

In a nutshell

What are the environmental dimensions of quality of life in Uzbekistan and what can policymakers do to improve them?

- Implement stricter regulations and standards to reduce air pollution.** Uzbekistan is the 20th most air polluted country in the world. Major sources of pollutants are dust particles, vehicle emissions and industrial emissions. Particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) concentration in the air has consistently been above the 35 µg/m³ level considered unhealthy by the World Health Organization over the past ten years.
- Improve regular air quality monitoring and alerting systems and raise public awareness about the health impacts of air pollution.** The share of the population exposed to unhealthy concentration levels of PM_{2.5} declined from around 80% to 56% over the past ten years. Nonetheless, population exposure level is more than five times higher than the world average. Mortality and welfare costs due to air pollution are increasing. Annually, over 750 people per million inhabitants are estimated to die prematurely due to exposure to outdoor air pollution. Deaths related to outdoor air pollution are the third highest globally. Their welfare costs are estimated at almost 9% of GDP equivalent compared to around 6.5% in the EECCA region.
- Improve water treatment and distribution infrastructure, including pipelines, and allocate sufficient funds to expand access to safe drinking water services in rural areas.** The share of households with access to safe public drinking water supply declined by 10% to around 70% over the past ten years due to outdated water supply infrastructure, increased population and construction of houses, adding burden to the supply. There is high inequality in access to drinking water between cities and rural areas.

Addressing air pollution and access to water and sanitation

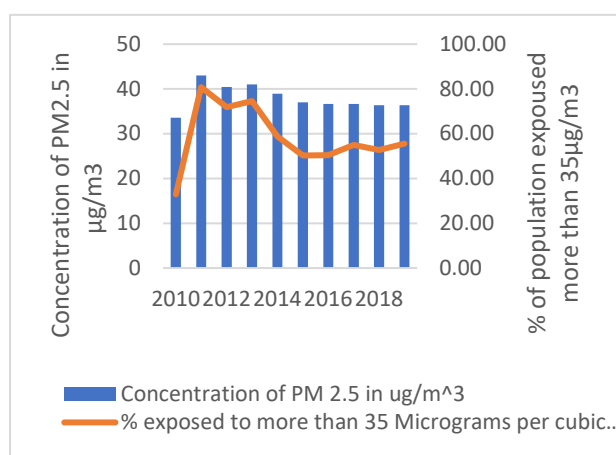
Air pollution: Deaths related to outdoor air pollution are the third highest globally. Their welfare costs are estimated at almost 9% of GDP.

Enforce stricter air quality regulations to combat high pollution levels from vehicle and industrial emissions.

Invest in upgrading water treatment and distribution infrastructure, especially in rural areas, to increase access to safe drinking water.

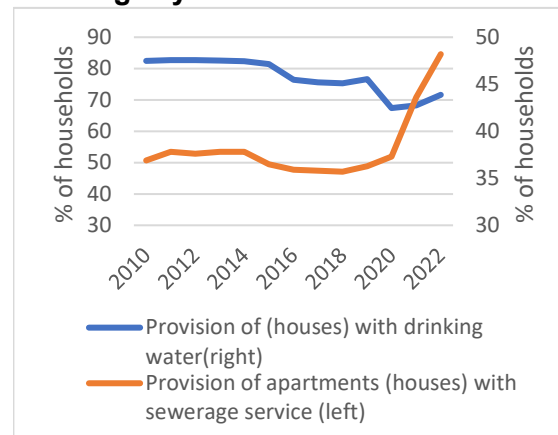
Expand public sewerage systems, particularly in rural and remote areas, to increase the low percentage of households currently connected.

Air pollution and exposure



Source: OECD, 2023

Access to safe drinking water and sewerage systems



Source: Statistics Agency, 2023

- **Modernise and expand public sewerage systems, especially in rural and remote areas.** Uzbekistan made some progress in expanding public sewerage systems. Nevertheless, less than half (48%) of households are connected to public sewerage systems.

Background & Acknowledgements

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) green growth indicators track progress in greening the economy. They have been applied for the first time in Uzbekistan in 2023 to assess the country's paths towards a green transition and help policymakers take informed decisions to accelerate it. The findings of the study are presented in the report *Greening the Economy in Uzbekistan: State of Play in 2023*. This nutshell highlights selected findings and develops policy messages, focusing on one of four areas of green growth, namely the environmental dimensions of quality of life.

This nutshell and the underlying report were prepared by the Westminster International University in Tashkent under the guidance of Isabella Neuweg and Irina Belkahia (both OECD), within the framework of the OECD project *Improving the Incentive Frameworks and Capacity for Green Climate-Related Investment in Eastern Partnership Countries and Central Asia* funded by Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety through its International Climate Initiative and implemented by the OECD.

Disclaimers

Data presented in this nutshell come from the report *Greening the Economy in Uzbekistan: State of Play in 2023*. All sources are available and acknowledged in the report.

The views expressed in this nutshell are those of the authors only and cannot in any way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the OECD, its members, the Governments, donors, or the implementing partners.



Supported by:



on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag