Poverty Trends in Central Asia

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Period of Sluggish Growth

Between 1990 and 2013, more than one billion people escaped extreme poverty: extreme poverty rate fell from 37.8% to 11.7%

Today around 700 million human beings around the world are trying to survive today on less than $2.15 dollars per day (the international extreme poverty line)
Post-COVID pace of poverty reduction has slowed in Central Asia

Lower middle-income poverty rate
($3.65/day, 2017PPP)

Upper middle-income poverty rate
($6.85/day, 2017PPP)

Estimated Number of Poor in 2022 (millions)

Note: Poverty rates are based on actual and projections from Macro Poverty Outlook (Oct 2023). Uzbekistan’s international poverty rates are based on the World Bank staff estimates.
Relative to their GDP per capita, Central Asian countries have lower poverty

**Lower middle-income poverty rate ($3.65, 2017PPP)** vs GDP per capita ($2015)

**Upper middle-income poverty rate ($6.85, 2017PPP)** vs GDP per capita ($2015)

Source: WDI

Note: figures show the latest available poverty rates since 2015 and excludes high-income countries
Rich in Natural Resources, but need to invest in Human Capital

Supporting people will drive region’s growth

- Increasing productivity in existing sectors/jobs
- Transitioning to high productivity sectors
- Preparing for a green economy
- Preparing for the future of work (AI, technology, automatization)

- Skilled human capital
- Management, technology, and innovation
- Reallocate resources to move factors of production to the most efficient firms
- Entry of productive firms