



UNITED NATIONS
TURKMENISTAN



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ACTION



2021 UN TURKMENISTAN ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

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AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome	LNOB	Leave No One Behind
BDST	Blind and Deaf Society of Turkmenistan	MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
CAREC	Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
CCA	Climate change adaptation	OHCHR	UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
CF	Cooperation Framework	SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
COP 26	26th session of the Conference of the Parties	SPECA	United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
CPRP	Preparedness and Response Plan of Turkmenistan to Acute Infectious Disease	UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics	UNCG	United Nations Communications Group
CSO	Civil Society Organization	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
DR-TB	Drug-resistant tuberculosis	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
ECA	Europe and Central Asia	UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
ECD	Early childhood development	UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
EMIS	Educational Management Information System	UNESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
GANHRI	Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions	UNFCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	UNHSTF	United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security
IFIs	International Financial Institutions	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
ILO	International Labour Organization	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
IOM	International Organization for Migration	UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
ITC	International Trade Centre	VNR	Voluntary National Review
ITU	International Telecommunication Union	WHO	World Health Organization
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	WTO	World Trade Organization



FOREWORD BY RESIDENT COORDINATOR

UN COUNTRY TEAM

On behalf of the United Nations in Turkmenistan, I am very pleased to present the 2021 United Nations Country Team Annual Results Report, which highlights the progress made during the first year of implementing the Government of Turkmenistan – United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025. This report provides brief description of the collective efforts made by the United Nations in Turkmenistan to promote implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through cooperation with the Government, development partners, civil society, and local communities.

In 2021, the UN-Government cooperation further evolved as Turkmenistan realized important initiatives in the domestic and international arena, and the UN actively engaged in supporting the Government in this process.

While no cases of COVID-19 have been officially reported, the UN continued its critical interventions supporting national health sector challenged by the global COVID-19 pandemic to prevent entering and spreading of infection in the country. Hence, the key area of cooperation with the Government in 2021 was implementing a joint response to the global risks of COVID-19 pandemic through the Preparedness and Response Plan for Acute Infectious Disease (CPRP), and the Immediate Socio-Economic Response Plan to acute infectious disease pandemic in Turkmenistan (SERP).

The UN Team in Turkmenistan also ensured the smooth implementation of the Turkmenistan-UN's prioritized planned interventions, which, despite COVID-19 related limitations, produced considerable results in different strategic areas, including social protection, health, education, gender equality, climate resilience, environmental protection, partnership, governance, and justice, with a focus on Leaving No One Behind (LNOB). We are proud to contribute to Turkmenistan's success in both addressing the pandemic and maintaining positive GDP growth of over 6% in 2021. By the end of 2021, the UN system in Turkmenistan delivered over USD23 million, which is considerably high delivery rate given all the COVID-19 related constraints. However, the analysis has shown that the potential to deliver is much higher if there is joint commitment of all partners involved.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank all of our Government counterparts, our development partners, civil society and all stakeholders for their continuous engagement and cooperation with the entire United Nations Team in Turkmenistan, and for their contribution and commitment towards the achievement of SDGs.



New UNCT configuration set up to implement the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF/CF) was established in 2020 and consists of nineteen UN entities and presents a diverse combination of capacities and business models offered

in support of the realization of the CF objectives. In the initial year of the UNSDCF 2021-2025, the UN entities, signatories to the UNSDCF, worked jointly with the national partners to realize the national development priorities under the 2030 Agenda.



Dmitry Shlapachenko
UN Resident Coordinator in Turkmenistan

UN ENTITIES HAVING COUNTRY REPRESENTATION



UN ENTITIES WITHOUT COUNTRY REPRESENTATION



KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY

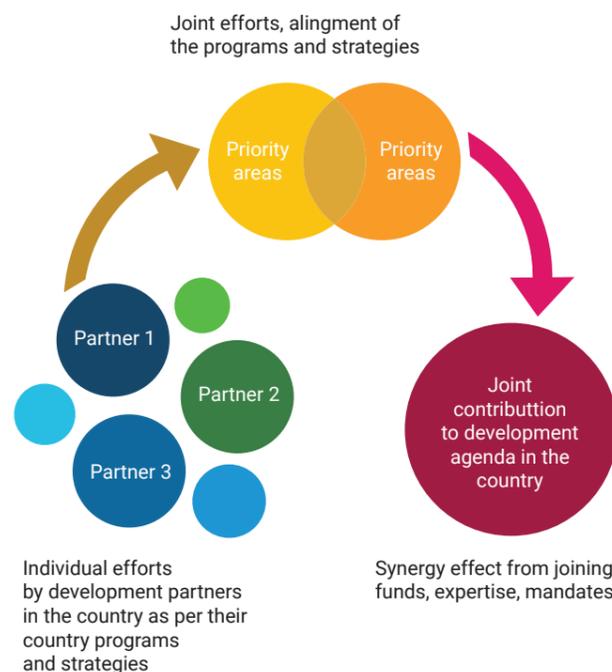
Over the years, the Development Partners Coordination Group (DPCG) chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) has been the primary platform for UN engagement with development partners in the country. Mainly aiming at information sharing, in 2021, the UN Country Team strived to engage the existing development partners in exchange of potential opportunities for joining efforts to address the country's development challenges, avoid duplication and increase coordination. To this end, the UNRC convened two regular meetings of the Group, which focused on the introduction of the CF strategic objectives and expected results, support the priority areas for cooperation with the Government of Turkmenistan, outline the achievements and identify potential areas

for partnerships in the upcoming year. Two thematic sub-groups were also convened to ensure a joined-up approach in supporting the Government in the climate change area.

The Terms of Reference of the DPCG was updated to align it with the 2021-2025 UNSDCF priority areas. The objectives continued to be the enhancement of the development partner support to Turkmenistan by promoting the Paris Declaration principles, and the Busan Partnership for effective development cooperation, and to strengthen communication and coordination in order to achieve complementarities in the development partners' investments in similar projects.

The DPCG Thematic Groups were re-established around 5 Cooperation Framework Outcomes and named as below:

-  Human rights and Governance
-  Sustainable economy and Finance
-  Environment and Climate action
-  Health and Social protection
-  Education



During the year, the DPCG «Environment and Climate action» subgroup was active to prepare the country for the COP 26 Climate Summit in Glasgow, UK. Led by UNDP and the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Turkmenistan, the work of the subgroup focused on country-level climate change adaptation and mitigation measures as well as supporting the Government in the development of its NDCs. In particular, OSCE, CAREC, ADB, USAID, US

Embassy, EU, and such UN entities as IOM, UNICEF, RCO, and FAO shared their perspective on the climate agenda at the country level.

