

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Uzbekistan

No. 20/4911

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States in Tashkent and, in response to Embassy's diplomatic note №2161/13 of November 26, 2013, has the honor to convey information prepared by the Uzbek side on measures taken by Uzbekistan in 2013 to eradicate the worst forms of child labor to be used for the preparation of the 2013 Department of Labor Worst Forms of Child Labor report.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent the assurances of its highest consideration.

Tashkent, February 17, 2014

To: The Embassy of the United States in Tashkent

**RESPONSE TO Department of Labor QUESTIONS FOR THE PREPARATION OF  
THE 2013 WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR REPORT**

**1) PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR:**

**1.1 In what sectors or activities were children involved in hazardous activities? For all sectors, please describe the work activities undertaken by children.**

In particular, if there were children engaged in **agricultural labor, scavenging, forestry, manufacturing, auto mechanic shops, blacksmithing, slaughterhouses, or working on the street, please also indicate the specific hazards present** in each work activity identified by law as hazardous.

**ANSWER:** Exploitation and forced labor, including that of children is prohibited by law in Uzbekistan. Statistics organs maintain a record of employment of people of 16-18 year old in various economic spheres.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population maintain data on providing rights and guarantees of underage citizens in [the context of] labor relations. According to this data, child labor was used in sectors which do not harm threat to their health and morality. However, child labor was not used for agricultural labor, scavenging, forestry, , blacksmithing, slaughterhouses or other harmful labor.

**1.2 Did the government collect or publish data on exploitative child labor during the period? If so, please provide any reports based on these data.**

**ANSWER:** In 2013, the Coordination Council on Questions of Child Labor, with constituent regional groups on the organization and conduct of the monitoring of child labor was founded; led by executives from the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population, and including representatives of relevant ministries, agencies, public organizations and experts of ILO;

On July 24, 2013, a framework of the activities of the Coordination Council and its regional groups, its rights and the order of organization activities was adopted;

It has been determined that the Coordination Council on Questions of Child Labor in Uzbekistan is a public entity formed on permanent basis and consisting of representatives of the executive, trade unions, employers' associations, other civil society organizations, and international organizations.

Based on the decision of social partners, including representatives of ILO-IPEC, the Coordination Council consists of 16 members.

During the first session of the Coordination Council held on August 22, 2013, the following have been approved: distribution of functional duties among members of the Coordination Council; work plan; Secretariat composition; issues related to hosting a seminar with the participation of the ILO preparation group; composition of eight territorial groups for monitoring of child labor during the cotton harvest; schedule of district visits by child labor monitoring groups including participating ILO experts.

In September 2013, 11 ILO experts visited Tashkent to hold a training followed by visits to regions to participate in the national monitoring of child labor in the cotton sector, organized by Uzbekistan and ILO.

[p. 2]

The monitoring was conducted September 11-October 31, 2013. During monitoring, a series of seminars were also held.

On November 4, 2013, an enlarged session of the Coordination Council on Child Labor in Uzbekistan, with high level ILO participation was held.

It noted that the working group had inspected not only cotton fields but also schools, academic lyceums, professional colleges, and households.

Interviews with children, adult workers, farmers, members of households, teachers, and students were carried out. Untrammled access was provided to cotton fields, educational facilities and all places to be visited based on the basis of surprise visits.

The working groups travelled more than 40,000 kilometers, visited 806 sites, 411 farms, 206 households, 395 educational facilities, including 275 professional colleges and academic lyceums and 120 schools.

1592 documented interviews were carried out.

The results of the monitoring showed a high level of awareness of local administrations on prohibition of the mobilization of children under 18 for the harvest of cotton.

During the whole season of cotton harvest all general schools [note: up to grade nine, end note] were functioning.

Based on monitoring results, it was noted that systemic forced child labor was not used during the 2013 cotton harvest.

The Ministry of Interior Affairs carries out monthly analysis of crimes against underage citizens, in particular related to Trafficking in Persons (TIP).

For the first 10 months of the current year, based on investigated criminal cases involving charges under article 135 of the Criminal Code of Uzbekistan (TIP), the number of underage victims is 58, including 22 male and 36 female victims.

In particular, the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan carried out explanatory works in mahallas (neighborhoods) at individual residences, and at educational facilities about girls' school and college attendance. During the past three years, regional branches of the Women's Committee carry out weekly monitoring of student attendance of academic lyceums and colleges during the academic year, especially during the conduct of fall agricultural activities.

Groups founded under regional administrations coordinate and control the work being carried out. The Chairperson and members of the Women's Committee studied conditions in schools, colleges and mahallas of Navoi, Andijan, Fergana, Tashkent regions and Tashkent City. Specific issues were resolved and methodological assistance was provided. Currently, consistent oversight of the activities of 14 regional and 194 district branches of the Women's Committee related to this important issue is being carried out.

During visits to educational facilities, explanatory work with students of schools, colleges and academic lyceums, as well as with their parents on mandatory 12-year education is carried out. Constant work with children from high risk families was carried out, including relating to their education and rearing, recreation, involvement in sport activities and interest-based clubs.

In many cases students missed classes for objective reasons: in remote areas there is no public transportation, not enough financial resources to purchase clothing, uniforms and stationery. The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan in cooperation with responsible organizations provided assistance to students from disadvantaged families; transportation from remote villages to district centers, as well as subsidized tickets for students were provided.

[p.3]

If in 2011 12,548 activities were carried out to involve students in education was, in 2012 this number was 16,854, and in 2013 it was more than 17,000. Thanks to the undertaken measures, in 2013 the number of students missing classes, girls particularly, decreased by 75%.

Currently, the Women's Committee works on universal coverage of girls by 12 years of education. In each region there are school teachers and representatives of mahallas (counselors, chairpersons of women's committees, elderly and respected residents, as well as parents) who keep an eye on each student. Each mahalla council maintains "Iron Books", with the list of school graduates, letters from their parents guaranteeing that in case a student is not accepted to a desired college (law, medicine) then there is a seat for them in a college based on a distribution basis. This explanatory work is carried out in each district and city of the republic.

Regional, district, city administrations in every region of the republic have analytical groups (consisting of heads of responsible organizations of women's committees) for the monitoring of the participation and attendance of 9<sup>th</sup> grade (middle school) graduates in secondary specialized professional educational institutions.

The Women's Committee, in cooperation with public organizations and corresponding ministries elaborated and adopted for implementation a "Program of complex measures for further strengthening of the institute of family, increasing the culture of marital relations, as well as preventing early marriages for 2012-2013."

Attention is paid to work with girls in educational facilities. Initiated by the Women's Committee, all educational facilities have Orasta Qizlar clubs, which target intellectual, spiritual and physical rearing of girls and boys, promoting the habits of neatness, cleanness, prophylactic awareness of different seasonal and inflectional diseases, following principles of clean and healthy environment at home, in the street and in their mahallas beginning early in their development.

Orasta Qizlar club educational activity programs was elaborated and adopted for implementation in all schools (grades 1-4, 5-7, and 8-9).

9779 schools and 1537 colleges, [as well as] academic lyceums have Orasta Qizlar clubs, which conduct activities to promote healthy living, and the protection of reproductive health based on the principles of equality among youth. Multi-stage competitions among leaders of Orasta Qizlar were held relating to two republic wide contests:

- First half of a year – among elementary and middle school students;
- In October – among students of colleges and academic lyceums.

