



THE ANTI-CORRUPTION
AGENCY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION REPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

TASHKENT 2024



“If all strata of society, the best specialists are not involved in the fight against corruption, and all citizens are not inoculated with the integrity vaccine, we will not be able to achieve the high goals that we have set. We have to move from fighting the consequences of corruption to its early prevention.”

**Shavkat Mirziyoyev,
President of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

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The National Anti-Corruption Report of the Republic of Uzbekistan

INTRODUCTION

The National Anti-Corruption Report of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the National Report) is prepared on the basis of Article 93 of the new edition of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Article 81 of the Law 'On Combating Corruption'. The purpose of the National Report is to inform the public about the essence of state policy in the fight against corruption in Uzbekistan, the reforms implemented in this area in 2023, and their results.

The National Report is the third report prepared by the Anti-Corruption Agency (hereinafter referred to as the Agency). The National Report examines the reforms and comprehensive measures implemented in Uzbekistan to combat corruption, in particular, the implementation of state anti-corruption programs, adopted regulatory legal acts related to this area, the dynamics of corruption-related crimes, and provides detailed information on the activities of government bodies and organizations in this area.

In addition, the National Report provides information on the results of the Openness Index, aimed at assessing the openness and transparency of the activities of government bodies and the Rating of effectiveness of anti-corruption activities in government bodies and organizations.

It presents the progress of the Corruption-Free Area projects in sectors with an increased risk of corruption, the results of the analysis of areas where the most corruption offenses are committed, as well as information on the prevention of corruption.

For ensuring the continuation of the reforms, proposals are formulated regarding future tasks and mechanisms for their implementation.

The National Report comprises of Introduction, 13 paragraphs, Conclusion, and Proposals and Recommendations.

The National Report is intended for the general public, in particular, ordinary citizens, representatives of government agencies, independent experts, rating agencies, public activists, scholars and other interested parties.

1. PRIORITY AREAS OF STATE ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

Priority areas of state policy in the field of combating corruption include:



Reducing bureaucracy in public administration, optimizing work through eliminating duplicate tasks and functions in government agencies, transiting from 'manual' to 'automated' management system



Improving the effectiveness of the fight against corruption in government agencies and organizations



Improving the area of ensuring openness of the activities of government agencies and organizations



Expanding the participation of representatives of civil society institutions in the fight against corruption and increasing public oversight



Reducing the level of corruption risks in all sectors and industries of the state and society



Expanding the scale of international cooperation in the fight against corruption



Creating an environment of zero tolerance for corruption



Increasing the knowledge of the population and civil servants in combating corruption

The legal basis for preventing corruption in 2023 improved.

1. Four articles in the new edition of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan of April 30, 2023 reflect the norms related to the fight against corruption:

1 Hearing by Parliament of the annual National Anti-Corruption Report in the Republic of Uzbekistan (Article 93)

2 Election by the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the head of the republican anti-corruption agency (Article 95)

3 Submission by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of a candidate for the post of head of the republican anti-corruption agency (Article 109)

4 The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan ensures openness and transparency, legality and efficiency of the executive authorities, implements measures to combat corruption in their activities (Article 115)

2. On January 25, 2023, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan signed a Decree No. DP 14 'On priority organizational measures for the effective organization of the activities of republican executive bodies.'

The total limited number of administrative employees of the executive power of the republic has been determined; introduction of additional administrative staff units at the expense of extra-budgetary funds strictly forbidden.

A requirement was established to create Internal Anti-Corruption Control Units in ministries and departments on a mandatory basis.

For reference: In the reporting year, internal anti-corruption control units started operating in **114** government bodies and organizations, as well as banks, with a total of **1,477** employees.

When carrying out **4,349** control measures, they revealed cases of theft of UZS **342.6** billion and financial violations worth UZS **928.9** billion. All collected materials were sent to law enforcement agencies for legal assessment.

3. The Resolution 'On the value of a gift that can be received by a civil servant in connection with a business trip, international and other official event, as well as on the procedure for disposing of it' has been approved (registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan on March 13, 2023, №3425).



The Resolution defines the Regulation for receiving gifts by a civil servant during business trips outside Uzbekistan, as well as during international and other official events held within the country.



It is allowed receive gifts by a civil servant during international and other official events. However, it is prohibited for government civil servants to receive any gifts in exchange for performing or not performing their official duties in the interests of individuals and legal entities.



In case the value of the gift is equal or does not exceed 4 BCA (the base calculating amount), the civil servant has the right to keep the gift and in case the value of the gift exceeded 4 BCAs, it is accepted into the balance of the government body and used for its needs.

4. The Law on Anti-Corruption Expertise of Regulatory Legal Acts and Their Drafts was adopted (LRU №860 of 8 August 2023).

The Law established the government bodies carrying out anti-corruption expertise of regulatory legal acts and their drafts, as well as the procedure for monitoring compliance with the requirements of the legislation on anti-corruption expertise and the factors causing corruption in regulatory legal acts and their drafts.

According to the Law, the bodies conducting anti-corruption expertise of regulatory legal acts and their drafts are:

1

The Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan

2

The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan and its territorial divisions

3

Legal Counsels of government bodies and organizations

4

Government bodies and organizations responsible for ensuring the implementation of the relevant regulatory legal acts

5. Goal 89 in the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of September 11, 2023 'On the Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy' provides for increasing the effectiveness of the system for preventing corruption factors, accelerating the continuation of work on forming an uncompromising attitude towards corruption in society, which targets:



Joining to top **50** Countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index by Transparency International;



Achieving a two-fold reduction in cases of violation of the requirements of legislative acts on public procurement;



Widely introducing public oversight of public procurement when conducting direct contracting to prevent theft of funds and inflated prices for goods and services relative to market value;



Ensuring the development of 100-percent regulatory legal acts based on the corruption-free legislation principle.

6. The Methodology for determining corruption factors in regulatory legal acts and their drafts has been approved (registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan on October 31, 2023, №3470).

The Regulation approves the Methodology for determining corruption factors in the following four areas (29 corruption factors and examples included):

1

Factors causing corruption related to stability of norms and compliance with legislation;

2

Factors causing corruption related to powers, rights and obligations

3

Factors causing corruption related to administrative procedures;

4

Factors causing corruption related to control and oversight activities.

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7. On November 27, 2023, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan signed a Decree No. DP 200 'On measures to further improve the anti-corruption system and increase the efficiency of the public control system over the activities of government bodies and organizations.'

According to the Decree, the list of socially significant information posted as open data was expanded to **5 items (from 35 to 40)**.

1.	Information about a single online queue of pilgrims queuing to go on Hajj, by region (date of queuing the application of the person leaving for the pilgrimage, his serial number in the list);
2.	Information about the queue (list) of applications submitted for admission of children to state preschool educational institutions (the date the application was placed in the queue, the serial number in the list, age group and institution number);
3.	Internal procedure of the procurement commission (regulation, instruction or other intradepartmental document) determining the procedure for carrying out public procurement in government bodies and organizations.
4.	Information about vacancies in central, regional organizations and system organizations, conditions of employment, requirements for candidates, documents to be submitted.
5.	Information about grants and social contract projects provided by government bodies and organizations to nongovernmental nonprofit organizations, including nongovernmental nonprofit organizations that won and reports on the work they carried out within the framework of the order.

In addition, the Decree also approved the State Anti-Corruption Program 2023-2024. The State Program defined tasks consisting of 30 items in 9 areas. Those important measures included

I	Prevention of corruption in public administration;
II	Prevention of corruption in the civil service;
III	Prevention of corruption in administrative procedures;
IV	Prevention of corruption in public procurement;
V	Prevention of corruption in social and economic development, and entrepreneurship;

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VI	Improvement in the institutional framework for combating corruption;
VII	Prevention of corruption in the judicial system;
VIII	Raising legal awareness and legal culture of the population, forming an intolerant attitude towards corruption in society;
IX	Strengthening international cooperation in combating corruption.

2. CRIMINAL AND LEGAL STATISTICS

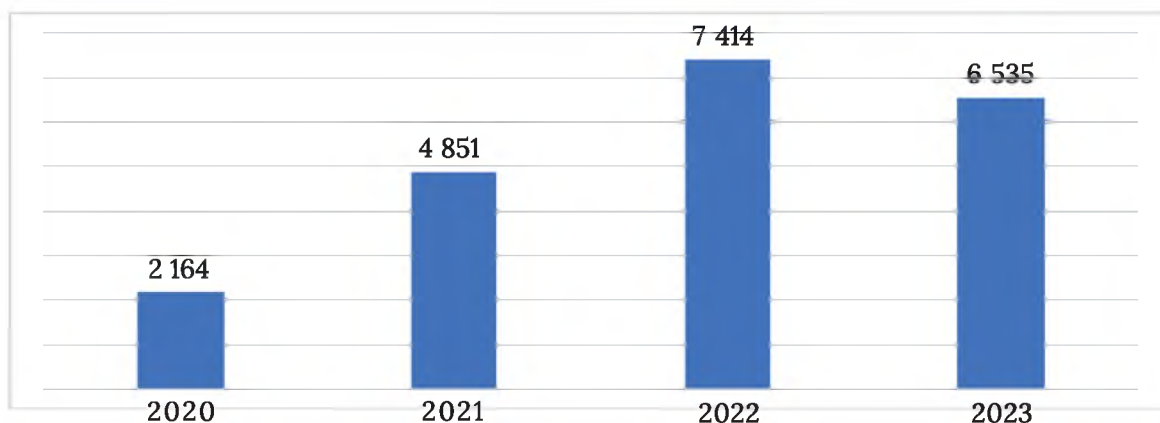
According to the analysis, in 2023, a total of **6,535** people was brought to criminal liability for corruption-related crimes (**in 2022 - 7,414 people**), which compared to the previous year decreased by 879 people or 12 percent.

Similarly, in 2023, the number of criminal cases related to corruption, for which the courts issued a guilty verdict, amounted to 4,128, and compared to 2022 (4,607), decreased by 479 or 11 percent.

A total of 1,299 (1,482) or 20 percent of 6,535 people held accountable were sentenced to imprisonment.

Note: The remaining 2,721 people were sentenced to correctional labor, 1,076 people were sentenced to restriction of freedom, 982 people were sentenced to a fine, 21 people - to mandatory community service, 7 people were deprived of certain rights, 53 people were given suspended sentences, no punishment was imposed for 227 people, and 149 people were exempted from punishment.

Dynamics of the number of persons committed corruption-related crimes



For reference: After the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 829 of December 31, 2020 clearly defined the classification of corruption-related crimes, statistics showed a sharp increase in the number of people who committed corrupt crimes in 2021.

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Corruption-related crimes caused the damage to the state interests in the amount of UZS **1.4 trillion** (UZS **2.04 trillion** in 2022), of which UZS **745 billion** (**1.1 trillion**) or **51 (54)** percent was covered.

The largest share of damage caused to the state interests falls on Andijan Region (**UZS 243 billion**), Namangan Region (**UZS 194 billion**), Kashkadarya Region (**UZS 143 billion**) and Tashkent Region (**UZS 132 billion**).

The damage to the state interests caused by corruption-related crimes decreased by UZS **608 billion** or **29** percent compared to 2022.

In 2022-2023, UZS 7.1 billion, USD **345** thousand and RUB **34.5** thousand (including UZS **3.7** billion, USD **87.3** thousand and RUB **34.5** thousand in 2023), which were the subject of bribes, were confiscated in favor of the state.

Dynamics of the most committed corruption-related crimes

Crime types	2022	2023	Dynamics
Theft by misappropriation or embezzlement (Article 167)	3670	3587 ↓	- 2 %
Fraud (Article 168)	1162	935 ↓	- 19 %
Receiving a bribe (Article 210)	199	142 ↓	- 28 %
Giving a bribe (Article 211)	1289	1009 ↓	- 21 %
Abuse of power or authority	254	200 ↓	- 21 %
Official forgery	160	101 ↓	- 36 %

In **2023**, corruption crimes were detected in **181** cases of employment and **326** cases related to the issuance of bank loans.

Of those brought to criminal responsibility, **12** people (**27**) worked in republican, **319** (**270**) regional and **5024** (**5755**) district and city government organizations.

Corruption-related crimes increased in **4** regions of the republic in 2023 compared to 2022 and decreased in **10** regions.

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In particular, the number of corruption-related crimes increased in Surkhandarya Region (9.9%), Andijan Region (6.4%), Sirdarya Region (2.8%) and Navoi Region (1.3%).

According to the analysis of crimes, the employment of previously convicted persons in the civil service creates an opportunity for them to commit crimes again. In 2023, 1,146 previously convicted persons committed corruption-related crimes, of which 566 had previously been convicted of corruption crimes.

Analysis of data on individuals convicted of corruption crimes by region

№	Regions	Number of convicts		Differences	
		2022	2023	сони	%
1	Surkhandarya Region	302	332 ↑	30	9,9
2	Andijan Region	913	971 ↑	58	6,4
3	Sirdarya Region	459	472 ↑	13	2,8
4	Navoi Region	311	315 ↑	4	1,3
5	Republic of Karakalpakstan	380	364 ↓	-16	-4,2
6	Jizzakh Region	267	251 ↓	-16	-6,0
7	Ferghana Region	601	525 ↓	-76	-12,6
8	Khorezm Region	164	136 ↓	-28	-17,1
9	Tashkent city	363	299 ↓	-64	-17,6
10	Namangan Region	940	767 ↓	-173	-18,4
11	Kashkadarya Region	1 005	813 ↓	-192	-19,1
12	Tashkent Region	725	580 ↓	-145	-20,0
13	Bukhara Region	449	338 ↓	-111	-24,7
14	Samarkand Region	535	372 ↓	-163	-30,5
	Total	7 414	6 535	- 879	- 11,9

**Sectoral analysis of persons convicted of corruption-related crimes in 2023
(2022)**



474 (626)

preschool and school
education system



323 (381)

banks



299 (384)

healthcare system



250 (227)

local administrations



211 (222)

law enforcement agencies



148 (46)

gas supply



116 (68)

electrical networks



112 (187)

higher education system



86 (114)

cadaster



66 (56)

employment



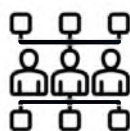
59 (93)

water supply



46 (61)

agriculture



35 (29)

NGOs



210 (217)

business entities

3. ACTIVITIES OF GOVERNMENT BODIES ENGAGED IN FIGHTING CORRUPTION

In accordance with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan 'On Combating Corruption', government bodies directly implementing anti-corruption activities (the Anti-Corruption Agency, the State Security Service, Prosecutor General's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Justice) have carried out a number of activities to combat and prevent corruption in the country.



Ўзбекистон Республикаси
КОРРУПЦИЯГА ҚАРШИ
КУРАШИШ АГЕНТЛИГИ

The Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan

In rule-making:

The Agency, together with interested organizations, developed more than **10** draft regulatory legal acts, **4** of which have been adopted.

Based on the results of studies conducted in various areas, **50** analytical data have been prepared.

On issues of eliminating violations of the law identified as a result of the studies:

225 statutory notices were submitted to ministries and departments;

227 enquiries were sent to law enforcement agencies;

23 criminal cases and 96 administrative cases were initiated;

74 people were brought to disciplinary responsibility.

The corruption factors were analyzed in the following areas and proposals were made to eliminate them:

public procurement;

education;

energy;

land allocation;

ensuring the openness of government agencies.

The results of studies conducted in the field of public procurement are as follows:

- ✓ In **138** cases, public procurements worth UZS **110** billion conducted in violation of the law were cancelled;
- ✓ **15** civil servants, engaged in the work of **20** business entities as founders and heads, stopped their business activities.

For reference: in 2022, submission of 197 statutory notices and 174 enquiries resulted with initiation of 35 criminal cases and 74 administrative cases, bringing 14 people to disciplinary responsibility. 119 public procurements worth UZS 360.9 billion conducted with violations were cancelled.

The analysis revealed that ineffective arrangement of activities of internal anti-corruption control units in these areas, excessive bureaucratic obstacles in the provision of public services to the population, the presence of corruption factors in the current regulatory legal acts, cases of violation of the law in public procurement, as well as an insufficient level of work on digitalization are among the reasons for the persistence of corruption factors.

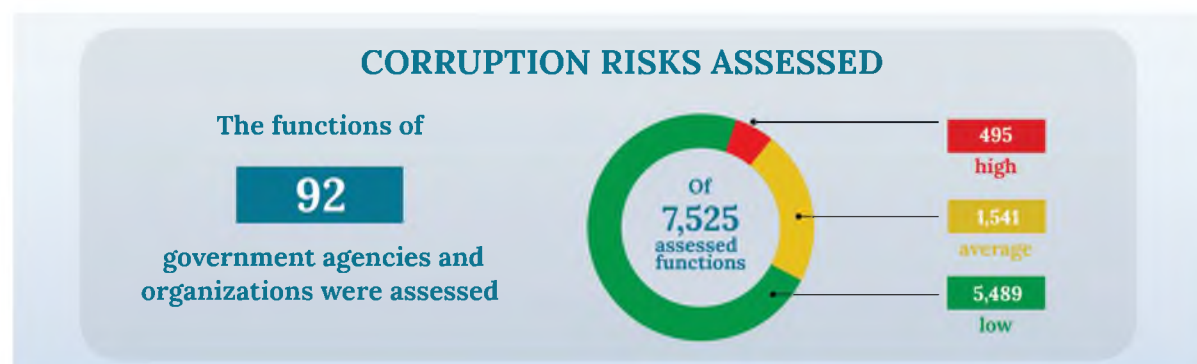
Deficiencies identified during regular remote monitoring of compliance with obligations related to ensuring the openness of government agencies were eliminated by undertaking necessary measures.

In particular, official websites of **93** ministries and departments were monitored, which followed by submission of **44** statutory notices to ministries and departments to eliminate deficiencies in the area of transparency.

As a result, **16** responsible employees of ministries and departments were brought to disciplinary responsibility, **7** people received warning, **5** people were brought to disciplinary responsibility, and the labor contracts of **4** people were terminated.

In 2023, **10** workshops and trainings were organized to advance skills of representatives of ministries and departments, local governments, regional anti-corruption councils, and civil society institutions. More than **200** employees underwent trainings.

On May 11, 2022, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan signed a Resolution No.RP 240 'On improving mechanisms for eliminating corruption risks in state administration and measures to expand public participation in this area', which provided for the establishment of a system for assessing the level of corruption risks in the functions of government bodies and organizations.



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The results of the assessment were publicly discussed, and based on the proposals and recommendations, the government organizations' Electronic Register of Corruption Relations, Corruption Risk Maps, Anti-Corruption Programs, and a List of Positions with High Corruption Risk have been developed.

Further development of effective cooperation has been achieved in the fight against corruption with UNDP, UNODC, the World Bank, OSCE, GIZ, INGO Regional Dialogue and the anti-corruption agencies of foreign countries.

Memorandums of Cooperation on preventing and combating corruption were signed with foreign partners



The Administrative Control and Transparency Authority of the State of Qatar



The Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea



The Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center of the State of Qatar



The Administrative Control Authority of the Arab Republic of Egypt

International events (forums, conferences and ceremonies)

May 16-17
the Central Asia Forum on Transparency of Government Agencies Activities (Bukhara)

November 2
the Regional Conference on Fast Tracking the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Tashkent)

November 3
the 3rd Tashkent International Anti-Corruption Forum (Tashkent)

December 19
Award Ceremony of the International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award established by the Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani (Tashkent)

December 20
Integrity Champions Forum with the participation of the winners of the International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award (Tashkent)



Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Special attention was paid to ensuring the implementation of measures envisaged in the implementation of the Corruption-Free Areas projects in healthcare, higher education, construction, public procurement and banking sectors through organizing control activities for clear and accurate implementation of anti-corruption legislation. In particular:

- ✓ **101** statutory notices were submitted to the relevant authorities to eliminate cases of violations of the law identified in higher education;
- ✓ **329** illegal acts were brought into compliance with the law, 276 people were brought to disciplinary and administrative responsibility, 99 criminal cases were initiated;
- ✓ violations worth UZS 2 trillion were identified during **384** studies focused on the legality of public procurement.

Cases of violation of the law identified in public procurement:

- ✓ failure to enter information on purchases on the portal (UZS 709 billion);
- ✓ violation of requirements for public procurement contests and tenders (UZS 593 billion);
- ✓ violation of the law in conclusion of direct contracts (UZS 63 billion);
- ✓ failure to conduct expertise of contracts and technical specifications (UZS 19.4 billion);
- ✓ conflict of interests (UZS 11.6 billion);
- ✓ failure to use correct purchase type (UZS 6.6 billion)

Measures taken to eliminate cases of violation of the law identified in public procurement:



275 statutory notices submitted;



393 criminal cases initiated;



25 illegal acts brought into compliance with the law;



violated rights of **770** people restored;



1219 people brought to administrative responsibility.

In 2023, the Prosecutor's Office rewarded a total of 30 (68 in 2022) individuals for reporting corruption offenses or otherwise assisting in the fight against corruption.

Two of them received a cash bonus, 22 received a letter of thanks, and 6 received keepsakes.

An analysis of corruption crimes and their causes in separate areas was conducted, which followed by implementing measures to eliminate those corruption factors.

In particular, the root causes of corruption crimes committed in the field of healthcare, local government bodies (including the activities of improvement departments and assistants to hokims), road construction and repair, and the recruitment processes for government agencies and organizations were analyzed, 6 reports were sent to the National Anti-Corruption Council on the results with the aim to determine appropriate measures.

In addition, in 2023, the causes and conditions of corruption crimes committed in the tax, banking and healthcare systems were analyzed, critical discussions were held at board meetings with the participation of heads and responsible employees of relevant ministries and departments, and measures were taken to prevent corruption.

Information on the results of consideration of appeals from individuals and legal entities on corruption cases

- criminal cases were initiated related to 2046 cases of theft or embezzlement, 333 cases of abuse of power or authority or deviation from authority, 342 cases of indifference to the position or inaction of government bodies, 99 cases of forgery and 85 cases of bribery.
- 674 protests were filed against illegal documents, 711 people were brought to disciplinary and administrative responsibility.

For to increase legal awareness and legal culture of the population, and to form an uncompromising attitude towards corruption in society, there were held 9583 events, including 17 conferences, 156 seminars, 2863 round tables, as well as 1878 media coverage, including 377 on television, 527 on radio, 172 in printed media and 802 Internet networks.

Of these, 4292 events were held at workplaces, 2197 – in communities, 459 – in educational institutions and 69 – among entrepreneurs.



Department for Combating Economic Crimes

On the part of the Department for Combating Economic Crimes under the Prosecutor General's Office:

- 3996 cases of corruption offenses were identified, which followed by initiation of 3942 criminal and 54 administrative cases;

Of the identified crimes, 1382 are bribery, of which 395 are bribery crimes committed directly by officials of government bodies and organizations.

- 1520 criminal and 673 administrative cases related to theft of state budget funds were initiated, the damage to the interests of the state and society amounted to UZS 977 billion;

In the area of public procurement, 280 crimes related to the embezzlement of budget funds, including artificial price inflation, were identified, it was established that damage to the budget amounted to UZS 308.4 billion.

- as a result of control measures carried out in the construction sector, 770 cases of embezzlement crimes were identified, which caused damages in the amount of UZS 283.8 billion;

- in the fuel and energy sector, 1,094 criminal cases were initiated on the facts of embezzlement in the amount of UZS 217.6 billion.



The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan

In 2023, officers of the Combating Corruption and Economic Crimes Unit of the Crime Detection Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and its regional divisions identified more than 2,800 crimes committed in economic sector, against the work of government bodies, administration and public associations, as well as corruption crimes.

In particular, there have been detected and resolved crimes in the agro-industrial complex - 467, in the fuel and energy complex - 304, in the social area - 289, in medium and small businesses - 148, in supervisory bodies - 122, in government agencies - 80, in the consumer market - 58, in banking, financial and credit system - 46, in industry - 22 crimes, in foreign firms and joint ventures - 13, in law enforcement agencies - 10 crimes, in the judiciary - 1, as well as in other areas - about 1300.

These crimes included bribery, extortion, fraud, currency violations, counterfeiting, embezzlement, etc.

It was ensured to recover UZS 249 billion 548 million (45.8 percent) out of UZS 511 billion 182 million of material damage caused by crimes.

