

NAMANGAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

2022 - 2030

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Foreword

This Regional Strategy for Namangan was developed at the request of the Khokhim of Namangan region and in Coordination with the Ministry of Economy and Poverty Reduction and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as other relevant line Ministries. The actual team who worked on the development of the strategy were from the Regional Department of the Ministry of Economy and Poverty Reduction in Namangan and there has been significant consultation with other actors in the region. In the course of this process, in line with the newly developed directives, a bottom-up approach has been applied allowing local actors at every level to contribute to the content.

Introduction

This strategy provides a vision for the Namangan region for the next nine years 2022 – 2030 and as such is framed at time where Uzbekistan is experiencing massive change. This transformation which began with the change in President in 2016 has seen significant liberalization of the economy, an increase in foreign investment, an improvement in relations with neighboring countries, economic growth, a raft of new policies and strategies and a reduction in poverty. The country has set itself the ambitious target of becoming a high middle income country by 2030 which would result in a doubling of annual income and a significant reduction in povertyⁱ.

Such an ambitious target will require overcoming significant challenges not least the need to create jobs for a growing young population, which offers both a significant opportunity and risks, and the need for further reform as well as overcoming the setback that the Covid Pandemic has brought to this whole process.

Namangan at the heart of the Ferghana Valley, a region which spans three countries Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and is the most populous in Central Asia, is a key part of this bigger vision. As such this strategy lays out a vision and ambition for Namangan for the 2022 – 2030 period, with the specific Goals being:

- 1. A skilled workforce for the future and opportunities for all people with a skills system that delivers the economic vision for the region. Barriers to employability and jobs are lowered.**
- 2. Growing a Competitive and Sustainable Economy.**
- 3. Green Development & Sustainable Management of Natural Resources.**
- 4. An infrastructure that enables a green and resilient economy while providing a vibrant and attractive location for residents, students, business and tourists.**
- 5. Making the most from the development of international gateways and national and regional transport corridors.**
- 6. Public Institutions provide services efficiently and effectively with a specific focus on disadvantaged groups such as youth, women and People With Disabilities (PWD).**

Clearly such an ambitious intent cannot take place in isolation and this strategy is very much part of a bigger picture and draws significantly on documents that have preceded itⁱⁱ and is influenced by the current Strategic/Policy discourse within the country. The most significant such strategies, policies and actions are listed below.

- The Poverty Reduction Strategy 2021 (Draft Unpublished)
- A new version of the Employment Law which was adopted in 2020, updating the 1998 version
- The Agri Food Development Strategy 2020 – 2030 which was adopted by Decree on the 23rd October 2019.
- Concept on Environmental Protection to 2030, and its 2019-2021 implementation Roadmap.
- Strategy for Transition for Green Economy for the period 2019-2030.
- Concept of Development of Water Management Sector for 2020-2030.
- Strategy on Municipal Waste Management for the period 2019-2028.
- A new Labour Code that is in the final stages of preparation and that will replace the previous Labour Code adopted in 1995, that contained many points which in practice, would hinder the implementation of the new law.
- There have been positive changes in migration policy since 2017, signalling official recognition of the role of migration in poverty reduction and absorbing excess labour supply
- Improvement in the quality of labour supply is being addressed through the second education sector strategy for 2019-23, medium-term strategies on public education and higher education, the Employment Law and a number of legal acts, which set strategic objectives of improving the quality of education and bringing it up to international standards.
- There has been an expansion in the coverage of unemployment benefits, as well as simplification of the process of registering as unemployed and applying for benefits.
- There has been a significant investment over the last two years in Active Labour Market Programmes (ALMPs).
- Establishment of the "Iron Book", a register which includes all those who have lost their jobs and sources of income, as well as families with disabilities, elderly people living alone and the poor. Moreover, targeted programmes for women and young people have also been set up in the form of the "Youth Book" and "Women's Book"
- Liberalization of the currency market and current-account conversion (summer-autumn 2017).
- Removal of a number of administrative barriers to the cross-border movement of goods and people (primarily with Uzbekistan's neighbours) and reduction of import customs payments (2017-18).
- Banking and monetary sector reform (2017-18).
- A radical tax reform (2019).
- The new Law on Education (2020) guarantees children and youth of the country the 'rights to', 'rights in' and 'rights through' quality and inclusive education, in line with international conventions and treaties.
- In addition, the government also introduced a separate Law on Preschool Education (2019) that mandates one year free and compulsory pre-primary education to prepare children for schools.