## **2) LAWS AND REGULATIONS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR:**

**2.1 What, if any, new laws or regulations were enacted during the reporting period in regard to the worst forms of child labor? If applicable, were the changes improvements in the legal and regulatory framework?**

**ANSWER:** On March 26, 2012, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted a regulation "On Additional Measures for the Implementation the Convention on Forced or Compulsory Labor and the Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor, ratified by Uzbekistan, for 2012-2013."

On the basis of a consecutive step-by-step implementation of the "Law on Education" and the National Program for the Preparation of Cadres for 1998-2013 a comprehensive system of secondary professional education was founded in the republic; a legal framework which provides students with the right of a free education, and protects their health and interests, was created.

[p.4]

Just within 2012-2012, 13 decisions of the President of Uzbekistan and the Government were adopted, involving issues of raising the quality and development of secondary professional education:

Presidential Proclamation (PP)-1761 of May 28, 2012, “On measures for further perfection of the system of preparation and staffing with qualified pedagogical cadres of secondary specialized, professional educational facilities”;

PP-1875 of December 10, 2012, “On measures for further perfection of the system of studying foreign languages”;

PP-1957 of April 17, 2013, “On additional measures for rapid development of the service sphere in rural areas for 2013-2016”;

[Cabinet of Ministers Resolutions]

№ 144 of May 24, 2012, “On enrollment in educational facilities of secondary professional education of Uzbekistan in the 2012/2013 academic year”;

№ 200 of July 6, 2012, “On approval of the regulation on secondary specialized professional education in Uzbekistan”;

№ 201 of July 6, 2012, “On approval of the typical regulation of oversight councils of professional colleges”;

№ 224 of July 19, 2012, “On implementing changes and amendments in the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan № 165 of August 1, 2008, “On approval of the system of improvement of salaries of workers of specialized professional educational facilities”;

№ 242 of August 10, 2012, “On measures for further improvement of the system of additional preparation and the continuing education of management and pedagogical cadres of secondary specialized professional educational facilities”;

№ 243 of August 10, 2012, “On implementing changes and amendments in some decisions of the Government of Uzbekistan”;

№ 352 of December 13, 2012, “On hosting the 47<sup>th</sup> Mendeleev International Chemistry Olympiad in Tashkent”;

№ 376 of December 29, 2012, “On improvement of the order of transfer, re-enrolment and dismissal from studies at secondary specialized professional educational facilities”;

№ 124 of May 8, 2013, “On approval of the State educational standard on foreign languages of the system of continuous education”;

№ 133 of May 16, 2013, “On enrolment in secondary specialized professional educational facilities of Uzbekistan for the 2013/2014 academic year”;

№ 243 of September 6, 2013, “On further perfection of the activities of specialized professional colleges for the disabled.”

In 2013, the Coordination Council on Questions of Child Labor, with constituent regional groups on the organization and conduct of the monitoring of child labor was founded; led by executives from the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population, and including representatives of relevant ministries, agencies, public organizations and experts of ILO.

On July 24, 2013, a framework of the activities of the Coordination Council and its regional groups, its rights and the order of organization activities was adopted.

The Council of the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan developed a project plan for joint activities in 2013-2014 for cooperation with ILO, represented by its department on relations with workers' organizations worldwide (ACTRAW). The plan is currently being coordinated with ministries and agencies.

On October 7, 2013, law № 355 of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On implementing changes and amendments to some legal acts” was adopted, in accordance with which, changes and additions were introduced into the Labor Code of Uzbekistan. Laws

[p.5]

of the Republic of Uzbekistan on “Employment of the Population”, “On social protection of the disabled in the Republic of Uzbekistan” and others. [sic] This law was adopted to improve the legal basis in the sphere of labor legislation. In particular, art. 68 of the Labor Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan was amended as follows: “The State provides an additional guarantee to youth who graduated from secondary specialized professional educational facilities, as well as to graduates of higher education facilities who studied under state scholarships,[”] and , part 3 of art. 84 now reads as follows: “Pregnant women, women with children under three year old, people referred for employment within the minimum number of jobs defined for the organization, graduates of secondary specialized professional educational facilities and higher education facilities hired in the first three years after graduation, as well as contract workers hired for less than six months –are not subject to preliminary probation upon employment.” In addition, the Labor Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan was amended by the [addition of] article 247-1 with the following content:

**“Art 247-1. Additional guarantees for the graduates of educational facilities”**

At the termination of a labor contract on the employer’s initiative with graduates of secondary specialized professional educational facilities and higher education facilities hired in the first

three years after graduation, within three years of the signing of the contract the employer must notify the local labor department [of this fact].

**2.2 Were there any changes in the laws for minimum age for employment? What is it currently? Does the country have compulsory education? What is the maximum age to which education was compulsory? Does the country have free education? What is the age to which education is free?**

**ANSWER:** According to art. 77 of the Labor Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, employment is allowed from age 16.

The employment of school students, [and those of] secondary specialized professional educational facilities, is allowed for light work, which is not harmful to their health and moral development, as well as to their education process, during their time free from classes – upon their fifteenth birthday, with the written consent of a parent or guardian.

According to article 41 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, everybody has a right to education. The state guarantees a free general education. Moreover, article 3 of the Law “On Education,” states the mandatory character of secondary and secondary specialized professional education. On the basis of article 4 of the Law “On education”, everybody is guaranteed equal rights for education regardless of gender, language, age, race, ethnicity, convictions, religious attitudes, social origin, activity, social status, place of residence, or length of residence in Uzbekistan.

Based on the “National program on preparing cadres” of the Republic of Uzbekistan, a secondary education of 9 years (grades 1-9) is mandatory. In addition, mandatory secondary specialized professional education (3 years) on the basis of a general secondary education, is an independent category within the system of continuous education.

[p.6]

Students independently select the mode of their specialized professional training, whether it may be an academic lyceum, or a professional college.

Currently, **the issue of a free secondary specialized professional education is totally solved in Uzbekistan.**

Today, based on the education index, Uzbekistan **is close to the group of countries with the maximum index of human development.**

The Uzbek model of education, based on best global practices, [as well as] the continuous and systematic nature of reforms, allowed not only for the preservation of attained developments but also for the creation of new conditions of developing of education which correspond the model of a social state.

\* Parity and common access to elementary and basic secondary education was already provided in 1990:

\* Absolute gender parity in professional colleges was achieved in 2009; in academic lyceums the ratio of girls to boys grew from 0.46 for 0.7 from 2000-2012.

Measures used to achieve the results:

\* Increase of the length of education of both genders to 12 years;

\* Effective social protection of students from disadvantaged families and children with disabilities (providing books, sport uniforms for girls, winter clothing etc.)

**Secondary general education** (9 years) is divided into 2 stages: primary education (grades I-IV); general secondary education (grades I-IX).

Primary education is aimed at laying the foundations of literacy, knowledge and skills necessary for general secondary education. Children are accepted to grade one at the six or seven years of age.

General secondary education provides a necessary knowledge base, develops independent thinking, organizational and practical skills, assists in the process of initial career counseling and choice of the next stage of education.

**Secondary specialized vocational education:** Based on secondary general education, everybody has a right to choose their vector of studies: in academic lyceums or professional colleges.

**Academic lyceums and professional colleges:** Provide secondary specialized professional education, which gives a right to and is the basis for employment within an obtained profession, or continued education at the next level.

**Academic lyceums:** 3 years of secondary specialized education providing intensive development of intellectual skills, in depth differentiated and professionally oriented student education.

