

# »» Project Information

Implemented by:



## Health – Uzbekistan

Modern medicine for Uzbek provinces

One legacy of the Soviet Union – outdated technologies and inefficient structures - is hindering medical care in Uzbekistan. KfW Development Bank is helping the Uzbek government to transform the regional capitals' hospitals into modern medical centres, and is promoting the training of staff. Innovative approaches such as the use of telemedicine also form part of the programme.

serious, is only available in the capital Tashkent. Waiting times are long and may cost patients their lives. The Uzbek patient has also become a complicated case, suffering both from diseases of poverty and those associated with wealth. Tuberculosis is still very widespread, while the number of non-communicable metabolic disorders and cardiac diseases is rising. This development is a double burden on the health system.

### Project approach

The healthcare system is in such need of modernisation that Uzbekistan cannot cope without external assistance. That is why, on behalf of the German federal government, KfW is supporting the reforms undertaken

### Context

Uzbekistan has the largest population of any country in Central Asia. More than two thirds of the 30 million Uzbeks live in rural areas divided into 14 provinces called “oblasts”. At first glance, medical provision in the oblasts makes a solid impression. Each capital has its own main hospital. There are also a number of specialist clinics, for example a clinic for hormonal disorders and a centre for ophthalmology. Unfortunately, these dual structures are a huge burden on the healthcare system. Even within a major hospital, the individual specialist departments each maintain separate surgical units, which entails high costs.

In addition to this, the bulk of the medical infrastructure is inherited from Soviet times. The buildings are now run down, the old heating systems waste energy, the diagnostic equipment, some of which dates from 1965, often fails, while the repair works necessary put an additional strain on the limited hospital budget. Outdated diagnostic equipment means that the treatment methods do not always meet modern standards.

Within the state sector, adult medicine only has two MRI scanners. The device, which can be used to diagnose a number of diseases before they become really

<b>Project name</b>	Modernisation of regional hospitals
<b>Commissioned by</b>	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Country/Region</b>	Uzbekistan
<b>Lead executing agency</b>	Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan





The regional hospitals are being transformed into multidisciplinary health centres. Source: KfW / Tom Woyack.

by the Uzbek Health Ministry. The aim is to provide an efficient system of medical provision to people living in rural areas, and primarily those too poor to travel to the hospital in Tashkent or abroad.

All of the regional hospitals are to be restructured and linked to the highest level of medical care in Tashkent using telemedicine (diagnosis and treatment by means of telecommunications). Following the refurbishment of the buildings, the diagnostic units are being brought together to create a radiological department, while the different operating theatres are being grouped to form one multidisciplinary operating suite. External specialist clinics are being integrated.

The costs of the construction and renovation work are being borne by the Uzbeks, who will also fund the installation of energy-efficient heating systems. The introduction of new technologies, including new equipment and its maintenance, is being financed by KfW. These funds will also be used to equip each hospital with its own MRI scanner. Technology for the safe and environmentally friendly disposal of hazardous and infectious hospital waste is also being implemented.

Additional generators are being installed to ensure the smooth running of the hospital even in the event of power cuts. Furthermore, KfW is financing a training centre in the Medical Academy of Tashkent that will likewise be equipped with an MRI scanner for educational purposes.

The training of doctors and nurses is an important component of the programme. They are being trained to work with the new equipment and apply new methods of treatment, including telemedicine. This allows the medical staff of the regional hospitals to bridge distances and collaborate with colleagues in Tashkent or even abroad.

The German government has made EUR 22.5 million available for the first nine hospitals. Work on the hospitals in the “oblast” capitals of Andijan, Buchara, Karshi, Namangan, Novoi, Nukus, Samarkand and Termez, as well as the national capital Tashkent, is already under way. The German government is providing an additional EUR 9 million for other hospitals.

### Impact

Modern medical centres will be created that can examine and treat their adult patients from the whole region using contemporary medical technology. Hospital stays are expected to shorten significantly and it is hoped that fewer patients will have to be referred to the national hospitals. All told, this will reduce the burden not only on the health system, but also on patients' families.



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