Finally, this document draws heavily on the 2030 Agenda and at a time when the Planet faces huge challenges, most notably in the environmental sphere, will localize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)ⁱⁱⁱ. The specific SDGs which are relevant being

SDG 1: No Poverty: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

SDG 5: Gender Equality: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, Hunger and Infrastructure: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities: Reduce inequality within and amongst countries.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

SDG 13: Climate Action: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

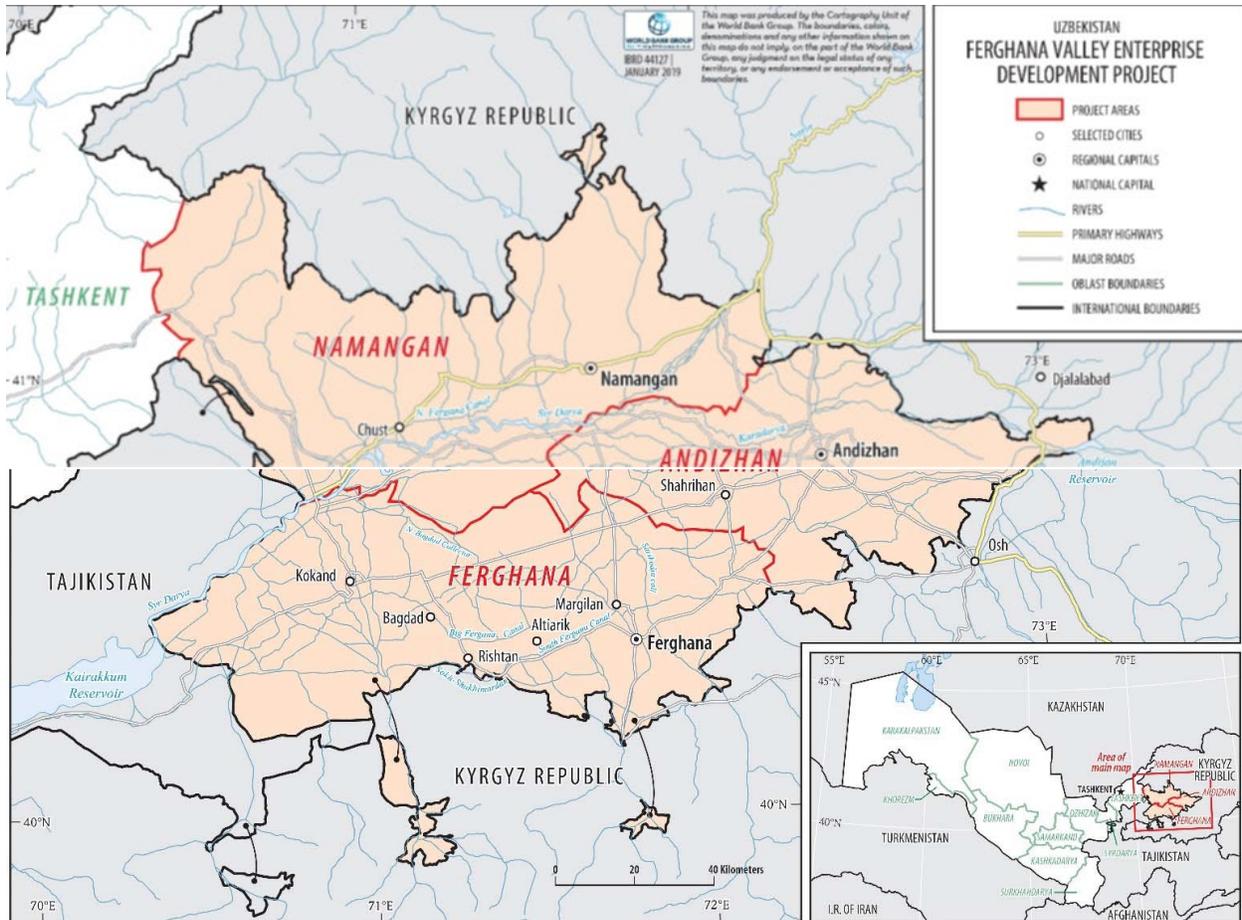
SDG 15: Life on Land: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

It is in the context outlined above in which this strategy is framed and the document will now go onto discuss the Namangan region itself in more detail.

The Region

Namangan is situated in the Ferghana Valley which is the most densely populated part of Central Asia and as one of the three regions in the Uzbekistan part of the valley it is located on a historic trade route and hub of cultural exchange and learning. The Uzbekistan part of the Ferghana Valley occupies just 4% of the country's territory but hosts 29% of its population and Namangan is one of the most densely populated parts of the Country.



The region is situated at the entrance to Ferghana Valley and borders Tashkent to the West and Ferghana and Andijan to the East. There is a border with Kyrgyzstan to the North and Tajikistan to the South West. On the border with Kyrgyzstan there are three historic border crossings but of these currently only one is open, in Kasansay^{iv} District, and this is only open for individual citizens from both countries allowing them to go back and forth but not for trade. This border crossing was opened in 2017 following a thawing in relations between the two countries. There is a historic border crossing with Tajikistan in Pop District but this has been closed for some years.

Namangan has a total population of 2,914,200^v (89% Uzbek, 8.9% Tajik, 0.8% Kyrgyz and 0.4% Russian) who are divided amongst the 13 different districts and Namangan city. In recent years the administrative centre of Yangi Namangan has been established and this along with Namangan City and Davlatobod District make up the metropolitan area of the capital of the region. Apart from the citizens living in the Namangan metropolitan area the population of the region is largely Urban with the Urban Rural divide being 64,8% urban and 35,2% rural.

Table One Population Data for Namangan Region January 2022

Name of District	Population
Namangan City	661,100
Mingbulak	131,200
Kosonsay	217,700

Namangan District	183,800
Narin	169,300
Pop	226,900
Turakurgan	233,500
Uychi	222,100
Uchkurgan	178,100
Chartak	206,200
Chust	274,500
Yangi Kurgan	226,700
Total Namangan Region	2,931,100

Note: the total for Namangan City includes Yangi Namangan & Davlatobod Districts.

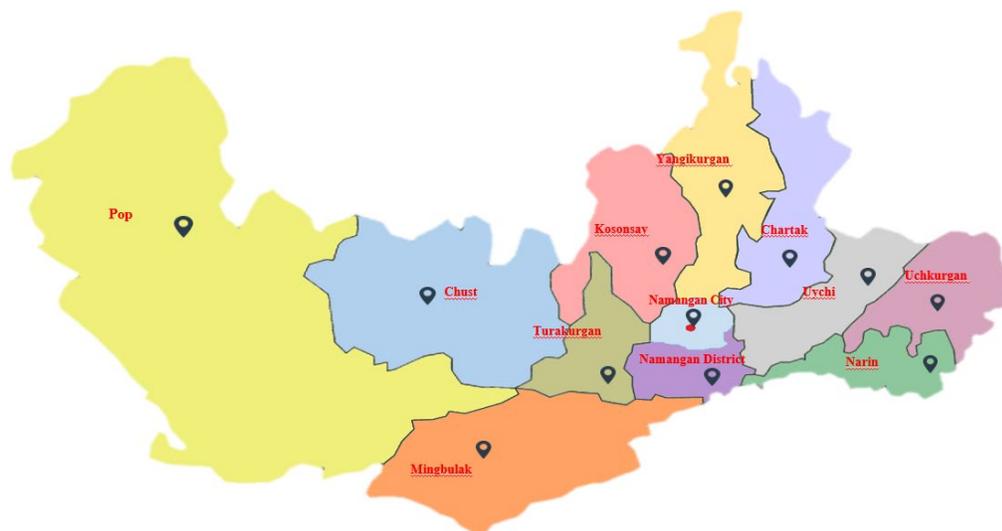
Namangan boasts an international airport with weekly flights to the Russian cities of Moscow, St Petersburg, Yekaterinburg and Novosibirsk as well as good links within Uzbekistan. Other important infrastructure includes the road network which is extensive and provides effective connections within the region and with the capital and neighboring regions namely Ferghana and Andijan^{vi}. There is also a rail network passing through the region that provides links with Tashkent and Andijan^{vii}.

The majority of the region is situated on a plateau that can be reached from Tashkent by the Kamchick Pass which can during winters become temporarily closed. The largest river of the region is the Syrdarya which is formed from the confluence of the Naryn and Karadarya rivers. In addition, the Patshaata, Kasansai and Gavasai and others flow into the Syrdarya. It is these rivers that feed the irrigation system of the region and this coupled with the rich soil and favourable growing climate make Namangan and the broader Ferghana Valley a hotbed of Agricultural production and innovation that is frequently referred to as the “Bread Basket of Central Asia”.

