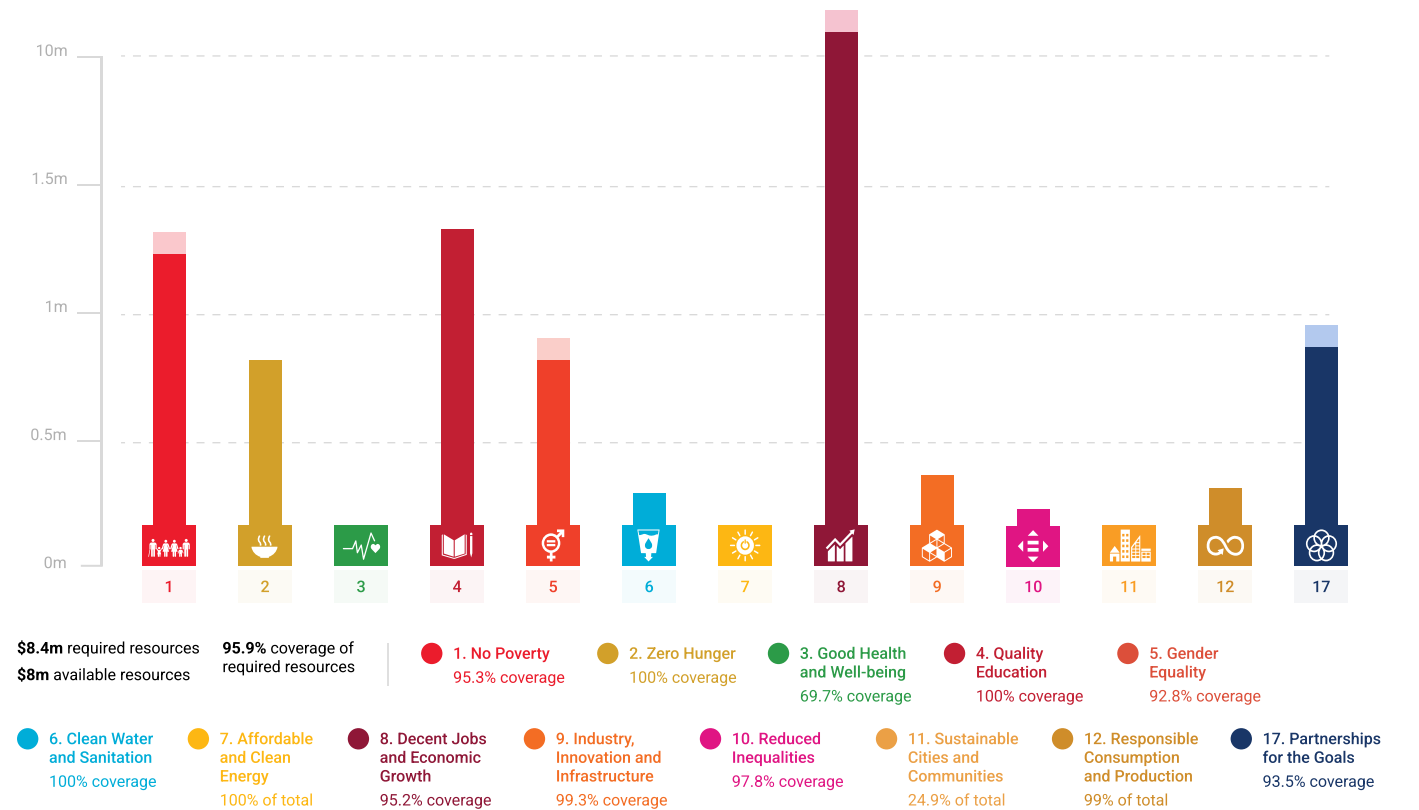
By 2026, public institutions and the private sector collaborate to implement innovative and gender-responsive policy frameworks and actions to green the economy and strengthen inclusion of vulnerable groups.

Delivery

Budgeted: \$8 million

Spent: \$6.3 million

UN Funding gap by SDG in Tajikistan



Throughout 2025, the United Nations system continued to work closely with national authorities and development partners to advance inclusive economic transformation, digital governance, and sustainable development in Tajikistan. UN support focused on strengthening national planning frameworks, modernising public systems, and expanding economic opportunities, particularly for women, returnees and vulnerable communities.

Through sustained policy advisory support and technical assistance, UN agencies, funds and programmes contributed to the formulation of the Mid-Term Development Program (2026–2030), ensuring its alignment with Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the same time, significant steps were taken to accelerate digital transformation, including the

UN Agencies:



Funding partners:



adoption of the Programme for the Digitalisation of the Agricultural Sector (2025–2029) and the operationalisation of a fully Electronic Customs Management System. These reforms support more transparent, efficient and accountable economic governance.

While structural constraints and funding uncertainties continue to affect the pace and scale of implementation, progress in digitalisation, trade facilitation and economic reintegration demonstrates growing national commitment to modernisation and inclusive growth.

The UN also supported practical livelihood interventions, strengthening income-generating opportunities and building the capacity of national and local actors to deliver coordinated, gender-responsive reintegration assistance, contributing to greater economic resilience across target communities.

- Standardized methodologies for in-kind grants were institutionalized, strengthening coordination and enhancing gender-responsive reintegration support for returnees.
- 3424 people (57% women) enhanced their livelihoods through income-generating activities, contributing to increased household income security and gender-inclusive development in the target communities.
- 1172 individuals (50 per cent women) completed business and entrepreneurship training, strengthening local enterprise sustainability.

Progress

- The Programme for the Digitalisation of the Agricultural Sector (2025–2029) was adopted, establishing a national roadmap to modernise agriculture through digital technologies.
- Tajikistan adopted and operationalised a fully Electronic Customs Management System, modernising international trade procedures. The system contributes to faster and more transparent customs clearance processes.
- With UN technical and policy advisory support, the Government has formulated the Mid-Term Development Program (2026–2030), led by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, in full alignment with Agenda 2030.

Challenges

- Limited availability of disaggregated data continues to constrain evidence-based planning, monitoring and reporting against SDG indicators.
- Funding shortfalls for joint UN programmes have limited scale and geographic coverage of economic inclusion interventions.
- Coordination challenges within sectors and between UN and the government counterparts have affected timely and coherent programme delivery.
- Shifting funding priorities resulted in cancellation of planned programmes and delays in approval of new programmes, thus impacting continuity of services.



Bunafsha Azimova/FAO Tajikistan

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

The remarkable journeys of a pioneering Tajik woman

Gulbahor Rajabova grew up working on her family's small farm in Spitamen, a remote area of Tajikistan, learning resilience from the land itself. When the Soviet Union collapsed, her family faced crushing debts, failing irrigation systems, and outdated machinery. Many farmers walked away, but Gulbahor refused to leave her land behind. She stepped forward to lead the struggling family plot, determined to preserve the only livelihood they had left. In 2006, the fields produced barely six centners of cotton per hectare, but she kept going, driven by belief rather than certainty.

With patience and grit, she rebuilt the farm, raising cotton yields to 25 centners and finally freeing the land from debt. Yet she dreamed bigger. In 2014, Gulbahor transformed the farm into a seed-producing enterprise, an ambitious shift that doubled wheat seed yields, reaching as high as 61 centners per hectare.

As a woman in a male-dominated sector, she faced skepticism and resistance, but her quiet determination won respect and inspired others.

"Now, we have the technology and knowledge to thrive," she says with pride. Under her leadership, the farm invested in reliable water wells and secured a stable future for its workers and shareholders.

Support from the World Bank-funded Strengthening Resilience of the Agriculture Sector project, implemented with FAO's technical assistance, provided high-quality seeds and fertilizers—resources that further improved productivity and transformed the farm into a model of resilience and innovation. Gulbahor's journey is a testament to what courage, opportunity, and unwavering commitment can cultivate: not just crops, but hope for an entire community.

OUTCOME 3

Integrated Management of Climate and Environmental Risk



Nozim Kalandarov/FAO Tajikistan

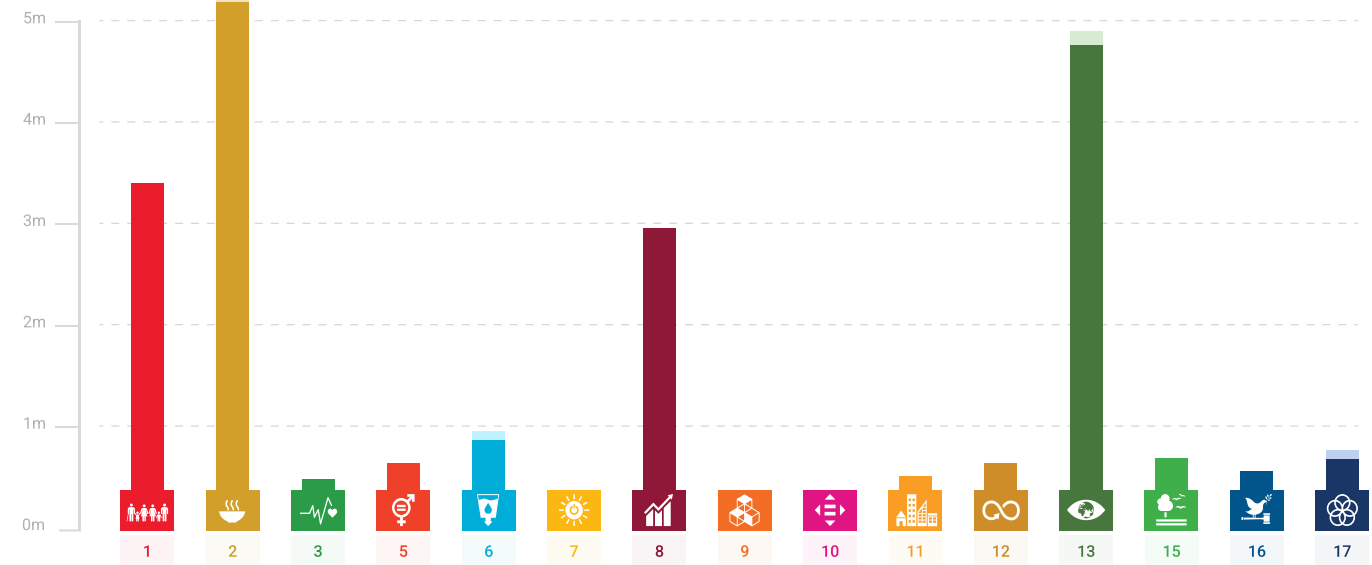
By 2026, natural resources management is inclusive and sustainable with integrated policy frameworks and actions to enhance climate change adaptation and livelihoods of vulnerable groups.

