

**Country Profile on
Disability**

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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Japan International Cooperation Agency
Planning and Evaluation Department**

Country Profile on Disability

Republic of Uzbekistan

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Abbreviation

CBR	Community-based Rehabilitation
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNP	Gross National Product
FM	Finance Ministry of the Republic of Uzbekistan
JICA	Japan International Co-operation Agency
JOCV	Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers
JM	Justice Ministry of the Republic of Uzbekistan
MC	Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan
MH	Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan
MHSSE	Ministry for Higher and Secondary Special Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan
ML	Ministry for Labour of the Republic of Uzbekistan
MLEC	Medicine Labour Expert Commissions
MLSSP	Ministry for Labour and Social Security of Population
MMS	Ministry for Macroeconomics and Statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan
MPE	Ministry for Public Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan
MSS	Minister of Social Security of the Republic of Uzbekistan
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
PHC	Primary Health Care
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization

1. Basic Profile

1-1. Basic Indicators

Public Sector Expenditure¹

Health	3.3%	1996-98
Education	7.7%	1997
Social welfare	N/A	
Defense	2.5%	1997

Population¹

Population (total)	24.7 million	2000
% of women	50.3%	2000
% of urban population	37%	1999
Life Expectancy ² (total)	68.7	1999
Male	65.8	1999
Female	71.7	1999

Medical Care

Medical care personnel ²		
Population/Doctor	324	1990-99
Population/Nurse & midwife	97	1992-95

¹ World Bank. World Development Report 2000-2001

² UNDP. Human Development Report 2001

Education

Education system ³		
Primary education	4 year	
Compulsory education	N/A	
Adult literacy rate ¹		
Male	93%	1998
Female	83%	1998
Enrollment ratio ³		
Primary education (Net enrollment ratio)		
Total	N/A	
Male	87%	1995-99
Female	89%	1995-99
Primary education ⁴ (Gross enrollment ratio)		
Total	78%	1994
Male	79%	1994
Female	76%	1994
Secondary education (Net enrollment ratio)		
Total	N/A	
Male	N/A	
Female	N/A	
Higher education ⁴ (Gross enrollment ratio)		
Total	32%	1991
Male	N/A	
Female	N/A	

³ UNESCO. Statistical Yearbook 1999

⁴ USAID ESDS. GED2000 Retrieved February 21, 2002, from <http://quesdb.cdie.org/ged/index.html>

1-2. Indicators on Disability

Disability-specific Data

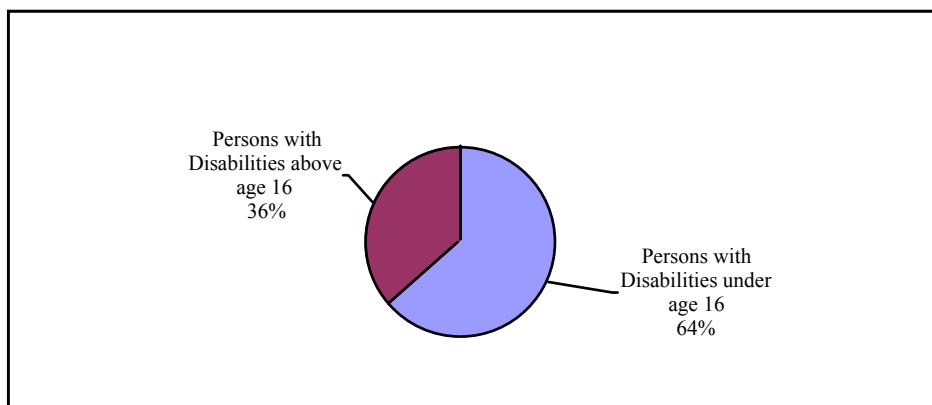
Table 1: Recipients of disability related benefits

	Total No. (2001)	% of total population (24.5 million in 1999)
Recipient of disability pension	575,795	2.35%
Recipient of PWD social benefit	264,590	1.08%

Source: Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies. *Country Profile Study on Persons with Disabilities (Uzbekistan)*, March 10, 2001

Age-specific Data

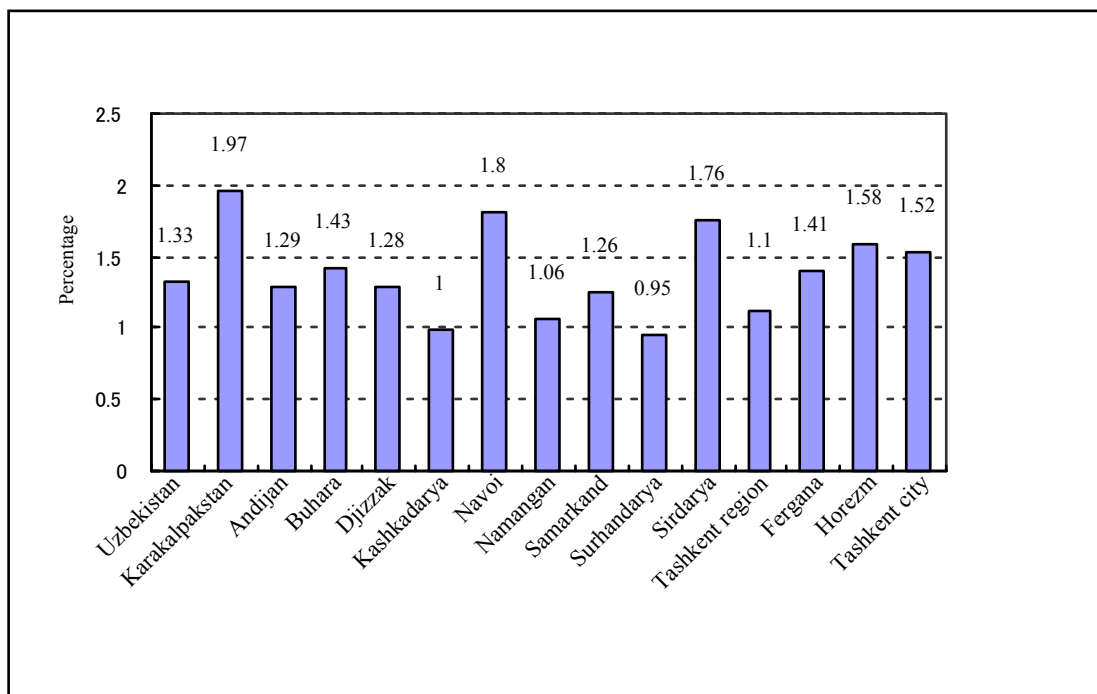
**Figure 1: Percentage of Person with Disabilities by Age Group
(Persons with Disabilities from birth who receive social benefit)**



Source: Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies. *Country Profile Study on Persons with Disabilities (Uzbekistan)*, March 10, 2001

Area-specific Data

Figure 2: The Percentage of Persons with Disabilities by Region in 2000



Source: Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies. *Country Profile Study on Persons with Disabilities (Uzbekistan)*, March 10, 2001

Grade-specific data

No grade-specific data is available.

Cause-specific Data

No cause-specific data is available.

Gender-specific Data

No gender-specific data is available.

2. Issues on Disability

2-1. Definition of Disability in Uzbekistan

The Law on “Social Security of Disabled People in the Republic of Uzbekistan, Article 1” defines a person with disability as one who is in need of aid because he/she has physical or mental problems. Daily activities such as moving, orientation, speech, behavioral control, and/or work on one's own are completely or partly limited.⁵

In Uzbekistan, persons with disabilities are screened in two steps. Firstly, a diagnosis is given by the hospitals where each person is registered according to his/her residential addresses. Secondly, persons with disabilities receive referrals to the Medicine Labour Expert Commissions (MLEC) of their respective district, which determines the grade of disability.

Regarding reception of social security benefits, the MLEC defines persons with disabilities by legislature in accordance with national traditions, international norms, and the economic resources of Uzbekistan. According to the causes of disabilities, persons with disabilities are divided into three general groups: (1) Disability caused by genetic diseases, (2) Disability caused by acquired diseases, and (3) Disability caused by industrial injury such as traffic accidents, industrial accidents, and natural disasters.