In addition, the region is bestowed with significant natural resources including Gas and deposits of a variety of different minerals.



The Districts of Namangan Region



Socio Economic Analysis

Structure of the Economy

In recent years the Economy of Namangan has been dominated by the Agriculture and the Services Sector. The former represents a share of 40% of Gross Regional Production (GRP) whilst also accounting for 28.4% of employment and 50% of exports of raw materials^{viii}. These figures are considerably higher in comparison with other regions of the country. Services on the other hand account for 37.7% of GRP the majority of these are either associated with trade or transport with there being a growing demand for IT, Healthcare and Financial Services. The other significant sector is the light industry sector which makes up 22.3 % of the GRP and although growing is relatively low in comparison with the average for Uzbekistan.

The strength of agriculture is not surprising, given the excellent growing climate and conditions and the position and linkages with the broader region. In recent years, following policy changes^{ix}, there has been a move away from the traditional main stays of Cotton and Wheat to higher value crops in particular fruit and vegetables. Increasing numbers of farmers and Dehkans^x are investing in these crops and such investments are matched by growing demand by exporters in particular from Russia, Kazakhstan and increasingly Turkey, for the produce of the region, with Stone Fruit^{xi} being a particular favourite. This increased demand has been coupled with investments in value added such as the development of Green Houses and Cold Storage allowing producers to take advantage of seasonal price differentials as well as some processing capacity whether it be in drying of fruits such as plums etc or the production of conserved vegetables such as tomatoes and cucumbers. That being said there is still significant potential for greater value added of the regions produce and an increase in exports. Although the Agricultural sector is

dominated by cropping a significant proportion can be attributed to Livestock/Poultry and Fish farming. This is predominantly concentrated within the Dehkan sector and it makes up approximately 39% of Agricultural Regional Production.

In addition, to the above it is important to note the significance that the Agricultural sector plays in the region with respect a coping/survival mechanism. This takes the form of produce harvested from small Dehkan plots for sale or consumption or daily/seasonal labour on larger agricultural enterprises both of which provide a lifeline for the rural poor.

The other significant sector is light industry and in particular textile and associated industries account for 43.7% of the industrial production. This textile base is largely associated with Cotton processing facilities and the production of Cotton and Silk yarn as well as associated enterprises producing finished textile products apparel and shoes. Within the Light Industry sector food processing is also significant and accounts for the 25.4% of the industrial production. Aside from these two there are range of industries present such as construction, fabrication of metal products and production of computing and electrical equipment etc none of which constitute more than 3.5% of the industrial production.

There is a fledgling Tourism sector but this at present is relatively small and mainly linked with the Spas/Sanitoriums which can be found in the Chartak District^{xii} as well as facilities available in the Yangi Kurgan, Kosonsoy and Pop Districts. There is significant potential to build upon this as well as the regions strategic position to further develop the Tourism sector.

Despite Namangan being a hotbed of economic activity, the level of exports generated are relatively low in comparison with the rest of the country, 3% of the total exports of Uzbekistan, and this remains an area for further development. The products which are exported are dominated by fruits and vegetables (60.7%), textiles (22.6%), and garments/apparel (9.0%). What is more small businesses account for more than 89% (56.7% - small enterprises, 33.0% - microfirms) of the region's export of goods and services.

Employment

Demographic trends saw a significant increase in the working age population of Uzbekistan between 1991 and 2018 with an increase from 49.1% to 60%. Between 2010 and 2018 the labour force increased by 2.4 million while jobs only increased by 1.6 million. Namangan mirrors the national situation and in short has an over-supply of labour which in particular impacts upon youth, women and other vulnerable groups. The main coping mechanisms are a heavy reliance upon self-employment which includes Dehkan agriculture, coupled with seasonal labour largely in the agricultural sector and international migration. The latter largely involves men migrating^{xiii} on a seasonal basis mainly to Kazakhstan and Russia. Despite the provision of various services and the opportunity to register such migration, the vast majority takes place informally putting those involved at great risk.

In response to the demand for jobs there have been significant investments in educational/vocational training institutions with a Mono Centre being opened in 2021, IT schools now being present in each District and five Districts having vocational learning centres. Furthermore, the Chamber of Commerce will in early 2022 be opening Business Incubator Hubs in three locations in the region.

To sum up the key challenges that the region faces with regards employment are to

1. Increase the number of jobs available.
2. Increase the quality of jobs available.

3. Decrease informality.
4. Reduce the significant disparities between men and women.

There is a need to focus on Women, Youth and PWD.