More than 220 videos and reels aimed at raising the legal awareness of the population and forming an attitude of intolerance towards corruption have been prepared and published in the media and on the official pages of the internal affairs agencies on social networks.

More than 10 press events, including briefings, press conferences, Doors Open Day and others were held within the Anti-Corruption Month, timed to December 9 - the International Anti-Corruption Day.



The State Security Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan

In 2023, the State Security Service divisions in cooperation with law enforcement agencies carried out operations to detain **1,290** people for bribery, and they correspond to the following areas:

517 - executive power, macroeconomics, foreign economic and investment activities, banking and financial activities, industry-construction, housing and communal services, fuel and energy complex and agro-industrial complex;

221 - education, youth, sports and self-government bodies;

197 - law enforcement, control and judicial bodies;

160 - healthcare and culture;



The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan

In combating corruption, the Ministry of Justice implements measures in the areas of legal and anti-corruption expertise of draft legislative acts, assessment of the regulatory impact of draft legislative acts, as well as improving the legal knowledge of citizens and civil servants.

In particular, in 2023, 1979 regulatory legal acts underwent legal expertise, of which 543 were returned with objections.

In addition, 571 corruption factors were identified in 359 of these drafts and proposals were made to the developers to eliminate them.

In 2023, 458 drafts submitted to the Ministry of Justice underwent regulatory impact assessment, as a result of which more than 220 ineffective norms were excluded from the drafts, 10 mandatory requirements were canceled and 31 mandatory requirements were revised.

More than 34 thousand awareness-raising events were organized, aimed at widely explaining the essence and significance of legislative acts on combating corruption. Those include

821 TV coverage;

1499 radio coverage;

19,645 seminars, round tables, conferences;

10,276 materials posted on the website and in social networks;

840 analytical materials and articles published in newspapers and magazines.

On November 30, 2023, the Ministry of Justice held a Doors Open Day and a press conference as part of the Anti-Corruption Month, timed to December 9 - International Anti-Corruption Day.

In order to further promote the fight against corruption, 6,240 justice workers underwent training on the platform of continuous professional development.

The Legislative News section in the official YouTube page of the Ministry of Justice contains videos aimed at promoting the fight against corruption.

4. MEASURES TO PREVENT CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Article 19 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan 'On Combating Corruption' defines a number of areas as measures to prevent corruption in public administration:

- implementation of parliamentary and public control over the activities of government bodies in combating corruption;
- introduction of performance criteria, standards and quality assessment systems by officials of government bodies;
- definition of uniform principles and rules of ethics for employees of government bodies at work and off work.

In 2023, considerable work was carried out in each of these areas.

1 In parliamentary oversight in the field of combating corruption the responsible committees of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis and the Legislative Chamber undertook a number of actions:

- The Chambers of the Oliy Majlis reviewed and approved draft Laws on conflict of interest and anti-corruption expertise of regulatory legal acts in combating corruption;
- The Committee on Anti-Corruption and Judicial Affairs of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis heard information from the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation on the work carried out in the education system within the framework of the Corruption-Free Area project. Studies were also carried out in Khorezm and Bukhara regions;

Members of the Committee on Anti-Corruption and Judicial Affairs of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis made more than 300 interviews in the media on the reforms in

- the fight against corruption;

- ☑ The Committee on Judicial and Legal Issues and Anti-Corruption of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis heard information on the state of anti-corruption activities in Khorezm and Tashkent regions from officials of regional government bodies engaged in anti-corruption activities;

- ☑ Members of the Committee on Judicial and Legal Issues and Anti-Corruption of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis made more than 200 interviews in the media on the fight against corruption, as well as 26 events organized, including two international conferences, three meetings, 8 discussions and 14 interviews.

2 Open competition employment to the state civil service is being improved.

In particular, the launch of a single open portal of vacancies for civil servants - (<https://vacancy.argos.uz/>) makes it possible to appoint to vacant positions in government bodies only candidates who have passed the competition

Of the 21,842 completed competitions in 2023, 10,033 (46 percent) were filled by qualified employees, and 11,809 (54 percent) vacant positions were reselected.

Competitions are organized in 3 stages (selection based on qualification requirements, tests and interviews), and the winners of the competition are determined collegially by selection committees headed by the heads of government agencies.

The duration of the competition is on average 20-25 days, regular work is carried out to reduce the human factor. In particular, tests in regions are organized in specially equipped test centers, and available online.

Also, from December 1, 2023, the testing system was improved, a single Civil Servant test was introduced for all ministries and departments, 56 points are set as the passing score, and candidates with positive results receive online certificates valid for 3 months.

At the interview stage, the selection committee at the ministries and departments asks candidates questions randomly through the Random program, and the candidates are assessed online on the platform (vacancy.argos.uz) based on four criteria (1-100 scoring system) and winner are determined automatically, and the interview results are sent to the candidates' personal accounts.

The criteria for the effectiveness of civil servants were developed and evaluation mechanisms introduced.

The <https://samaradorlik.uz> electronic platform was developed to digitize the system for evaluating the performance of civil servants based on key indicators. Currently, on this platform, key performance indicators of deputy hokims of districts (cities) are approved and assessed by the relevant decisions of the Chair of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, hokims of regions and Tashkent city.

3 The activities of the ethics commissions created in the executive authorities and hokimiyats (local administrations) of the republic in 2023 were analyzed.

The ethics commissions of the executive authorities of the republic (hereinafter referred to as government bodies) reviewed 224 cases, 171 cases in hokimiyats, which followed by applying appropriate penalties to 193 civil servants. Labor contracts were terminated with three of them, 119 people were brought to disciplinary responsibility, and 71 people received warnings.

At the same time, the analysis revealed that the most ethics commissions operate insufficiently, and some government agencies did not create the ethics commission at all. In particular:

Although it is assigned to control over compliance with the rules of conduct of employees of government bodies, the ethics commissions of 31 republican governing bodies, 14 system organizations, 462 regional departments, 4 regional administrations, 134 district (city) administrations did not hold a single meeting of the commissions and a single case considered;

The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan of October 15, 2022 No. 595 'On additional measures to ensure compliance with ethical rules by state civil servants' provides that violation of the requirements of the rules of ethics are the basis for disciplinary and other types of liability. However, although the commissions noted 202 cases of ethical violations, no action was taken (52 percent of the total number of cases);

No preventive measures were taken on the issues considered by the ethics commissions of the Ministry of Mining Industry and Geology, the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations, the Ministry of Sports, the Forestry Agency and the Uzkomnazorat Inspection.

5. ACTIVITIES OF INTERNAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CONTROL UNITS

By the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of January 25, 2023 No.DP 14 'On the first organizational measures for the effective establishment of the activities of the executive authorities of the republic', a mandatory procedure was introduced for the creation of internal anti-corruption control units in all government bodies and organizations at the republican level.

Currently, 114 government agencies and organizations, as well as banks, have internal anti-corruption control units with 1,477 employees.



Methodological foundations have been developed for establishing compliance control system to combat corruption and appropriate trainings have been conducted.

Based on the requirements of ISO 37001:2016 international standard, 10 samples of internal departmental documents and 4 methodological manuals have been developed, aimed at creating a compliance control system to combat corruption.



Ички назорат тузилмалари фаолиятини рақамлаштириш мақсадида «E-Antikor» электрон платформаси ишга туширилди



29 мингдан ортиқ давлат хизматчиси ҳаллолик стандартлари бўйича ўқитилди



Ички назорат тузилмалари томонидан коррупциянинг олдини олишга қаратилган 13 269 та семинар, давра суҳбатлари ва 14 486 та тарғибот тadbирлари ўтказилди

During 4,349 control activities carried out by internal anti-corruption control units of government agencies, cases of theft of UZS 342.6 billion and financial violations of UZS 928.9 billion were identified, and the collected materials were sent to law enforcement agencies for legal assessment.

Also, the illegal spending of UZS 953.4 billion was prevented, and UZS 372 billion of illegal expenses were credited to the accounts of government agencies.

The Anti-Corruption Agency together with the Accounts Chamber studied the activities of internal anti-corruption control units and provided methodological support for their effective organization.

Despite the positive results achieved, some departments allow shortcomings in the organization of the work of internal anti-corruption control units.

In particular, out of 996 staff units created in 37 government agencies where the internal anti-corruption control units were introduced, 172 (17.2 percent) are vacant, and 35 employees of 6 organizations are assigned additional tasks to their basic functions.

Internal anti-corruption control units of 52 government organizations did not conduct a single control event, 21 of them did not take preventive measures, 36 did not take measures to identify and prevent corruption risks.

For example, the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Energy, the Committee for Roads, the Competition Promotion and Consumer Protection Committee, the Inspectorate for Construction and Housing and Public Utilities conducted not a single control event.

Moreover, 13 government organizations failed to effectively establish the internal control system, and 20 government agencies did not develop departmental documents related to the implementation of the internal control system.

For example, the Andijan and Surkhandarya regional administrations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Inspection for Control of Safety and Water Use of Water Management Facilities have not developed departmental documents related to the implementation of the internal control system.

Based on the monitoring results, instructions and recommendations for eliminating the identified deficiencies were directed to the relevant ministries and departments. In addition, the Anti-Corruption Agency has developed a draft legal act on further improvement of the activities of internal anti-corruption control units. The draft provides for legal regulation of the activities of internal anti-corruption control units, monitoring of their effectiveness and discussion of the results, establishment of minimum requirements for staff and measures to improve the qualification of employees.

6. MEASURES IMPLEMENTED TO IDENTIFY CORRUPTION FACTORS IN CERTAIN AREAS AND THEIR ELIMINATION

The Anti-Corruption Agency together with government bodies engaged in the fight against corruption and other government agencies conducted studies to identify and eliminate situations that create conditions for corruption in various areas of public life.

Based on the study results, proposals were developed to reduce the risks of corruption, and practical measures were taken to reduce the human factor through digitalization, ensuring openness and transparency, and abolishing discretionary powers.

On the activities of the hokims' assistants

In recent times there have been cases of corruption crimes related to the theft of state funds by the hokims' assistants using the powers granted to them to allocate preferential loans in order to attract the population to entrepreneurship.

In 2023, 69 criminal cases related to the activities of hokims' assistants were identified and investigated

Article 228 of the Criminal Code (forgery and counterfeit of documents, seals, marks and stamps, sale or use) for 28 persons;

Article 168 of the Criminal Code (fraud) for 19 persons;

Article 167 of the Criminal Code (theft or embezzlement) for 17 persons;

Article 210 of the Criminal Code for 5 persons (bribe).

In order to identify and eliminate corruption risks in the activities of the hokims' assistants, in August 2023, the Agency for Working Mahallabay and Development of Entrepreneurship together with the Accounts Chamber of the Republic of Uzbekistan studied a marketplace system that offers preferential loans as part of family business development programs, as well as goods and services for purchase using these loans.

The studies revealed that the hokims' assistants and their close relatives were involved in participation of 277 supply companies in the 'marketplace', which received preferential loans in the amount of UZS 202.5 billion. As a result, 61 hokims' assistants were dismissed, one assistant was fined, and 85 hokims' assistants were reprimanded.

In order to prevent similar negative situations, a number of mechanisms have been introduced to reduce the risks of corruption in the activities of the hokim's assistants.



Within the framework of the Family Entrepreneurship Development Programs, the process of allocating loans on the recommendation of the hokim's assistants (lending, selection and delivery of products) were completely digitized through the oilakredit.uz electronic platform.



Onlayn mahalla, Aholi tomorqasi, Onlayn bozor platforms have been launched, which ensure the prevention of corruption in the provision of services to the population by the hokims' assistants. tomorqasi", "Onlayn-bozor" платформалари ишга туширилди.

On the prevention of corruption in business

A number of measures have been taken to create conditions for fair competition in business, to reduce inspections of the activities of business entities, prevent illegal interference in their activities, and protect the rights of entrepreneurs.

In 2023, 27 supervisory authorities conducted 124,123 inspections of entrepreneurs' activities, of which 2,399 (2 percent) were conducted by agreement, and the remaining 121,724 (98 percent) were conducted after advance notification.