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Turkmenistan and United Nations in Turkmenistan «On cooperation in the area of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation» in December

2021 is considered a tangible result of the UNCT joint efforts in promoting the climate agenda. The parties will develop annual action plans to implement the MoU and entrusted the UN RC Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection to coordinate this work. The UNSDCF Results Group 3 will coordinate the implementation and will report on achievements.

In 2021, the development partners' support to COVID-19 response at the country level continued under the CPRP and the SERP, coordination and monitoring of which were handled by the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan, respectively. The World Bank has become one of the most significant contributors, apart from the Government of Turkmenistan, having provided US \$20 million to procure medical equipment, laboratory tests and to build the capacity of medical workers.

The primary partners for the UN in the programme implementation, funding and financing:



National Partners:

- National Assembly (Parliament)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Health and Medical Industry
- Ministry of Finance and Economy
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population
- Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection
- Ministry of Energy
- Ministry of Sport and Youth Policy
- Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations
- Ministry of Adalat
- Ministry of Defence
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Supreme Court
- State Committee for Water Management
- State Migration Service
- State Statistics Committee
- State Customs Service
- Office of Ombudsperson
- Institute of State, Law, and Democracy
- Civil Service Academy
- State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs
- Hakimliks (Provincial administrations) of velayats and Ashgabat city



Embassies and international organizations in Turkmenistan:

- EU Delegation
- Embassy of United Kingdom
- Embassy of USA
- Embassy of Japan
- Embassy of Russian Federation
- Embassy of Finland
- Embassy of Canada
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- World Bank (WB)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)



Funds:

- Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (The Global Fund)
- Adaptation Fund
- Joint SDG Fund
- South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund
- United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security
- The Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) of the UK Government
- UNFPA Regional programme «CISPop: Better Data for Better Policies»



NGOs and CSOs:

- Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs
- National Red Crescent Society
- Nature Protection Society
- Women's Union
- Youth Organisation
- Keyik Okara
- Beyik Eyyam
- Blind and Deaf Society
- Yenme



Key developments in the country and regional context

CHAPTER 1



THE OVERALL SITUATION. ECONOMY AND SOCIETY – INCLUDING THE COVID-19 IMPACT



In 2021, the Government continued its policies towards economic diversification by building up emerging sectors of the economy, such as chemicals, textiles, construction

materials, telecommunications. Within the «Programme of the President of Turkmenistan on Socio-Economic Development of Turkmenistan for 2019-2025», several sectoral development programmes were adopted, including the State Program for the Development of Digital Economy for 2021-2025. As part of efforts to enhance the country's investment attractiveness in 2021 Turkmenistan obtained an international sovereign credit rating, and adopted a new Foreign Trade Strategy 2021-2030, which among others envisions the country's accession to the WTO by 2030.

Official data shows that GDP growth rate remained strong in 2021 at 6.2%, though international estimates somewhat differ from the official figures. While global economic slowdown along with supply chain disruptions and soaring global freight costs continued to influence the price levels in the economy, overall the external conditions have become more favourable for Turkmenistan.

With regard to climate action, a high-level delegation of Turkmenistan took part in the COP26 in Glasgow reaffirming its commitment under the Paris Agreement on climate change. The Government is currently working on the finalization of Nationally Determined Contributions and the Fourth National Communication on Climate Change.

HEALTH AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND CHANGES IN THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Turkmenistan continued focusing on the prevention of importation and spread of COVID-19 in the country. Although the country continued to report zero cases of COVID-19 in the country, with support from the UN and other development partners, the implementation of two important plans – Preparedness and Response Plan for Acute Infectious Disease/Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP) and the Immediate Socio-Economic Response Plan to acute infectious disease pandemic in Turkmenistan (SERP) – was well underway. Both documents were aligned with the implementation of the Joint Work Plans under the UNSDCF 2021-2025. A US\$20 million World Bank loan was approved to reinforce the country's response efforts and preparedness against the health and social risks of the COVID-19 pandemic. The country also received a \$1,5 million COVID-19 grant from the Global Fund. The Government adopted a number of policy documents focusing on the longer-term path towards «building back better» focusing on support to SMEs, digitalization, environment protection, protecting vulnerable groups, including youth, women

and persons with disabilities, promoting human rights and gender equality. This also included adoption of several new laws which promote public-private partnerships, development of renewable energy sources, prevention of infectious and non-communicable diseases, improve social services, etc.





ENGAGEMENT IN REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Building on the principle of positive neutrality and good-neighbourly relations, Turkmenistan has become an observer in the Council of cooperation of Turkic speaking states and hosted a consultative meeting of the heads of Central Asian states where the sides agreed to enhance foreign policy cooperation and regional trade, including through regular five-sided meetings of foreign ministries of Central Asian countries.

The country's regional initiatives on enhancing transport connectivity on East-West and North-South routes were actively promoted. Despite the significant strides made, the regional collaboration agenda, however, was affected by the instability in Afghanistan in the second half of the year. Turkmenistan nevertheless continued to follow a pragmatic approach in establishing close cooperation with the new Afghan authorities. Both sides declared interest to continue mutually beneficial cooperation, including on implementation of major energy and infrastructure projects, primarily the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline.

In response to the developments in Afghanistan, under UNHCR's lead, a 2021 Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan (RRP) was prepared. According to the proposed activities in the Plan, the UN system in Turkmenistan would be able to provide support in case of an influx of refugees from Afghanistan.

Turkmenistan continued its active support to the implementation of the Ashgabat Initiative on reducing barriers to trade and transport using United Nations legal instruments, norms, standards and recommendations, while bolstering connectivity in the SPECA region, the SPECA Trade Facilitation Strategy and Strategy on Innovation for Sustainable Development, all adopted at the SPECA events in Ashgabat in November 2019.*

* <https://unece.org/speca/events/fourteenth-session-speca-governing-council>



UN development system support to national development priorities through the Cooperation Framework



OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS

Within the Cooperation Framework, the UN and Government have been cooperating in three strategic priorities to achieve five mutually agreed Outcomes. Cutting across all the CF Outcomes, SDG data generation remained a priority in 2021. The national SDG mid-term review launched in Turkmenistan will take stock of SDG implementation progress in the country and feed into the preparation of Turkmenistan's 2nd National Voluntary Review to be presented in 2023. The custodian UN agencies supported several reports, surveys, reviews, and analyses. The Government established the National SDG database in the State Statistics Committee in 2021, which will further strengthen the national system for data collection, monitoring, and reporting. Extensive support was provided in preparation for the Census 2022 which, when completed and results made public, will provide access to most of the SDG indicators. As part of the Roadmap for the support in realization of the National Digital Health Strategy and Law on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Register (2019), a Legislation review was conducted covering aspects of birth and death registration.

lic services (registration of acts of civil status) and building capacities of civil servants on digital management and digital economy. The UN supported formal submission on accession to the WTO and discussed with the Government support activities for implementation of the National Foreign Trade Strategy for 2021-2030. Accordingly, the national legal and regulatory frameworks to promote sustainable and green development was strengthened, which, inter alia, includes development of the National Strategy on Renewable Energy until 2030, Law on Renewable Energy, National Strategy of Turkmenistan on Waste Management, and development of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC2) for submission to the UNFCCC. The UN provided technical assistance to the national partners in integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) approaches across all social-economic sectors.



In **Strategic Priority 3** on **Quality, inclusive, and affordable health, education, and social protection systems**, the UN support to the Government included extensive technical assistance, critical risk communications and procurement of equipment and goods relat-

ed to the prevention of COVID-19 infection spread in Turkmenistan, roll out of the vaccination and immunization campaigns, building awareness on multi-dimensional risks of health pandemic. The Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) programme was revitalized by development of the 5-year Roadmap to scale up the programme and strengthen capacity of health professionals. Significant achievements were made under the «Improving the system of social protection through the introduction of inclusive quality community-based social services» Joint Programme funded by the Joint SDG Fund, including adoption of the new Law on Social Services, state budget funding for the newly trained social services workforce that will have a transformational impact on the lives of vulnerable and excluded people. The Government and the UN continued the cooperation aimed at enhancing the national education and skilling system and building social integration and resilience for a diversifying economy through capacity-building, evidence generation, and systems strengthening approaches.

In **Strategic Priority 1** on **People centred governance and rule of law**, the UN supported the Government in ensuring human rights, gender equality and labour rights compliance and protection of vulnerable populations in line with the principle of «leaving no one behind»



and the country's international commitments. It included various interventions such as development of new and revision of existing laws, reviews, and analyses on compliance of national legislation with international legal norms.

In **Strategic Priority 2** on **Inclusive, green, and sustainable economic growth**, the UN supported implementation of strategically important initiatives on digitalization in banking and financial sectors and simplification of business processes, provision of digital pub-



Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs





By 2025, people have access to more effective, innovative, and transparent public administration based upon the rule of law, human rights, gender equality, labour rights, and quality data



The UN continued its cooperation with Turkmenistan in the priority area of human rights and strengthening national human rights mechanisms. Throughout 2021, the UN Agencies conducted institutional strengthening and capacity building activities for national partners at national and local community level covering issues of human rights including people with disabilities (PWDs), women, children and youth, gender based violence, drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, digitalisation of public services including CRVS, health including for prison inmates, statelessness prevention and reduction, refugee protection and inter-agency refugee preparedness and response, migration management, CRPD-compliant budgeting, human security methodology, youth related SDGs and application of results-based-management (RBM) to monitoring the state youth programme, preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE), forensics, statistics, including demographic and methodological support on SDG indicators and reporting on Sendai DRR and disaster resilience assessment on local level.

One of the remarkable achievements of 2021 was the approval of the National Human Rights Action Plan for 2021-2025 (NHRAP for 2021-2025) which progressively reflects Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Recommendations (2018) and SDGs. Furthermore, the UN Agencies supported the Government to develop policies that, if implemented, will contribute to improving the rule of law, human rights protection, ensuring gender equality and labour rights. They include development of new Laws on social services and on Education which made pre-school and pre-primary education mandatory.

Other implemented initiatives included:

- Proposed revisions to the Code on Social Protection of Population
- Engagement with children for alternative report on Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Development of Monitoring and Reporting framework on implementation of NAP on Human Rights 2021-2025 and analysis of the mid-term review of the implementation of UPR recommendations (2018)
- Evaluation of NAP on Child Rights 2018-2022
- Introduction of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities compliant budgeting and investments for persons with disabilities
- Situation analysis on reproductive health needs and inclusiveness of services for women with disabilities
- Analysis on compliance of national legislation with International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Development of the child sensitive DRR Strategy with the focus on children rights in emergencies
- A review and analysis of legislative frameworks concerning children in contact with the law in light of international standards
- Development of Roadmap for accreditation of the Office of Ombudsperson to Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) and Analysis of the Law of Ombudsperson of Turkmenistan on compliance with Paris Principles
- Capacity building the Ombudsperson's Office on international standards on research and monitoring of human rights, technical support to Ombudsperson's Office in participation of Annual meeting and regional workshops of Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions
- Capacity building trainings in velayats on human rights education and cooperation of the Ombudsperson's office with judiciary system and law enforcement agencies in strengthening the rule of law
- Approval of Statelessness Determination Procedure through the new Law of Turkmenistan «On the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in Turkmenistan»
- Draft Law on acts of civil status
- Dialogue with the Government on Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture accession process
- Dialogue with the Government on the development of the Law on prevention and response to Gender Based Violence
- Consultations within the ILO Convention No. 105 on forced labour
- Situational analysis on national mechanisms for youth participation in decision making
- Development of recommendations for the integration of new courses on human rights to the curriculum of Bachelor's degree and Master's degree (LL.M) programs at university level
- Contest among university students on human rights
- Central Asia Regional consultations of civil society organizations on promotion of human rights
- Regular expert meetings to support the implementation of the NAP on Countering Trafficking in Persons (TIP)
- Capacity building, technical support to national forensic institutions of Turkmenistan to enhance the criminal justice system of the country, bringing national forensic services in compliance with internationally recognized standards, thereby enabling fair trials and upholding the rule of law
- Consultations on roll-out of the UNODC's training modules/methodologies to prevent crime and promote the culture of lawfulness through training activities in educational institutions at all levels
- Development of training modules for young couples to train and consult on gender equality, family planning, active fatherhood, taking care of the family and protecting mother and child health



Significant efforts were made to advance data collection and reporting in 2021. With the support of the UN agencies, several reports, surveys, reviews, and analyses were initiated and some of them completed including:

