



**United Nations Trust Fund
for Human Security**

Uzbekistan

Strengthening Resilience of Youth to Cybercrime and Digital Violence in Uzbekistan

Background information

Cybercrime is a growing concern in Uzbekistan, particularly among young people aged 14 to 30. Reported cases of online fraud, gambling, and harassment increased from 20,000 in 2022 to over 30,000 in 2023, with financial losses rising from \$8.5 million to \$25 million. Young people, especially those not in school or employment, are among the most affected. As internet access continues to expand rapidly, efforts to strengthen cybersecurity measures have been introduced, including the adoption of a cybersecurity law in 2022. However, challenges remain in addressing online risks, particularly those that have a greater impact on women and vulnerable groups. Enhancing legal protections, raising awareness, and improving data collection on cyber threats will be key to ensuring a safer digital environment for all.

Goals and objectives

The programme aims to create a secure digital environment for youth by fostering digital literacy, promoting internet safety, and mitigating cybercrime risks. The specific objectives of the programme are to (i) support law enforcement with modern tools and knowledge to improve programmes, strategies and plans to effectively prevent and address cybercrime against youth; and (ii) enhance youth social and political participation for increased empowerment and resilience against digital risks and cybercrimes.



DURATION

February 2025 — July 2026



UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES
UNODC, UNDP



OTHER KEY PARTNERS

Cyber Security Center under the
Ministry of Interior, Ministry of
Preschool and School Education



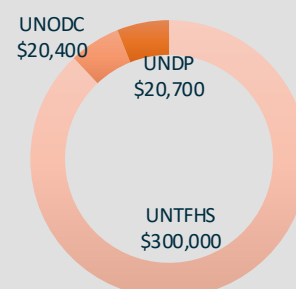
BENEFICIARIES

>100,000 individuals directly, and
many more, particularly youth and
students, indirectly



TOTAL BUDGET
US\$ 341,100

POOLING OF RESOURCES



Beneficiaries

Over 100,000 individuals, including youth and especially girls, educators, government officials as well as civil society and media representatives will benefit from the programme. The programme will indirectly benefit an even higher number of beneficiaries including youth and students who will receive upgraded curricula in public schools and Law Enforcement Training Academies.

Applying the Human Security approach

Looking beyond the mere absence of violence, the human security approach adopted by this programme acknowledges the social and economic dimensions of cybercrime. It seeks to address the complex risks, insecurities, and underlying factors associated with cybercrime and digital violence against youth, with the goal of creating a safe digital environment that fosters the well-being, dignity, and empowerment of young people.

Protection and empowerment are at the core of this strategy. The programme strengthens the capacity of national institutions to protect youth from cybercrime and digital violence, while also enhancing institutional frameworks for prevention and safety. Rather than viewing young people solely as victims or potential offenders, the programme empowers them to actively shape safe online environments and offers them agency and a voice in fostering proactive participation and responsibility. The programme equips youth with essential digital skills to protect themselves from cybercrimes and digital violence, boosting their digital resilience through training, ideathons, crowdsourcing, and volunteering.

A multistakeholder approach at the local level will foster collaboration among key actors across various sectors, ensuring the programme's sustainability and success. The programme also emphasizes local ownership by actively engaging communities in prevention efforts, leveraging Uzbekistan's unique governance structures, such as the mahalla system. A multi-stakeholder working group will be established, bringing together law enforcement professionals, educators from law enforcement academies, public schools, and universities, as well as ministries of education. This group will engage local stakeholders in developing handbooks, toolkits, and actions tailored to the local context, ensuring relevance, effectiveness, and strong community ownership.

The programme prioritizes vulnerable groups, including youth not in education, employment or training, young women, people with disabilities, and marginalized populations, ensuring inclusive participation. All activities will be accessible and adapted to diverse needs, fostering broad engagement and long-term impact.



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