The Environment & Climate Change

Central Asia is a region where average temperatures are rising faster than the global average and the region is projected to experience increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, changing precipitation patterns and increasing likelihood of drought. A particularly complex challenge is the water-food-energy nexus because electricity and food production rely on scarce water resources^{xiv}.

In a region such as Namangan which is an Agriculture based economy, well endowed with fertile soil, a good water supply and an excellent growing climate such changes in weather patterns will have a dramatic impact upon the lives and livelihoods of the population. In particular drought and the subsequent consequences on water supply will significantly diminish the agricultural productivity. This is in a context where already there have been significant consequences with regards declining productivity of the land with large areas of land being impacted by salination^{xv}. Climate change and the impacts it brings will lead to depletion and deterioration of natural resources such as land and water leading to severe consequences for the rural poor who are reliant upon such resources in order to sustain a livelihood.

In addition, climate change is likely to bring about an increase in the number of extreme weather events and in a region that is located in a seismically active zone where earthquakes are not uncommon this may result in an increase in flooding, landslides and mudslides. Already just in the last year there have been such events resulting in loss of life and damage to property^{xvi}.

Furthermore, as the region continues to develop and the population grow increasing pressure is being put upon the natural resources and hence it is essential that the Environment and the impact upon it is at the core of all planning in particular spatial and urban plans. The key challenges are

1. Ensuring Green Growth & Development.
2. Mitigating and adapting with respect to the impact of climate change.

The Impact of COVID 19

There is little or no data with regards the impact at the regional level of COVID 19 however what is clear is that, aside from the health implications and increased mortality, the pandemic has had a significant impact. Despite the swift and decisive action by the Government aimed at containment and mitigation there has still been a significant economic impact. GDP growth, for the whole of Uzbekistan, that was predicted to be 6% for 2020 pre pandemic was in the end 1.5%. According to a survey of SMEs conducted by the UNDP and the Centre for Economic Research and Reform in October 2020, 52.7% of respondents believed that demand for their products had decreased during the quarantine period, 62.2% said that their enterprises' revenues had decreased. The slowdown in growth and the decline in demand and revenue had different impacts on different sectors of the economy. According to official statistics, the construction, agriculture and services sectors (8.6%, 3.4% and 1.8%, respectively) showed positive growth rates in 2021. At the same time, overall industrial output grew by 8.7% while in Namangan industrial output grew by 17.9% in 2021.

In terms of employment the crisis has made more visible the vulnerability of the large shares of informal sector workers and the (mainly informal) migrants. Information from “Listening to Uzbekistan” indicates that while there has been an improvement in employment since the pandemic overall rates have still not reached pre pandemic levels.

While it does seem that the economy is recovering from the Pandemic there is still significant work to be done and if nothing else it has highlighted the need for greater support to poorer sectors of society, such as the rural poor, who have been hit hardest.

NAMANGAN REGION SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS

- A large workforce particularly amongst the young population.
- A growing population.
- Three Universities present in the region.
- An IT park in Namangan.
- A Mono Centre in Namangan and other learning facilities present in the Districts throughout the region catering for the development of vocational skills amongst the more disadvantaged groups such as Youth, Women and PWD.
- Good transport connections to the broader region as well as internationally.
- A strong agriculture sector producing high quality fruits & vegetables.
- Student population.
- Excellent natural resources.
- Pleasant climate with good growing conditions.
- Rich agricultural bio diversity.
- Availability of mountain regions for tourism development.

WEAKNESSES

- Economic dominance of the Agricultural sector and economic reliance upon it.
- Low level of Exports.
- A lack of suitably skilled individuals to meet the labour market needs.
- A historic deficit in infrastructure.
- Inadequate digital infrastructure.
- An underdeveloped private sector.
- Gender differential with regards access to jobs and level of remuneration that can be expected.
- Lack of sufficient jobs and reliance of poorer sectors of the population of the region upon migration and small holder agriculture in order to survive.
- No direct routes to the ocean or other large water bodies

OPPORTUNITIES

- Location at the heart of a historic trade route.
- Adding value to the primary production of the region.
- Further developing the Agricultural sector with a specific focus on export.
- Further development of the Textile sector with a focus on production of finished product and going beyond the production of raw materials.
- Increased connections and trade with neighboring countries in particular Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
- A dynamic and enterprising SME sector.
- The current context within Uzbekistan of major change and transformation.
- Undeveloped land and mineral resources.