**Professional college:** 3 years of secondary professional education providing in depth student professional skill development, as well as achievement within one or more specializations within a selected profession.

**Higher education** provides for the preparation of highly qualified specialists. The program of higher professional education is implemented in higher education facilities – universities, academies, institutes and other higher education facilities.

**Higher education has is composed of two steps:** Bachelor's and Master's Degrees.

**Bachelor's degree:** basic higher education with fundamental knowledge within one of the vectors of higher education lasting for no less than four years.

**Master's degree:** higher education within a concrete specialization lasting for no less than two years, on the basis of a bachelor's degree.

**2.3 Does the country have a minimum age for employment in hazardous work? What is it? Did laws prohibit children from engaging in the kinds of hazardous work that are common in the country? For example, if working with dangerous tools including chemical products in agriculture is a common practice,**

[p.7]

**does the country prohibit children from using such work? Please specify.**

**Answer:** There is a minimum age for employment in hazardous work. Paragraph 2 of chapter XIV, "Additional guarantees and benefits to specific categories of workers" of the Labor Code is dedicated to additional guarantees for youth. Thus according to article 241 of the Labor Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the use of the labor of people under age 18 in occupations with unfavorable conditions of labor, underground and other works which may lead to the harm to the health, safety or morality of that category of workers is prohibited.

In May 2011, a decree of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population and the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Uzbekistan approved a "List of occupations with unfavorable conditions of labor, in which the utilization of the labor of people under 18 is prohibited," registered by the Ministry of Justice on June 9, 2001 under №1040.

In June 2009, to account for changes and amendments, a new "List of occupations with unfavorable conditions of labor, in which the utilization of the labor of people under 18 is prohibited", was approved and registered by the Ministry of Justice on June 9, 2009 under №1990.

According to article 241 of the Labor Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the lifting and movement of heavy goods exceeding a set limit by people under 18 is prohibited. These norms were defined by the "Regulation on defining allowed limits for lifting and movement of heavy goods by those under 18," approved by the decree of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population and the Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan of April 21, 2009, and registered by the Ministry of Justice on May 12, 2009 under №1954, which says that the weight of the lifted and moved goods for those aged 16-18, should not exceed the limit of 13 kilograms for boys and 7 kilograms for girls.

**2.4 Did laws prohibit the following crimes against all children up to age 18? Please note whether the law applied equally to girls and boys. If possible, list the specific laws that prohibited the following activities:**

**a) forced labor/trafficking/other practices similar to slavery,**

**b) child soldiering, and in particular forced recruitment for child soldiering (please note the minimum age for voluntary enlistment and compulsory military recruitment, and the minimum age for engagement in combat),**

**c) prostitution,**

**d) the use, procuring or offering of a child for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances,**

**e) the use of children by an adult for illegal activities (such as drug trafficking).**

**Answer:** The regulation of norms for general military service by the citizens of Uzbekistan is implemented based on the Constitution, the Law “On general military duty and military service” of December 12, 2002, №436-11, the Proclamation on the order of military service by the citizens of Uzbekistan, approved by a decision of the President of the Republic Uzbekistan of January 14, 2006, PP-257 and other legal acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

According to article 52 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan is a duty of every citizen of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Citizens must serve military or alternative service within norms defined by law.

[p.8]

The law “On general military duty and military service” of December 12, 2002 defines that general military duty is the mandatory military preparation of citizens to protect the Republic of Uzbekistan, and is defined in order to assist in forming the armed forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan and preparing their reserve.

General military duty includes the preparation of citizens for military service, their call to duty, military service (mandatory or contract based), service in the reserve, alternative service, following rules of military record, and measures to protect the population in emergency situations or in the case of military aggression against Uzbekistan.

Evading military service without reasonable excuses brings to administrative or criminal responsibility.

According to point 25 of the Regulation on the order of military service by the citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, approved by the President on January 14, 2006, PP-257, as a rule, citizens age 18-23 as well as officers who did not previously serve in an active duty capacity are subject to the draft.

Point 36 of the Regulation defines that the contract-based military service may be carried out by the following categories of citizens:

- a) Those subject to military duty and females who do not have corresponding professional education in occupations subject to military registration, until the age of 30 – for enlisted military service;
- b) Those subject to military duty at the enlisted and sergeant ranks until age 40 with prior service – for enlisted or sergeant rank military service;
- c) Those subject to military duty with prior military service or service within the mobilized draft reserve who have corresponding professional specialized preparation up to age 30 – for enlisted or sergeant rank military service;
- d) Females subject to military duty up to age 30 – for enlisted or sergeant rank military service;
- e) Citizens age 17-21, including those who were 17 in the year they were enrolled in basic training, as well as members of the armed forces and those subject to military duty age 18-25 below officer rank who desire to study in the higher military schools – for military service as students of higher military educational facilities;
- f) Officers of the reserve and aged 40 years – for military service within officer rank.

According to the instruction on the organization and maintenance of military registration by citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, approved by the Ministry of Defense of Uzbekistan on July 15, 2003, №457, registered by the Ministry of Justice on July 18, 2003, №1259, all those subject to military duty and all who are drafted are subject to military registration. Women 18-45 are also accepted for military registration if they have a specialization subject to registration according to the list defined by the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan.

According to art.46 of the Law “On general military duty and military service” of December 12, 2002, the draft of citizens on the basis of general mobilization and during time of war is carried out on the basis of the President’s decrees. If a draft is announced and during time of war, those subject to military duty may be drafted if they are at least 18 and until the maximum allowed age in the military reserve, as well as women age

[p.9]

18-45 not subject to military registration (unless they have children under 16).

On January 7, 2008, the law “On the guarantees of the rights of the child” came into force, where a child is defined as an individual under 18.

The law defines state policy for protecting children’s rights, and guarantees the freedom and personal immunity of a child. According to article 10 of the law, the state provides immunity of an individual, their place of residence, privacy of the correspondence of a child and implements the protection of children from all forms of exploitation, including physical, psychological and sexual assault, torture and other forms of severe, debasing treatment as well as [that which] downgrades human dignity, sexual harassment, involvement in criminal activity, prostitution.

The state has a legal basis to provide guarantees of the rights of a child to work, in particular, freedom of choice of activity and profession, just conditions of labor in accordance with age, health condition and professional preparedness.

Law “On combating TIP” and its definitions cover illegal actions against children or underage individuals.

It should be noted that in the legislation on combating TIP, a clear definition of TIP as recruitment, transportation, transfer, hiding or receiving people in order to exploit them with the use of threats of violence, its use or other forms of coercion, kidnapping, fraud, abuse of power or exploitation of the vulnerable, or through bribery in the form of payments or benefits for receiving the consent of a person who has power over another person.

In the law, there is a definition of exploitation of people, defined as exploitation in the forms of prostitution of other people or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or service, slavery or habitual acts close to slavery, servitude or the extraction of organs or human tissue.

According to article 135 point 3 “a”, of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as part of the aggravating circumstances within the context of TIP criminal charges is the responsibility for crimes committed against a person known to the guilty party to be under 18.

It should also be noted that on December 11, 2008, the law “On joining of Uzbekistan to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on child rights, involving trafficking of children, child prostitution and child pornography (New York, May 25, 2000)” came into force.

The basis for adopting this law was the accession by the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on child rights, involving trafficking of children, child prostitution and child pornography, adopted by UNGA resolution 54/263 on May 25, 2000.