-  Labour Force Survey
-  Survey on Health and Status of a Woman in the Family
-  Assessment of the Population Census Questionnaire against its compliance with international standards
-  Survey on People with Disabilities, including Children with Disabilities
-  Road Map for CRVS System and Legislation Review on birth and death registration
-  Situation Analysis of women and girls with disabilities with regards to sexual and reproductive health rights and services
-  Situation Analysis on the perceptions and engagement of men and boys in the promotion of social norms on gender equality, reproductive rights, and prevention of gender-based violence
-  Social Media Analysis on the perceptions of Turkmen-speaking online users on gender norms
-  Voluntary review of implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Turkmenistan
-  Update of the report on Progress for Every Child on SDGs
-  Brief Assessment of UNFPA prioritised SDG indicators
-  Rapid scan on the impact of pandemics on the vulnerabilities of women and young people, including people with disabilities

UNFPA initiated extensive consultations with the Academy of State Service, State Statistics Committee, and the Ministry of Education to discuss the importance and avenues for establishment of Demographic Education in Turkmenistan. The dialogue helped to identify the associated needs and gaps as well as opportunities for effective solutions for building up the national expertise in population data analysis and demographic forecasts. It is planned to advance the initiative focusing on best international practices, opportunities for partnerships, exchange programs for students and faculty members.

As part of National Digital health Strategy adopted in 2019, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA in 2021 initiated the development of a Road Map to support realization of the Law on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Register and conducted a Legislation review covering aspects of birth and death registration. UNDP is piloting the Road Map through development of software for birth and death online registration with the possibility to scale up and replicate in other types of public services.

In 2021, UNHCR supported the Government to implement the National Action Plan to end statelessness (2019-2024) and develop Statelessness Determination Procedures. 2,657 stateless persons were granted Turkmen citizenship, 406 foreign citizens received a residence permit. In addition, through civil society partners, UNHCR identified and counselled 479 stateless persons. 146 applications for citizenship confirmation were submitted

to third country consulates in Ashgabat and 116 responses were received. Thus, stateless persons continue to receive assistance for naturalization in Turkmenistan.

UNDP continued supporting national state and not-state actors, including women, youth and their organisations in prevention of violent extremism under the implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and the UN Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE) through the EU-UN initiative on Strengthening Resilience Against Violent Extremism in Asia (STRIVE Asia) jointly with UNOCT and UNODC. Local actors enhanced knowledge of best practices in facilitating dialogues with vulnerable youth and implementing PVE interventions.

UNODC continued to support law enforcement authorities in implementation of the 2020-2022 National Action Plan to counter trafficking in persons, provision of mutual legal assistance in investigation of TIP cases, strengthening the capacity of forensic experts in Turkmenistan and rolling-out of the management system in line with international standards. National capacities were strengthened in border management and container control to secure supply chains from illicit goods and facilitate legal trade with gender and human rights considerations. New Port Control Units (PCU) at Customs Post «Farap awtoyollary» were opened, extending the total number of the PCUs to 3.

UNODC facilitated the compliance of the Central Forensic Bureau of Turkmenistan to international standards, including support in developing fully documented (quality) management system of the Central Bureau, building capacity of the forensic experts in line with international standards and best laboratory practices, as well as facilitating the participation of the Forensic Bureau in international proficiency testing exercises, including the UNODC

International Collaborative Exercises (ICE) Programme, aimed at improving the performance of the forensic laboratories in drug testing, including the analyses of drugs in seized materials and biological specimens.

The Government also placed greater attention on juvenile justice in the context of rule of law and justice sector strengthening. Considering the current readiness of the Government to enhance the juvenile justice system as a window of opportunity to strengthen justice for children in Turkmenistan, UNICEF analysed legislative frameworks concerning children in contact with the law considering international standards. It created the evidence base to draft recommendations on justice for children system strengthening within development of the new National Action Plan for Realisation of Children's Rights in Turkmenistan 2023-2030.

UNFPA with the participation of UNICEF, UNODC and IOM launched the Joint Programme «Empowering and engaging the youth to mitigate the multi-dimensional threats of the health pandemic» funded by the UNHSTF. It aims at building the capacity of government officials at the local level and empowering young people in mitigating the negative impact of the global pandemic on the socio-economic situation in Turkmenistan, with particular focus on the most vulnerable groups in line with the principle of «leaving no one behind». The principles of Human Security approach aimed at protecting the fundamental three freedoms: freedom from fear, freedom from want and the freedom from indignity will be integrated to build resilience of young people to take charge of their own lives and become agents of change in their communities.



In 2021, within the support UNFPA and other UN agencies provided in preparation for the Census 2022, migration and disability questions were included in the Census questionnaire to ensure the alignment with internationally agreed standards. The pilot census was successfully completed in December 2021 in urban and rural areas of Mary and Akhal velayats, which tested enumeration, questionnaire, instructions, processing data, operational feasibility, technology, costing, the electronic devices (tablets) for data collection.





By 2025, conditions for sustainable and inclusive economic diversification are strengthened with competitive private and financial sectors, enhanced trade and investment promotion, and the adoption of new and digital technologies



The UN focused on digitalization in banking and financial sectors and simplification of business processes. In this regard, several strategically important initiatives were successfully launched to introduce single window approach to export-imports operations, to develop a statistical business registry, to operationalize mobile and online banking, and to strengthen capacities of the trade sector including e-commerce.



UNDP actively engaged in the development of digital public services (registration of acts of civil status) and building capacities of civil servants in digital management. To assess the local IT capacities and to showcase the development of a prototype of the Digital Civil Registry, the first ever two-day Hackathon was conducted. It resulted in successful presentation of front end (interface) and back-end (data base) components of online child-birth registration.



As a follow up to the country's observer status received in 2020 and formal submission on accession to the WTO, the UN entities discussed with the Government implementation of the National Foreign Trade Strategy for 2021-2030. The national partners enriched their knowledge of sustainable trade, WTO accession policy, commercial diplomacy, trade negotiations, gender-responsive trade facilitation, trade policies as a result of wide range capacity building and technical assistance interventions. In February 2022, Turkmenistan got the status of an acceding country to the WTO. UNECE helped Turkmenistan on the way of obtaining this status, and plans activities to support Turkmenistan in the accession process. Turkmenistan was included in trade facilitation and electronic business activities in the region, notably in the digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange, based on UN standards.