2-2. Current Situation

In Uzbekistan, there are 327,199 Persons with Disabilities (January 2001), which make up 1.33% of the total population of the country. Among them, 80,711 were newly registered in 2000. The percent of persons with disabilities to the total population increased in the 1990s, but decreased in 2000. Persons with disabilities in Uzbekistan include those who have disability caused by diseases and accidents, and victims of the Chernobyl accident.

The Constitution and other acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan regulate all the personal, social, and economic rights of persons with disabilities. The government coordinates efforts to

prevent isolation, ensure equal rights and opportunities, improve living conditions, maintain incomes, and strengthen the social security system. The foundation of the Uzbek model of reforms is strong social policy and an active role of the government in implementation of reforms to protect the disadvantaged population, including persons with disabilities. Despite general budget limitations, the government spends over 15% of the GDP on social security yearly, which is over 40% of all expenditures of the budget. Laws regulate social security policy that support persons with disabilities by means of providing pensions, free orthopaedic and other appliances, tax exemption, employment opportunities and medical services.

Some main features of the Uzbek national character are adherence to family, mercy, and mutual help. These traditions are overseen by the Mahhallya -- a self-management body of the Uzbek population. The body is becoming increasingly important in the social assistance distribution system, ensuring efficient allocation of budget funds.

2-3. Documentation and Survey on Disability

National Census

No information available.

Other Surveys

It is difficult to understand the situation of persons with disabilities in Uzbekistan, as there are almost no available statistics and research. Although there is some data showing a disability rate of 1.33% of the total population, there is little data on the types and causes of disabilities. Moreover, if the disability rate is really the 10% figure supported by WHO, then the data collection methods and quality for the figure mentioned above are suspect. A priority for Uzbekistan is to collect and analyze person with disabilities data currently scattered in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Ministry of Public Education, Ministry of Health and the National Rehabilitation Center, and then publish this data as national statistics.

5 Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies. Country Profile: Study on Persons with Disabilities. 2001