Of the total 4,703 orders submitted by supervisory authorities for approval of inspections, 2,399 (51 percent) were approved, and the remaining 2,304 (49 percent) were rejected due to the lack of legal grounds for conducting an inspection.

The number of inspections carried out in 2023 in the activities of entrepreneurs decreased by 42,914 (26 percent) compared to the same period in 2022.

In order to protect the rights of entrepreneurs, 3,387 enforcement actions were applied, of which 122 claims and complaints worth UZS 33.5 billion were sent to the relevant court, 113 statutory notices, 49 conclusions (opinions), 23 warnings were submitted to government agencies and organizations, as well as and 3,080 administrative penalties imposed.

As a result, the courts satisfied the claims in favor of entrepreneurs in the amount of UZS 21.4 billion, the alleged debt in the amount of UZS 79.6 billion was cancelled (written off), 16 decisions were declared invalid.

Also, based on the received materials, 140 persons in charge were brought to disciplinary responsibility.

Measures have been taken to amend or cancel more than 15 current regulatory legal acts that have a negative impact on the activities of business entities.

By the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of September 4, 2023 No. RP 292 'On measures to implement the tasks set in the open dialogue of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan with entrepreneurs in 2023':

- From January 1, 2024, it is defined to terminate the accrual of interest and penalty charges after the court decision on the collection of debt on loans provided to business entities;
- during a desk tax audit, the rights of tax authorities to enter the territory of the taxpayer, inspect the territory and buildings of the taxpayer, request documents from the taxpayer and summon him/her, confiscate documents and property of the taxpayer are canceled;
- it is defined to allow the privatization of land plots to business entities that launched production in small industrial zones and fulfilled their investment obligations.

In 2023, two meetings of the special commission on the Anti-Corruption Business Charter were held and 226 business entities joined the Charter.

In 2023, 502 officials of 18 supervisory bodies were certified to receive a special certificate for the right to conduct inspections of business entities. Of these, 397 officials received special certificates, 105 officials were denied.

A social survey was conducted among 2,490 business entities in order to study cases where business entities encounter corruption in the course of their activities.

According to the survey results, the majority of businesspeople reported that they do not encounter any corruption situations due to relentless fight against corruption in recent years, and, in their opinion, the level of corruption in Uzbekistan has decreased over the past year.

Ensuring openness and transparency in the use of budget funds

In 2023, the Accounts Chamber conducted a remote monitoring of the posting of data on the transparency of the budget process of 129 ministries and departments on official websites.

54 distributors of first-level budget funds;

36 distributors of second-level budget funds;

14 distributors of regional budget funds;

25 state target funds.

The study revealed that, on average, 25 (19 percent) of the 129 ministries and departments do not post information on their official websites on a quarterly basis, and 47 (36 percent) do not post information at all.

In most cases, information on the implementation of capital investment projects, government procurement related to the acquisition of fixed assets, as well as tenders for construction and repair work is not posted.

Administrative violation reports were issued against officials from 7 ministries and departments who failed to comply with the procedure for ensuring transparency of the budget process, and sent to the courts.

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CORRUPTION-FREE AREA PROJECTS IN SECTORS WITH HIGH RISKS OF CORRUPTION

Activities to implement the Corruption-Free Area projects continue in the areas of capital construction, healthcare, higher education, and public procurement, which considered the high corruption risks areas.



In the construction sector

For the effective implementation of the Corruption-Free Area project, the Roadmap 2022-2023 was approved.

The Roadmap consisted of 14 points in 5 areas with 27 tasks focused on elimination of corruption and bureaucratic obstacles, widely introduction of modern information technologies, and ensuring transparency in the sector.

As part of the implementation of the Roadmap, the following work was carried out:

- The criteria for determining the rating of construction organizations have been optimized and reduced from 60 indicators to 30;
- A total of 22.5 thousand contracting organizations have been included in the electronic system of rating construction organizations. At the same time, an electronic rating system for design organizations was introduced, and today more than 2 thousand design organizations are included in this rating system;
- The examination of design documentation was carried out entirely in electronic form;
- The Unified Register of Expert Opinions was created in the Transparent Construction system, and an electronic database of design documentation and expert opinions of all objects is being formed;
- In 2023, more than 27 thousand facility projects were reviewed through the Transparent Construction system;
- Licensing of urban development activities has been transferred to electronic form. A total of 949 licenses and 25 accreditation certificates were issued in 2023. Last year, it was managed to save UZS 1.8 trillion due to conducting 50 thousand electronic tenders through the Transparent Construction system;

- ☑ State control in the construction sector has been improved and control functions have been strengthened. The Construction Control information system has been introduced to control facilities. Control inspectors were provided with 300 modern tablets;
- ☑ In order to conduct construction and testing laboratory work at facilities in a timely manner, regional inspectorates were provided with 16 modern mobile laboratories;
- ☑ Commissioning of constructed facilities is carried out in digital format through an electronic platform;
- ☑ In total, 36 thousand facilities were inspected in 2023, more than 111.5 monitoring conducted by regional inspectorates in facilities. As a result, more than 78 thousand written orders were directed to violators to eliminate deficiencies identified during the implementation of building codes and regulations (to contractors - 29,663, to customers - 26,090, to design organizations - 22,376);
- ☑ Due to the fact that the execution of written orders given by the inspections was not ensured within the established timeframes, a total of 7,597 (2,018 contractors, 4,575 customers and 1,004 design organizations) officials were brought to administrative responsibility;
- ☑ My Mahalla electronic platform (mm.mc.uz) was launched, studying proposals and opinions of the public when developing master plans;
- ☑ Target Programs Monitoring electronic system (monitoring.mc.uz) was developed, allowing to control all processes from registration of objects to their commissioning through a single digital system.

Some problems remain in the implementation of the Corruption-Free Area project in the construction sector.

The number of corruption-related crimes remains high, in particular, in 2023, the courts completed 227 criminal cases of corruption against 458 individuals.

Of the 458 individuals who committed corruption crimes, 60 were employees of departments and organizations subordinated to the Ministry, 44 are employees of the Inspection for Control over Construction and Housing and Communal Services, and the remaining 354 are employees of other sector organizations or citizens.

The emergence of corruption crimes committed in the sphere of capital construction is caused by such factors as theft of funds using forged documents in collusion with contractors during construction and repair, turning a blind eye to cases of violation of the law, insufficient knowledge of workers of legal norms.

In anti-corruption ratings, the results of the construction and housing and communal services sector are not quite good, in particular, in the rating of the effectiveness of combating corruption it scored 71 points and included in the 'satisfactory' category, and in the Openness Index it went 'yellow' with 63.9 points.

Although it was established to conducted construction tenders through the Transparent Construction national information system for to reduce human factor, in 2023 some ministries, departments, regional authorities, as well as customer organizations conducted bids and tenders related to the construction and repair of 147 buildings worth UZS 2 trillion through etender.uzex.uz special government procurement portal with human influence.

At the same time, many corruption factors remain in the construction sector both in the process of building objects and structures and in the process of commissioning them.

In 2023, the Inspection for Control over Construction and Housing and Communal Services identified 1,630 unregistered constructions, of which 1,618 were issued warnings, 125 were sued, and 911 (55 percent) were subject to administrative liability measures.



In the healthcare sector

For effective implementation of the Corruption-Free Area project in the healthcare sector, the Roadmap 2022-2023 was developed, consisting of 31 points in 4 areas with 68 tasks which focused on preventing corruption in the healthcare sector, ensuring transparency at all stages of the process of providing medical services.

As part of the implementation of the Roadmap, the following work was carried out:

- In the healthcare system, 2023 has been declared the Year of Combating Corruption, a hotline with short number 1203 for reporting corruption cases was launched (37 appeals were received in 2022 and 20 appeals in 2023);
- Within the framework of the Anti-Corruption Laboratory in Uzbekistan project, a targeted study was conducted in the area of assessing factors of integrity and corruption risks in obstetrics';

- ☑ The E-KADR information system was implemented to generate impartial, transparent information collected automatically on the quantity and quality of employees and workers, vacancies, as well as qualification and other requirements for candidates for employment in the Ministry's system;
- ☑ The electronic training portal of the Law Enforcement Academy had organized distance learning courses on the topic 'Ensuring the organization of effective departmental measures to combat corruption', and more than 300 responsible employees of the system have been trained over the past period;
- ☑ 419 medical workers working in areas with a high risk of corruption in the system have been trained in each region under the program for training employees on the Integrity Vaccine principle at the Lawyers' Training Center under the Ministry of Justice;
- ☑ The Ministry has created a Situation Center, which provides the ability to view and control each financial transaction carried out in medical institutions, in order to organize a remote audit.

With the involvement of the Internal Audit Department of the Ministry and other relevant agencies, 62 control measures were carried out, 95 cases of violations of the adopted internal anti-corruption procedure were identified for a total of UZS 142.127 million.

In 2023, study materials worth UZS 54,312.4 million were sent to law enforcement agencies on 53 objects carried out within the system, and UZS 1,071.4 million were restored to the relevant budgets.

31 study materials were sent to law enforcement agencies, 33 employees were reprimanded, 11 were fined, 48 were dismissed from their positions, 6 were brought to administrative responsibility. Disciplinary action was taken against 31 persons responsible for public procurement.

A number of problems remain in the healthcare sector giving ground to corruption.

1. The activities of the internal anti-corruption control units in the Ministry's system are not sufficiently organized.

In particular, the central office of the Ministry is limited to creating an internal control unit based on 5 staff units. However, the activities of similar units are not organized in the regional departments of the Ministry and specialized medical centers.

For reference: *The Ministry runs the internal anti-corruption control unit consisting of only 5 staff units to control the activities of 1,527 medical institutions and more than 600 thousand employees.*

2. The presence of more than 1,500 institutions in the system of the Ministry, its central office, due to the lack of sufficient technological resources and mechanisms for their use, leads to cases of corruption violations in hiring, appointing and calculating wages.

It is worth noting that the majority of corruption crimes in the system are related to the theft of employee wages, hiring or increasing working hours, receiving bribes for medical procedures, public procurement, theft of property and budget funds belonging to medical institutions.

3. Medical institutions in the system of the Ministry are not based on modern management mechanisms and the latest principles of marketing, but retain a management system based on the old method.

In particular, the management of all medical institutions remains under the jurisdiction of chief physicians working in the field of medicine, who do not have sufficient competence in professional management, as well as skills in finance and economy.

This, in turn, causes serious problems in some medical institutions with the attraction and disposal of economic resources and even cases of financial violations.

4. Although a procedure has been developed to ensure transparency in the process of issuing orders entitling people to receive free medical services, orders are issued by medical institutions and family clinics.

That is, the work aimed at making this system completely transparent and reducing the human factor to the maximum level has not been completed.

At the same time, the fact that the system for issuing orders has not been transferred to public service centers creates conditions for the preservation of corruption factors in this area.



In public procurement

Public procurement is one of the areas of crucial importance in organizing effective public administration and implementing large-scale reforms at the national level.

In 2023, more than 1.5 million public procurements were conducted nationwide for a total of UZS 253.3 trillion, and as a result of competitive procurement by government customers, UZS 8.2 trillion were saved.

As a result of systematically implemented measures to create a broad competitive environment in the field by attracting business entities to the public procurement system, as of January 1, 2024, 231 thousand business entities were registered in electronic public procurement systems. This is an increase of 12 percent, that is 28 thousand, compared to the same period last year.

For to prevent corruption in public procurement, the following positive changes have been made:

- ☑ Law 'On Public Procurement' establishes the principle of preventing corruption in public procurement in order to ensure openness and transparency in public procurement;
- ☑ government customers are required to provide information on affiliation during public procurement;
- ☑ an affiliate of the participants does not have the right to participate in the procurement procedures for one lot;
- ☑ a system for preventing conflicts of interest in public procurement has been created, affiliated persons are identified through an electronic system;
- ☑ a mandatory requirement established to submit an application on prevention of corruption by bid and tender participants;
- ☑ 6,971 government employees and 1,201 entrepreneurs underwent training through the distance learning platform of the Training Center for Training and Retraining of Employees of Financial Bodies and Financial-Accounting Departments of Budgetary Organizations (masofa.tcmf.uz) in order to improve the qualifications in conducting procurement procedures;
- ☑ a module for comparing current prices for goods (works and services) for public procurement was launched in the personal accounts of public procurement customers.