The optional protocol aims to secure guarantees for the rights of children to be defended from illegal actions, in particular:

- involving trafficking of children, child prostitution and child pornography;
- protection from economic exploitation of a child and participation in labor which may be hazardous for their health or prevent them from obtaining an education, or harm the health and full-fledged development of a child;
- the definition of the inevitability of responsibility for committed crimes listed in the optional protocol, as well as the strengthening of legal measures on the national level.

The norms of the optional protocol correspond with the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Almost all the act listed in the optional protocol are

considered criminal according to the national legislation and their commission leads to criminal responsibility. Norms which involve combating listed crimes are also reflected in the legislative norms of Uzbekistan, “On Guarantees of the rights of the child,” as well as “On combating TIP.”

The law “On ratification of the Protocol to prevent and suppress TIP, especially of women and children, and punishment for it, complementing the UN Convention on combating transnational organized crime.”

## **2.5 If there were prohibitions against the worst forms of child labor, what were the penalties?**

**Answer:** According to article 40 of the Code of administrative responsibility (CoAR), violation of laws on labor and labor protection involving minors by officials lead to a fine of 5 to 10 minimum wages.

According to article 491 of the CoAR, using the labor of minors which may harm their health, safety and morality leads to a fine of 1 to 3 minimum wages.

According to article 51 of the same CoAR, the administratively compelling a minor to labor in any form, with exclusion of cases defined by law, leads to fines of 5 to 10 minimum wages.

## **3) GOVERNMENT TASK FORCES OR COMMISSIONS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR:**

### **3.1 Please describe the composition, function, and activity of any Government Commissions on the worst forms of child labor. If active, please provide a list of activities carried out.**

**Answer:** There is a system of state institutions to prevent the worst forms of child labor in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

A commission on minors’ issues exists under the Cabinet of Ministers, led by the Prosecutor General of Uzbekistan; its purview includes solving almost all child-related social issues, including control over preventing the worst forms of child labor.

By the Cabinet of Ministers’ decision of March 24, 2011, an Interagency working group to prepare and present information on implementation of the ILO conventions ratified by Uzbekistan was founded.

A Coordination Council on Issues of Child Labor in the Republic of Uzbekistan was established, led by executives of the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions, and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population, and which includes representatives of relevant ministries, agencies, public organizations and ILO experts.

The Coordination Council on Issues of Child Labor in the Republic of Uzbekistan (Coordination Council) is a public entity and is established on a permanent basis, to include representatives of the executive, trade unions, employers' organizations, other institutions of the civil society and international organizations.

The Coordination Council, in its work is guided by the legislation of, and international treaties signed by, the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The main goals of the council are:

- coordination of measures and unifying the efforts of ministries, agencies, organizations (of all forms of registration), trade unions, employers' organizations, public

[p.11]

and international organizations, other institutions of civil society aimed at the eradication of the worst forms of child labor;

- participation in the process of the development of national policy including to eradicate the worst forms of child labor;
- establishing the priorities of the implementation of national policy in the sphere of the struggle against exploitation of child labor;
- defining programs which require priority financing and technical assistance by international organizations;

Main objectives of the Coordination Council are:

- development of proposals for perfection of state policy, strategy and legislation in the sphere of child labor;
- carrying out a situational analysis to determine the current situation with regard to issues of the use of child labor in Uzbekistan;
- development of proposals for providing cooperation among all interested parties to eradicate child labor;
- development of proposals to perfect of normative-legal acts, exploration of effective tools to combat child labor;
- development of proposals to create mechanisms for monitoring utilization of child labor;
- management of extensive seasonal monitoring with the participation of national and international experts;
- development and review of action programs, based on the views of children, parents, positions of public and international organizations' whose activity is aimed at eradicating child labor;
- coordination of efforts to implement practical measures aimed the liquidation of child labor exploitation, raising public awareness of the issue;
- providing assistance in rehabilitation and social integration of TIP victimized children, and providing them with access to education;
- coordination of measures to conduct research of the informal sector where children are involved;

- conduct of large-scale prophylactic work on the issues of child labor liquidation and effective use of national legislation in this sphere;
- providing assistance in development of state bodies which carry out oversight and control of labor legislation implementation dealing with child labor;
- organization of the preparation of annual reports and publications on the issues of the use of child labor;
- coordination of preparation efforts for various projects, including international ones, on issues of child labor
- creation of a developed system of informing society on the issues of child labor;
- introduction of child labor exploitation-related issues to the Cabinet of Ministers, ministries, and agencies;
- organization of conferences, seminars, round tables for holding discussions on the issue of child labor, with relevant bodies.

To fulfill its functions, the council has following rights:

- elaborate and approve the rules, programs and plans for its work, as well as introduce changes and amendments;
- create working groups of experts (councilors) to prepare project documentation;
- found regional (territorial) and other working groups to carry out full-fledged seasonal monitoring with the participation of national and international experts;

[p.12]

- introduce documents for the consideration of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- request and receive information relevant to its activity from ministries, agencies, trade unions, employers' organizations, legal entities, public and international organizations.

#### **4) INSTITUTIONS AND MECHANISMS FOR EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF LABOR LAWS RELATING TO CHILD LABOR:**

##### **4.1 Has the government created and implemented an effective mechanism for filing and responding expeditiously to complaints about child labor? If so, please describe.**

**Answer:** Trade unions have created a ramified network of legal assistance to workers and children in the sphere of labor relations. Every level of the trade unions' structures operates "hotlines" to receive workers' requests related to the violation of labor rights and legal interests. "Hotline" phone numbers are published in trade unions' publications and web sites, as well as on information boards of companies and organizations.

In 2012, "hotlines" of all levels received 1994 citizens' requests, of which 1559 received positive resolution. In the first nine months of 2013, "hotlines" received 1811 citizens' requests, of which 6.6% related to salary issues, 13.13% to illegal actions by employers, 50% to clarification of regulations of the labor legislation, 20% were related to requests for vouchers for health improvement or financial assistance, and 10% to other issues.

In addition, the trade unions' newspaper "Ishonch" and The Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan web site ([www.kasaba.uz](http://www.kasaba.uz)) have sections of open dialogue which may be used by any member of the federation or any citizen to report existing problems. To date, no requests to those institutions relating to the violation of the rights of workers and children related to labor during the 2013 cotton campaign have been received.

**4.2 What agency or agencies was/were responsible for the enforcement of laws relating to child labor and/or hazardous child labor. If multiple agencies were responsible for enforcement, were there mechanisms for coordinating enforcement actions? If yes, please describe. At a minimum, did the country have a system for referring children found during inspections to appropriate social services?**

**Answer:** A system of state institutions to prevent the worst forms of child labor has been established. A Special Commission on minors chaired by the Prosecutor General operates under the Cabinet of Ministers, within the purview of which is the search for solutions to almost all issues related to children's social issues, including oversight of the prevention of the worst forms of child labor. In addition, state inspections of labor rights and their protection operate within the system of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population, with a mandate to prevent transgressions of the labor legislation. A Cabinet of Ministers decision of March 24, 2011, founded the Interagency working group on preparation and presentation of information on implementation of ILO conventions ratified by Uzbekistan.

A Coordination Council on Issues of Child Labor with regional groups on the organization and conduct of the monitoring of child labor were founded; led by executives of the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions, and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population,

[p. 13]

and includes representatives of relevant ministries, agencies, public organizations and ILO experts;

On July 24, 2013, regulations for the work of the Coordination Council and its regional groups, as well as their rights and the order of organization activities were adopted;

It has been determined that the Coordination Council on Issues of Child Labor in Uzbekistan is a public entity formed on a permanent basis by representatives of the executive branch of power, trade unions, employers unions, other institutions of the civil society and international organizations.