3. Administration and Policy on Disability

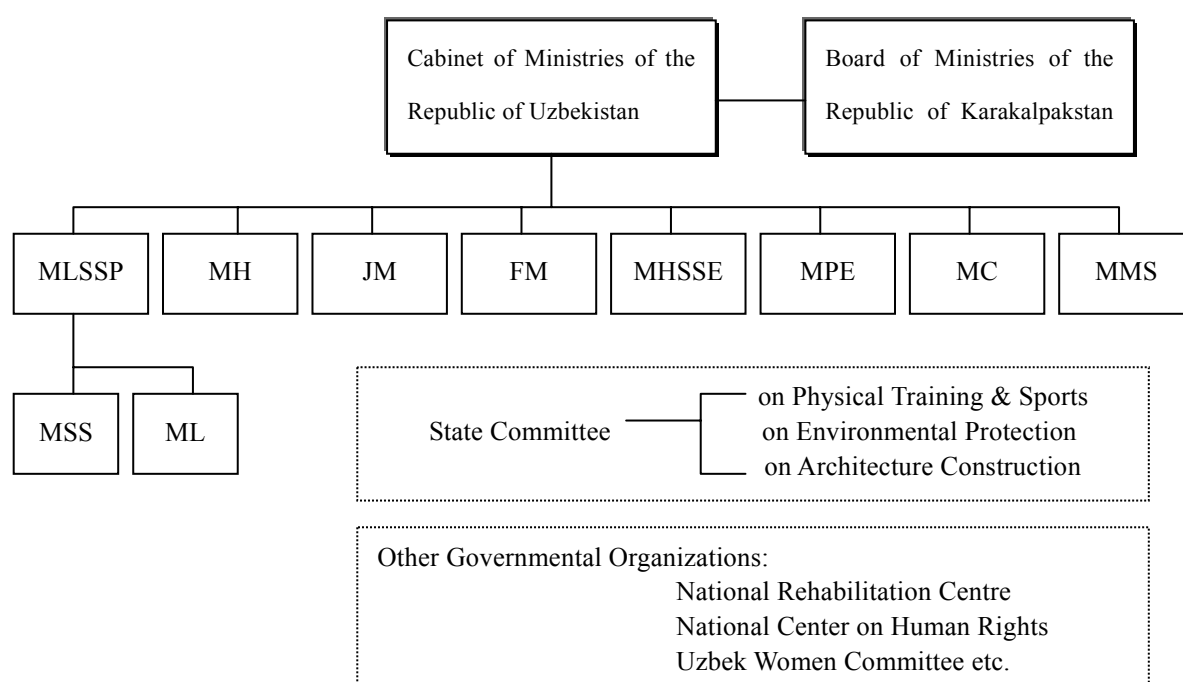
3-1. Administration on Disability

* See Annex 1-1 for the list of governmental organizations

Central Government

【Organizational chart】

The National System of Social Welfare in Uzbekistan⁶



MLSSP:	Ministry for Labour and Social Security of Population
MH:	Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan
JM	Justice Ministry of the Republic of Uzbekistan
FM:	Finance Ministry of the Republic of Uzbekistan
MHSSE:	Ministry for Higher and Secondary Special Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan
MPE:	Ministry for Public Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan
MC:	Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan
MMS:	Ministry for Macroeconomics and Statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan
MSS:	Minister of Social Security of the Republic of Uzbekistan
ML:	Ministry for Labour of the Republic of Uzbekistan

⁶ The sovereign Republic of Karakalpakstan is a part of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In this paper, Uzbekistan refers to both.

【Disability-related Central Governmental Organizations】

【Name】	【Description】
The Cabinet of Ministries of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Adopts governmental programs and laws to implement social aid and social security. Coordinates actions for the realization of state programs, creating a republican commission responsible for comprehensive activities.
Ministry for Labour and Social Security of Population	Established in February 2001. Fields of operation are as follows: (1) Social security for disabled people, (2) organization and management of social welfare, (3) management of medical and social services and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, (4) organization of orthopaedic aid for the population, (5) formation of employment programs and occupational adaptation.
Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Fields of operation are as follows: (1) Medical aid and prevention of illnesses for persons with disabilities, (2) organization of rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities, (3) creation of rehabilitation, medical, and diagnostic centres, (4) training of specialists for medical and preventional services.

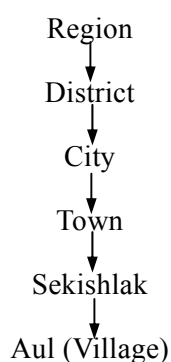
【Availability of national coordination committee】

Uzbekistan is a member country of ESCAP, but no information was found on the committee.

Local Government

【Organizational chart】

Organization of local government units



Source: Constitution, Article 99

【Disability-related Local Governmental Organizations】

【Name】	【Description】
Hokim	Local bodies which lead local executive and representative authorities (Councils of People’s Deputies). Also responsible for the observation of legitimate rights and interests of residents, provision of social security and social welfare, realisation of all measures on social security and medical and social rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.
State management boards (ministries, committees and their structure divisions)	They are responsible for elaboration and introduction of mechanisms for realisation of social security, protection of rights and legitimate interests of Persons with Disabilities, creation facilities for medical and social rehabilitation.

In Uzbekistan, the central government exercises strong authority over local governments regarding persons with disabilities welfare administration. Regarding special funds for the social security of persons with disabilities, for example, the Cabinet of Ministries of the Republic of Uzbekistan regulates sources of fund, fund-raising procedures, and applications of funds for activities.

3-2. Laws and Regulations on Disability

* See Annex 3 for other laws and documents

【Title】	The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan
【Year legislated】	December 8, 1992
【Purpose】	
【Description】	The constitution defines constitutional rights, freedoms, and law interests, including the right of a socially disadvantaged population to social security (person with disabilities, elderly, sick, unemployed, etc.). Article 39 of the constitution refers to the right of persons with disabilities : “Everyone shall have the right to social security in old age, in the event of disability and loss of the main income earner as well as in other events specified by law.”

【Title】	The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on “Social Security of Disabled People in the Republic of Uzbekistan”
【Year legislated】	November 18, 1991
【Purpose】	Social adaptation of Persons with Disabilities

【Description】

Persons with disabilities are defined in this law along with rights for persons with disabilities to easy access to public facilities and services, including education, social security, medical treatment, and occupational and social rehabilitation. This law establishes the extent of responsibility of the government and its bodies in creating favourable conditions for the social adaptation of persons with disabilities in the market economy.

3-3. Policies on Disability

National Development Plan

Uzbekistan formulates and adopts programs within the National Development Plan for the medical/social rehabilitation, prevention of disability, employment, occupational rehabilitation, and training.

3-4. Measures on Disability

Prevention, Identification and Early Intervention

【Current situation】

In Uzbekistan state programs cover measures for disability prevention, from the following perspectives:

1. Labor protection, industrial injuries prevention, occupational illnesses prevention
2. Environmental protection
3. Prevention of injuries from traffic accidents
4. Allocation of ambulances for first aid
5. Improvement of diagnostic tests and prevention of illnesses
6. Development of primary sectors of health care system, especially in rural areas
7. Sports activities

For labor protection, a list of jobs that are conducted under harmful and/or difficult conditions is prepared. Such employees benefit from special consideration, including few work hours, accelerated wages, nutritional supplies, and early retirement. In addition, many enterprises consider measures for industrial injury prevention, such as workplace security, sanitary and hygiene conditions to improve work environment, and employee health care. Furthermore, female workers are generally not involved in dangerous industries or in night shifts. Medical examination is compulsory and some enterprises have clinics for regular health care of their

employees.

Uzbekistan has laws and regulations on environmental protection. The government introduced a system of incentives, including tax incentives and fines for violation of environmental regulations to prevent toxic waste dumping that damages the environment. The State Committee on Environmental Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan takes charge of environmental protection and prevention of illness caused by pollution.

Nationally, clinical examinations were conducted for disease prevention and treatment. To reduce dangerous infectious diseases in Uzbekistan, regulations and standards on immunization have been practiced according to recommendations of the WHO. Since 1997, “national immunization days” have been practised to increase the scope of immunization. As a result, immunization rates for tuberculosis, poliomyelitis and diphtheria reached more than 98% in 2000 (Table 2.).

Table 2: Immunization of Children Under One Year Old in 2000

	Tuberculosis	Poliomyelitis	Diphtheria
% in the Republic of Uzbekistan	98.1%	99.0%	99.1%
% in the Republic of Karakalpakstan	98.8%	99.4%	99.2%

Source: Country Profile study on Persons with Disabilities (Uzbekistan), 2001.

Although child and infant mortality rate have decreased, there is a good number of children under the age of 1 who have rachitic and weight deficit. In 1996, 18.3% of children of this age suffered from rachitic scoliosis, and 23.1% from low weight. In Horesm region, these figures were 33.4% and 36.3%; in Navoi region, 34.2% and 49.8%; in Tashkent region, 27.3% and 40.3%, respectively.

In order to prevent congenital disability, Uzbekistan opened Centres of Mother and Child Screening in Tashkent, Nukus, Andijan, Samarkand, Karshi, Fergana, Buhara, Namangan, and Termez. By 2001, 124,000 of new-borns had been examined, 2,800 children in at-risk groups had been identified; and 160 had been registered in health clinics. For genetic reasons, 1,381 pregnancies were terminated.

The government actively pursues its social protection policy, allocating approximately 40% of

its annual budget to social protection. However, the centralized bureaucracy has prevented the implementation of various policies and laws. Therefore, the welfare for Persons with Disabilities needs to be implemented at the regional level in order to achieve these policies and promote capacity building in local and regional governments and NGOs. Particular attention should be paid to Karakalpakstan, Navoi and Sirdarya, three areas where the disability rate is relatively high.