ITC continued development of the Trade Facilitation Portal (TFP) by populating related information on 14 import and export product groups as well as building capacities of national stakeholders in managing the portal. The TFP is a step-by-step guide to cross-border trade procedures and aims to resolve non-tariff barriers to enhance country's compliance with WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. It also engaged with the private sector providing online training on trade related cross-border management and export management coaching services to strengthen export potential of over 50 small and medium enterprises (SMEs), including 8 women-managed SMEs.



The UN and the Government continued implementation of the Immediate Socio-Economic Response Plan to Acute Infectious Disease Pandemic (SERP) with close monitoring by respective government entities and development partners, including WHO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and other UN agencies.



UNDP facilitated a dialog among key stakeholders, including UNCTAD, the State Customs Service, and 15 other national agencies, with a focus to conduct legislative review to assess readiness for the introduction of single window for export-import operations. The strategic partnership with the State Statistics Committee was enhanced by supporting gradual introduction of SNA-2008, building Supply and Use Tables (SUT) and symmetric Input-Output Tables, and Statistical Business Registry to substantially simplify registration processes for legal entities.



In addition to six United Nations legal instruments* that Turkmenistan had joined in 2020, the UNECE-led capacity building activities in sustainable inland transport resulted in successful accession to two conventions including Customs Convention on Containers (1972) and Convention on Customs Treatment of Pool Containers Used in International Transport (1994).

* The European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries, The European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines, The European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations, The European Agreement supplementing the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic, The European Agreement supplementing the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals, and The Protocol on Road Markings to the European Agreement supplementing the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals





By 2025, there is effective design and implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation and mitigation measures, enabling a more rational use of resources, increased resilience, and a 'green' economy transition

The UN continued to act as the lead strategic partner in strengthening the national legal and regulatory frameworks to promote sustainable and green development, including promotion of energy efficiency, renewable energy, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, waste management and disaster risk reduction. In close cooperation with relevant ministries UNDP assisted the development of the National Strategy of Turkmenistan on the Development of Renewable Energy until 2030 and following its adoption assisted the development of a new Law on Renewable Energy, adopted in March 2021. UNDP is working with relevant national ministries to develop the National Strategy of Turkmenistan on Waste Management.

With UNICEF support, the Government developed a Child-centred Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy of Turkmenistan. The strategy will strengthen the normative framework of Turkmenistan on DRR with the aim to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience of children and adolescents towards climate change impacts and natural hazards.

UNICEF and the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan signed the Programme Cooperation Agreement for 2021-2025, which will strengthen resilience of the education sector, local communities, and the vulnerable population in reducing disaster risks through school and community-based interventions in the Aral Sea area of Turkmenistan.

FAO developed concept and recommendations for the new edition of the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (UNCCD NAP). Being reviewed by the Government, documents are expected to be adopted in 2022. Furthermore, UNDP supported national partners in the development of several legal acts, regulations, and manuals to promote green standards and resource-saving technologies, such as sprinkler irrigation systems, building codes on the design and construction of anti-filtration lining from polyethylene film for water reservoirs, regulations on energy audit of residential and public buildings, and regulations on the procedure for maintaining the state cadastre of renewable energy sources, etc.

UNDP promoted waste sorting and management in selected pilot residential areas by implementing joint activities with the relevant national entities such as Ashgabat city municipality and Nature Protection Society. As a result, 80 tons of plastic, 25 tons of wastepaper and 15 tons of glass were processed in the capital city of Ashgabat.

To support the implementation of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), UNECE promoted implementation of the Convention's obligations and discussed ratification of the GMO amendment as well as the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Aarhus Convention.

WHO supported MoHMI in the Global Sanitation and Drinking Water analysis and assessment (GLAAS) covering the 2021-2022 reporting cycle. Also, support was provided to MoHMI with initiation of the development of Plan of actions to protect the health of people against extreme heat in Turkmenistan.



The UN demonstrated best practices in natural resource management and disaster risk reduction through the initiatives below:



Under UNDP's Energy efficiency (EE) pilot on public lighting in Ashgabat, installed 60 modern transformers yielded 155,135 t CO₂ equivalent of GHG reduction, demonstrating a huge potential for EE improvements and subsequent GHG reductions in urban development. UNDP conducted an energy audit in a pilot hotel in Ashgabat and the developed methodology will be replicated in the pilot area of Avaza



Efficient water management practices piloted by UNDP by production of High Density Poly Ethylene (HDPE) film based on local resources showed 80,940.6 GJ energy saving and 13,899 t CO₂ of GHG emission reduction potential in the water sector and avoidance of substantial water loss from infiltration just from lining of about 1,950 km of irrigation canals



Building awareness of local partners about climate change adaptation and resilience from FAO demonstration of drip irrigation systems installed on the area of 8 ha, nursery for growing seedlings of salt- and drought-tolerant trees, and 3 greenhouses totalling 260 m²



Strengthening institutional and human capacities at central and local levels through UNDP workshops on climate change adaptation and resilience in health, education, irrigated agriculture and improved soil and water management approaches. Over 17 thousand additional targeted farmers, if compared with 5,000 farmers in 2020, benefited from progressive climate resilient adaptation programme realized in 2021 and more than 14 thousand ha of agricultural lands and 10.5 thousand ha of natural pasture lands used under sustainable management approaches



Findings of Vulnerability and capacity assessments conducted in targeted communities by UNDRR enabled piloting projects in Balkan and Mary regions to reduce disaster risks and strengthen resilience of local communities



UNDP conducted first ever assessment of seismic risks and vulnerabilities of representative 23 types of buildings in Ashgabat and possible damages under various earthquake exposure intensities



UNICEF assessed socio-economic and climate-change risks of 360 schools and 110 pre-schools for «school safety» to support evidence-based decision making by education authorities



UNECE strengthened national capacities and co-operation on strategic environmental assessment (SEA), including as a response to climate change





By 2025, the population of Turkmenistan enjoys higher quality and inclusive health and social protection services

UN support in the area of healthcare focused on three major streams:

-  COVID-19 response
-  national policies implementation
-  TB prevention



COVID-19 RESPONSE



Extensive technical support was provided in building national capacities, enhancing vaccination deployment and immunisation programme, critical risk communications and procurement of equipment and goods to prevent COVID-19 spread in Turkmenistan. UNICEF and UNFPA led risk communications and community engagement with prevention messaging. Support was provided in dissemination of infographic/information materials on COVID-19 vaccination and delivering of life-saving equipment, hygiene and infection prevention and control supplies worth USD 750,000.



As a result of WHO interventions, trained national health care workers strengthened capacities on infection prevention and control, including over 600 health care workers trained to implement a newly developed national hospital-tailored COVID-19 capacity surge plan. Trained health workers assessed preparedness of regional infectious disease hospitals to provide services in the times of potential patient upsurge. Capacities of health, migration and customs personnel were increased to ensure health security on points of entry such as seaport, airport, and ground crossings. Besides, National testing laboratory strategy was developed with extensive support of WHO and 10,000 pcs of PCR test kits procured to ensure all laboratories have sufficient test kits for testing of COVID-19. Development of case management and treatment protocols for treatment of ARI/SARI/COVID-19 cases based on new evidence, scientific references and updated WHO recommendations.

The National case management strategy was reviewed and updated with new clinical treatment options of COVID-19 in accordance with the latest available WHO guidelines on management of patients. The national vaccination and deployment plan was finalised with extensive cooperation of the UN and national partners.

UNICEF strengthened infection prevention through risk communications and procurement support. 17,000 bio-hazard bags, 15,000 safety boxes for safe waste disposal and 2,000 child sphygmomanometers for paediatric intensive care units were procured. Over 3,400 soap dispensers and 20,000 litres of liquid soap supported health

workers' compliance with IPC standards in 1,700 public health centres of the country. 600,000 surgical masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) items were distributed among medical workers.

WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA provided regular up-to-date information on pandemic prevention, including 8 video messages on parenting tips, radio programmes on ECD, importance of vaccination, information sessions for children, youth and people with disabilities to population through its digital platforms (e.g. Yashlyk.info, social media channels and mobile applications), and addressing misinformation during pandemic for mass-media.





SUPPORT IN IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL POLICIES

1 UNICEF and the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry (MOHMI) continued implementing the National Nutrition programme for 2020-2025 to tackle the triple burden of malnutrition, including stunting, obesity, and anaemia through continuing also flour fortification and salt iodization activities. UNICEF technical assistance to the Government strengthened the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) programme and scaled up the Baby-Friendly Hospitals Initiative. As a result, 8 primary health care (PHC) clinics and 2 etrap hospitals completed the preparedness work and for the first time received Baby-Friendly Certificate, and over 700 health care professionals were trained in IYCF. To address unattended adolescent girls and women nutrition, a training package for nutrition counselling of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women was developed, and 24 trainers were prepared to carry out nation-wide capacity building on this subject. The package includes information resources for training community workers and volunteers. In addition, the Regional Nutrition Partnership Platform for 2021-2022 was operationalized where Turkmenistan assumed the Secretariat role in 2021.

2 UNICEF and MOHMI continued implementation of the National Early Childhood Development (ECD) Strategy for 2020-2025. The national capacities were developed to establish early identification of developmental delays and disabilities among young children. As a result of inclusion of district-level PHC clinics in Dashoguz and Mary velayats to the programme, the share of etraps providing early intervention services to under 5 children reached 18% in 2021 (compared to 12% in 2019 and 14% in 2020). Over 200 PHC professionals were trained in early identification of the developmental delays. Together with the National Red Crescent Society, UNICEF trained over 50 Red Crescent volunteers in the basics of Infant Young Child Feeding and Early Childhood Development. UNICEF supported social media campaigns during International and National Breastfeeding Weeks reached over 11,000 mothers with information on IYCF during the reporting year.

3 The endorsement of the national 2021-2025 Reproductive, Mother, New-born, Child and Adolescents (RM-NCAH) Strategy, known as «Healthy Mother – Healthy Child – Healthy Future» was the main achievement in the health sector. It envisions key actions to improve child survival and well-being. UNICEF supported MoHMI to revitalise the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) programme by developing a 5-year Road Map to scale up the programme, and the training module to build knowledge of 52 health professionals as trainers. Considering the lack of clinical standards and protocols for management of childhood illnesses, upon MoHMI request, the work on improving the standards of paediatric disease management has been initiated this year and will continue in 2022 in cooperation with WHO and MoHMI expert group. Furthermore, the clinical practice was standardised in compliance with maternal health services and national standards of care, midwifery education was adopted. Effective solutions for protective health financing in the area of family planning and maternal health, adolescents (girls and boys) reproductive health services, adult male reproductive health services were identified. 10 paediatric clinical protocols were updated and mobile application of the IMCI pocketbook for Android and IOS platforms was developed. 91 teachers participated in reproductive health and gender equality trainings within the Basic Life Skills raising awareness on HIV and other issues.

Additional UN support included:

-  Assessment of readiness to implement the national minimum initial service package for women in humanitarian settings and development of the action plan for preparedness improvement for 2022-2025
-  Development of the new Strategy and Action Plan for Tobacco free Turkmenistan for 2022-2025
-  Development of National Action Plan for Health Security
-  Revision of the 10 clinical protocols
-  Development of National Strategy on comprehensive response to cervical cancer
-  Procurement of over USD 1.5 million worth medical equipment and supplies for diagnostic and treatment of various diseases under the Japanese Government funded UNOPS project, as well as 320 965 units of insulin by UNDP through the Government funding

TB PREVENTION AND HIV

WHO and UNDP continued supporting implementation of the National TB programme, including strengthening patient-centred approach in TB care, update of national guidelines on tuberculosis infection prevention and control (TB IPC), clinical management of drug-resistant TB (DR-TB), management of TB in children, preventive treatment and systematic screening, conducting research, introduction of innovative treatment methodologies and TB procurement, including laboratory tests, equipment (GeneXpert machines), first-line medicines for nearly 2690 adult patients and 110 children, second-line medicines for 850 multi-drug resistant TB patients, reagents, and consumables for TB diagnostics. 927 multidrug- and extensive drug-resistant TB (M/XDR-TB) patients (com-

pared to target of 850 patients) were enrolled for quality second-line treatment, including in prison setting; 6,133 home visits were made and 80 educational sessions for TB patients and their families reaching 821 people were conducted. National capacities were strengthened in TB diagnosis, in clinical and programmatic management of TB cases, including in the penitentiary system, development of National strategic plan for TB lab network, reporting through updated National TB recording and reporting system and introduction of TB e-register. The capacity of the National HIV Prevention Centre was strengthened through knowledge building of WHO latest recommendations on HIV and AIDS and update of HIV diagnostics algorithm and counselling guidelines.



Under the leadership of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the joint interventions of the participating UN agencies within the SDG funded Joint Programme on Social Protection resulted in a real breakthrough. A new Law on Social Services was adopted by the Mejlis (lower chamber of the Parliament) in December 2021, setting out provisions for the development of community based social services that will have a transformational impact on the lives of vulnerable and excluded people. The social service workforce has been trained, includ-

ing 45 new social workers whose posts have been introduced into the budget of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population. Four universities were prepared to accept applications for social work degree courses that will start teaching in September 2022. A five-year national plan for social services development is drafted which includes an inter-sectoral government coordination mechanism at the national level and social services delivery institutional architecture.

A new model of inclusive community-based services was initiated

5000
VULNERABLE
PEOPLE
INCLUDING

Directly supported

3100
with
SOCIAL WORKER
ASSISTANCE

235
CHILDREN
ADULTS AND
THEIR FAMILIES

- ✓ to meet their specific needs
- ✓ support people to live independent lives in their communities

12 new types of specialised social services, including personal assistant services, piloted in Ashgabat, Turkmenabat and Mary



PEOPLE
with
DISABILITIES



for families with children



children left without parental care



young people at risk



women facing gender-based violence



people and children with disabilities



elderly people living alone



people with chronic illnesses

Furthermore, UNICEF and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, assessed the child protection system. The findings of the assessment were discussed among the Government entities resulting in the development of a framework on integrated child and social protection system strengthening, linked to broader family welfare services and social support.

UNDP and the Blind and Deaf Society of Turkmenistan enhanced the knowledge of 66 members from the cities of Ashgabat, Mary and Turkmenabat who learned international experience of barrier free employment, social security and protection of the rights and interests of people with disabilities.

A new model of inclusive community-based services was initiated

UNFPA and MOHMI

conducted an INVESTMENT CASE



to determine the cost of ending the unmet need for family planning by **2030**

The study revealed that

\$ 7.5 million invested in family planning until **2030**

would be needed to contribute to achieving **UNIVERSAL ACCESS** to reproductive health in Turkmenistan, which is a key component of the **SDGs**

UNODC strengthened national capacity under «Listen First» science-based drug prevention initiative aimed to prevent drug use among youth and children. UNODC also launched Youth Network in Turkmenistan within the framework of the Youth Initiative to empower young

people through establishing regional network of youth organizations aimed at mainly addressing issues related to UNODC mandate areas including prevention of drug use, crime prevention, prevention of radicalization, anti-corruption measures as well as gender dimension.





By 2025, the education and skilling system offers all people the skills and knowledge for employment success and enhanced social integration and resilience in a diversifying economy

Furthermore, the MoE developed a roadmap aimed at introducing competency-based education and thereby strengthening the national capacity to deliver improved learning at schools. In the framework of the roadmap, education specialists from MoE, National Institute of Education, pedagogical institutes and colleges strengthened their capacities in designing competency-based curricula that support development of foundational, transferable, and digital skills of schoolchildren. As a result of these efforts, children at three pilot schools gained access to improved classroom learning thanks to training on interactive and child-centred classroom practices provided in 2021, and more schools are expected to benefit in 2022.

MoE and UNICEF developed trans-disciplinary service provision across education, health and social protection sectors and enhancing the role of the medical-pedagogical commissions (MPCs) under MoE as a gatekeeping mechanism for young CwD and to prevent further institutionalisation. Following the assessment of current roles and functions of the MPCs, a detailed set of recommendations for reforming the MPCs nationwide was developed for further finalisation and implementation in 2022.



UNICEF promotes incorporation of the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction agenda into the education sector of Turkmenistan and strengthening children's knowledge on environment and the resilience of schoolchildren towards climate change. UNICEF supported the MoE and the National Institute of Education of Turkmenistan to develop the Teacher Training Manuals on Climate Change Adaptation for 5 school subjects ensuring that teachers are prepared to deliver the new Climate Change curriculum.



The Government and the UN continued fruitful cooperation aimed at enhancing the national education and skilling system and building social integration and resilience for a diversifying economy through capacity-building, evidence generation, and systems strengthening approaches.

UNICEF and the Ministry of Education (MoE) developed a half day pre-primary curriculum for schools to increase access to pre-primary preparation for children aged 5. The efforts made in 2021 established the foundation for implementation of the pre-primary curriculum during the 2022-2023 academic year.



In the context of the pandemic, UNICEF delivered 2,000 hand sanitizers to schools and conducted online interactive sessions on hand hygiene and infection prevention. MoE, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, Ministry of Health and Medical Industry participated in the Education in Emergencies training, which resulted in increased national capacity in developing strategies to deliver education in fragile contexts and laid the foundation for establishing an Education in Emergencies coordination mechanism at national level.



The national partners strengthened their capacities in enhancing skilling systems and increasing employment opportunities of all people, including persons with disabilities. The Blind and Deaf Society of Turkmenistan (BDST) benefitted from UNDP support in development of institutional capacity building and business strategies and enhanced its capacity in marketing of its three training-production enterprises. UNDP also supported BDST in assessing production capacities and provided recommendations for reconstruction and procurement of cardboard equipment for the Ashgabat Training-Production Enterprise. In the field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), UNESCO strengthened capacity of over 40 national experts from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, TVET schools, private sector and entrepreneurs in skills forecasting for TVET, managing skills in a time of changing demands, international best practices and examples on labour market observation, labour market information, skills development governance and use of non-traditional data.



In the area of digital education, UNICEF provided technical assistance to MoE to strengthen the capacity of schoolteachers to support introduction of digital learning in their schools and to deliver distance education. The introductory training laid the ground for further joint work on digital education with MoE in 2022. Moreover, with support from UNESCO, MoE increased its capacity in planning digitization of the national education management information system (EMIS). UNESCO raised awareness of over 40 national specialists in EMIS aimed at inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning.