THREATS

- Poor Connectivity.
- Imports exceed exports.
- Loss of agricultural production in irrigated areas due to decreasing soil quality from salinization, water logging, and wind erosion, due to poor irrigation practices, intensive tillage, historical farming practices, and water-intensive crop allocation.
- Increasing temperatures leading to decreasing water supply and a significant decrease in Agricultural production.
- Earthquakes
- Increasing incidence of extreme weather conditions causing
 - Floods
 - Landslides
 - Mudslides

VISION

‘By 2030 Namangan region will be a prosperous, innovative, resilient and green economy that is at the heart of Central Asian trade with a population who are well equipped to meet the latest labour market demands and assured of a decent and sustainable standard of living’

Goals^{xvii}

Goal One: A skilled workforce for the future and opportunities for all people with a skills system that delivers the economic vision for the region. Barriers to employability and jobs are lowered

Objective: To develop the future workforce and ensure all people of the region benefit from economic activity.

Relevant Actions

- Tackle underachievement at compulsory schooling age to reduce the number of young people, particularly from disadvantaged groups, who are not in education, employment or training.
- Co-ordinate services for young people so that they can make better informed choices about career and learning opportunities.
- Support education business links to provide a flexible and responsive service to schools in tailoring and extending work experience opportunities for young people.
- Promote and support the vocational and occupational learning centres and in particular those that have recently been established in the region.

Objective: To ensure there is access for all employers to qualified labour.

Relevant Actions

- Create a demand-led system of learning and skills provision with high success rates that is more responsive to individual, business and sectoral needs.
- Ensure that skills and learning provided reflects regional skills needs.
- Develop further the information, advice and guidance services for adults to foster participation in high quality learning activities, particularly for those who lack skills and qualifications.
- Increase the number of people improving their literacy and numeracy skills in the workplace.
- Increase the number of people participating in learning and gaining qualifications especially through vocational routes such as that offered by the mono centres and other such institutions.

Objective: Increasing employability and participation in the labour market, especially for disadvantaged communities

Relevant Actions

- Support disadvantaged groups facing particular barriers to employment, including actively marketing vacancies that are relevant to them.
- Support Youth, Women and People with Disabilities (PWD) to engage with the labour market through a coherent partnership-based approach.
- Co-ordinate employment and skills support in the region with other activity designed to tackle barriers to employment such as housing, childcare, care of the elderly and drug & alcohol issues.
- Ensure that the transition from unemployment and inactivity to employment is supported by continued learning and skills development.

Indicators

- Increasing numbers of young people, women and PWD participating in vocational training and skills development.
- More young people participating in some form of structured learning.
- Increasing number of employers engaging in workforce development activity across an increasing proportion of their workforce.
- Improving success rates for people engaged in structured learning or training.
- Enterprises better able to recruit, retain and develop the staff needed to achieve their objectives.

Goal Two: Growing a Competitive and Sustainable Economy.

Objective: A strengthened Agricultural sector that utilizes the regions natural resources in a sustainable manner

Relevant Actions

- An increase in the productivity of the agricultural farms.
- Implementation of specific measures to support and strengthen small holder agriculture.
- Bring back into production significant areas of agricultural land which have fallen out of use due to salination.
- Provision of improved advisory services particularly in plant protection and business development.
- Improved access to finance for farmers and small holders.
- Greater investment in higher value crops.
- Analysis and intervention where necessary of the key Agricultural Value Chains of the region.

Objective: Supporting the accelerated and sustained growth, productivity and competitiveness of the region's Light Industry and Service Sectors.

Relevant Actions

- Facilitate businesses in the region to add greater value to the primary production (Agriculture & Textiles).
- Co-ordinate and focus support among organisations that provide assistance to businesses in key sectors namely agriculture, textiles and services.
- Deliver tailored business support in key sectors and clusters focused on those that offer the best prospect for economic growth.
- Create forums, networks and mentoring opportunities between businesses to exchange ideas, experience and best practice.
- Create an empowering environment for the SME sector of the region.

Objective: Development of the regions fledgling Tourism sector.

- Developmental of marketing & promotional material with an initial focus on the Uzbek market.
- Further development of the Spa/sanitorium sector with a specific focus on existing facilities.
- Further review and analysis with regards the opportunities that exist.

