

SUCCESS STORY

UZBEKISTAN'S NEW ICT MATERIALS MEET WORLD EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

**Bakhtiyor Adashev conducts
an ICT class using
Uzbekistan's newly
developed textbooks and
teacher guides.**



Photo by: RTI International

Information and communication technology (ICT) is an education priority in Uzbekistan. The Ministry of Public Education (MPE) aims to enhance ICT education to produce graduates with computer and programming skills that will contribute to youth employability. With the support of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Uzbekistan Ministry of Public Education, ICT education is undergoing a reform.

Under the USAID-funded Uzbekistan Education for Excellence Program, the Republican Education Center and Abdulla Avloni Institute collaborated with RTI International and Mississippi State University to update Uzbekistan's ICT educational standards and goals, scopes and sequences, teacher guides, student textbooks, student evaluations, and teacher professional development.

The Program and MPE piloted an ICT program for grades 5–11. Previously, students received a relatively theoretical education about ICT. Although the country's ICT educational materials were scientifically strong, students did not benefit from hands-on practice and associated skills, such as critical thinking and problem solving. Additionally, the curriculum required teachers and students to focus on a single theme in each 40-minute class, which did not effectively engage all students in learning ICT. To address these gaps, the Program invested in updating Uzbekistan's ICT educational materials to meet world educational standards in this topic and help prepare the country's students to participate in this growing field.

The student textbooks were developed to not only meet world educational standards but also engage students' interest in ICT by presenting information in a lively, clear way. The updated textbooks not only deliver critical information about ICT but also help students develop their ICT skills through project-based application, self-directed learning and critical and analytical thinking, better preparing students to eventually apply what they learn in the ICT field.

"I believe that the Uzbekistan Education for Excellence Project is helping to build understanding of the knowledge and skills needed to successfully update and test the ICT educational materials Uzbekistan needs to help its students access and succeed in the ICT field. This project, which represents a great investment in our students, will produce results quickly, opening up a future in which our youth can become effective programmers, successful businesspeople, and inventors," said Bakhtiyor Adashev. Mr. Adashev is an ICT teacher at Specialized School No. 40 in Namangan Region, Uychi District. He is one of 316 teachers piloting the new materials in 213 schools. These teachers provide feedback to help designers improve the materials before they go to all schools, fundamentally enhancing ICT education for millions of students in Uzbekistan.

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