Despite the ongoing reforms, violations of the requirements of the legislation on public procurement by government customers are manifested in the following forms:

- implementation of public procurement in the presence of a conflict of interest and cases of affiliation;
- purchase of products and services at inflated prices using noncompetitive methods in the implementation of public procurement;
- implementation of public procurement, agreed in advance with business entities by officials of the government customer.



In higher education sector

As part of the implementation of the Corruption-Free Area project, the following work was carried out:

- ☑ In order to prevent corruption in the higher education sector, a system for updating the list of positions subject to rotation was introduced, and in order to prevent conflicts of interest, 148 employees were rotated internally in higher education institutions during the 2023 academic year;
- ☑ During the 2023 academic year, anonymous surveys on combating corruption were conducted among students and faculty of state universities. More than 145,000 students and 12,500 professors and teachers took part in the surveys;
- ☑ Based on the results of the surveys, measures were taken against 296 faculty and employees for violating ethics and internal labor regulations, of which 202 were reprimanded, 14 were fined 30 percent of their monthly salary, employment contract canceled with 56, and the remaining 24 received warnings;
- ☑ 'Best Video', 'Best Wall Newspaper' and 'Best Essay' Contests were held in state universities under the slogan 'Fighting Corruption Together', which involved 9,500 students;
- ☑ 130 videos and 224 written materials depicting the negative consequences of corruption in society were posted on the official websites of universities and the Ministry, as well social media channels;
- ☑ In 2023, about 203,305 students 35,755 professors, teachers and employees of universities took part in 3,557 awareness-raising actions on the theme 'Fighting Corruption and Related Offenses';
- ☑ Compliance control units of universities conducted more than 130 studies, which resulted with collecting materials on 77 cases (in 2022 - 37 cases), which were submitted to law enforcement agencies and inspections.

According to the analysis, the emergence of corruption risks in the higher education sector manifests itself in the following forms:



transferring students do not attending classes from one course to another by changing information in HEMIS platform;



allowing a conflict of interest in the employment of citizens;



Assigning an unjustified bonus to the monthly salary of the teaching staff;



cronyism during interviews to obtain recommendations for state scholarships and other contests;



allowing cases of corruption when concluding contracts for public procurement.

In order to prevent and eliminate corruption factors observed in the higher education sector, measures are being taken to fully digitalize the above areas and strengthen the level of protection on HEMIS platform.

8. RAISING AWARENESS OF THE POPULATION AND CIVIL SERVANTS ON COMBATING CORRUPTION

Distance and traditional learning processes are organized through various training modules at the Anti-Corruption Agency, the Civil Service Development Agency, the Ministry of Justice and the Law Enforcement Academy, aimed at improving the knowledge of civil servants in the fight against corruption.

In particular, in 2023 training courses on various topics, including 'State Policy on Combating Corruption', 'Code of Conduct for Civil Servants', 'Elimination of Conflicts of Interest in the Civil Service' and 'Prospects for the Implementation of the Integrity Standard (Integrity Vaccine) in the Civil Service' were introduced into advanced training courses organized by the Civil Service Development Agency for central and regional management personnel of ministries and departments, as well as for candidates included in the national personnel reserve and potential personnel reserve.

More than 4 thousand civil servants attended these training courses.

For example, the Academy of Public Administration organized a practical seminar on the topic 'Strengthening legitimacy in public administration, preventing corruption among civil servants, introducing 'integrity vaccine' to improve their professional knowledge and skills', which attended by a total of 300 heads and deputies of ministries and departments, commercial banks and business associations.

The Law Enforcement Academy implemented a system of continuous and consistent advanced training for employees of the Prosecutor's Office at all levels and investigative bodies of authorized government bodies.

During the reporting year, 9,600 employees of competent government bodies underwent trainings, more than 9,000 of which are employees of the prosecution service, the Department on Combating Economic Crimes and the Compulsory Enforcement Bureau, more than 100 employees of the internal affairs agencies, and more than 20 employees of customs authorities.

The training programs include 'Combating Organized Crime and Corruption' module, which focused on improving skills on current issues in combating corruption.

Last year, 3,735 employees and 2,811 people advanced their skills in 24 short-term advanced training courses on anti-corruption topics organized for employees of more than 50 government agencies and other organizations through the Law Enforcement Academy's educational portal edu.proacademy.uz, and those completed the courses received certificates.

In 2023, 45 seminars, round tables and other events were organized to improve the legal awareness and legal culture of the population and civil servants, which attended by more than 8,400 representatives of the government and other organizations. Moreover, 30 articles were published, 31 news on the Internet, 7 television reports, and 2 radio interviews.

The Agency has launched a practice of quarterly improving the knowledge and skills of employees of internal anti-corruption control units of government agencies and organizations. In particular, more than 700 employees of internal control units advanced their anti-corruption skills in 2023.

For example, about 200 responsible employees of internal anti-corruption control units of ministries and departments took part in a training seminar organized by the Anti-Corruption Agency jointly with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's Representative Office in Central Asia, during which they improved their knowledge and skills in the fight against corruption.

With the aim to cultivate intolerant attitude to corruption and organize awareness-raising activities, the Agency officers visited more than 100 government agencies and organizations throughout the country and organized workshops and round tables with the participation of more than 10 thousand civil servants.

In total, more than 10 thousand civil servants underwent training at the Lawyers' Training Center at the Ministry of Justice. Of these

4,871 officials of the Ministry of Justice system;

755 lawyers;

215 notaries;

659 employees of the legal departments;

3,550 employees of other government agencies and organizations.

The Academy of Public Administration improved skills of 3,950 senior officials.

In 2023, a total of more than 30 thousand civil servants underwent trainings on anti-corruption, conflicts of interest and ethics rules based on the 'integrity vaccine' principle, as well as workshops and round tables were organized with the participation of about 20,000 civil servants.

9. RATING ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTIVENESS OF ANTI-CORRUPTION WORK

In accordance with the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 81 of January 12, 2022, a rating assessment of the effectiveness of anti-corruption work in government bodies and organizations was implemented in 2023.

In particular, the assessment of the effectiveness of anti-corruption work covered 95 government organizations. And on a scale from 0 to 100 points, organizations were divided into the following categories: 42 organizations that scored high (81-100) points entered the 'good' category, 38 organizations that scored average (55-80) points were placed in the 'satisfactory' category, and 15 organizations that did not get (below 55) the required points were rated 'unsatisfactory'.

When analyzing the work done to combat corruption in the activities of government bodies and organizations and systematic deficiencies, the following identified:

1 Within the framework of the anti-corruption effectiveness rating system, 36 government organizations were assessed for the first time, and second time for the remaining 59, and results showed that 15 of them fell into 'unsatisfactory' category.

The study revealed that these government organizations failed to effectively introduce mechanisms aimed at preventing corruption.

In particular, the Inspection for Control of Safety of Water Management Facilities and Water Use (5 points), the Agency of Cinematography (5 points), the Inspection for Control over the Use of Electricity, Oil Products and Gas, Oil Products and Gas (9 points), and the Youth Affairs Agency (10 points) did not provide information on anti-corruption activities.

Moreover, although 5 inspections, whose activities recognized as 'unsatisfactory', are entrusted with the implementation of functions and tasks with a high corruption risk that are directly related to the control procedure, measures to introduce mechanisms aimed at preventing corruption have not been properly implemented.

In addition, based on the results of the assessment of government organizations (59) that underwent assessment for the second time, the activities of the Surkhandarya Regional Administration (32 points) and the Andijan Regional Administration (48 points) were assessed as 'unsatisfactory' for two years in a row.

2 Despite the fact that anti-corruption activities of 38 government organizations were assessed as 'satisfactory', shortcomings in the area of control over the implementation of these measures have been identified.

For example, not all functions assigned to the organization for assessing corruption risks were covered and the assessment work was not carried out properly by the Mahallabai Work and Entrepreneurship Development Agency (59 points), the Agency for External Labor Migration (56 points), and the Ministry of Economy and Finance (57 points).

The Tourism Committee (80 points) and the Ministry of Water Resources (66 points) did not provide information on the implementation of measures to monitor and control the effectiveness of anti-corruption procedures.

Other government agencies and organizations whose activities in combating corruption were recognized as 'satisfactory' also had the above-mentioned or other shortcomings.

3 In the activities of 42 government organizations recognized as 'good', the specified measures to combat corruption were systematically implemented.

In particular, systemic measures have been taken to effectively implement mechanisms aimed at preventing corruption, assessing corruption risks, managing conflicts of interest, implementing monitoring and control measures, and raising awareness of employees and population on fighting corruption.

In general, the rating system has made it possible to effectively track the tasks set in the field of combating corruption, strengthen the environment of healthy competition in this area, and increase the responsibility of heads of organization

Based on the assessment results, it is projected to implement following actions:

further improving the rating system by adding relevant indicators, simplifying and optimizing them;

organizing workshops for employees of internal anti-corruption control units with the involvement of international experts on the implementation of corruption prevention mechanisms;

promoting the positive experience of organizations in the 'good' category based on the rating assessment results, further improving the activities of organizations in the 'satisfactory' category, developing a program of activities aimed at eliminating the identified deficiencies in organizations in the 'unsatisfactory' category, and hearing its implementation at meetings of the National Anti-Corruption Council.

THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION REPORT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

RESULTS OF THE RATING ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTIVENESS OF
ANTI-CORRUPTION WORK IN GOVERNMENT BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Scoring	Good
94	The Ministry of Mining Industry and Geology of the Republic of Uzbekistan
93	The Central Bank
90	Uzkimyosanoat JSC (Chemical Industry)
90	The Uzbek Agency for Technical Regulation
90	Uzbekneftegaz JSC (Oil-gas company)
89	Uzbekistan Temir Yullari JSC (Uz Railways)
89	The Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Company JSC
88	The Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction
88	The Khokimiyat of Jizzakh Region
88	Uzpromstroybank JSCB - (Uzbek Industrial and Construction Bank)
87	The National Bank for Foreign Economic Activity JSC
87	People's Bank JSCB
87	Poytakht Bank JSC
87	Uzbekistan Airways JSC
86	The Ministry of Digital Technologies
86	The State Assets Management Agency
86	Asaka JSCB
85	The Ministry of Justice
85	The Committee for the Roads
85	The Customs Committee
84	The Statistics Agency
84	The Khokimiyat of Ferghana Region
84	Microcreditbank JSCB
84	Uzbekistan Airports JSC
83	The Khokimiyat of Tashkent Region
83	The Khokimiyat of Namangan Region
83	Regional Electrical Power Networks JSC
83	Uzbektelecom JSC
82	The Tax Committee
82	The Ministry of Preschool and School Education
82	The Ministry of Energy
82	The Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change
82	The Khokimiyat of Sirdarya Region
82	Turonbank JSCB
82	Agrobank JSCB
82	UzAutoIndustry JSC
82	Hududgazta'minot JSC (Regional Gas Supply)
81	The Competition Promotion and Consumer Protection Committee
81	The Sanitary-Epidemiological Wellbeing and Public Health Authority
81	The Knowledge and Qualification Assessment Agency
81	The Forestry Agency
81	The Agency for Specialized Educational Institutions




RESULTS OF THE RATING ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTIVENESS OF
ANTI-CORRUPTION WORK IN GOVERNMENT BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Scoring	Satisfactory
80	The Tourism Committee
80	The Tashkent City Administration
80	Uzsuvtaminot JSC (Water Supply)
80	The Supreme Attestation Commission
79	The Agency of Plant Protection and Quarantine
79	The Khorezm Regional Administration
79	The Uzbek Metallurgical Plant JSC
78	The Samarkand Regional Administration
77	The Ministry of Youth Policy and Sports of the Republic of Uzbekistan
76	Family and Women Committee
73	The Inspection for Control in the Field of Information and Telecommunications
72	The Navoi Regional Administration
72	Business Development Bank JSCB
72	Uzagrosugurta JSC
71	The Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services
71	The Cadaster Agency
71	The Innovative Development Agency
70	The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan
69	Uzbekgidroenergo JSC
68	The Committee for Veterinary and Livestock Development
67	Uztransgaz JSC
66	The Ministry of Water Resources
65	The Ministry of Culture
65	The Ministry of Agriculture
64	The Ministry of Transport
64	The Bukhara Regional Administration
64	The Almalyk Mining and Metallurgical Complex JSC
63	Aloqabank JSCB
61	Toshshahartransxizmat JSC
60	The National Power Grid of Uzbekistan JSC
60	Uzbekcoal JSC
59	The Mahallabai Work and Entrepreneurship Development Agency
59	The Kashkadarya Regional Administration
59	Thermal Power Plants JSC
58	The Ministry of Health
57	The Ministry of Economy and Finance
56	The Preschool Education Agency
56	The Agency for External Labor Migration