Indicators

- Increased agricultural productivity.
- More land under cultivation.
- An increase in the production of high value crops.
- A more vibrant and productive Dehkan sector.
- An increase in the processing of the primary produce of the region.
- An increase in the value of exports.
- Increase in the productivity of the SME sector.
- Analysis of the key Agricultural Value Chains and actions where gaps identified.
- Strategic investments in the Tourism sector.
- An increase in the number of Tourists visiting the region.

Goal Three: Green Development & Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

Objective: Promoting the adoption of resource efficiency and environmental good practice principles.

Relevant Actions

- Build on existing agriculture practices with regards applying climate smart technology.
- Strengthen the irrigation management systems and practices with regards to efficient water supply, use and drainage.
- Maintain and upgrade the agricultural land of the region.
- Support and encourage the public sector and businesses, particularly SMEs, to take up green procurement and energy efficient practices up to or beyond the regulatory requirements.

Objective: To capture the advantages of the renewable energy potential of the region.

Relevant Actions

- Stimulate the development and deployment of the most advantageous renewable energy systems.
- Support the development of skills necessary for the development of renewable energy.
- Raise awareness and public understanding of renewable energy.
- Encourage market opportunities for the renewable energy industry to promote the development and growth of renewable energy businesses.

Objective: The development of low carbon and environmentally friendly goods and services.

Relevant Actions

- Work with neighbouring regions and the districts to support the development of new markets for recycling, recovery and alternatives to landfill.
- Ensure that all waste water throughout the region is treated and that there is minimal risk of pollution of rivers or the aquifer.
- Ensure that industries active in the region are operating in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner.
- Invest in Green Transport options.

Indicators

- A reduction in the % of land that is impacted by salination.
- An increase in the use of water technologies.
- An increase in the amount of productive land under cultivation.
- Significant increase in the use of renewable energy.
- A significant reduction in the use of carbon based energy.
- Catalytic investments with regards green transport.

Goal Four: An infrastructure that enables a green and resilient economy while providing a vibrant and attractive location for residents, students, business and tourists

Objective: To develop the more disadvantaged Districts of the region to become vibrant and attractive places to live, work and invest in

Relevant Actions

- Invest in road and transport infrastructure linking the outlying districts with the regional capital.
- Invest in the connectivity of the rural districts.
- Provide incentives for enterprises to be based in such districts.
- Invest in the schools and medical facilities and ensure they are comparable with what is available in Namangan city.
- Provide a good communal infrastructure and utility supply water, waste water, gas and electricity in all districts of the region.

Objective: To modernise the utility infrastructure to support the economic growth ambitions

Relevant Actions

- To identify and remedy any infrastructure gaps which are inhibiting the productivity of local businesses.
- To ensure that Namangan has the necessary connectivity allowing it to be at the forefront of the digital economy.
- To develop green/renewable energy as the main source of power in the region.

Objective: To provide the necessary plans and facilities that will attract and retain a modern and well educated workforce and their families.

Relevant Actions

- To ensure housing that is affordable, across markets, is widely available, and in particular to support vital key workers.
- To ensure the necessary upkeep and maintenance with regards communal spaces such as parks, green zones, cinemas, markets, sports facilities etc.
- To develop the necessary spatial plans that ensure a decent living environment while also facilitating the economic development of the region.

Indicators

- The population of the region/ Numbers of people relocating to the region.
- The level of permanent migration.
- Consistency of Gas, Water & Electricity supply.
- Number of parks, green zones and other communal facilities.
- Average travel times between the districts and the regional centre.

Goal Five: Making the most from the development of international gateways and national and regional transport corridors

Objective: Greater competitive advantage secured as a result of strategic transport infrastructure investments.

Relevant Actions

- Development of the border entry points most notably the international airport and the land border crossing points with Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
- Invest in the key regional transport networks, in particular railway, that will facilitate the movement of trade.
- Development other key infrastructure that will be necessary for the facilitation of international trade to and from as well as through the region. Here reference is made to facilities such as

phytosanitary inspection, customs clearance etc (note given the nature of this action close coordination with the Centre will be necessary)

Objective: Developing the capacity of the region to engage in global markets and to improve the level and quality of foreign investments.

Relevant Actions

- Raise the awareness of support services to companies considering trading internationally for the first time or wishing to enter new overseas markets.
- Ensure the region's businesses are equipped with the skills and expertise needed to engage effectively in international markets.
- Market the key strengths of the region in particular sectors and clusters to potential investors and partners overseas and communicate strong propositions for the region in order to attract inward investment.
- Encourage further investment from foreign-owned companies in the region.
- Develop two-way international relationships and partnership networks that foster trade and investment opportunities.