Delivery

Budgeted: \$20.8 million

Spent: \$12.6 million

UN Funding gap by SDG in Tajikistan



\$21.3m required resources
\$20.8m available resources
97.7% coverage of required resources

- 1. No Poverty: 99.5% coverage
- 2. Zero Hunger: 97.2% coverage
- 3. Good Health and Well-being: 91.6% coverage
- 5. Gender Equality: 95.6% coverage
- 6. Clean Water and Sanitation: 91.6% coverage
- 7. Affordable and Clean Energy: 100% of total
- 8. Decent Jobs and Economic Growth: 100% coverage
- 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: 100% coverage
- 10. Reduced Inequalities: 100% coverage
- 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities: 86.6% of total
- 12. Responsible Consumption and Production: 100% of total
- 13. Climate Action: 98.9% coverage
- 15. Life on Land: 100% of total
- 16. Peace and Justice - Strong Institutions: 94.9% coverage
- 17. Partnerships for the Goals: 89.7% coverage

Climate change and unsustainable natural resource management continue to pose significant risks to livelihoods, ecosystems and economic stability across Tajikistan. Increasing glacier retreat, extreme weather events and environmental degradation heighten vulnerability, particularly in high-risk mountain communities. Strengthened governance, coordinated planning and inclusive risk-informed approaches remain essential to building resilience and safeguarding development gains.

Throughout 2025, the United Nations system supported national and local authorities to advance climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and ecosystem-based resilience. UN support focused on strengthening institutional frameworks, enhancing technical capacities, integrating gender- and child-sensitive approaches, and empowering communities to manage climate and disaster risks more effectively.

UN Agencies:



Funding partners:



Progress during the year reflects strengthened national commitment to climate-responsive planning, improved coordination across sectors, and expanded community-level resilience interventions. While climate-related risks remain high, advances in policy development, institutional capacity and local adaptation measures mark important steps toward sustainable and inclusive climate action.

Progress

- With UN support Tajikistan adopted its first National Action Plan for Climate Change (2025–2027), setting a pathway toward the development of a National Adaptation Plan, transforming climate risk management and embedding gender-responsive and child-sensitive priorities across key sectors.
- By 2025, a total of 25 District Development Plans were adopted, set to benefit over 3 million people through integrated climate resilience and disaster risk reduction measures, while the resilience of high-risk mountain communities to glacier-related hazards was strengthened through targeted risk-reduction actions.
- By the end of 2025, climate adaptation and resource management were strengthened through diverse interventions. These include disaster preparedness, glacier-action plans, VR education tools, mine tailings risk management, and sectoral studies. Particular attention was paid to child-centered priorities, support to climate education, youth engagement via the Climate Activists' Toolkit and consultations for Conference of Parties (COP30), and integration of gender-responsive measures into national disaster risk management policies.
- National capacities on climate change, disaster, conflict risk reduction and GBV were strengthened across 13 institutions. A total of 269 specialists and 15 researchers enhanced their expertise through training, workshops, conferences and glacier expeditions.

- Inclusive gender-responsive climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction initiatives reached 1,116 teachers and caregivers and 1,600 children with disabilities, strengthening preparedness systems, and enhancing institutional capacity.
- 22 government entities and 34 CBOs/CSOs were engaged in planning, design, and delivery of rights- and ecosystem-based interventions for community resilience and climate change adaptation, benefitting 16,500 households and smallholder farmers.
- The UN reached out over 16,700 crisis-affected people (11,988 children) and provided hygiene/dignity support, learning materials, and psychosocial support to address urgent needs and the impacts of disasters.
- Risk-reduction measures upgraded a critical alternative road by widening its alignment and adding a gravel surface, ensuring year-round connectivity and emergency access for 2,485 direct beneficiaries (1,208 women) and 20,090 indirect beneficiaries, while strengthening safety and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) resilience.

Challenges

- The current development landscape is characterized by shrinking donor resources, shifting geopolitical priorities, and increasing competition for limited development funding.
- Limited financial resources constrain scaling of climate adaptation, disaster preparedness and ecosystem restoration initiatives.
- Limited availability of disaggregated climate and disaster risk data affects evidence-based planning and monitoring of resilience interventions.
- Institutional coordination across climate, disaster and natural resource sectors requires further strengthening to ensure coherent and timely implementation.



Khusrav Kabutov/AOST

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

From Melting Peaks to Rising Hope: Empowering Glacier Research in Tajikistan

Over the past decades, Tajikistan has lost an estimated 14–22 km² of its glacier area. As glaciers play a crucial role in supporting water supply, agriculture, power generation, and mountain ecosystems, this decline is a growing concern for scientists.

For Khusrav Kabutov, Head of the Department of Glaciology and Glacier Monitoring at the Center for Research of Glaciers of the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, the challenge is clear. “When you study glaciers, the most important thing is using up-to-date methods and equipment,” he explains. Yet for many years, limited data on glaciers in Central Asia has constrained research and long-term planning in the region.

Through the GEF-UNDP-UNESCO Cryosphere Project “Strengthening the Resilience of Central Asian Countries by Enabling Regional Cooperation to Assess Glacio-nival Systems to Develop Integrated Methods for Sustainable Development

and Adaptation to Climate Change”, Khusrav and his colleagues gained access to updated methodologies and experience shared by Swiss partners. This support strengthened scientific capacity and created new research opportunities.

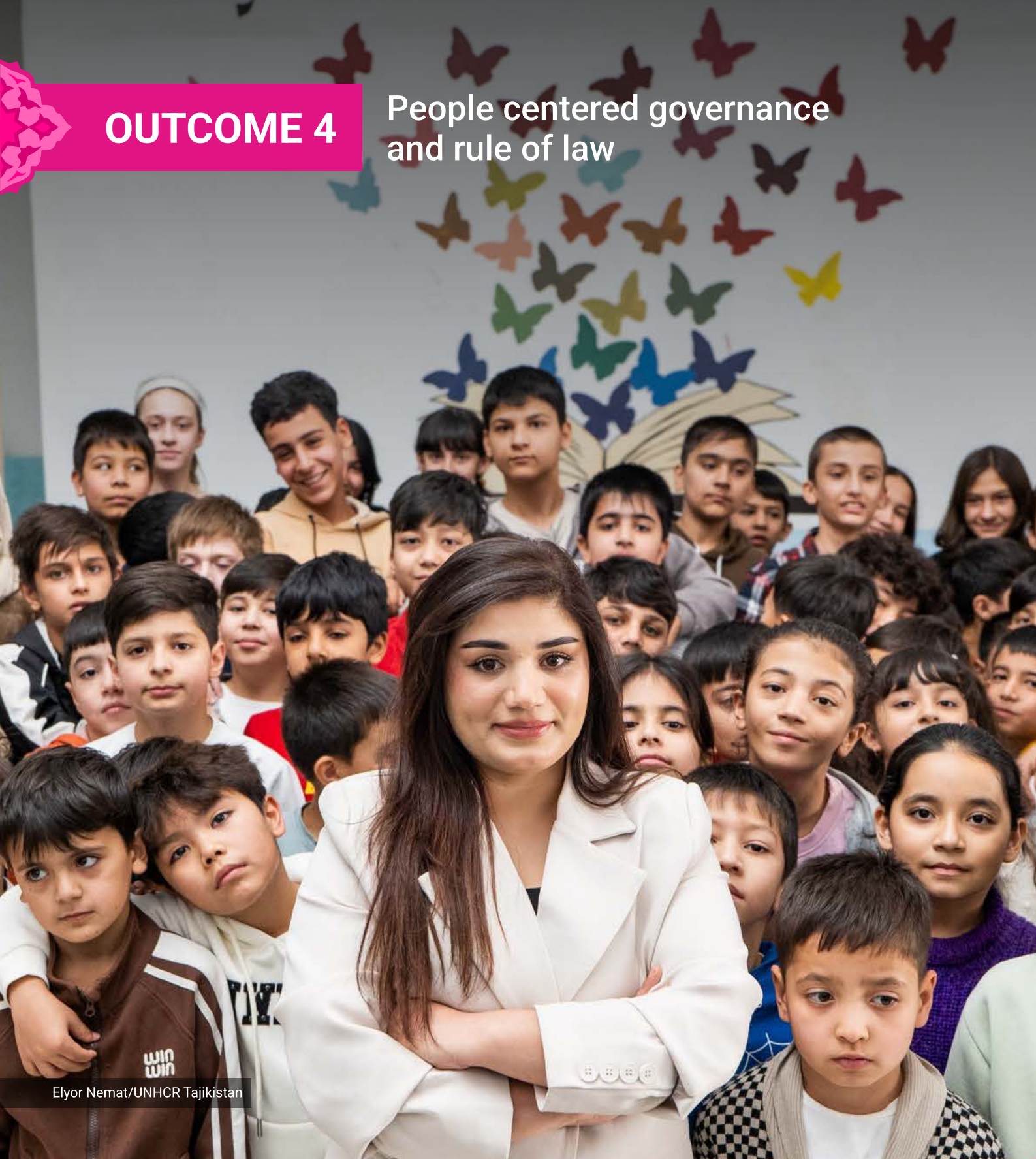
“With the support of the project, we were able to apply modern approaches in our work. This gave a real push to the development of glacier research in Tajikistan,” Khusrav says. The team has since improved the quality of their scientific publications and developed dissertation research that has expanded Tajikistan’s national expertise in glaciology.

The project also transferred “Glacier Lifelines” virtual reality equipment, which helps visualize changes in glacier dynamics and their implications for agriculture, hydropower, and disaster risk. “Virtual reality helps people see what is usually invisible,” Khusrav notes. “It allows us to explain both the science and the complex decisions required for sustainable water management.”



OUTCOME 4

People centered governance and rule of law



Elyor Nemat/UNHCR Tajikistan

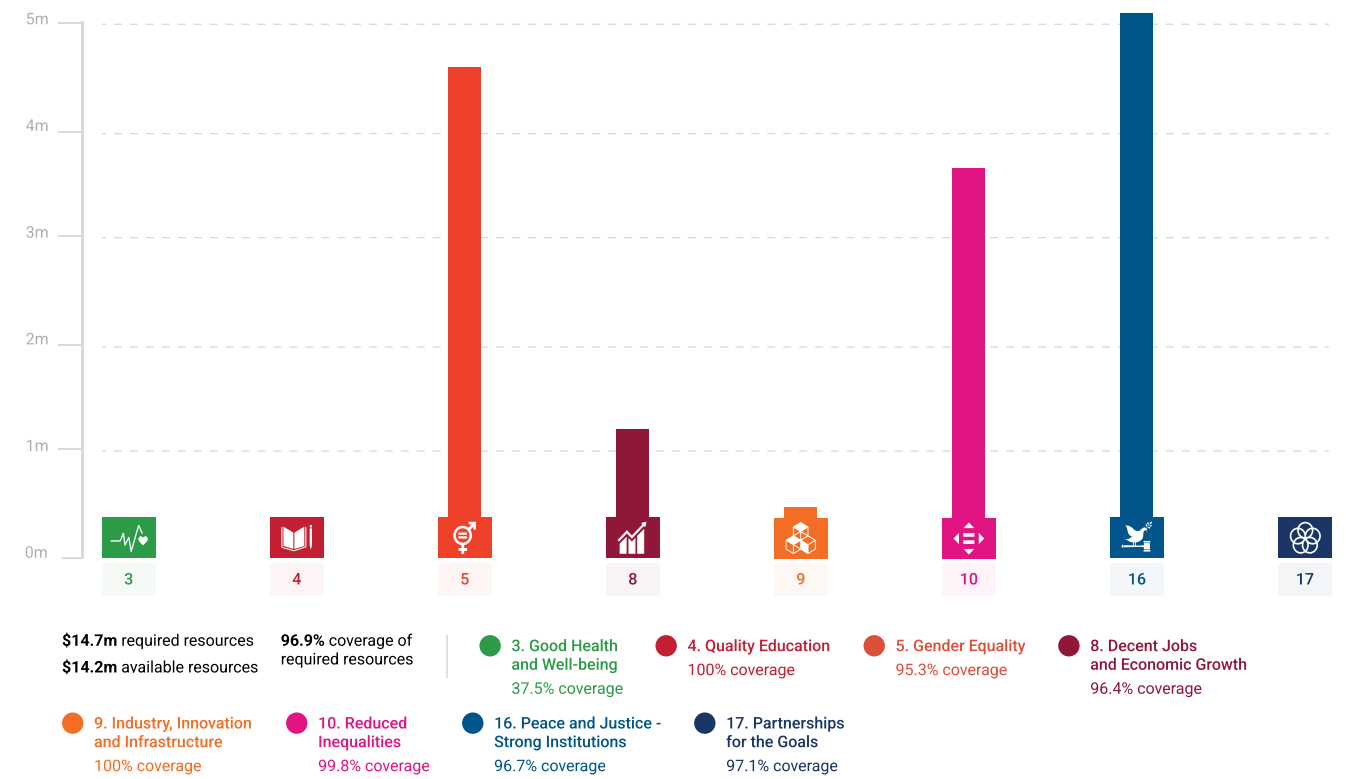
By 2026, governance is more inclusive, transparent and accountable, serving to protect human rights, empower women, and reduce violence and discrimination in alignment with the international commitments of Tajikistan.

Delivery

Budgeted: \$14.2 million

Spent: \$12.7 million

UN Funding gap by SDG in Tajikistan



Strengthening accountable governance, advancing gender equality, and promoting access to justice remain central to Tajikistan's sustainable development agenda. Persistent gender disparities, vulnerabilities among women and children, and institutional capacity gaps require coordinated, evidence-based and rights-based responses. Promoting inclusive public institutions, strengthening rule of law systems and addressing harmful social norms are essential to achieving equitable development outcomes.

Throughout 2025, the UN worked closely with national authorities, civil society and justice institutions to advance legal and policy reforms, strengthen institutional capacities, and promote and strengthen civic participation. UN support focused on generating robust evidence, reinforcing gender-responsive governance frameworks, strengthening justice sector capacities, and promoting social cohesion and human rights-based approaches.

UN Agencies:



Funding partners:





Nozim Kalandarov/UNAIDS Tajikistan

Progress during the year reflects increased national commitment to gender equality and rule of law reforms, improved institutional responsiveness to rights-based standards, and expanded civic engagement across communities and professional sectors.

Progress

- The UN joint study on Child Marriage was conducted in 2025, generating evidence from quantitative and qualitative data to identify drivers of under-age marriage and its implications.
- The first Country Gender Equality Profile generated critical evidence to inform legislative reforms and position gender equality as a cross-cutting national priority.
- A community-led reproductive health assessment for women living with HIV informed corrective measures that strengthened 30 health providers' capacity to deliver stigma-free, rights-based reproductive and HIV services.
- UN joint efforts strengthened the national cadre of 19 women lawyers with expertise in international human rights law, reinforcing the justice system's responsiveness to rights-based standards.
- UN support contributed to the adoption of the State Programme on Prevention of Domestic Violence (2025–2030), and the National Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Persons (2025–2027).
- The Multisectoral Coordination Council on Prevention of Domestic Violence chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister has been created with the support of the UN to eliminate GBV and early marriages in the country.
- Conflict prevention and social cohesion capacities were strengthened through border management upgrades (33 officers trained, 3 posts rehabilitated, ICT at 5 crossings), improved penitentiary governance (50 officers trained, 30 prisoners certified), and engagement of 307 civil society, police, and prison staff.

- A total of 240 media professionals advanced gender-sensitive narration skills, four journalism education institutions deepened their knowledge on media and information literacy, and disaster management, over 12,000 vulnerable individuals enhanced civic engagement skills, and 27 CSO partnerships promoted women's leadership, including fellowships supporting women lawyers and contributing to an increase in women advocates.
- With UN support, the Supreme Court conducted a review of cases involving children in conflict with the law and child victims of sexual violence. The review identified gaps in the application of international child justice standards and provided recommendations to strengthen compliance with these standards. As a result, the Supreme Court adopted a decree promoting alternatives to detention and child-friendly justice.

Challenges

- In 2025, UN interventions were constrained by significant funding cuts, which limited the scale, sustainability, and implementation of planned activities.
- In 2025, Tajikistan ranked 112 out of 146 in the Global Gender Gap Report and 162 out of 180 in the Corruption Perception Index. More concerted efforts are needed to promote and elevate the status and rank of Tajikistan, with evidence of actions shifting towards positive development.
- Bureaucratic inefficiencies, lengthy government approval processes, government staff rotation and weak inter-sectoral coordination delayed the implementation and use of analytical products and policy support.
- Gaps in policy coherence, limited availability of data hindered evidence-based decision making, and uneven technical capacities affected strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation.
- Increased demand for support in prison reform, rehabilitation, and the prevention of violent extremism underscored the need for diversified funding sources.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Tahmina Khaidarova: From Loss to Leadership

Tahmina Khaidarova's life changed at 18, when a routine medical check revealed she was HIV-positive. This diagnosis has plunged her into stigma, isolation, and the profound loss of her husband and child. Yet what could have ended her future forged her resolve.

Refusing to be silenced, Tahmina became the first woman in Tajikistan to openly disclose her HIV status, an extraordinary act of courage. Her openness challenged long-standing stereotypes and inspired others to step out of the shadows.

Determined to reclaim her life, she went to university in 2011 while simultaneously engaging in HIV advocacy.

Today, Tahmina leads the Tajikistan Network of Women Living with HIV, a national CSO that she built from the ground up. Through this platform, she has helped women access information, overcome shame, and gain financial independence through mentorship, skills-building, and small-business support. "I don't just talk about HIV, I talk about rights, dignity, and believing in yourself," she says.

Her advocacy helped to reshape national policy. Under her leadership, the network produced three Alternative CEDAW reports documenting the lived realities of women with HIV and presented them directly to the CEDAW Committee in Geneva. These efforts, combined with her sustained national-level advocacy, contributed to major legal reforms, including the Comprehensive Human Rights Strategy 2038, the Law on Equality and Non-Discrimination, and recent revisions to the Health Code, all aimed at protecting the rights of people living with HIV.

Today, Tahmina is not only a happy wife and mother of two healthy children. She is widely recognized as a strong human rights defender, a woman who transformed personal hardship into national impact. In 2025, she received the Best Human Rights Defender award, honoring her decade-long fight for justice and equality.

Her message to newly diagnosed women remains unwavering: "Do not lose hope. You can build the life you dream of."

UNCT Progress on Inclusion, Empowerment and Engagement

Empowering Young Women Leaders: The “Ambassador for a Day” Initiative in Tajikistan

The UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO) for the second consecutive year co-led the “Ambassador for a Day” initiative in Tajikistan, a programme that empowers young women by providing an opportunity to shadow diplomats and gain first-hand insight into diplomatic work, leadership, and international cooperation. Through direct engagement with the diplomatic community and the United Nations, the initiative aims to inspire young women to pursue leadership roles and strengthen their voice and participation in policy discussions.

The 2025 edition focused on women’s leadership in climate action. Finalists participated in a series of high-level events organized by the United Nations and partner embassies, engaging with diplomats and development partners on climate and leadership issues. A key highlight was their



meeting with the UN Deputy Secretary-General during her visit to Tajikistan, providing an opportunity to exchange views on youth leadership, climate action, and women’s participation in decision-making. The initiative also strengthened collaboration between the UN, the diplomatic community, and national partners in promoting young women’s leadership.

From Training to Action: Advancing Gender-Responsive RBM Across UN Programming

The UN Resident Coordinator’s Office in collaboration with UNWomen Regional Office organized the UNCT Gender-Responsive Results-Based Management (RBM) Training, held in October 2025, bringing together members of the Data and M&E Group, the UN Gender Theme Group, and the Programme Management Team (PMT). The training strengthened a common UN approach to integrating gender equality across the UN Country Analysis, UNSDCF, the Results and Resources Framework, and related reporting processes. A key outcome of the training was the development of a Joint Action Plan, which will serve as a roadmap for strengthening gender-responsive planning, monitoring, and reporting

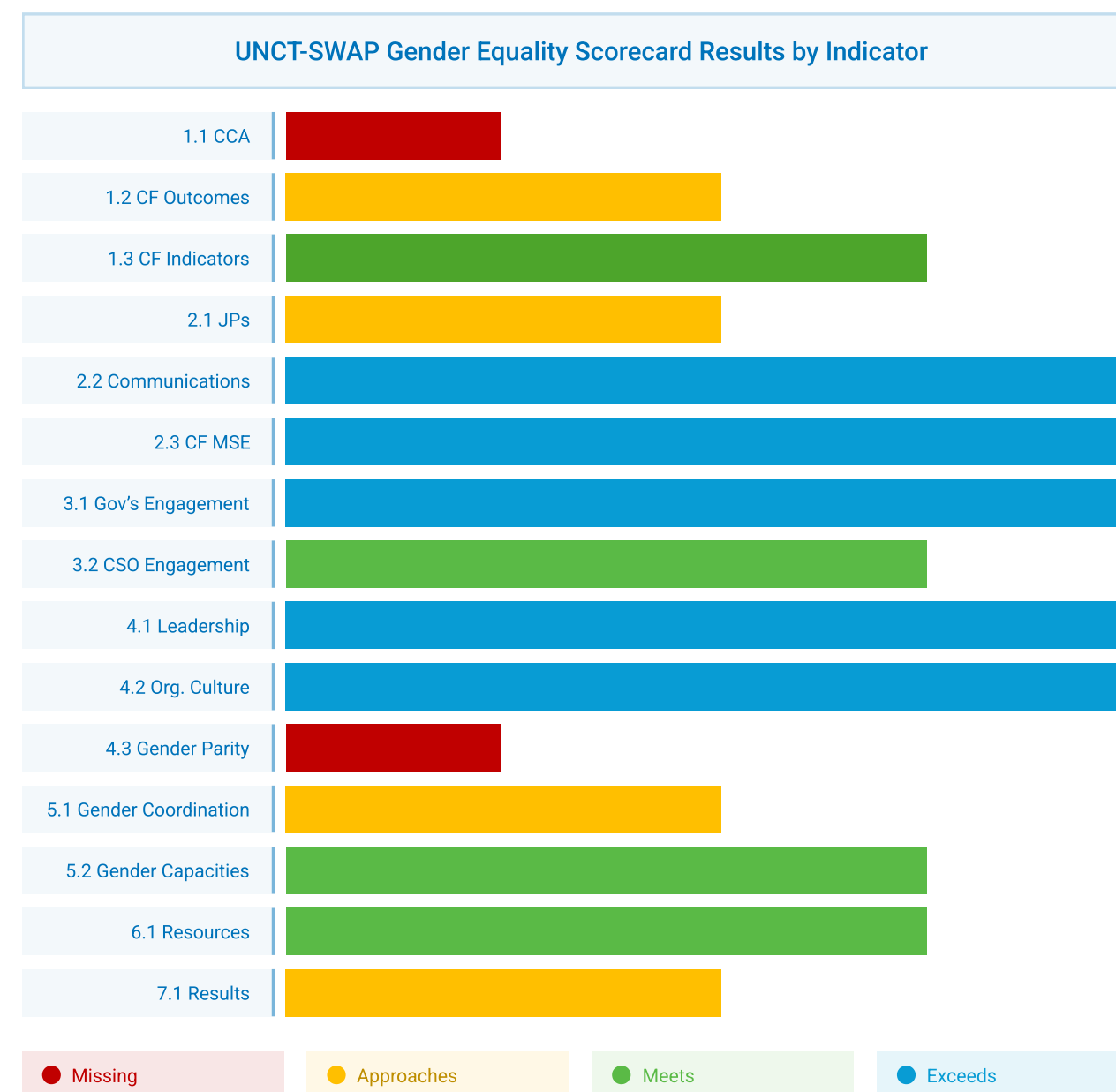


across UN programmes. The process also reinforced joint accountability and collaboration among UN entities to ensure that gender equality is systematically and effectively integrated across UN programming.

2025 UNCT SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard - Comprehensive Assessment

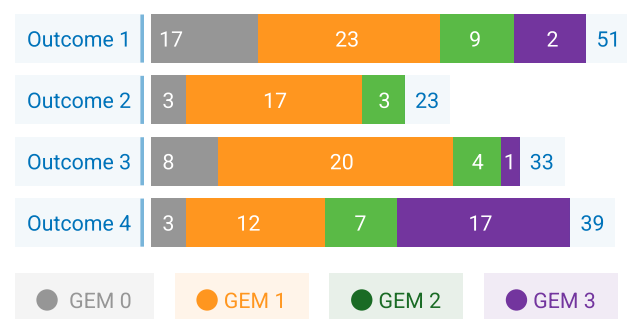
In 2025, the UN Country Team in Tajikistan successfully conducted the UNCT-SWAP Comprehensive Assessment, demonstrating strong institutional commitment to gender equality and women’s empowerment. The UNCT met or exceeded minimum requirements in 60% of the Scorecard indicators, with particularly strong performance in Leadership and Organizational Culture, and notable progress in gender-responsive

monitoring and application of the Gender Equality Marker (GEM). The findings and recommendations – including strengthening gender mainstreaming in the new UN Country Analysis and UNSDCF, expanding integration of GEWE across all Outcomes, and prioritizing a country-level gender parity strategy – will directly inform the design and strategic direction of the next UNSDCF 2027–2030 cycle.

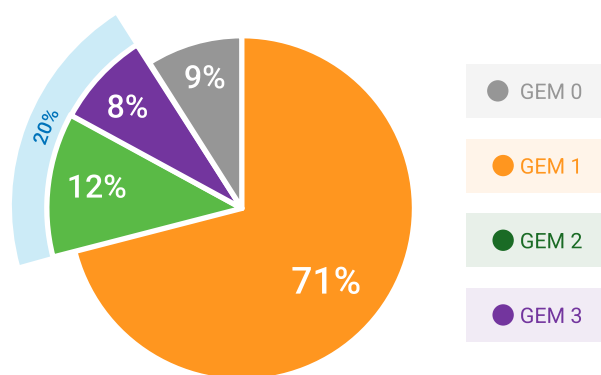


Gender mainstreaming in UNSDCF

In 2025, UNSDCF GEM coding analysis conducted as part of the UNCT-SWAP reporting process revealed that the vast majority of the GEM 2 and 3 interventions are concentrated in Outcome 4 and some in Outcome 1. The UNSDCF Joint Work Plan included 203 sub-outputs/key interventions. Of these, only 38% (77) included gender equality and women’s empowerment as a primary (GEM3) or significant (GEM 2) objective. The remaining sub-outputs are either gender blind (19.7%) or are expected to contribute to GEWE in a limited way (42.4%).



While progress and reporting on GEM coding of UNSDCF sub-outputs has been effectively tracked and reported, there remains a significant room for improvement in gender mainstreaming across all Outcomes and thus allocation of funds for GEWE. Financing for GEWE is even lower than GEWE-supporting interventions, with only 20% of available funds in 2025 allocated to GEM 2 or 3 interventions – well below the global target of 70% - and only 8% of resources for gender transformative interventions (GEM3). This reflects a reduction in gender financing since 2024 in absolute terms and a slight reduction as a percentage of overall CF financing (21% GEM 2/3 in 2024, 20% GEM 2/3 in 2025).



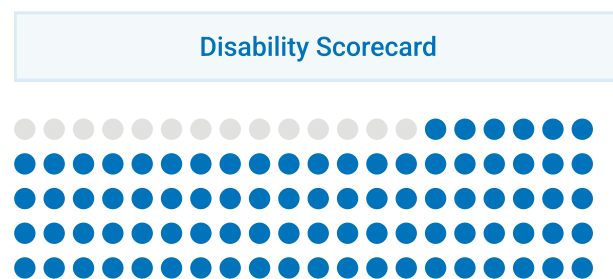
Disability Inclusion

The UN Country Team (UNCT) in Tajikistan has demonstrated sustained leadership in advancing disability inclusion through the implementation of the UNCT Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2024-2026 that has been developed in full alignment with the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy.

Disability inclusion has been proactively positioned as a cross-cutting development and human rights priority as part of joint efforts towards Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) ratification. This approach combined high-level policy engagement—such as the International Disability Forum held in Dushanbe in preparation for the World Social Summit—with the meaningful participation of organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs). It also included deliberate advocacy efforts to shift public narratives towards inclusion, rights, and the positive contributions of persons with disabilities.

OPDs have been engaged in the national and regional consultations on the UN Country Analysis and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, enabling the systematic integration of OPD-identified priorities—including access to education, employment, transportation, infrastructure, and social services—into UN planning.

Joint advocacy and public awareness initiatives enhanced societal understanding of disability inclusion, while OPDs were empowered to engage in national human rights and emergency preparedness processes. Progress was also achieved in improving physical accessibility of the UN premises, strengthening inclusive emergency frameworks, and expanding outreach through a unified disability inclusion partners network and inclusive UN communications. The UN drafted a guide on the employment of persons with disabilities to facilitate creation of more job opportunities for persons with disabilities, which will form the basis for interventions to facilitate economic inclusion of persons with disabilities in 2026 and beyond.



86% 12 out of 14 indicators



Youth engagement

In 2025, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Tajikistan expanded its youth activities across priority areas including climate action, entrepreneurship, employability, digital resilience, food security, gender equality, governance, human rights, health, innovation, safe migration, leadership, social cohesion and rule of law.

Youth participation was ensured through coordinated, system-wide approaches such as leadership platforms and engagement initiatives (Ambassador for a Day, Model UN, Youth Dialogues), skills development, business incubation, digital literacy and expanded access to STEM. These efforts engaged adolescents and youth leaders nationwide, amplified youth voices, and supported national commitments to gender equality, human rights, social cohesion and accelerated progress in food security. The overall number of young people covered by UN interventions in 2025 was more than 28,127 (51% girls).

Throughout 2025, the UN meaningfully engaged young people in national and global processes through key actions such as a Youth Dialogue dedicated to the World Programme of Action for Youth at 30, first Local Conference of Youth ahead of COP30, UN’s 80th anniversary and the International Year of Peace and Trust. Youth participation in climate action was strengthened through the Children and Youth Glaciers’ Preservation Forum and the Local Conference of Youth on Climate Change Tajikistan 2025. Youth representatives delivered a statement at the closing of the High-Level Conference on Glaciers’ Preservation, and for the first time in the country, a youth-led climate statement officially endorsed

by the Government was presented at COP30, ensuring young people contributed to global climate negotiations and the UNFCCC youth agenda.

Youth were consulted during the development of the UN Country Analysis and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework through focus group discussions, enabling their meaningful participation in UN’s planning processes.