**RESULTS OF THE RATING ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTIVENESS OF
ANTI-CORRUPTION WORK IN GOVERNMENT BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Scoring	Unsatisfactory
50	The Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation
48	The Andijan Regional Administration
46	The Inspection for Control over Construction and Housing and Communal Services
39	The Inspection for Control of Agroindustry Complex
32	The Surkhandarya Regional Administration
28	Uzbekinvest Export-Import Insurance Company JSC
27	The Silk and Wool Development Committee
23	The Inspection for Control of Mining, Geological and Industrial Safety
22	The Agency of Cultural Heritage
18	The Ministry of Investments, Industry and Trade
16	The Agricultural Services Agency
10	The Youth Affairs Agency
9	The Inspection for Control over the Use of Electricity, Oil Products and Gas
5	The Agency of Cinematography
5	The Inspection for Control of Safety of Water Management Facilities and Water Use

EFFECTIVENESS OF ANTI-CORRUPTION WORK IS ASSESSED AS FOLLOWS:

-  **GOOD** – scoring from 81 to 100
-  **SATISFACTORY** – scoring from 55 to 81
-  **UNSATISFACTORY** – less than 55

10. OPENNESS INDEX OF GOVERNMENT BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan №DP 154 of 14 June 2022 'On measures to introduce a system to increase and assess the level of openness of the activities of government agencies and organizations', the Anti-Corruption Agency developed an Openness Index.

The Openness Index, published for the second time, assessed the activities of 103 (in 2022 - 86) republican executive bodies - ministries, committees, agencies, inspectorates and local government bodies on the basis of 8 indicators, consisting of 84 evaluation criteria.

Performance indicators resulted as follows□

31 government organization ranked green (from 71 to 100 points)

43 organizations assessed as yellow (from 55 to 71 points)

29 government agencies went to red category (less than 55 points)

For reference:□ The 2022 Index identified 15 government bodies and organizations as 'green', 44 assessed as 'yellow' and 27 organizations fell into 'red' zone.

According to the analysis, the number of government agencies in the green category increased by 16 (13 percent) compared to last year. It is worth noting that a number of government agencies included in the red category in the 2022 Index showed a sharp positive growth.

For example, Uzsuvtaminot JSC - 81 points (in 2022 - 47 points), Turonbank JSCB - 78 points (53 points in 2022), The Uzbek Metallurgical Plant JSC - 77 points (48 points in 2022), Hududgazta'minot JSC - 75 points (52 points in 2022) demonstrated positive growth.

The Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan has the highest score on the Openness Index 2023 (88 points). It is followed by the Almalyk Mining and Metallurgical Complex JSC (86 points), the Competition Promotion and Consumer Protection Committee (86 points), the Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Company JSC (84 points) and the Khorezm Regional Administration (84 points).

The Tashkent Regional Administration (69 points), the Bukhara Regional Administration (67 points), the Jizzakh Regional Administration (66 points), the Samarkand Regional Administration (63 points), the Ferghana Regional Administration (57 points), the Sirdarya Regional Administration (57 points) and Tashkent City Administration (64 points) ranked as yellow, while the Namangan Regional Administration, the Surkhandarya Regional Administration, the Kashkadarya Regional Administration and the Andijan Regional Administration fell into the red category.

At the republican level, the Cinematography Agency at the Ministry of Culture (26 points), the Inspection for Control of Mining, Geological and Industrial Safety at the Ministry of Mining Industry and Geology (27 points), and Poytakht Bank JSC (33 points) joined those in the **red** category.

The Agency developed two platforms with the OSCE support. Those are:

The Index platform, aimed at reducing the human factor in the formation of the Openness Index and the widespread introduction of digital technologies in the assessment processes¹¹

The Open Data electronic platform, designed for online training of civil servants.

A list of more than 400 responsible employees of 150 government agencies has been compiled and their qualifications are being improved through the platform.

The measures implemented in this track resulted with ensuring transparency of the activities of government agencies, further strengthening their accountability to citizens, and eliminating various corruption factors.

For example, as a result of disclosure of information on public procurement during the studies conducted by the Agency, violations of the law were eliminated in 138 cases, public procurements worth UZS 110 billion were canceled.

75 percent of 103 government agencies whose activities were studied openly published reports on their activities in 2023 and put them on public discussion.

All government agencies and organizations now have employees responsible for ensuring openness, and a system for continuously improving their qualifications established.

According to the studies, most government agencies that failed to ensure openness of their activities, did not establish systematic work on disclosing prescribed information.

For example, employees responsible for publication of open data have not been assigned, internal departmental documents regulating the timing, forms and other organizational aspects of publication have not been approved.

In this regard, the Agency has developed samples of internal departmental documents ensuring the timely formation of open data and its publication on designated resources, as well as methodological assistance and explanatory work provided.

Based on the results of the Openness Index, a program of events has been developed aimed at popularizing the positive experience of 'green' organizations, further improving the activities of 'yellow' organizations, and eliminating the shortcomings identified in 'red' organizations, and a practice of hearings on their implementation by the Presidium of the Cabinet of Ministers and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis has been established.

**OPENNESS INDEX 2023, ASSESSING THE EFFECTIVENESS AND PRODUCTIVITY
OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT ON OPENNESS IN
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Name of the government body/organization		Scoring
1.	The Statistics Agency	88,3 ▼
2.	The Almalyk Mining and Metallurgical Complex JSC	86,8 ▲
3.	The Central Bank	86,4 *
4.	The Competition Promotion and Consumer Protection Committee	86,2 ▲
5.	The Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Company JSC	84,7 ▲
6.	The Khorezm Regional Administration	84,3 ▲
7.	People's Bank JSCB	83,8 ▲
8.	The Tax Committee	82,6 ▲
9.	The Ministry of Digital Technologies	82,4 ▲
10.	Uzsuvtaminot JSC (Water Supply)	81,0 ▲
11.	The Customs Committee	80,7 ▼
12.	The Innovation Development Agency	80,1 ▲
13.	UzArchive Agency	80,0 *
14.	The Anti-Corruption Agency	78,9 *
15.	Agrobank JSCB	78,7 ▲
16.	Turonbank JSCB	78,1 ▲
17.	Uzpromstroybank JSCB - (Uzbek Industrial and Construction Bank)	78,1 ▲
18.	The Uzbek Metallurgical Plant JSC	77,5 ▲
19.	Uzagroleasing JSC	76,0 ▲
20.	Hududgazta'minot JSC (Regional Gas Supply)	75,8 ▲
21.	The Navoi Regional Administration	75,6 ▲
22.	Microcreditbank JSCB	75,2 ▲
23.	Uzbekneftegaz JSC	75,1 ▲
24.	Uzkimyosanoat JSC	73,5 ▲
25.	The Agency of Plant Protection and Quarantine	73,2 *
26.	Business Development Bank JSCB	71,8 ▲
27.	The Ministry of Mining Industry and Geology	71,7 ▲
28.	The Ministry of Water Resources	71,5 ▲
29.	The Ministry of Preschool and School Education	71,4 ▼
30.	The Ministry of Economy and Finance	71,3 ▲
31.	Uzbekistan Temir Yullari JSC (Railways)	71,1 ▲

Green – from 71 to 100

▲ ▼ GROWTH OR DECLINE IN THE INDEX COMPARED TO 2022

* ORGANIZATIONS ADDED IN THE INDEX IN 2023

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PRODUCTIVITY OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT ON OPENNESS
IN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Name of the government body/organization		Scoring
1	The Ministry of Justice	70,2 ▼
2	The Youth Affairs Agency	70,1 ▲
3	The Committee on Roads	70,0 ▲
4	The Tashkent Regional Administration	69,1 ▼
5	Uzbekhydroenergo JSC	68,7 ▲
6	Thermal Power Plants JSC	68,5 ▼
7	The State Assets Management Agency	68,3 ▼
8	UzAutoindustry JSC	68,2 ▲
9	Uztransgaz JSC	67,9 ▲
10	The Cadastral Agency	67,7 ▼
11	The Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation	67,4 ▼
12	The Bukhara Regional Administration	67,1 ▲
13	The Agency of Specialized Educational Institutions	66,7 *
14	The Jizzakh Regional Administration	66,3 ▼
15	The Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade	66,1 ▼
16	The Kashkadarya Regional Administration	65,4 ▲
17	The Knowledge and Qualification Assessment Agency	65,0 ▼
18	Uzbekcoal JSC	64,7 ▲
19	The Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change	64,4 ▼
20	The Tashkent City Administration	64,2 ▼
21	Uzbekistan Airports JSC	63,3 ▲
22	The Samarkand Regional Administration	63,1 ▲
23	The Public Service Development Agency	62,6 *
24	The Mahallabai Work and Entrepreneurship Development Agency	62,5 ▲
25	The National Bank of Uzbekistan	62,5 ▲
26	The Sanitary and Epidemiological Welfare and Public Health Committee	61,8 ▲
27	Inspection for Control in the Field of Informatization and Telecommunications	61,7 *
28	The Forestry Agency	59,5 ▼
29	Asaka JSCB	58,2 ▼
30	The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan	58,1 ▲
31	The Ferghana Regional Administration	57,6 ▼
32	The Committee for Family and Women	57,4 ▲
51	The Sirdarya Regional Administration	57,4 ▲
33	The Prosecutor General's Office	57,3 *
34	The Ministry of Transport	57,1 ▼
35	Aloqabank JSCB	56,6 ▲
36	The Pharmaceutical Industry Development Agency	56,1 ▼
37	The Committee on Religious Affairs	56,1 ▲
38	The National Power Grid of Uzbekistan JSC	55,7 ▼
39	Inspection for Control of Agro-Industrial Complex	55,6 *
40	The Ministry of Culture	55,4 ▼
41	The Committee of Veterinary and Livestock Development	55,3 *
42	The Ministry of Internal Affairs	55,2 ▼

Yellow – from 55 to 71

▲ ▼ GROWTH OR DECLINE IN THE INDEX COMPARED TO 2022 * ORGANIZATIONS ADDED IN THE INDEX IN 2023

**OPENNESS INDEX 2023, ASSESSING THE EFFECTIVENESS AND
PRODUCTIVITY OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT ON OPENNESS
IN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Name of the government body/organization		Scoring
1	The Preschool Education Agency	53,8 ▼
2	The Ministry of Health	53,8 ▼
3	The Ministry of Emergency Situations	53,7 ▼
4	The Ministry of Energy	53,4 ▼
5	The Ministry of Agriculture	53,3 ▼
6	The Namangan Regional Administration	52,7 ▼
7	The Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services	52,1 ▼
8	The Supreme Judicial Council	50,5 *
9	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs	50,2 ▼
10	The Supreme Court	50,1 *
11	The Surkhandarya Regional Administration	50,1 ▼
12	Toshshahartransxizmat JSC	50,0 ▼
13	The Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction	47,1 ▼
14	The Ministry of Sports	47,0 ▼
15	The Inspection of Transport Supervision	46,5 *
16	Uzbekistan Airways JSC	45,9 ▼
17	The Cultural Heritage Agency	43,8 *
18	The Bureau of Compulsory Enforcement	43,8 *
19	Yulkurilish JSC (Road Construction)	40,7 ▲
20	Uzdonmahsulot JSC	40,7 ▲
21	The Department for Combating Economic Crimes	39,7 *
22	Uzbektelecom JSC	38,9 *
23	Inspection for Control over the Use of Electricity, Oil Products and Gas	34,4 *
24	Poytakht Bank JSC	33,1 ▲
25	O'zmaxsusmontajqurilish JSC	27,9 ▼
26	Inspection for Control of Mining, Geological and Industrial Safety	27,8 *
27	The Cinematography Agency	26,6 ▼
28	The National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan	16,9 ▼
29	The Andijan Regional Administration	12,0 ▼
30		

Red – below 55

▲ ▼ GROWTH OR DECLINE IN THE INDEX COMPARED TO 2022 * ORGANIZATIONS ADDED IN THE INDEX IN 2023

11. SOCIAL RESEARCH IN FIGHTING CORRUPTION AND INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS

According to the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of January 15, 2021, No. RP-4951 'On measures to implement an effective mechanism for determining the state of rule of law in the Republic of Uzbekistan', studies were conducted to determine the Rule of Law Index in the regions.