Objective: Develop further the progress that has been made in recent years with regards to the relationship between cross boundary communities.

Relevant Actions

- Increased contact and interactions, both social and economic, between communities on different sides of the border.
- Improved management of transboundary natural resources, in particular water.
- Better communication and cooperation with regards information flows in terms of mitigating and preventing natural disasters.
- Creating an increased sense of trust between transboundary communities.

Indicators

- Greater competitive advantage secured as a result of strategic transport infrastructure investments around key border crossings and airports in the region.
- Competitive advantage secured via investments in transport linkages in the region.
- Level of Direct Foreign Investment.
- Number of Foreign owned enterprises.
- Presence of Representatives at Regional Trade fairs and events.
- Efficient and sustainable movement of goods and people both within and across the region.
- Stronger relationships between transboundary communities.

Goal Six: Public Institutions provide services efficiently and effectively with a specific focus on disadvantaged groups such as youth, women and PWD

Objective: Services are delivered efficiently and effectively.

Relevant Actions

- All services provided in a transparent and clear manner.
- A gradual shift to online service provision.
- To examine alternative models of service delivery such as Public Private Partnership.
- To further develop and improve existing complaints and feedback mechanisms.

Objective: Disadvantaged Individuals are able to access the income and other support to which they are entitled.

Relevant Actions

- To support and strengthen the existing benefit systems particularly those which are targeting poor families, women, youth and PWD (Iron Book, Women Book & Youth Book).
- Develop other forms of support for poorer groups, other than income support, such as support to child care, health care services etc.
- Increase the awareness of poorer disadvantaged groups with regards the existing support available to them, mechanisms, services and payments, from the state.
- Provision of financial and other support that will facilitate children from poorer families in accessing Higher Education (University).

Indicators

- Clear information available on what services are available where.
- Record of numbers of citizens accessing those services.
- Examples of Public Private Partnership
- Number of services available online.
- Number of complaints.
- Number of citizens from the region receiving some form of income support.
- Services developed with specific focus on disadvantaged groups.
- Number of children from poor households accessing Higher Education.

Monitoring of the Implementation of the Strategy

This will be the responsibility of a department in the Khokimyat that is specifically responsible for this function.

ⁱ Draft Poverty Reduction Strategy.

ⁱⁱ Most notably the GiZ supported Strategy for the Sustainable & Economic Development of Namangan Region (2020 – 2022).

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- ⁱⁱⁱ Elaboration of policies to reduce poverty in Uzbekistan coincides with the commitments made by the Government of Uzbekistan at the United Nations General Assembly meeting in 2015 to implement the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, poverty reduction is identified as Goal 1 within the national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which the Government adopted in October 2018 with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 841 “On measures to implement national goals and objectives in the field of sustainable development for the period until 2030”.
- ^{iv} The other four Districts where there are historic border crossing points with Kyrgyzstan are Chust, Chartak, Yangi Kurgan and Uchikurgan
- ^v This is based on official data from October 2021 of the Statistics Dept of Namangan
- ^{vi} Travel times between Namangan and Ferghana is approximately one hour 30 minutes and between Namangan and Andijan approximately one hour and 15 minutes.
- ^{vii} Tashkent – Andijan is a daily service (apart from Friday) and this stops in Pop District of Namangan which requires a 30 minute taxi ride to reach Namangan City.
- ^{viii} These figures are based on data from 2020.
- ^{ix} Reference is made to the move away from farmers being instructed as to which crop they must grow by the state.
- ^x The definition of a Dehkan is smallholder with a plot of up to 0.5 of a hectare.
- ^{xi} Stone Fruits include crops such as Peaches, Cherries and Apricots.
- ^{xii} Chartak District has a significant number of springs providing high quality water and hence historically there have been Spas and Sanitoriums situated there. In addition, the water of the region is bottled and sold.
- ^{xiii} It is estimated that 80% of migrants are men.
- ^{xiv} Source UNDP Prodoc Climate Change & Resilience.
- ^{xv} This is linked with poor irrigation and drainage practices.
- ^{xvi} Reference here is made to the mudslide in Kosonsay District in July 2021 resulting in the death of 8 people.
- ^{xvii} This part of the strategy has drawn from other examples of Regional Development Strategies most notably the Agriculture & Regional Development Strategy of Georgia 2021 – 2027, The Regional Economic Strategy for the North East of Scotland, The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region of Ireland and the East of England Regional Economic Strategy.