Working as one, the UN system strengthened pathways for young talents to join and contribute to the UN workforce. Entities attracted, recruited and retained young professionals through short-term assignments, the United Nations Volunteers programme, internships and volunteering. Young national professionals served as National UN Volunteers and interns, gaining hands-on experience in programme implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation, communications and operations. Under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, the Resident Coordinator’s Office engaged two international UN Volunteers serving as Private Sector Partnership Officer and Political and Conflict Analysis Specialist.

Overall, UN engagement on youth in 2025 reflects a strategic shift towards systematic youth inclusion, combining policy dialogue, grassroots engagement and practical skills development. Results include expanded youth participation in governance processes, improved employability pathways, strengthened digital resilience and enhanced leadership opportunities, particularly for young women, contributing directly to accelerated progress toward the SDGs and national development priorities.

2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

In 2025, the UN in Tajikistan strengthened its partnerships with government institutions, development partners, new emerging donors, IFIs, civil society organizations, private sector, academia and media towards the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2026. These partnerships resulted in strengthened policies, new expertise, application of new approaches and resource mobilization. The UN in Tajikistan widely used the opportunities of South-South Cooperation to exchange experience and enhance the capacities of partners in various development priorities.

In 2025, UN in partnership with other development organizations supported the Government of Tajikistan in evaluation of the Mid-term Development Programme (MTDP) 2021-2025 and formulation of the new MTDP 2026-2030. The mid-term programme highlights forthcoming priorities in green transformation, digitalization, productive employment, energy independency, digitalization

Partnerships in climate change, water and environmental sustainability

The UN and the Government of Tajikistan organized the first High-Level International Glaciers' Preservation Conference held in Dushanbe on 29-31 May 2025. The Conference was organized to mark the UN declared International Year of Glaciers' Preservation (UN GA Resolution 77/158, from 14 December 2022) and to expand international cooperation to address the impact of climate change on glaciers and water resources. The UN in Tajikistan (14 UN Agencies) jointly with other partners organized Youth, Women, Agriculture, Transboundary cooperation Forums. The UN in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, sponsored a session of Pact for the Future, strongly linking glaciers' preservation with global commitments. The UN partnered with the Government of Tajikistan and other partners in the implementation of the Early Warnings for All Roadmap 2024-2027.

and AI and provides special attention to strengthening partnerships in addressing the programme priorities.

In collaboration with the Committee on Environmental Protection, the UN assisted in costing the NDC 2.0 and is providing technical expertise in fulfilling country commitments.

In the margins of the Dushanbe International Investment Forum, the UN partnered with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, State Committee on Investments and State Property Management of Tajikistan and American Chamber of Commerce in Tajikistan and organized a session on Enhancing Corporate Sustainability through Integration of the Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) principles for corporate sustainability and green economic development in Tajikistan.



Parvathy Ramaswami/UN Tajikistan

Leaving No One Behind

The UN and the Committee on Women and Family Affairs under the Government of Tajikistan partnered in preparation of the first Country Gender Equality Profile (CGEP) of Tajikistan, the draft of which was finalized at the end of 2025. The CGEP, expected to be launched in 2026, will help strengthen national understanding and data on current situations and progress toward national and international commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment. CGEP will inform further government policies and actions in advancing gender equality and inform the UN Country Analysis and the new Cooperation Framework 2027-2030.

UN sustained its engagement with the Republic of Tajikistan and the organizations of persons with disabilities, to strengthen the enabling environment for persons with disabilities, including provision of employment, raising awareness on the benefits of ratification of Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and consulting persons with disabilities in the development of UN Country Analysis and the new Cooperation Framework 2027-2030. The UN, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and the National Union of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities jointly organized the International Disability Forum to support the ratification of the CRPD and developed recommendations considering the preparation of Tajikistan for the World Social Summit held in 2025.

UN partnered with the Agency of Innovation and Digital Technologies under the President of Tajikistan, the Public Organization "WOMENinTech" and organized a Women in Tech Forum at the margins of the Digital Tajikistan Forum. This event highlighted existing opportunities for advancing women and girls in STEM and sustainable technologies.

Sustainable Financing

UN in partnership with the Ministry of Finance and its Agency of Securities and Special registration jointly formulated a draft Sustainable Finance Roadmap of Tajikistan validated during a strategic consultation meeting held with the participation of high-level government officials and development partners.

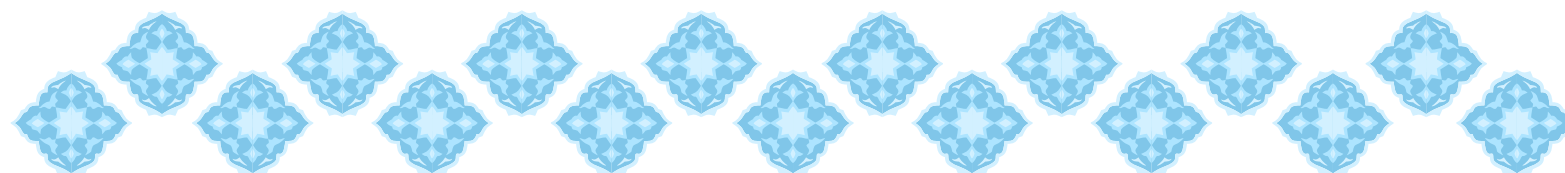
UN brokered international expertise and facilitated the establishment of the new partnership between the Global Green Growth Institute and the Ministry of Finance on the issuance of the sovereign and quasi sovereign green bonds to be launched in 2026.

UN leveraged South-South Cooperation to facilitate establishment of a partnership between the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) and the Ministry of Finance on capacity enhancement on sustainable and Islamic financing.

Resource mobilization

In 2025 the UN efforts in resource mobilization for the implementation of the UNSDCF 2023-2026 and the SDGs resulted in:

- Launch of a 2 mln. USD Joint Programme on "Transforming foods systems for better nutrition in Tajikistan", funded by the Joint SDG Fund, jointly implemented by FAO, WFP, UNICEF and WHO.
- Launch of a 5.2 mln. EUR regional joint programme on "Challenging Harmful Attitudes and Norms for Gender Equality (CHANGE)", funded by the EU, to be implemented by UNDP, UNFPA and UNWomen in Central Asian countries.
- Submission of a concept note on "Nurturing Futures: Sustainable, Climate-Smart Food Systems for Enhanced Maternal and Child Nutrition in Tajikistan" to India-UN Development Partnership Fund with a 5 mln. USD budget.



2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

Operating as one UN

The Operations Management Team (OMT) completed the 2025 Common Premises Annual Review, strengthening shared operations. The UN House was expanded by 395 sq. m. through construction of a new building at no cost to resident agencies, and allowing consolidation of operations and colocating UN personnel. Cost-efficiency measures, including the transition to a private security company, reduced shared security costs by 40%.

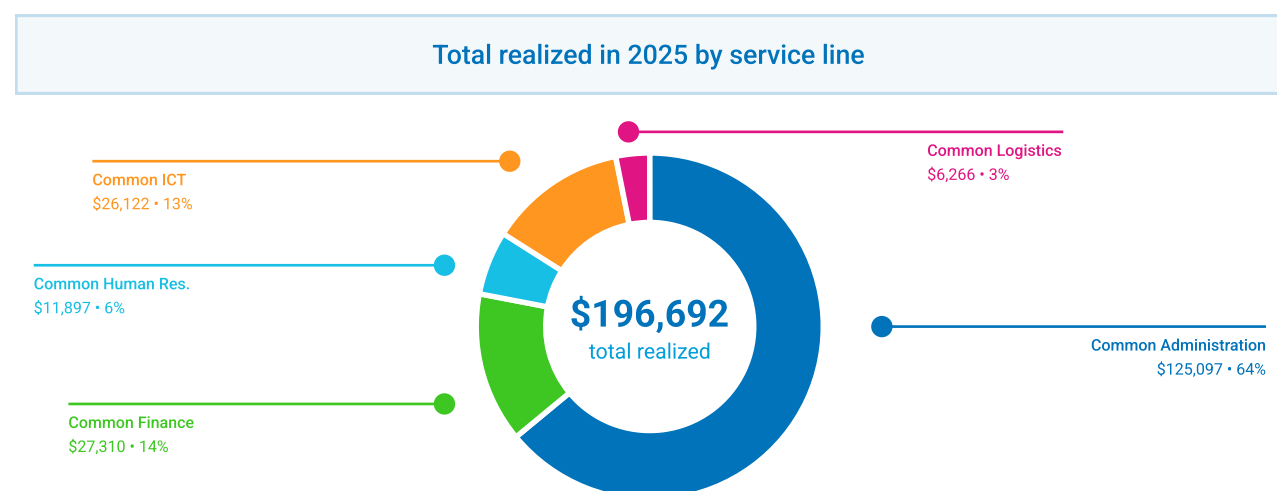
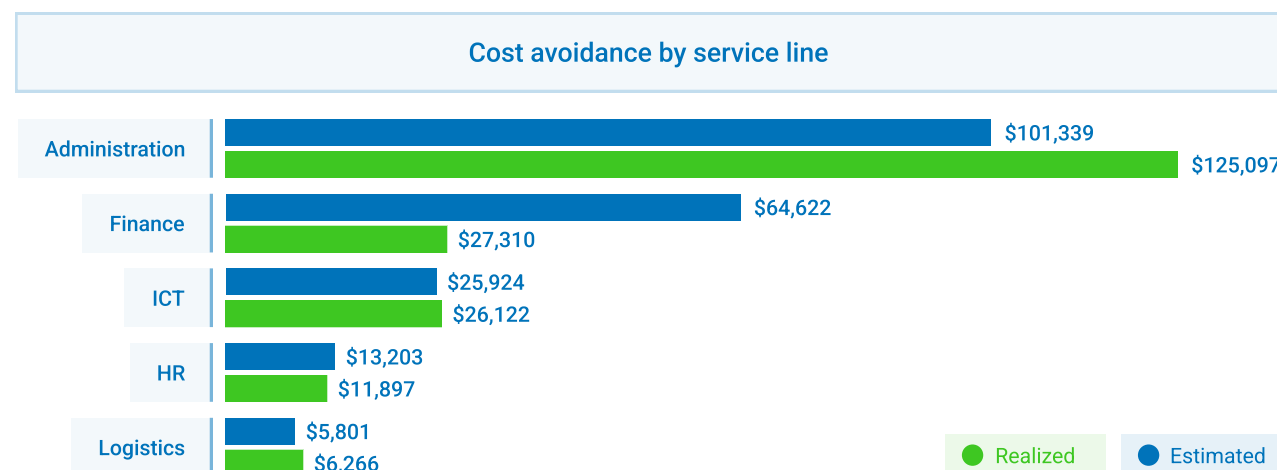
With support from the Resident Coordinator, UNDRR and ILO joined the UN House in 2025, and discussions continue with other agencies on co-location. At the same time, funding constraints

resulted in reduced operational presence of several agencies, with their field offices closing in Khujand, Bokhtar, and Garm.