Within the framework of this Index, indicators of the effectiveness of the fight against corruption and transparency of government institutions by the end of 2023 were determined.

For reference: The Rule of Law Index consists of 7 indicators, the performances of which are determined on the basis of statistical data and the results of a social survey.

1. The average indicator of the effectiveness of the fight against corruption in the republic is 73 points, while the best performance in this track was recorded in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, which scored 81 points, while Ferghana Region with 61 points showed the lowest performance.

Effectiveness of the fight against corruption RATING

Position	Region	Scoring
1	Republic of Karakalpakstan	81
2	Navoi Region	77
3	Surkhandarya Region	77
4	Jizzakh Region	76
5-7	Andijan Region	75
	Kashkadarya Region	75
	Tashkent Region	75
8-9	Sirdarya Region	74
	Bukhara Region	74
10-11	Khorezm Region	70
	Tashkent city	70
12	Namangan Region	69
13	Samarkand Region	66
14	Ferghana Region	61

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59.9 percent of more than 20 thousand respondents who took part in the survey conducted as part of the Index said that “giving a bribe to officials of local government and executive authorities helps achieve the intended goal.”

In surveys conducted among more than 4.1 thousand businesspeople on cases of corruption in public procurement and tenders in the regions, 24.6 percent reported that they encountered corruption in public procurement and tenders.

2. Transparency in government institutions was determined on the basis of 4 indicators, 13 sub-indicators, as well as the results of surveys of 20,600 residents, representatives of 420 NGOs and 420 journalists.

The average transparency indicator of government institutions in the republic is 64 points, Surkhandarya Region showed the best result scoring 72.5 points, while the worst indicator in Ferghana Region - 66.3 points.

Transparency in government institutions
RATING

Position	Region	Scoring
1	Surkhandarya Region	72,5 балл
2	Jizzakh Region	71,7 балл
3	Khorezm Region	71,1 балл
4-5	Republic of Karakalpakstan	70,9 балл
	Navoi Region	70,9 балл
6	Kashkadarya Region	69,8 балл
7	Sirdarya Region	69,3 балл
8	Tashkent Region	69 балл
9	Andijan Region	68,8 балл
10	Namangan Region	68,5 балл
11	Tashkent city	68,3 балл
12	Bukhara Region	67,8 балл
13	Samarkand Region	66,5 балл
14	Ferghana Region	66,3 балл

52.8 percent of journalists who participated in surveys on taking information from local executive bodies answered that they took necessary information on time and completely, and 47.2 percent said that they encountered problems (incomplete and untimely provision of information, as well as failure in provision).

According to the analysis of timely consideration of citizens' requests for information through the Single Portal for Interactive Public Services, only 0.86 percent (three thousand) of more than 355 thousand citizens answered that their requests were not considered on time. That is, the right to timely information was violated for 9 out of 1000 citizens.



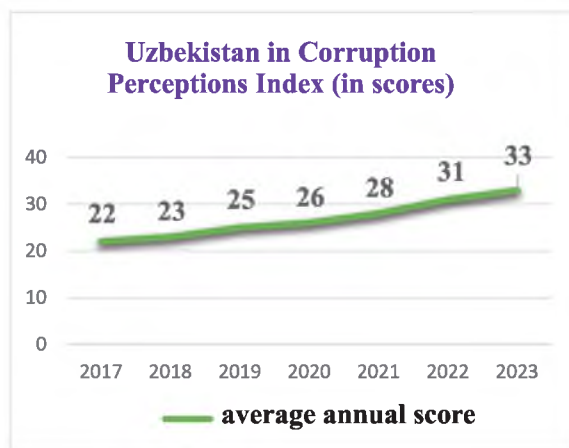
International rankings and indices

Compared to previous years, Uzbekistan's positions are improving in all rankings and indices related to the fight against corruption.

1. In the Corruption Perceptions Index 2023 by Transparency International, Uzbekistan with 33 points made increase in 5 positions and ranked 121st among 180 countries (126th place with 31 points in 2022), and compared to the last six years, it has increased by 37 positions.

The Corruption Perceptions Index emphasized that Uzbekistan is among the 5 countries (Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Kosovo) in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region whose indicators have been changing positively.

For reference: Turkey - 14 positions down (115th place), Russia - 4 positions down (141st place), Kyrgyzstan - 1 position down (141st place), Iran - 2 positions down (149th place), Tajikistan - 12 positions down (162nd place) and Turkmenistan 3 positions down (170th place).





TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL

Corruption Perceptions Index by Transparency International (+5 positions)

Nº	Sources for Corruption Perceptions Index	Out of 100 (2023/2022)
1	Bertelsmann Foundation Transformation Index	29/29
2	Rating of countries by Economist Intelligence Unit	20/20
3	Nations in Transit by Freedom House	24/24
4	Economics and Country Risk from Global Insight	35/35
5	The World Bank's Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA)	35/35
6	WJP Rule of Law Index	37/37
7	V-Dem Democracy Indices	19/25 (-6)
8	PRS International Country Risk Guide	48/41 (+7)
9	World Economic Forum EOS	49



World Justice
Project

Rule of Law Index by World Justice Project (+2 positions)

2. Uzbekistan ranked 78th out of 142 countries in the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index, scoring 50 points. The country ranked the same in last year's ranking, but 140 countries were assessed, so Uzbekistan's place in this year's ranking improved by +2 positions.

For reference: The Rule of Law Index 2023 added Kuwait (52nd position) and Montenegro (57th position).

The Rule of Law Index consists of 8 factors (constraints on governments powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice) and 44 sub-indicators.

Since 2016, at a time of weakening rule of law in the world, Uzbekistan (8.9 percent) has been noted as the country that is most strengthening the rule of law.

Uzbekistan improved its position in the Index due to the increase in Absence of Corruption and Open Government factors.

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In particular, Uzbekistan ranked 66th with 47 points in the absence of corruption factor and moved up 2 positions compared to 2022.

This factor assesses the presence of bribery, embezzlement of public funds, illegal interference in their activities, external influence of officials in the performance of their duties in executive bodies, courts, law enforcement and legislative bodies.

According to the rating, corruption in the activities of officials of the legislative bodies of Uzbekistan is assessed as 'rare' (23rd position among 142 countries).

In open government factor, Uzbekistan ranked 119th with 37 points and moved up 5 positions compared to 2022.

This factor is assessed using 4 sub-indicators (adoption of laws and regulations, right to information, citizen participation and the presence of a complaints mechanism).

Among these sub-indicators, the creation of mechanisms for filing complaints against the activities of government bodies is relatively well rated (86th position).



THE WORLD BANK **The Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI)**
(+15 positions)

Uzbekistan ranked 161st out of 213 countries with an indicator of -0.81 in the Control of Corruption from the Worldwide Governance Indicators (176th place with -1.05 in 2021).

For reference: Worldwide Governance Indicators is a rating conducted by the World Bank for more than 200 countries in 6 areas.

Voice and Accountability		Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism		Government Effectiveness		Regulatory Quality		Rule of Law		Control of Corruption	
points (+/-)	place (+/-)	points (+/-)	place (+/-)	points (+/-)	place (+/-)	points (+/-)	place (+/-)	points (+/-)	place (+/-)	points (+/-)	place (+/-)
-1,40 (+0,13) (+0,13)	182 (+12)	-0,24 (+0,19)	130 (+19)	-0,20 (+0,33)	116 (+22)	-0,58 (+0,40)	144 (+33)	-0,89 (+0,19)	168 (+13)	-0,81 (+0,24)	161 (+15)



**TRACE
MATRIX**

The TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix (TRACE Matrix) (+1position)

In the Trace Bribery Risk Matrix 2023, Uzbekistan rose to 130th position with 58 points from among 194 countries (rating from 1 to 100 points, 1 point the most positive), and in 2022 Uzbekistan placed 131st with 58 points.

For reference, The Bribery Risk Matrix summarizes relevant information from leading civil society institutions, international organizations including UN, World Bank, V-Dem at the University of Gothenburg and World Economic Forum, and assesses the risks of bribery in business in 194 countries.



Open Data Inventory by Open Data Watch (+15 positions)

In ODIN 2022, Uzbekistan scored 70 points and placed 30th from among 195 countries, making growth to 15 positions (in 2020, Uzbekistan scoring 63 placed 45th).

Uzbekistan ranked 1st among Central Asian countries, while Kazakhstan 51st, Kyrgyzstan 92nd, and Tajikistan 126th.

For reference, The international organization Open Data Watch every 2 years assesses the quality of open data published by government agencies and organizations, and their publication in accordance with international standards.

Experts commented on the improvement of Uzbekistan's position in international rankings as follows:

corruption prevention has become a priority of state policy, the Anti-Corruption Agency established, as well as internal anti-corruption control units started operating in government bodies and organizations;

legislation in this area is being improved;

anti-corruption procedures developed;

measures to ensure openness and transparency of the activities of government bodies and organizations are getting implemented, as well as freedom of information ensured;

redundant procedures in the provision of public services reduced, volume of public services provided in electronic form increased.

12. CULTIVATING ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CORRUPTION IN SOCIETY AND INCREASING PUBLIC OVERSIGHT

One of the most effective means of combating and preventing corruption is the formation of an intolerant attitude towards corruption among the wider population and the establishment of effective public oversight over government agencies and organizations.

A number of works have been carried out in this track.

1. Outreach activities aimed at forming

an uncompromising attitude towards corruption

'Action Plan for the systematic organization of outreach activities aimed at forming a sense of intolerance towards corruption among young people' was developed by the Anti-Corruption Agency together with official ministries and departments.

Four key areas were identified to implement these activities, including organizational and practical measures, outreach programs and awareness-raising events, international cooperation and comprehensive preventive measures.

As a result of its implementation, 6,371 trainings were held in more than 9,400 communities with the involvement of more than 280 thousand young people.

Anti-Corruption ABC leaflets, prepared jointly with the Anti-Corruption Agency, the Ministry of Justice, the Prosecutor General's Office and UNDP, were distributed in communities, as well as 32-series videos on the fight against corruption were posted on the monitors of district (city) public service centers.

Actions and flash mobs under the slogans '**Say No to Corruption**' and '**Youth Against Corruption**', surveys and job fairs '**What do our youth think about corruption and corruption situations?**', a drawing contest under the slogan '**Youth Against Human Trafficking**', an essay competition in '**Barkamol Avlod**' children's school, and '**Anti-Corruption Dialogues**' among residents and young people, as well as Street Workout, Football, Athletics sports competitions were organized.

Within the framework of the **YouthLed** project, 6 online training seminars were organized for students of 1-3 courses of all higher education institutions and faculty interested in this field, and the knowledge and skills of more than a thousand students and young people were increased.

The Tashkent State Law University has established a practice of systematically conducting trainings and round tables discussions within the Anticorruption and Compliance research club. Within the framework of the Youth Against Corruption Week, videos, photographs and wall newspapers were prepared, as well as a competition was held to prepare an information stand on the Peer to Peer principle.

Together with the Academy of Law Enforcement Agency, a conference was organized between teams of students from 7 higher education institutions 'Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: Second Stage Review'.

In order to fulfill the priority tasks assigned by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the need to immunize the minds and hearts of young people and the new generation with integrity vaccine, the University of Public Safety organized a Contest 'Criminal Law Master', which aimed to study crimes of the national and transnational level, their qualification by consequences, as well as theoretical and practical analysis of these types of crimes.

2. Events held within the framework of the Anti-Corruption Month

More than 500 events were organized within the framework of the Anti-Corruption Month, timed to December 9 - International Anti-Corruption Day.