【Policy/program title】	State program “Screening of mother and child” (the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministries of the Republic of Uzbekistan № 140, 1.04 1998)
【Implementation year】	1998
【Description】 This program aims to promote early diagnosis of congenital disabilities and diseases. It defines the role of the state management boards, public organizations in implementing the program and formulating its financing scheme.	

Medical Services and Rehabilitation

【Current situation】

Medical treatment and rehabilitation is conducted in all medical and prevention institutions within the Ministry of Health system for all types of diseases. There are 1,050 medical clinics and hospitals, including hospitals (842), clinics that provide non-residential care (180), and centers that provide non-residential care (28). Among them, the National Rehabilitation Center is the main institution that provides rehabilitation services, training specialists to provide medical and illness prevention services for persons with disabilities.

There are 20 enterprises that produce prosthetic appliances, special orthopaedic footwear, wheelchairs, and hearing aids in Uzbekistan. There are also six joint ventures. In 1999 alone, nearly 13,400 prosthetic and orthopedic appliances, 820 wheelchairs, and 878 hearing aids were provided through state agencies.

Education

【Current situation】

The state assures access to education and professional training for persons with disabilities. They are encouraged to study in normal educational institutions for social rehabilitation. In some cases, persons with disabilities receive education at special institutions or at home. The state covers the expenses for special education. A system of residential (home) education has also been created. This system covers over 3500 children with disabilities.

A comprehensive system for the health care of children with visual and hearing impairment, and physical disabilities is being formulated under primary educational institutions, secondary schools, boarding schools and special rehabilitation centers. Uzbekistan had created 84 special boarding schools by January 2001. These schools accept 18,596 children with disabilities. Territorial boards of public education and health care are in charge of placing children in boarding schools. Children are placed based on special medical certificates signed by psychiatrists, doctors, and teachers. In order to improve the quality of compulsory and professional education, 20 special education programs were created and 51 educational books were published in accordance with compulsory education standards and developmental patterns of children with speech, hearing and visual impairment, and intellectual and other disabilities.

Social Service

【Current situation】

The social security of Persons with Disabilities is a critical task for the government of Uzbekistan. Social security includes ensuring free access to social infrastructure. For instance, there are requirements for the construction of infrastructure considering the needs of persons with disabilities and other socially vulnerable people.

When living conditions of persons with congenital disabilities and other disabilities of group I and II⁷ improve, apartments are to be provided taking into consideration the distance to work place, medical clinics and other transport and communications from persons with disabilities' residences.

In 2000, 185 special initiatives were underway that helped give persons with disabilities access to public transportation and buildings. Today nearly 21,900 single elderly people and persons with disabilities live in Uzbekistan. Of them, nearly 14,300 receive benefits and nine nutritional items and hygiene appliances. For about 19,500 people, the state provides at-home care.

⁷ The "Country Profile Study on Persons with Disabilities: Uzbekistan" mentions type I and II when referring to persons with congenital disabilities, but the definition of the types were not given in the report.

The state provides social benefits for two categories of the population:

1. Persons with congenital disabilities (type I and II); CWDs under 16 years old
2. Single people over 65 years old (male) and 60 years old (female)

Benefits for category one above are provided at 100% of minimum wage. Persons with disabilities are requested to file an application, benefits are approved and paid by the district (municipal) boards of social welfare closest to person with disabilities' residential address. They are paid regardless of the wage, stipend, and other incomes of the recipient, and are granted for the whole period of disability. A benefit for children with disabilities is granted for a period designated in the medical. Recalculation of monthly benefits is made in case of: (1) a change in a family composition, (2) a change to the minimum wage level, (3) fixing or annulling district adjustment rate or a change of its size, (4) changes in income indexing.

Social benefits can also be received through the Mahhalya system. The system defines families that receive benefits as (1) families that have a child with disability, (2) families that look after orphaned children, (3) families where one or both parents of children have disabilities, and (4) families where one or both parents are unemployed and registered at a human resource bank (labour pool) as seeking work. These benefits don't restrict receiving other benefits for a family, including welfare for low-income families.

For the social and vocational rehabilitation of children and teenagers with disabilities, special educational institutions have been created.