In the course of each commission's activity, uncovered violations were addressed by relevant agencies, and responsible officers took measures to refer children to corresponding social services via structural units of the Ministry of Public Education and the Ministry of Interior Affairs.

**4.3 How many inspectors did the government employ to enforce laws against child labor?**

**Answer:** There are 149 inspectors dealing with legal issues and 147 technical inspectors working within the system of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection; they cover all districts and cities of Uzbekistan.

Additionally, 40 specialists from the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Council of the Federation of Trade Unions, Chamber of Trade and Industry, and Council of Farmers of Uzbekistan were trained to conduct monitoring of child labor during the cotton harvest according to the methodology and questionnaires of the ILO-IPEC program.

At the closing session of the Coordination Council on Issues of Child Labor, ILO experts mentioned that the 40 trained representatives of Uzbekistan's agencies now have sufficient skills to conduct monitoring not only in Uzbekistan but also in foreign countries.

**4.4 What amount of funding was provided to agencies responsible for inspections? Was this amount adequate? Did inspectors have sufficient office facilities, transportation, fuel, and other necessities to carry out inspections?**

Answer: Monitoring of child labor during the cotton harvest in September-October 2013 was funded through funding by responsible ministries and agencies, as well as via technical assistance by the ILO-IPEC program.

**4.5 Did inspectors receive training on laws and enforcement of laws relating to child labor and/or hazardous child labor?**

Monitoring of child labor was conducted jointly by ten international experts and 40 specialists of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Coordination Council of the Federation of Trade Unions, Chamber of Trade and Industry, and the Council of Farmers of Uzbekistan from September 11 through October 31.

Prior to, and during the monitoring mission, trainings and seminars were conducted throughout the country. The approach, based on the principles of enhancing potential, open dialog, solving issues and mutual respect resulted in a high level of preparation and cooperation during the entire monitoring period.

State legal and technical inspectors went through two trainings in 2013 on preventing of the worst forms of child labor, and received attestation to conduct monitoring of organizations within the bounds of targeted oversight.

**4.6 How many inspections for the purpose of enforcing child labor laws were carried out? Were inspections carried out in sectors in which children work? [p.14]**

**Answer:** Oversight to ensure the inadmissibility of the use of forced child labor and for the fulfilment of legal norms and labor conditions for minors by companies, agencies, organizations and individuals, as well as oversight for fulfillment of the requirements of the Minimum Age

Convention (138) and the Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (182) has been provided.

The Coordination Council on Issues of Child Labor, in cooperation with the ILO experts conducted monitoring of educational facilities, farms, households and mahallas. As a result of 806 visits, 1592 documented interviews were carried out; untrammelled access was provided to cotton fields, educational facilities and all visited sites on a surprise visit basis.

#### **4.7 How many violations of child labor laws were found?**

**Answer:** In the course of the monitoring mission a wide awareness of all citizens with regard to the national legislation and instructions regarding child labor, the ILO Convention on Prohibition of the Use of Children under 18 during the cotton harvest was observed.

As a result of monitoring, it has been found that there was no systemic use of forced child labor in the 2013 cotton harvest. Considering the fact that law and procedures are implemented with ever increasing adherence, some gaps in their implementation were found. Cases of child labor took place during the cotton harvest in very limited numbers. These cases were initiated by children themselves and their farmer parents, without the involvement of state bodies.

#### **4.8 How many children were removed/assisted as a result of the inspections?**

**Answer:** As a result of the monitoring, 25 children received assistance. Measures were taken to return them to schools.

#### **4.9 How many penalties or citations for child labor law violations were issued?**

**Answer:** Based on the result of the monitoring, 8 heads of farm enterprises were charged with administrative offences (3.6 million Soums in fines); 3 farmers received warnings to remove uncovered violations.

#### **4.10 In cases in which penalties were applied, such as fines, were the fines collected?**

**Answer:** All fines were paid by farm enterprises heads.

### **5) INSTITUTIONS AND MECHANISMS FOR EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF CRIMINAL LAWS ON CHILD FORCED LABOR/TRAFFICKING, COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND USE OF CHILDREN IN ILLICIT ACTIVITIES:**

#### **5.1 What agencies were responsible for enforcement of criminal laws against child forced labor/trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, and/or use of children in illicit activities?**

**Answer:** Uzbekistan conducts a consistent strategy to perfect national legislation aimed at combating TIP.

Thus, on April 17 2008, the law “On Combating TIP” was adopted. It includes a definition of TIP consistent with that in article 3 of the “Protocol to prevent and suppress TIP, especially that of women and children,” which complements the UN “Convention on combating

[p.15]

transnational organized crime.”

The law identifies the state bodies directly responsible for carrying out activities to combat TIP: Ministry of Interior Affairs, National Security Service, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs including its diplomatic representations and consulates of the Republic of Uzbekistan abroad.

According to article 9 of the Labor Code, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population and its authorized inspectors, as well as trade unions, have functions of control and oversight over fulfillment of the labor legislations.

Monitoring of accurate and consistent application of labor laws is carried out by the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Uzbekistan and his subordinate prosecutors.

According to the law “On Combating TIP” of April 17, 2008, if information is received on child TIP victims, heads of specialized organizations empowered to provide assistance and protection to TIP victims, must immediately report cases to guardianship and custody bodies to provide protection of the rights of child TIP victims.

Also, it has been predetermined that if child TIP victims are placed in specialized rehabilitation facilities, they separated from adults.

Child TIP victims are provided with all opportunities to attend state educational institutions; if left without parental care or are not aware of their [parents’] whereabouts, measures taken to find their parents or guardians.

If, during an investigation, a minor child is found to be a victim in a criminal case, based on legislation governing criminal-process, authorized representatives would instead participate in the investigation.

Authorized representatives are: parents, step parents, guardians, and representatives of agencies and organizations with custody of a minor or disabled participant of the process. An authorized legal representative may participate in the case both alongside the person they represent and an in their stead.

During the process of preliminary investigation, an authorized representative has the following rights: be informed about the fact that the person they represent is being summoned by an investigator, prosecutor or court; participate during questioning; to carry out due process rights afforded by the Criminal Process Code.

Additionally, authorized representatives have responsibilities such as: show up based on notices from investigators, prosecutors or courts, to not obstruct the process of establishing the truth, and to comply with rules of order during investigation of the case and court hearings.

Law-enforcement agencies of Uzbekistan conduct defined activities in the sphere of combating TIP, take measures to identify and disrupt the activities of criminal groups involved in TIP.

Representatives of law-enforcement agencies identify women involved in prostitution, pimps, brothel owners; take measures to identify various dermal-venereal diseases which are referred for appropriate treatment in dispensaries [sic]. Those deported from other countries are put on prophylactic registration, and are subject to individual prophylactic discussions. A regulated set of activities to check facilities (saunas, hotels and dormitories, kiosks renting and selling movies, etc.) to identify violations in the sphere of morality is being carried out. Measures are taken to prevent activity of private firms and individuals involved in TIP.

A number of seminars, round table, conferences and trainings were conducted for representatives of governmental agencies, law-enforcement agencies and court system, education, healthcare, labor and social protection of population, migration and border control services, as well as representatives of public organizations.