Doors Open Day in more than 100 organizations



Contests among students of more than 30 higher education institutions



2 national and international forums



More than 20 workshops and dialogues

The Anti-Corruption Agency together with UNICEF conducted a survey 'Is there corruption in your university?', which covered students, faculty and parents.

Social reels on combating and preventing corruption were screened in densely populated areas of Tashkent city and regional centers.

3. Work done to establish effective public oversight

Organizational and practical support was provided to increase the activity of civil society institutions, especially nonprofit organizations, in the fight against corruption, as well as **10** workshops and trainings were organized aimed at increasing their knowledge and skills in the fight against corruption, which attended by more than **500** representatives of NGOs, media, journalists, bloggers and those interested in the field. In particular:

- ✓ In cooperation with the Center for Retraining Journalists of Uzbekistan and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, trainings were held for journalists and bloggers from the regions on the topic ‘Increasing the capabilities of journalists and bloggers of Uzbekistan to conduct journalistic investigations on corruption issues’;
- ✓ Trainings were organized in cooperation with Regional Dialogue INGO together with the Pioneer Institute, USA, and with the involvement of Boston Globe newspaper editor, for heads of press services of government agencies and organizations on the topic ‘The Role of Investigative Journalism in Covering Corruption and Corruption-Related Crimes.’

The workshops and trainings resulted with the expansion of involvement of NGOs in the fight against corruption, and a number of practical dialogues and public hearings were organized on their initiative.

Since 2023, grants and social orders for NGOs in the regions have been announced for the first time, and they have implemented a number of projects.

In particular, within these grants and social orders NGOs located in Kashkadarya, Bukhara, Ferghana, Khorezm regions and Tashkent city implemented five projects worth UZS 267 million.

In addition, the Anti-Corruption Laboratory project, implemented by Yuksalish Movement together with the Anti-Corruption Agency and Regional Dialogue INGO, will be continued, and in 2023 they conducted two studies ‘Assessing Factors of Integrity and Corruption Risks in Obstetrics’ and ‘Assessing Factors of Integrity and Corruption Risks in Student Grading in Higher Education.’

The studies covered 21 maternity hospitals in 7 regions of Uzbekistan (Tashkent, Sirdarya, Ferghana, Kashkadarya, and Navoi regions, Tashkent city and the Republic of Karakalpakstan). As part of the studies, social surveys and interviews were organized with about 400 respondents.

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Preliminary results showed that corruption risk factors are primarily associated with a lack of budget funds and equipment for state-owned maternity hospitals, uneven distribution of budget funds between central and local maternity hospitals, and the fact that most health workers are overloaded with work.

The study in higher education system included 16 higher education institutions in 14 cities of Uzbekistan; social surveys and interviews involved about 500 respondents.

This study attempted to identify corruption risk factors and their causes in the assessment of students in higher education institutions.

According to the results of the study, the existing information systems in the field are insufficient, awareness of anti-corruption measures is incomplete, some procedures in the system have lost their effectiveness, and all these factors give rise to corruption risks.

Interactive session was organized on the topic 'Forms of NGO public oversight in combating corruption' within the framework of the 3rd Tashkent Anti-Corruption Forum. The session exchanged views on the place and role of NGOs in the fight against corruption, foreign practice and experience, the work done by international and local NGOs in this area, the results they have achieved and the problems that have arisen.

The public hearings were organized by the Public Council of the Anti-Corruption Agency on the topic 'Implementation of the Corruption-Free Area project in the Ministry of Healthcare system; existing problems and future plans' and on the results of the Openness Index, aimed at assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of the work carried out on openness in government agencies and organizations.

The Public Council studied the state of the regulation.gov.uz platform for discussing regulatory documents requiring disclosure of decisions of local hokims and prepared analytical information. In addition, the Council studied the issue of stimulating doctors, which caused discussions among the general public, and the position and proposals of the Council were published in the media.

The Expert Group at the Anti-Corruption Agency provided opinions and proposals on drafts of about 10 regulatory legal documents, which included the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2030, the draft law 'On the Protection of Persons Reporting Corruption Offenses', and the State Anti-Corruption Program 2023-2024.

13. ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION COUNCIL AND ITS REGIONAL COUNCILS

1. Activities of the National Anti-Corruption Council

In 2023, three meetings of the National Anti-Corruption Council were held, following which Work Plans and Action Plans were systematically developed and focused on implementation.

The National Council adopted work plans aimed at preventing corruption in the country and strengthening preventive measures at the industry and regional level, implementing Corruption-Free Area projects, strengthening public oversight, and ensuring their timely implementation.

At the meetings of the Council, it was planned to hold seminars aimed at enhancing the role of civil society institutions in the fight against corruption, aimed at improving the qualifications of members of anti-corruption councils of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions and Tashkent city, as well as measures were taken to introduce international anti-corruption standards into the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Results of practical measures taken by the National Council are as follows:



amendments have been made to the legislation on the publication of reports on grants and social procurement projects allocated to NGOs and on the work they have done;



practice established of regularly including anti-corruption topics in competitions for the allocation of state grants announced by the public fund for NGOs in the region;



seminars for NGOs organized systematically;



reports and information from local government bodies implementing anti-corruption activities were heard with the participation of the public and the media;



recommendations were developed for monitoring the activities of public councils under government bodies and increasing their activity;



more than 10 seminars were organized for regional councils.

Moreover, at the meetings of the National Council, officials of the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Energy, as well as the Surkhandarya, Andijan and Navoi regional administrations made reports on the results of the anti-corruption efficiency rating.

The reports drew attention to the shortcomings in the area and the measures to eliminate them.

The National Council systematically monitored the implementation of documents, state programs and measures related to the area, and gave relevant recommendations and proposals.

2. Regional Anti-Corruption Councils

In 2023, regional councils held a number of events in the areas of covering their activities, actively involving representatives of civil society institutions in anti-corruption processes.

During the year, regional councils regularly screened more than 50 videos in order to organize outreach activities in the regions. Awareness-raising banners were placed at 702 points in the regions, more than 20 thousand copies of leaflets were prepared and distributed.

More than 800 programs dedicated to the activities of regional councils have been prepared and broadcasted.

In 2023, the councils organized more than 1,300 events in the form of round tables, seminars, trainings, meetings, which involved about 50 thousand people.

More than 120 interactive events, such as competitions and promotions, were held in the regions, which brought together more than 13 thousand people.

Regional councils effectively used direct communication with media through organizing press conferences, briefings, press tours. In particular, 56 press conferences, 56 briefings and 61 press tours were organized in 2023.

In addition, the Ferghana and Khorezm regional councils created separate websites to cover their activities (<https://faranticor.uz/>, <https://xorazm-anticorruption.uz/>).

11 distance learning seminars were organized for regional anti-corruption councils on various topics, including the implementation of legislative documents in the field of openness, identifying and assessing corruption risks, gaps in legislation, or identifying factors that cause corruption.

The outreach activities held by the regional councils were covered:



1,271 times via the website;



617 times on regional TV channels;



464 times in newspapers;



600 times on the radio;



91 times on national television;



more than 2.5 thousand times on social networks (Facebook, Telegram, Instagram).

With the participation of members of the National Council, more than 10 business trips to the regions were made, the activities of the regional councils were critically reviewed, and based on the results, proposals were developed aimed at improving the activities.

In particular, at a meeting of the Regional Anti-Corruption Council in Bukhara Region, the state of work to prevent corruption in the region, the activities of the regional council over the past period, the results of the ratings for combating corruption were reviewed, as well as issues of ensuring transparency were discussed.

Besides, visits were made to Andijan, Navoi, Jizzakh, Surkhandarya and Khorezm regions, the activities of the regional councils were studied, relevant proposals were developed and practical assistance provided.

In addition, corruption crimes committed in 2023 in the Tashkent region and the city of Tashkent, and the state of the work carried out to prevent them were critically reviewed, and based on the results, work plans were drawn up aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the fight against corruption crimes. corruption in the region were approved and sent for implementation.

In general, in 2023, progress was observed in working of regional anti-corruption councils with representatives of the civil society institutions, organizing various outreach events, flash mobs, as well as cooperating with young people.

CONCLUSION

As a result of the reforms implemented in Uzbekistan in the fight against corruption, regulatory, organizational, practical and institutional foundations for preventing corruption have been created, and an intolerant attitude towards corruption is being formed in society.

At the same time, it requires the continuation of current reforms.

1 First of all, in the fight against corruption, the head of a government agency or organization must set a personal example and show initiative in the fight against corruption.

For example, such factors as the incomplete introduction of mandatory internal anti-corruption control units, as well as such 'unsatisfactory results as 14% in the anti-corruption effectiveness rating and 30% in the Openness Index, are directly related to the initiative of the organization's leader.

2 In the field of public procurement, the conclusion of direct contracts bypassing competitive methods, the lack of registration of contracts with the treasury authorities, the admission of a conflict of interest, cases of affiliation are the reason for an increase in cases of violations of the law in public procurement.

For example, administrative offenses related to violations of public procurement legislation were committed in 2021 - 147, in 2022 - 662, in 2023 - 1184.

3 Although the volume and scale of funds allocated to ensure employment of the population, development of entrepreneurship and social protection of citizens are constantly increasing, these funds are misused and embezzled.

For example, when studying the targeted spending of funds allocated for persons in need of social protection registered in the Iron, Women, Youth and Mehr registers in the regions, errors and shortcomings were identified in 12,402 cases to a total of UZS 82.9 billion (including 5,423 cases in the amount of UZS 5 billion).

387 materials collected on violations of the law identified during the studies were directed to law enforcement agencies.

4 Failure to introduce a system for regulating conflicts of interest, declaring income and property of civil servants affects the effectiveness of reforms in the area of preventing corruption.

In order to eliminate the above factors, one of the important tasks we face is the continuation of reforms in the fight against corruption, the involvement of civil society institutions, media representatives and the general public in the fight against corruption by increasing public oversight.

In this regard, the effective organization of interaction between members of the National Anti-Corruption Council and regional anti-corruption councils, increasing the responsibility of heads of government bodies are of particular importance.

PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

For ensuring the implementation of legislative acts in the field of implementation of state policy on combating corruption, decisions and instructions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Oliy Majlis, as well as the implementation of recommendations of international organizations, the following is proposed:

- 1** Adoption of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2030, which defines the main areas of state activity in the near and medium term to combat corruption;
- 2** Effective implementation of the State Anti-Corruption Program 2023-2024 (consisting of 30 points), approved by Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. DP 200 of November 27, 2023;
- 3** Taking measures to implement the initiatives put forward by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the ceremony of presenting the International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award. In particular:
 - establishing an “initial inquiry” institute for corruption investigations;
 - establishing a Regional Research Center for Problems of Corruption;
 - continue implementing the Corruption-Free Area projects in the areas with high corruption risks and launching the Corruption-Free Office projects in areas with high corruption risks;
 - Establishing a Situation Center to analyze corruption risks in all areas of state and public life.
- 4** Further expansion of the volume of socially significant information subject to public disclosure;
- 5** Improving the regulatory framework governing the activities of internal anti-corruption control units to ensure the independence of internal anti-corruption control units;
- 6** Strengthening administrative liability measures for violating the requirements of the legislation on public procurement to prevent corruption in the public procurement system;

- 7** Broad involvement of civil society institutions in the fight against corruption;
- 8** Increasing the number of grants and social orders, as well as the volume of funds allocated by the Public Fund for Support of NGOs and Other Civil Society Institutions under the Oliy Majlis;
- 9** Regular inclusion of anti-corruption topics in competitions for the allocation of state grants announced by public funds for the support of NGOs and other civil society institutions under regional and city Councils of People's Representatives;
- 10** Systematic organization of comprehensive sociological, scientific and practical research on the most pressing issues of combating corruption by specialized research institutions;
- 11** Ensuring timely and high-quality implementation of the tasks defined in the Roadmap for the widespread implementation of the GRACE Initiative in Uzbekistan by the Ministry of Preschool and School Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, the Youth Affairs Agency, the Association of Mahallas of Uzbekistan, the Law Enforcement Academy, and the Tashkent State University of Law;
- 12** Establishing and reforming Public Councils at the government organizations and institutions, hokimiyats (administrations) within the framework of established requirements;
- 13** Launch of a Virtual Academy platform designed to improve the knowledge of citizens and civil servants in the field of combating corruption.

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