The first OMT retreat (Q4 2025), supported by RCO and UNICEF, focused on strengthening collaborative, cost-effective operational management, expanding Business Operations Strategy (BOS) services, increasing co-location, and introducing flexible HR arrangements in line with UN reform priorities. The 2025 BOS Annual Review, launched in December 2025, reconfirmed that operating as one UN has improved efficiency through common collaboration, with plans to further expand shared HR, Administration and Finance services.



Didor Sadulloev/UN Tajikistan



Communicating as One

In 2025, the United Nations system in Tajikistan strengthened the “Communicating as One” approach, presenting a unified voice on national priorities, global commitments, and development results. Under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, coherent communication was ensured across platforms, campaigns, and public events to highlight shared priorities such as climate resilience, youth engagement, gender equality, disability inclusion and sustainable development with inclusive and gender-sensitive communications as key principles.

Joint branding and coordinated media outreach were used for major milestones, including observances of international days, consultations for the upcoming UNSDCF 2027-2030, and advocacy around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Pact for the Future and UN80.

A major focus of joint communication in 2025 was Tajikistan’s leadership on climate and glaciers’ preservation issues within the scope of the International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation. UN entities delivered coordinated messages through conferences, youth forums, social media campaigns, and media engagement to raise awareness of glaciers’ preservation, water security, and climate adaptation.

The UN Country Team also implemented joint outreach campaigns around key global

observances and national priorities. UN Day events, the UN’s 80th anniversary activities, and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence were communicated through shared narratives emphasizing human rights, inclusion, and digital safety. A Coordinated approach highlighted partnerships with government institutions, civil society, academia, and development partners, reinforcing the UN’s role as a trusted development partner aligned with national priorities.

In 2025 the key focus was on utilizing digital communication through maintaining unified messaging across social media platforms, including those from the joint campaigns promoting youth leadership, women and girls in STEM, and community resilience. Joint media releases, multimedia content, and coordinated public statements ensured consistency in how the UN system presented results and priorities to the public.

Through coordinated media engagement, shared campaigns, and unified advocacy, the UN in Tajikistan strengthened public awareness of development priorities and reinforced trust in multilateral cooperation. The “Communicating as One” approach in 2025 demonstrated how coherent messaging can amplify impact, elevate national and youth voices, and support Tajikistan’s progress toward the SDGs.

2.5 Lessons Learned and Evaluations

The UN Country Analysis was built on insights from a comprehensive sense-making process, comprised of consultations with partners at regional, national and strategic levels as well as focus group discussions. More than 300 persons from diverse partners, including government representatives, academia, gender and human rights CSOs, organizations of persons with disabilities, youth and private sector joined these consultations to share their views and feedback with the UN for the development of the new UNSDCF. These consultations not only ensured a participatory and consultative process, but also amplified the voices of less represented groups to leave no one behind.

The close collaboration with MEDT during the UNCA consultations ensured the alignment of the UNSDCF with the national priorities from the onset of the process. These consultations also highlighted the need for closer collaboration between central and local levels of government and the UN to incorporate local level priorities into planning processes and strengthen implementation of national policies as well as UN programs.

The strong collaboration with MEDT during the national review of the Medium Term Development Program ensured that the MTDP mainstreams SDGs, gender equality, disability inclusion and human rights perspectives into national planning and strengthens the LNOB dimension of the program.



Didor Sadulloev/UN Tajikistan



Didor Sadulloev/UN Tajikistan

Evaluation of UNSDCF 2023-2026: Major results and recommendations

The final evaluation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF) 2023–2026 for Tajikistan assessed its relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability in alignment with OECD and UNEG standards. The evaluation confirmed that the UNSDCF is strongly aligned with Tajikistan's National Development Strategy 2030, the Mid-Term Development Programme, and the SDGs, and has served as a coherent platform for integrated, rights-based development across four outcome areas: human development, inclusive economic growth, climate resilience, and governance and human rights.

The evaluation found that the UN system contributed meaningfully to legislative reforms, institutional strengthening, digital transformation, climate adaptation, and expanded access to services, particularly for vulnerable groups. Notable achievements include progress in legal aid institutionalisation, human rights strategies, inclusive education, civil registration digitisation, and gender-responsive reforms. The UNSDCF demonstrated adaptability to emerging shocks and supported upstream policy transformation. However, impact at scale remains constrained by fragmented delivery approaches, uneven gender and disability mainstreaming, limited subnational integration, data gaps, and heavy reliance on project-based external funding.

Key Lessons Learned:

- Flexibility within strategic coherence is essential
- National ownership strengthens sustainability
- Joint programming requires true integration
- Inclusion must be systematic, not ad hoc
- Data, communication and learning systems drive accountability

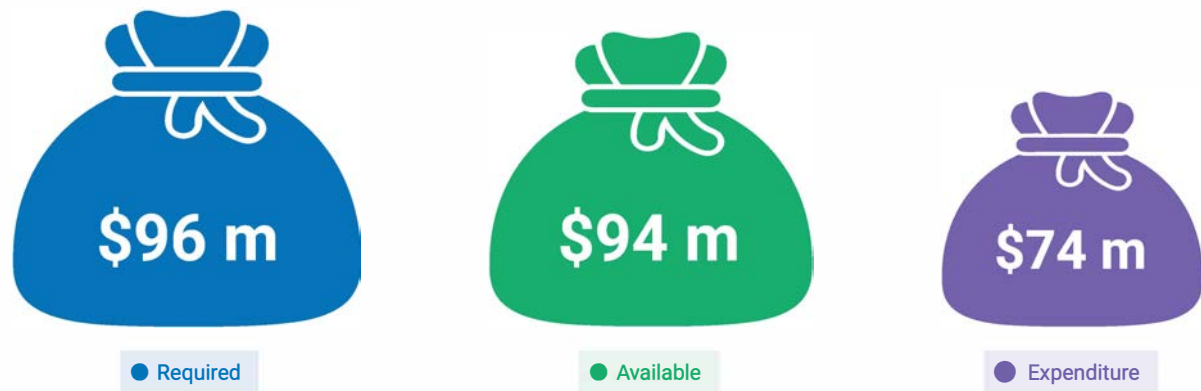
Evaluation recommendations:

- Strengthen subnational integration and embed cross-cutting commitments
- Strengthen coordination and joint programming
- Reinforce national institutional capacities and strengthen ownership
- Support the Government of Tajikistan in diversifying development financing opportunities
- Increase operational efficiency in programme delivery
- Strengthen national ownership, sustainability planning, and multi-stakeholder partnerships
- Promote systemic integration and scale-up of successful reforms
- The evaluation underscores the need for a more integrated, systems-based approach in the next Cooperation Framework to ensure scalable, nationally owned, and sustainable development results.

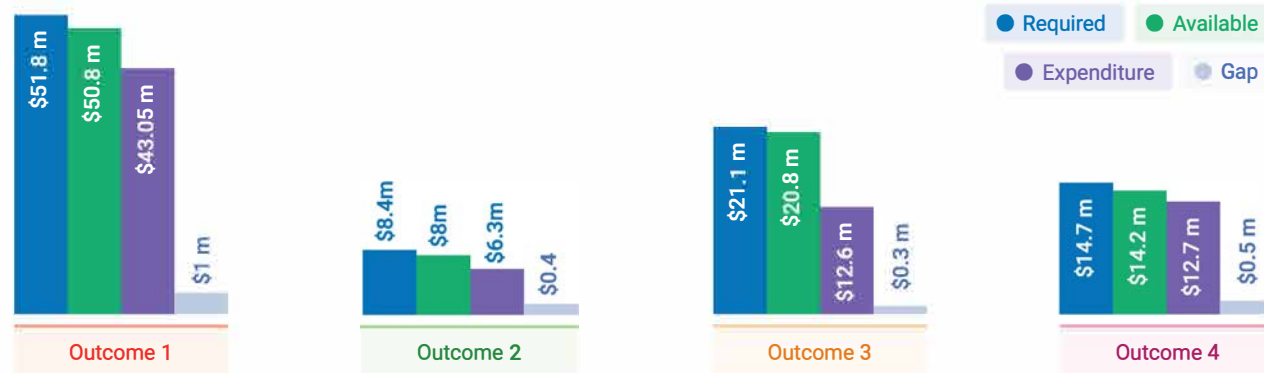
2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

2.6.1. UNSCF Financial Snapshot 2025

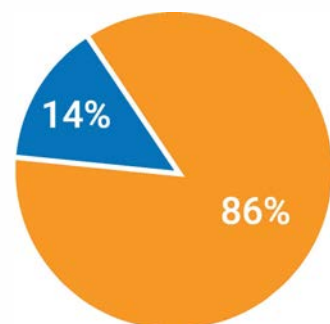
UNSCF Funding Framework 2025



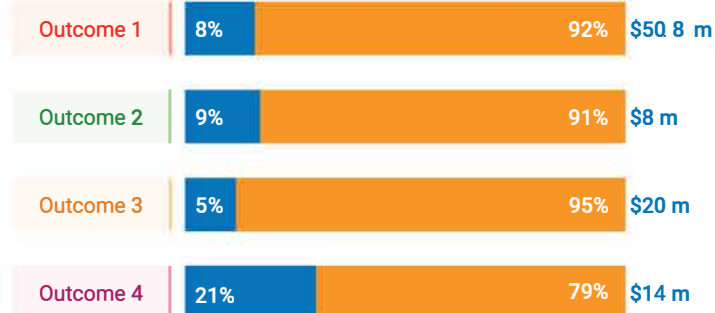
UNSCF Funding Framework by Outcomes 2025