[p.16]

An extensive set of measures to prevent such crimes was carried out in the republic. A so-called “proactive strategy” includes the following:

- Checks of living and office spaces to identify their functional purpose;
- monitoring of construction work sites, markets and other facilities where cases of TIP for labor exploitation purposes may be identified; raids of “black” (illegal) labor markets;
- monitoring advertisements which offer jobs abroad;
- monitoring wedding agencies which provide services to young girls and women to find “life partners” in other countries;
- carrying out prophylactic activities in all regions of Uzbekistan to collect and analyze those “individuals long absent at their place of residence.” [sic]

In order to prevent TIP and raise the level of popular awareness regarding the means and methods used by criminal groups in this sphere, awareness events are constantly being carried; special attention is paid to anti-TIP information in the mass media.

The Ministry of Interior Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan organizes and conducts the following tasks in the sphere of combating TIP:

- organization and conduct operational-investigative activity to uncover crimes, provide inquiry and preliminary investigation for TIP-related criminal cases ;
- organization and maintenance of statistical records of TIP-related crimes;

- cooperation with international organizations and foreign law-enforcement bodies to prevent illegal activity of individuals, organized groups and criminal societies involved in TIP;
- introduction of proposals on perfection of legislation to combat TIP;
- provision of information on organized groups and criminal societies involved in TIP to responsible state and governing bodies;
- cooperation with citizens self-governance bodies, NGOs, conduct of extensive awareness raising public relations campaigns with mass media involvement;
- conduct of activities falling within the purview of law-enforcement bodies and as required by bilateral and multilateral international agreements of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In our country, implementation of the norms of criminal legislation in the criminal process is achieved by:

- opening of a criminal case;
- speedy and complete establishment of the facts of a crime;
- criminal prosecution of perpetrators;
- charges for trial;
- trial review and conclusion of a case to ensure that perpetrators are found guilty and receive a justified penalty, i.e. based on a full provision of the principle of unavailability of responsibility, or the protection of an innocent person from

[p. 17]

unwarranted criminal responsibility and conviction;

**5.2 If multiple agencies were responsible, did they coordinate activities? If yes, please describe the coordination mechanism. Were child victims referred to appropriate social services?**

**Answer:** Presidential Proclamation №911 of July 8, 2008, “On Measures to Raise the Effectiveness of Combating TIP” approved the National Plan of Action to raise effectiveness of combating TIP for 2008-2010.

To coordinate the activity of [state] bodies directly responsible for implementation, the Proclamation established the Republican Interagency Commission to combat TIP composed of executives of state bodies and public organizations, including:

Ministry of Interior Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Economics, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population, National Security Service, State Customs Committee, Women’s Committee,

National Human Rights Center, Ombudsman, “Mahalla” Foundation, Central Boarding Council of “Kamolot” Youth Movement, Public [Opinion] Center “Ijtimoiy Fikr”.

Considering the coordination role of prosecutor’s office in combating crimes, the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Uzbekistan was appointed chairperson of the Interagency Commission.

**5.3 How many investigators did the government employ to enforce laws against the worst forms of child labor mentioned above?**

**Answer:** According to the Criminal-Process Code, conduct of the preliminary investigation of TIP-related criminal cases is the responsibility of investigators of interior affairs bodies.

For wide-ranging investigation of such criminal cases, specialized investigative groups for TIP-related crimes were founded in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, all regions and Tashkent City.

**5.4 What amount of funding was provided to agencies responsible for investigations? Did investigators have sufficient office facilities, transportation, fuel, and other necessities to carry out inspections? If investigators did not have sufficient resources, please specify what they were lacking.**

[No answer provided]

**5.5 Did investigators receive training on the relevant worst forms of child labor named above?**

**Answer:** The Ministry of Interior Affairs Academy regularly holds trainings for Academy students and officers of prophylactics sections of law-enforcement bodies dealing with child rights.

**5.6 How many investigations or prosecutions involving any of the worst forms of child labor were carried out? Were investigations/prosecutions carried out in areas where such crimes occur? Was the number of investigations adequate?**

**Answer:** According to the information provided by the Prosecutor General’s Office and the Ministry of Interior Affairs, for the first ten months of 2013, investigative units of interior affairs bodies investigated 925 TIP-related criminal cases of which 429 were referred to courts.

[p.18]

**5.7 How many violations involving any of the worst forms of child labor other than hazardous child labor were found?**

**Answer:** According to the information provided by the Ministry of Interior Affairs, for the first ten months of 2013, investigatory units of interior affairs officers investigated 925 TIP-related criminal cases during which 58 underage persons were found victims.

### **5.8 How many children were removed/assisted as a result of investigations?**

**Answer:** According to information provided by the Prosecutor General's Office, for the first ten months of 2013 out of 1226 victims, 1122 were transported outside of Uzbekistan (104 victims were physically located in Uzbekistan). Analysis of purposes of exploitation showed that 855 citizens were subjected to labor exploitation, 351 citizens were trafficked sexually, 19 cases of the sale of children were uncovered, and 1 – for other purposes.

The Cabinet of Ministers Decision №240 “On Founding Republican Rehabilitation Center to Provide Assistance and Protect Victims of TIP” of November 5, 2008, a republican Center was established under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population available for use as of November 18, 2009.

The center conducts its activities based on the principles of inadmissibility of discrimination against TIP victims, the confidentiality of private and personal life, social and legal support, as well as individual care for TIP victims.

Currently, the center has qualified specialists [including] a gynecologist, psychologist etc. TIP victims enjoy all residential conditions, meals three times a day, medical, psychological, legal and other assistance.

It should be mentioned that in the given center, in the first ten months of 2013, 1207 TIP victims, including 31 underage victims, received medical, psychological and social assistance.

The center operates on state budget funding.

### **5.9 How many convictions were obtained? What laws were used to charge the suspects? What crime(s) were the defendants convicted of committing?**

**Answer:** According to the information provided by the Prosecutor General's Office and the Ministry of Interior Affairs, in the first ten months of 2013, investigatory units of interior affairs bodies investigated 925 TIP-related criminal cases of which 429 were referred to courts.

In this time, 137 criminal cases were suspended due to the inability to identify perpetrators, and 184 cases were suspended due to outstanding warrants for perpetrators.

According to article 135 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, TIP, i.e. selling or buying of a human being or their recruitment, transportation, transfer, hiding or receipt for the purposes of exploitation is an offence which carries a penalty of three to five years imprisonment.

The same actions committed against a person under 18 are penalized by eight to twelve years imprisonment.

## **6) GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR:**

[p.19]

**6.1 In 2013, did the government establish any policies or plans such as those listed below, and/or continue to support any such policies or plans established prior to the reporting period? Did the government establish and/or continue:**

- **a policy or plan that specifically addressed the worst forms of child labor or any one of the worst forms of child labor?**
- **a poverty reduction, development, educational or other social policy, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, etc., that explicitly incorporated the worst forms of child labor as an issue to be addressed?**
- **a poverty reduction, development, educational or other social policy, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, etc., that did not explicitly address the worst forms of child labor or any one of the worst forms of child labor, but that might have had an impact on them ?**

**Answer:** The Cabinet of Ministers adopted Decision №82 of March 26, 2012, “On Additional Measures to Implement Ratified the Convention on Forced or Mandatory Labor, and Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor for 2012-2013.”

To prevent child labor, systematic work is being done to organize recreation and healthcare of children and teenagers during summer time. In summer 2013, 1058 summer camps received 293,800 children. 73,831 children from underprivileged families and large families participated free of charge, while 4,500 children from ecologically unfavorable areas of the pre-Aral Sea zone received recreation to improve their health in summer camps of Djizzak, Kashkadarya, Samarkand and Tashkent regions.