As a part of rehabilitation, sports activities have been organized in Uzbekistan. Football, free-style wrestling, volleyball, tennis, draughts, and chess championships for athletes with disabilities from boarding schools were conducted in 2000.

【Policy/program title】	Program of measures for 2000-2005 on increasing of address social aid for single elder people, pensioners, and person with disabilities in Uzbekistan (The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministries of the Republic of Uzbekistan from December 7, 1999 No. 520)
【Implementation year】	December 1999

【Description】

This program designs and realises measures for providing a comprehensive aid for single pensioners and person with disabilities, including medical and patronage services, provision with board and medicine, provision with vouchers to sanatoriums and medical health care institutions.

【Policy/program title】 The state program of measures for increasing the role of women

【Implementation year】 February 18, 1999

【Description】

The program aims at increasing the roles of women in family and social life. Great attention paid to female children. The program covers organisational, technical, sanitation and hygiene measures to prevent women with disabilities.

【Policy/program title】 The Presidential Decree (May 27, 1991) and the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministries of the Republic of Uzbekistan on additional measures for social aid for single pensioners and person with disabilities in the Republic of Uzbekistan (May, 28 1991)

【Implementation year】 1991

【Description】 Legal framework for providing of state patronage services.

【Policy/program title】 The Pension Law, adopted in September 3, 1993 and put in force in July 1, 1994.

【Implementation year】 1994

【Description】

Over 2.6 million people receive pensions. Nearly 21.9% of pensions are disability pensions; 60,000 people receive pensions from the Pension Fund. The fund receives funds from compulsory payments for social insurance.

Vocational Training and Employment Promotion Services

【Current situation】

Special attention is being paid to occupational rehabilitation and the provision of special jobs for persons with disabilities. According to Uzbek law, each company's workforce must consist of at least 3% persons with disabilities, and discrimination against persons with disabilities regarding employment and professional careers is banned.

There are three special professional education institutions for occupational rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. These institutions teach over 1,100 children with disabilities annually.

The Uzbek government perceives the need to create good work facilities for the vocational rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. For this purpose, the state provides benefits, incentives, and loans for persons with disabilities who want to start businesses. Enterprises whose workforce is 50% persons with disabilities are exempt from income tax.

Employment boards examine jobs for persons with disabilities to define whether they are appropriate. Enterprises are required to fill in person with disabilities employment test forms, provide information on enterprises, specifications of sanitary installations for persons with disabilities and how the production process has been adapted to meet the needs of persons with disabilities. Despite there being 34,924 job openings for persons with disabilities in 2000, only 2,814 persons with disabilities were hired: the rest were not employed because of poor work conditions and low wages.

Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR)

【Current situation】

There are several types of rehabilitation activities based in facilities. All over the country, there are 5,169 polyclinics for home care, 1,250 hospitals and clinics, eight medical institutes for specialist training, two training centers for blind people, and two educational centers as of 2000. Centers for the education, medical treatment, and vocational rehabilitation of persons with disabilities have been established in all regions of Uzbekistan by societies for Uzbek Person with Disabilities and the Republican association, “ Chernobyl Uzbek People”. In addition, 34 senior citizens’ homes and boarding houses for persons with disabilities provide clinical care services for the elderly and persons with disabilities. Today over 6,800 people reside in these facilities, with nearly 4,000 workers providing social and medical services.

CBR is effective in implementing person with disabilities welfare activities in the regions. However, there have been no reports of CBR being implemented in Uzbekistan and no mention of CBR in the 1996-2000 state rehabilitation program for persons with disabilities. Possibly, CBR has not been promoted among the country’s person with disabilities welfare personnel, nor has the need for CBR awareness and training been promoted.