UN Funds (Core) vs Donor Funds (Non-Core) 2025



UN vs Donor Funds by Outcomes 2025



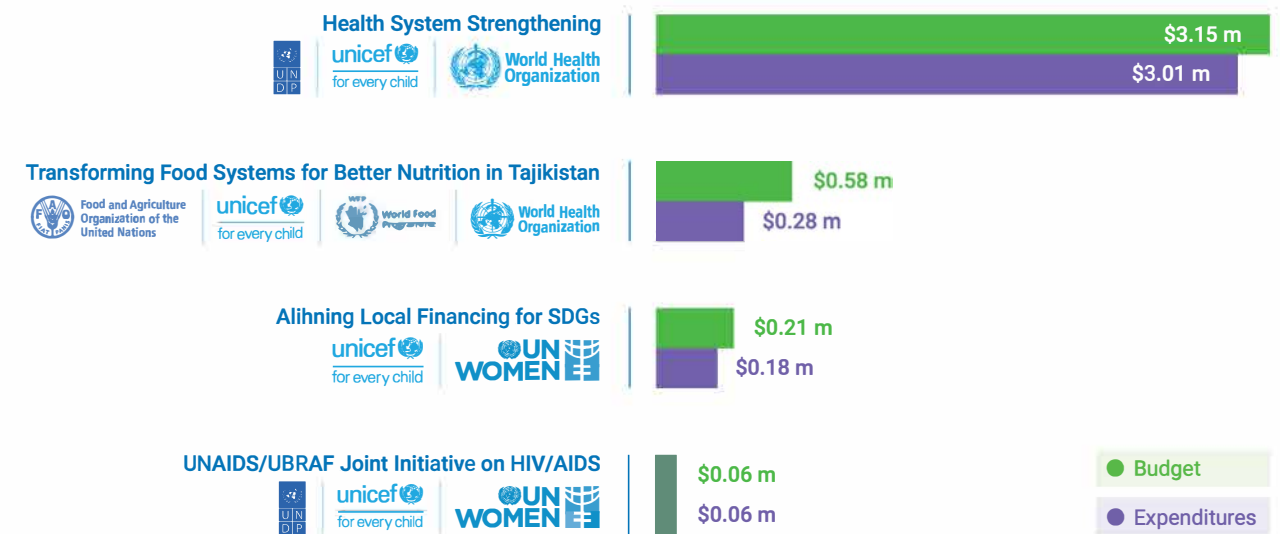
UN (Core) Funds by Outcomes 2025



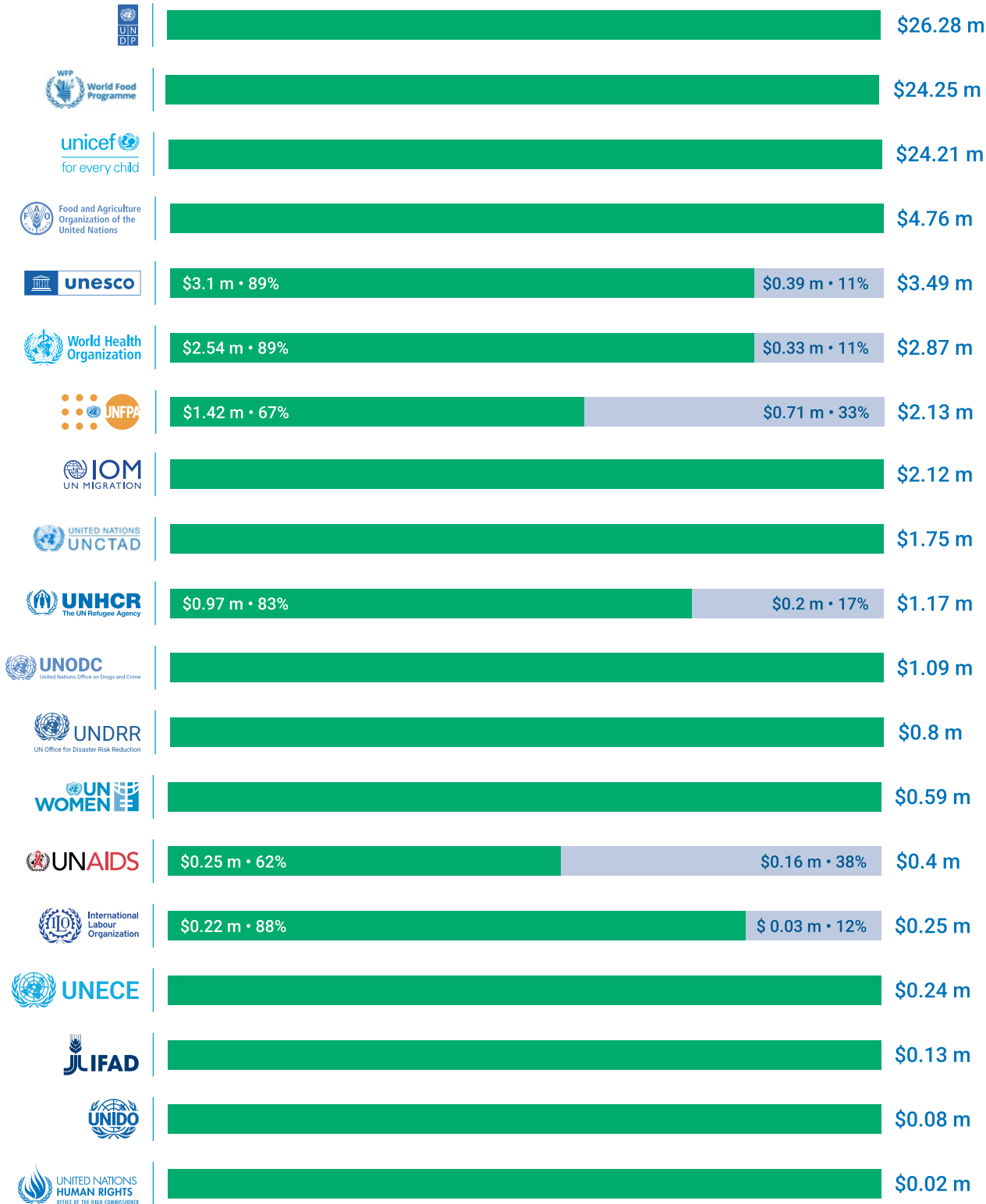
UN (Non-Core) Funds by Outcomes 2025



UN Joint Programmes 2025

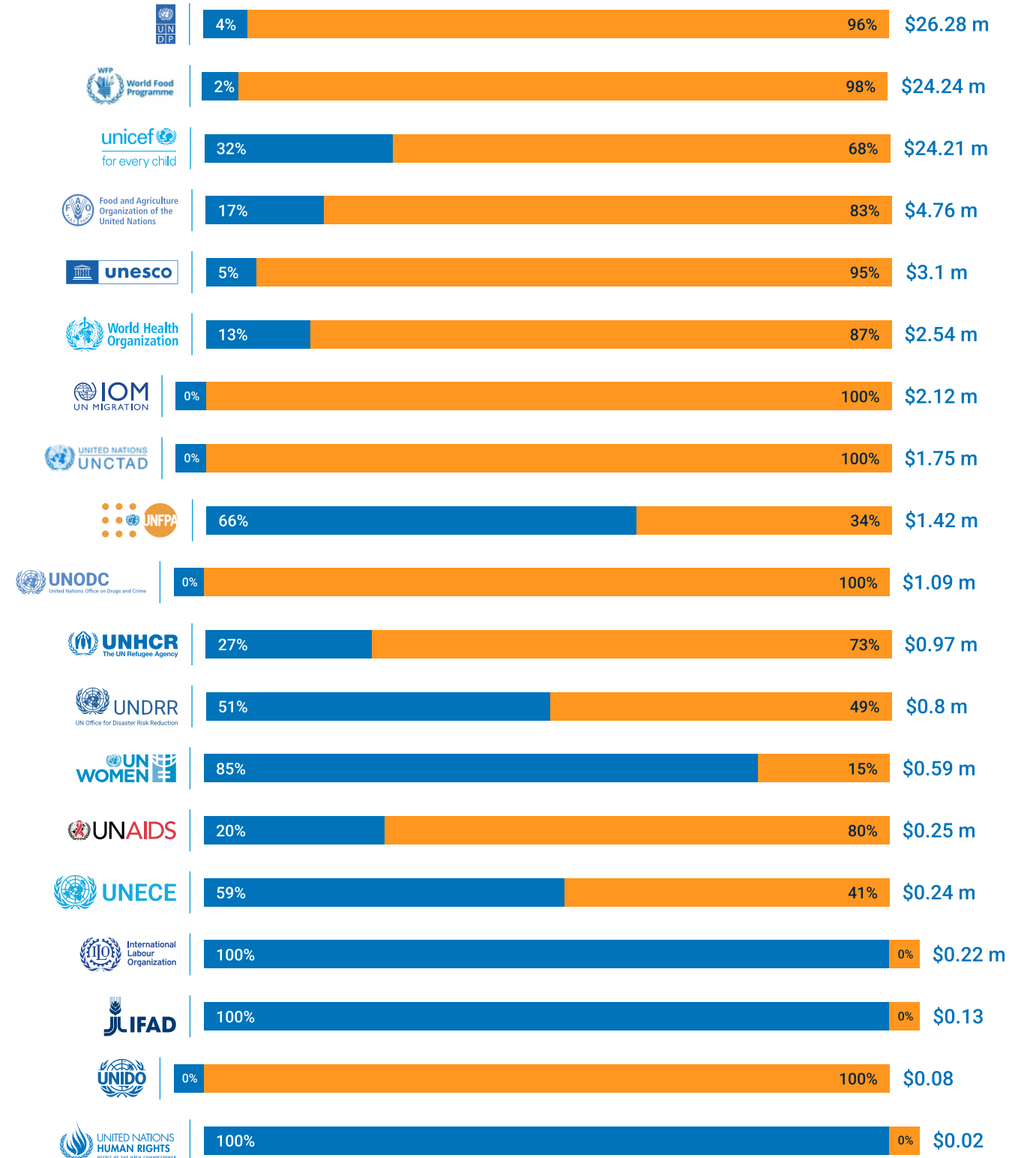


Funding Framework by UN Agencies 2025



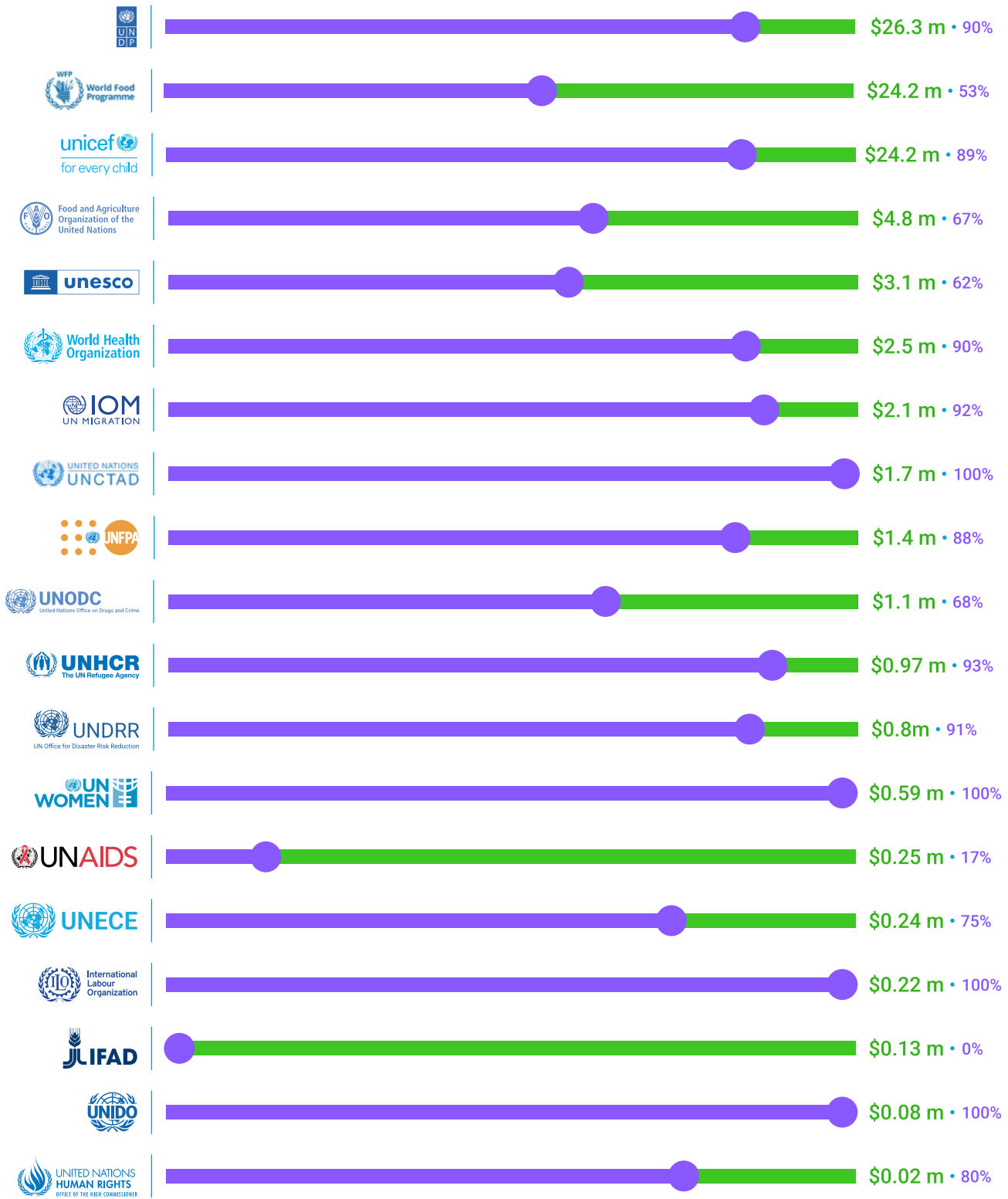
● Available ● Gap

UN Agencies Funds vs Donor Funds 2025



● UN Agency (Core funds) ● Donor (Non-Core Funds)

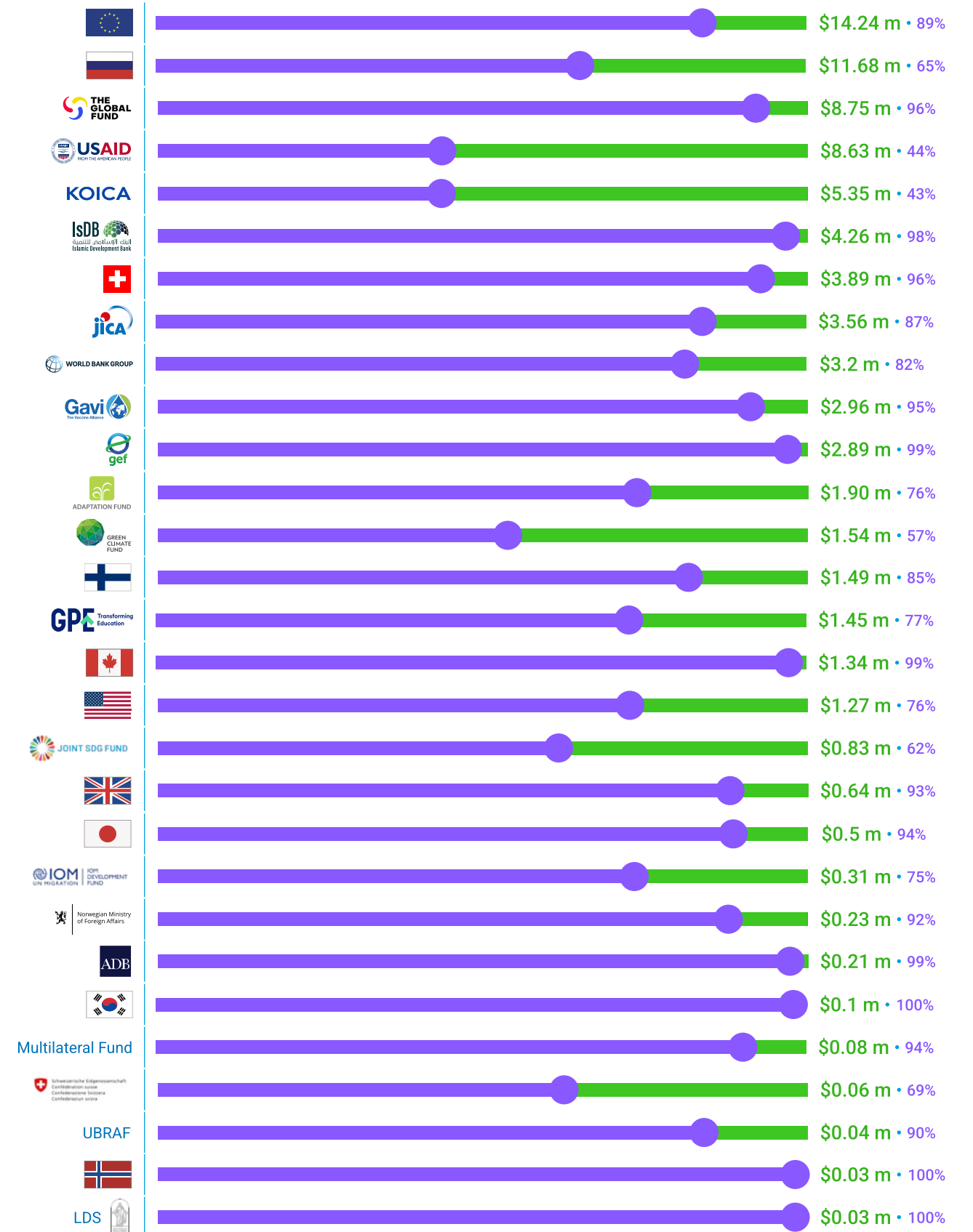
UN Agencies Budget vs Expenditures 2025



● 2025 Expenditure

● 2025 Available

Donor Funds Budget vs Expenditures 2025





CHAPTER 3

Key Focus in 2026



In 2026, Tajikistan will celebrate the 35th anniversary of independence. The UN will continue to advance national priorities through the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023–2026, with focus on human capital development, inclusive and green economic growth, resilience to climate risks, and strengthening rule of law and human rights. At the same time, the UN will finalize its new Cooperation Framework for 2027–2030, which will advance the Sustainable Development Goals through six key transitions: food systems, affordable energy, digital connectivity, education, decent jobs and social protection, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Tajikistan's global leadership on water diplomacy will be reinforced through the 4th High-Level International Conference on "Water for Sustainable Development." The UN will support integrated approaches to climate adaptation, sustainable water management, and environmental protection. Priorities will include implementation of NDC 3.0, meaningful participation in COP31, strengthening resilience of communities, promoting nature-based solutions, enhancing early warning systems, and advancing disaster risk reduction.

The promotion of rights of persons with disabilities will remain a central priority. The UN will support inclusive service delivery in health, education, and social protection, while expanding employment opportunities through partnerships with the private sector. Efforts will also focus on strengthening disability-disaggregated data to inform evidence-based policymaking and supporting Tajikistan's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. UN System will work with WOMENinTech, Tajikistan to launch a pilot programme on Inclusive Employment for women and girls with disabilities, investing in training and capacity building in using digital tools and providing job placements, enabling decent work and sustainable source of income.