116 thematic camps of intellectual development, military-sport, ecological, social adaptation and technical art were organized. For the first time work and recreation summer camps were organized at 59 enterprises for 15-18 year old children, where 3,200 students of colleges and academic lyceums were made healthier through socially useful work and recreation. For the purposes of organizing summer camps 18,969 teachers, heads of clubs, sport instructors and 1,135 medical workers were involved.

At the initiative of the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions, the government annually approves a program for construction, reconstruction and capital renovation of summer health improvement camps for children. In 2012 6 camps were reconstructed and 7 camps were

renovated. In 2013, 4 new camps were constructed, 9 camps were reconstructed, and 10 camps were renovated.

## **7) SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ELIMINATE OR PREVENT CHILD LABOR:**

**7.1 During the reporting period (2013), did the government establish new programs; expand funding and support for programs that existed prior to the reporting period; and/or continue to participate in or support programs that existed prior to the reporting period, such as those listed below?**

- **a program specifically to address the worst forms of child labor or any one of the worst forms of child labor? Please describe.**

[p.20]

- **a program that incorporates child laborers as an issue to be addressed in poverty reduction, development, educational or other social programs, such as conditional cash transfer programs or eligibility for school meals, etc.? Please describe.**
- **a poverty reduction, development, educational or other social programs, such as cash transfer programs contingent upon school attendance, that did not explicitly address child labor or any one of the forms of child labor, but that might have had an impact on them or it? Please describe.**

**Answer:** Activities aimed at realization of legislation and recommendations of bodies relating to international conventions on issues of protection of maternal and child health found their reflection in following programmatic documents:

Decisions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan №PP-892 of June 18, 2008, and №PP-1935 of March 12, 2013, “On a State Program of Early Detection of Inborn and Genetic Diseases to Prevent the Birth of Children with Disabilities” (2008-2012) and (2013-2017), №PP-1096 of April 13, 2009 “On Additional Measures on the Protection of Maternal and Child Health, Forming of Healthy Generation,” №PP-1144 of July 1, 2009, “On a State Program to Raising Medical Culture in Families, Strengthen Women’s Health, Create Conditions for the Birth and Rearing of a Healthy Generation for 2009-2013.”

Decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers: №156 of July 22, 2010, “On Additional Measures to Strengthen Reproductive Health of Women and Children in Rural areas of the Republic,” №260 of November 11, 2010, “On Measures to Implement Laws On Prophylactics of Micronutrient Insufficiency Among Population,” №21 of January 26, 2011, “On Additional Measures to Implement the MDG in Uzbekistan” (2011-2015), №280 of October 14, 2011, “On Additional Measures to Improve Child Rearing, Forming of a Healthy and Harmonically Developed Generation” (2011-2013).

State programs: “Year of Youth” (2008), “Year of Development and Beautification of Rural Areas” (2009), “Year of the Harmonically Developed Generation” (2010), “Year of the Family” (2012), “Year of Well-Being and Prosperity” (2013).

In 2000, during the UN General Assembly, the Republic of Uzbekistan, as a member of the UN, signed the UN Millennium Development Goals declaration and implements a number of activities to fulfil the responsibilities outlined in the document. The government makes enormous efforts to achieve MDGs.

MDG №1 goal is to reduce poverty and insufficient nutrition of children under age 5. Progress to achieve that target is evaluated by several indicators; one of them is the share of children with reduced body weight.

It should be mentioned, that in order to achieve that target in Uzbekistan, much work has been done and still is being done: a National program to improve nutrition (2009-2011) was adopted, laws “On Certification of Goods,” “On Sanitary-Epidemiological Oversight,” “On Prophylaxis of Iodine Deficiency Diseases ” (2007) On the Prophylaxis of Micronutrient Insufficiency Among the Population” (2010), decisions of the government and state programs aimed to prophylactics of the deficiency of vital micronutrients.

Currently, state program entitled, “Further Perfection of the National Model of Protection of Maternal and Child Health in Uzbekistan: “Healthy Mother – Healthy Child” for 2014-2020” was elaborated in order to strengthen the sustainability of achieved outcomes and further improve upon undertaken activities to strengthen reproductive health of population, and the health of women, children and teenagers.

Special attention is also being paid to the issues of improvement of conditions of educational facilities. For example, within the State All-National Program of Public Education for 2004-2009, approved in accordance with Presidential Decree № PD-3431 of May 21, 2004, construction and

[p.21]

renovation activities were carried out.

In accordance with Presidential Decree № PD-3017 of January 25, 2002, “On Strengthening the Direct Support of the Socially Vulnerable Population,” special support is provided to children from underprivileged families. Annually, beginning with September 1, 2002, free winter clothing sets are distributed to both elementary school and middle school students from disadvantaged families.

In recent years, the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan has been carrying out fundamental reforms in the agricultural sphere. There is ongoing development of the legislative and the organizational-implementation foundation for farming which turning farmers into a decisive power of the agricultural sector of Uzbekistan. Thanks to measures for the stimulation of farmers’ labor, increases in their income, and improvement in their well-being, they try to

harvest all cotton themselves. The financial interests of farmers reduce the need to involve an outside work force during the cotton harvest.

To reduce hand picking, the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan takes measures to enlarge the share of machine-picking.

According to the Ministry of Finance, following funds were appropriated by the state budget:

1. subsidies for families with underage children – 369 billion soums;
2. childcare subsidies for mothers with children below the age of two – 679.2 billion soums;
3. financial aid to underprivileged families – 83.2 billion soums;
4. free winter clothing and hats for 554,000 students from underprivileged families – 30 billion soums;
5. free sets of books and stationery (of 12 items) for 537,800 first grade students– 15.1 billion soums;
6. providing 732,800 students with free books and handbooks, including 537,800 first grade students, 6,400 “Mekhribonlik” orphanage houses and boarding schools, approximately 188,600 children from disadvantaged families – 10.8 billion soums.

**Questions 7.2 through 7.9 apply to each program listed in question 7.1.**

**7.2 When was the program established? If applicable, when will it end/expire?**

**7.3 Did the government a) expand funding/support for a program that existed prior to the reporting period or b) continue the same level of participation/support for a program that existed prior to the reporting period?**

**7.4 Did any of the programs listed above provide services directly to children (as opposed to, for example, awareness campaigns)? Please describe types of services provided and number of children served, if applicable.**

**7.5 Were any of the programs listed above targeted to the children at greatest risk of involvement in child labor?**

**7.6 Did the government provide funding to the programs above? Please list the amount and whether it was sufficient to carry out the planned activities. Did the government provide in-kind support? Please describe the nature of the support and whether it was sufficient to carry out the planned activities.**

[p.22]

**7.7 Were the programs described above sufficient compared to the size of the problem?**

**7.8 Did the programs meet their goals or were they on track to do so?**

**7.9 If the programs were donor-funded or otherwise short-term, were these programs sustainable?**

**7.10 For programs that did not specifically target child labor issues, have there been any studies or evidence that demonstrated the impact of the programs on child labor, including the worst forms?**

**Answers:** Activities aimed at realization of legislation and recommendations of international conventional organs on issues of protection of health of mother and a child found reflection in the following programmatic documents:

Proclamation of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan №PP-892 of June 18, 2008, and №PP-1935 of March 12, 2013, “On a State Program of Early Detection of Inborn and Genetic Diseases to Prevent the Birth of Children with Disabilities” (2008-2012) and (2013-2017), №PP-1096 of April 13, 2009 “On Additional Measures on Protection of Maternal and Child Health, [and the] Formation of a Healthy Generation,” №PP-1144 of July 1, 2009, “On a State Program to Raise Medical Culture in Families, Strengthen Women’s Health, Create Conditions for the Birth and Rearing a Healthy Generation for 2009-2013.”

Decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers: №156 of July 22, 2010, “On Additional Measures to Strengthen Reproductive Health of Women and Children in Rural areas of the Republic,” №260 of November 11, 2010, “On Measures to Implement Laws On Prophylaxis of Micronutrient Insufficiency Among the Population,” №21 of January 26, 2011, “On Additional Measures to Implement the MDG in Uzbekistan” (2011-2015), №280 of October 14, 2011, “On Additional Measures to Improve Raising of Children, and Forming a Healthy and Harmonically Developed Generation” (2011-2013).

State programs: “Year of Youth” (2008), “Year of Development and Beautification of Rural Areas” (2009), “Year of a Harmonically Developed Generation” (2010), “Year of the Family” (2012), “Year of Well-Being and Prosperity” (2013).

In 2000, during the UN General Assembly, the Republic of Uzbekistan, as a member of the UN, signed the UN Millennium Development Goals declaration and implements a number of activities to fulfil the responsibilities outlined in the document. The government makes enormous efforts to achieve MDGs.

MDG №1 goal is to reduce poverty and insufficient nutrition of children under age 5. Progress to achieve that target is evaluated by several indicators; one of them is the share of children with reduced body weight.

It should be mentioned, that in order to achieve that target in Uzbekistan, much work has been done and still is being done: a National program to improve nutrition (2009-2011) was adopted, laws “On Certification of Goods,” “On Sanitary-Epidemiological Oversight,” “On Prophylaxis of Iodine Deficiency Diseases ” (2007) On the Prophylaxis of Micronutrient Insufficiency Among the Population” (2010), decisions of the government and state programs aimed to prophylactics of the deficiency of vital micronutrients.

Within the framework of these documents, [activities within] the following vectors are being implemented:

- Supplementation of vital micronutrients of ferrum and folic acid (among women and teenage girls in pilot regions), ferrum (among children until the age of 2

[p.23]

in pilot regions), vitamin A (children age 6-59 months) with the assistance of international organizations;

- Since 2011, pregnant women in rural areas are provided with special polyvitamin supplements which also include folic acid paid for from the state budget and free of charge (annual appropriations of 8 billion soums);

- Since 2011, children under 2 years of age in six districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan receive multivitamin powders (sprinkles);

- Fortification of food: iodination of salt and enriching of high grade wheat flour with vitamin-mineral mixtures;

- Explanatory work among population on rational nutrition.

As a result of widespread production of iodinated salt, medical services with explanatory works among population, the percentage of iodine insufficiency among the population has been reduced by 67%. National research findings show that the level of death cases as a result of anemia among women of childbearing age has been reduced from 60% to 33,5% in the last 12 years.

As a result of a successful implementation of programs of wheat flour fortification, salt iodination, events to support and promote breast feeding and supplementation with ferrum and folic acid, and vitamin A for children under 5 in the past ten years, a significant improvement of indicators was found: the percentage of children with low weight dropped from 19% to 5%.

As a result of the steadfast implementation of activities to reform the healthcare system in the republic, a holistic organizational-institutional structure of providing medical assistance was established, which covers all levels of healthcare from small medical offices in rural areas providing primary medical-sanitary help, to specialized medical centers which provide complicated high-tech medical services to the population.

Currently, a state program entitled, "Further Perfection of the National Model of the Protection of Maternal and Child Health in Uzbekistan: "Healthy Mother – Healthy Child" for 2014-2020" is being developed to strengthen the sustainability of achieved outcomes and further improve upon work done to date to strengthen the reproductive health of population, and the health of women, children and teenagers.

Special attention is being paid to the issues of improvement of conditions of educational facilities. For example, within the State Nationwide Program of Public Education for 2004-2009, approved in accordance with the Presidential Decree №3431 of May 21, 2004, construction and renovation was completed in 8,501 educational facilities (estimated 3 million students). Also, 351 brand new schools were constructed, 2,470 schools and their technical and communication infrastructure were modernized; 3,608 school facilities were fully renovated; 2,072 schools had needed repairs.

All these buildings were fully equipped with modern furniture, scientific laboratory equipment, IT and sports equipment.

From 2004-2009, 1399.9 billion soums were spent on reconstruction and fixing of educational facilities, while 463.8 billion soums were spent on furnishing them.

From 2010-2013, 19 brand new schools were constructed; 317 schools were completely reconstructed; 303 schools were fully renovated.

Just in 2014, 220 schools wholly reconstructed and 160 schools will be fully renovated. 115.5 billion soums will be spent for this purpose.

In accordance with the President's Decree № 3017 of January 25, 2002, "On Strengthening Direct Support to the Socially Vulnerable Population," special support is provided to children from underprivileged families. Annually, beginning in September 1,

[p.24]

2002, free winter clothing sets are distributed to both elementary school and middle school students from disadvantaged families.

Only during the 2013-2014 academic year, 563,191 students from underprivileged families received winter clothing. This includes 10,930 children with disabilities who study at home according to individual programs.

In addition, annually students of first grades are provided by books and study stationery free of charge.

In 2013-2014 academic year 535,631 first grade students received books and stationary free of charge.

To reduce hand picking labor, the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopts measures to increase the machine harvesting of cotton.

Only in 2013, 400 cotton picking machines were produced and provided to machinery-tractor parks. Each allows for the replacement of 200-250 human harvesters seasonally.

In 2016, more than 10,000 machines will be picking cotton which will harvest 85% of all cotton.

The government of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopts all measures to prevent the use of child labor in the agricultural sector, including in the cotton sector.

To fulfill the Cabinet of Ministers' Decision №82 of March 26, 2012, the Ministry of Public Education adopted Decree №90 of March 30, 2012, which approved a set of measures to explain to parents of underage children the threats and consequences of forcing children to the worst (hard) forms of child labor, to strengthen oversight of students' attendance, preventing children's crimes and vagrancy, etc.

## **8) MOST IMPORTANT EFFORTS AND CHALLENGES:**

### **8.1 Considering the information provided in response to the questions above, please indicate the one or two most important efforts made as well as remaining challenges the government faced in addressing the worst forms of child labor.**

**Answer:** Considering the outcomes and current issues of implementation of the ILO Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (182), Coordination Council on Child Labor in Uzbekistan had planned the following:

- Further strengthening oversight of the use of child labor in cotton picking;
- Continued monitoring the use of child labor in all sectors of the economy;
- Carrying out wide informational-explanatory work with all categories of workers (teachers, farmers, workers of self-governing bodies, women's and youth organizations) to prevent the worst forms of child labor, as well as training decision-makers, publishing booklets and handbooks.

For these purposes, currently, work is being undertaken to identify a set of activities, in the implementation of which, establishment of cooperation with the ILO and other international organizations is foreseen.

The measures undertaken in the Republic of Uzbekistan document the fulfillment of international obligations within ILO standards in the sphere of preventing and prohibition of forced child labor, providing legislative mechanisms for protection of children's rights in the labor sphere and incremental carrying out of the Plan of Action Adopted by the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the implementation of ILO conventions and will influence prevention of child labor based on the context and scale of the program.