【Policy/program title】

State program of rehabilitation of Person with Disabilities in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 1996-2000 (the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministries No. 433 from 11.11.1995)

【Implementation year】	November 1995
【Description】	<p>The program regulates state control over all aspects of medical/social rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. Over 40 state and public organizations are involved in the program. A special republican commission was created for co-ordination of its activities. The commission monitors the program on a quarterly basis. The areas of the program are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disability prevention 2. Medical/social rehabilitation 3. Education and occupational rehabilitation 4. Employment promotion and working facilities for persons with disabilities 5. Development of physical training and sports activities 6. Training of medical specialists and social workers 7. Studies on issues of persons with disabilities and prosthetic appliances 8. Coordination of rehabilitation program 9. Financing the state program for 1996-2000

【Policy/program title】	State program for the medical/social rehabilitation of disabled children for 2001-2005 (The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministries of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 10.06.1999 No. 296)
【Implementation year】	1999
【Description】	Medical, social, educational and occupational rehabilitation for children with disabilities. Sports and cultural activities for children with disabilities.

【Policy/program title】	State program to reform the health care system of the Republic of Uzbekistan. (The Decree of the President of Uzbekistan No. 2107, November 10, 1998)
【Implementation year】	1998

【Description】

This program defines systems for providing medical services as follows:

1. Providing medical services reflecting different types of institutes in rural and urban areas:
 - In rural areas: rural medical clinics - district hospital;
 - In urban areas: consultation/diagnostics clinics - municipal hospital.
2. Creation of two systems for medical services:
 - Free services
 - Paid services

The state has committed to provide free basic medical and sanitary services based in state medical care institutions. Non-governmental medical institutions are to provide up to 20% of services free of charge for certain categories of patients included in the list approved by the Cabinet of Ministries. This program aims to promote international cooperation and attract foreign investment and funds for development of health care systems of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Communication Tools

【Current situation】

No information available.

3-5. Experts and Workers in the Field of Disability

*See Annex 1-3 for experts and workers training institutions

【Job title】	【Role and activity】	【Training and qualification system】
Medical specialists, teachers, social services specialist	employment, sociological, patronage, psychological adaptation, etc	The National program for training specialists (The law on national program of training specialists, 29, 08 1997) offers training of qualified specialists. There were 2,589 trained medical specialists in 1999.
Social workers	They provide state patronage services for persons with disabilities, including medical and hygiene services.	

4. Disability-related Organizations and Activities

4-1. Activities by Disability- related organization

* See Annex 1-2. for list of organizations

Current State of Organizations

Special organizations and enterprises (medical institutions, boarding houses, school boarding houses for persons with disabilities, etc) provide medical and social rehabilitation, social welfare and social security services. Persons with disabilities may be involved in activities of any kind, including business. They may organise public formations for the protection of their rights and legitimate interests, and for their participation in implementing these activities.

Persons with disabilities and their official representatives have a right to create public organizations to protect their interests and provide mutual aid. Public organizations have an organizational structure, which corresponds to administrative organizations, i.e. republican and central bodies, regional, district, and municipal branches.

State bodies provide full aid to public and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, enterprises, institutions, and organizations, regardless of their scale, are required to consider issues of person with disabilities in cooperation with disability-related NGOs.

NGOs of persons with disabilities and enterprises, institutions, and organizations within their structure enjoy tax exemption and incentives in accordance with the legislation of Uzbekistan. NGOs of persons with disabilities and boards within their structure have the prioritized right to receive working space, materials, equipment, and tax exemption. Public non-commercial organizations, enterprises and residents (sponsors) may take part in solutions for problems associated with the social security of persons with Disabilities. They also may finance relevant measures. Local authorities are required to support them.

4-2. Cooperation Projects on Disability Organized by International and Other Donors

* See Annex 2 for the list of projects

Assistance by Multilateral/Bilateral Organizations and International NGOs

State programs are funded by national budget funds, funds of enterprises and organizations, charity funds, and other sponsors. In some cases foreign funds, including foreign technical assistance, support programs. For example, the World Bank and UNICEF jointly support disability prevention through primary health care (PHC). Some of the major bilateral donors are Finland which provided medical facilities and equipment, and Germany which contributed in preventing disabilities as well as in social and medical rehabilitation.

Assistance by Japan

JICA launched its Japanese volunteer program in Uzbekistan in December 1998, but there are currently no volunteers (JOCV) specialized in disabilities.

5. References

This report was prepared based upon a report written by a local consultant.

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