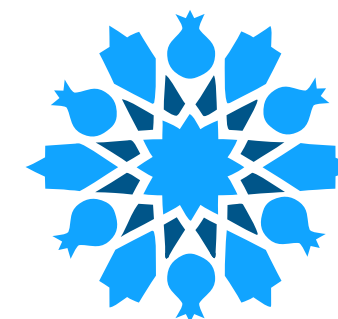
The UN will also support Tajikistan in expanding sustainable finance. This includes introducing green and thematic bonds, creating new public-private partnerships, and exploring blended finance mechanisms in cooperation with national and international partners. In 2026, the UN System will strengthen its partnership with the Ministry of Finance to further diversify innovative financial instruments including Islamic finance instruments, such as Green Sukuk.

The UN system, in partnership with IFIs, will promote the potential of Sustainable Finance as a catalyzing mechanism for mobilizing capital towards projects that promote climate resilience, sustainable economy, and social equity and support the Republic of Tajikistan in pursuing its green, inclusive socio-economic development.

Support for vulnerable groups will continue to be critical. The UN will promote gender equality, youth empowerment, child protection, and improved access to quality education, health, and social services. Special attention will be given to refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, persons living with HIV, and people left behind, with policies and practices aimed at reducing structural inequalities.

The United Nations System in Tajikistan will continue to support the country's emerging priorities in digitalization and artificial intelligence. Special emphasis will be placed on bridging the gender divide in technology, ensuring that women and girls are at the forefront of digital transformation. Efforts will focus on strengthening digital governance, expanding inclusive public services, enhancing digital skills, and promoting safe and ethical applications of AI to improve service delivery and policy planning.

The UN will engage with the Government of Tajikistan with an intention to launch support programs for border communities to strengthen social cohesion and cross-border collaboration.





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