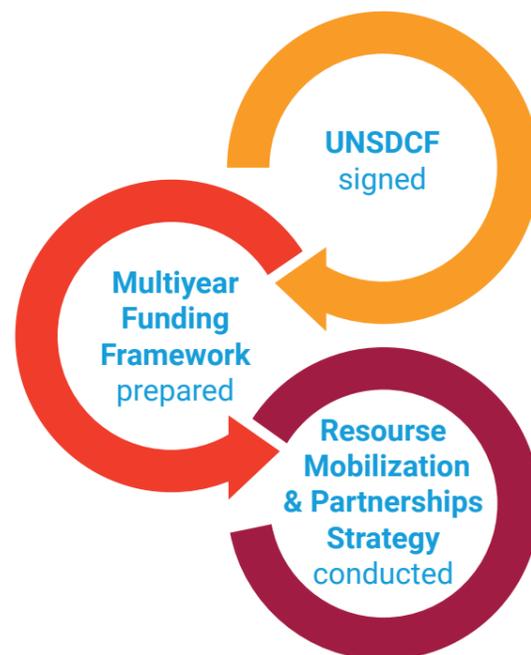
The National partners strengthened the resilience and enhanced social integration of youth from at-risk groups with technical support from the UNODC. The UNODC supported development of skills of national partners in prevention of drug use among youth through raising awareness around listening to children and youth as the first step to help them grow healthy and safe. Within the framework of the UNODC Universal Treatment Curriculum (UTC) capacity building activities, 69 drug dependence treatment and care professionals enhanced their understanding on evidence-based treatment and care services. UNODC initiated the 2nd stage of piloting drug treatment services quality assurance (QA) based on the recommendations provided during the last Online Regional Refresher Training for Accessors on UNODC-WHO QA Tools for Drug Dependence Treatment.

SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

During the second UNSDCF Steering Committee (SC) meeting in April 2021, the CF Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Strategy (RMPS) was presented to and endorsed by the Steering Committee members.

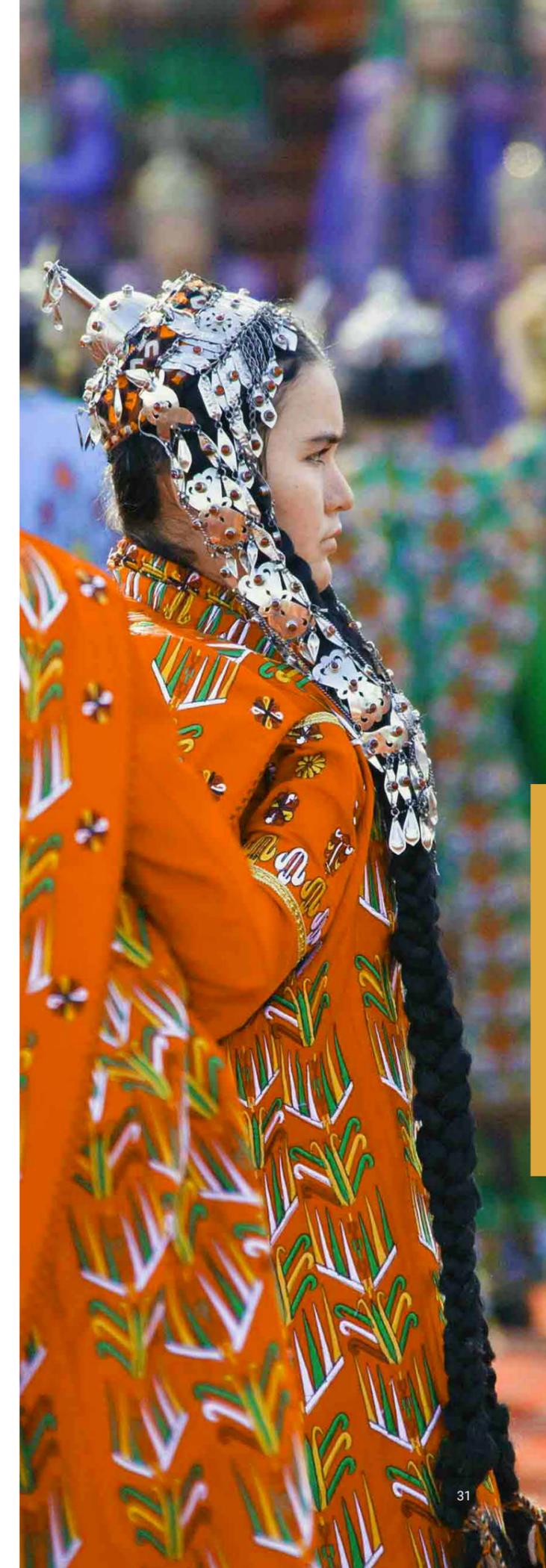
The RMPS for the UNSDCF was developed in line with SDG Financing and Funding the Cooperation Framework Guidance and according to the Steering Committee's decision of 16 December 2020.

The RMPS is an agreed-upon approach to mobilizing financial resources and expanding partnerships to implement the UNSDCF in 2021-2025. It is a logical extension of the Multiyear Funding Framework and is complementary and deeply elaborates on resource mobilization issues. The RMPS describes the funding requirements for full implementation of the Cooperation Framework, as well as specifies how the UNCT and Government will initiate and maintain periodic funding dialogues, including with donors and other development partners, to fill the funding gap of the Cooperation Framework and its joint work plans.



The Government of Turkmenistan has remained committed to promoting financing for SDGs. In accordance with the provisions of the Memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan and the UN on Cooperation in achieving SDGs in Turkmenistan, and given the mandates of the National Working Group on SDGs, the UN proposed to establish the Joint Expert Group between the Government of Turkmenistan and UN on SDG financing to understand the specifics of the SDG financing issues and the need to carefully study various approaches on this issue, including the implementation of Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs), the UN in Turkmenistan proposed to form a Joint Expert Group between on SDG financing (JEG on SDG financing).

The JEG on SDG financing is functioning under the National working group on SDG implementation in Turkmenistan. It is responsible for reporting to the meetings of the National SDG working group. See below Figure 1 depicting the place of the JEG on SDG financing within the national mechanism of SDGs implementation in Turkmenistan.



The RMPS sets out a set of agreed-upon comprehensive approaches to resource mobilization and expanding partnerships, including:

-  Periodic funding dialogues with the Government and donors
-  Coordination and promotion of coherence of country programs and development strategies of various development partners, including IFIs, with UNSDCF priority areas and outcomes
-  Building bilateral partnerships with development partners and donor countries
-  Prioritization of the preparation and application of joint program funding to global multi-partner funds and global thematic funds
-  Promotion of the establishment of a country-level joint multi-partner pooled fund
-  Building partnerships with the private sector
-  Support to multilateral partnerships between the UN, Government, private sector, and civil society
-  Exploration, promotion, and introduction of innovative financial instruments
-  Exploration of non-monetary means of implementation, etc.



SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

Permanent members of the JEG on SDG financing are experts from the government entities, namely Ministry of Finance and Economy (Chair), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations, State Committee on Statistics, Central Bank, and State Bank for Foreign Economic Activity of Turkmenistan, as well as experts from the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and UN Resident Coordinator's Office.

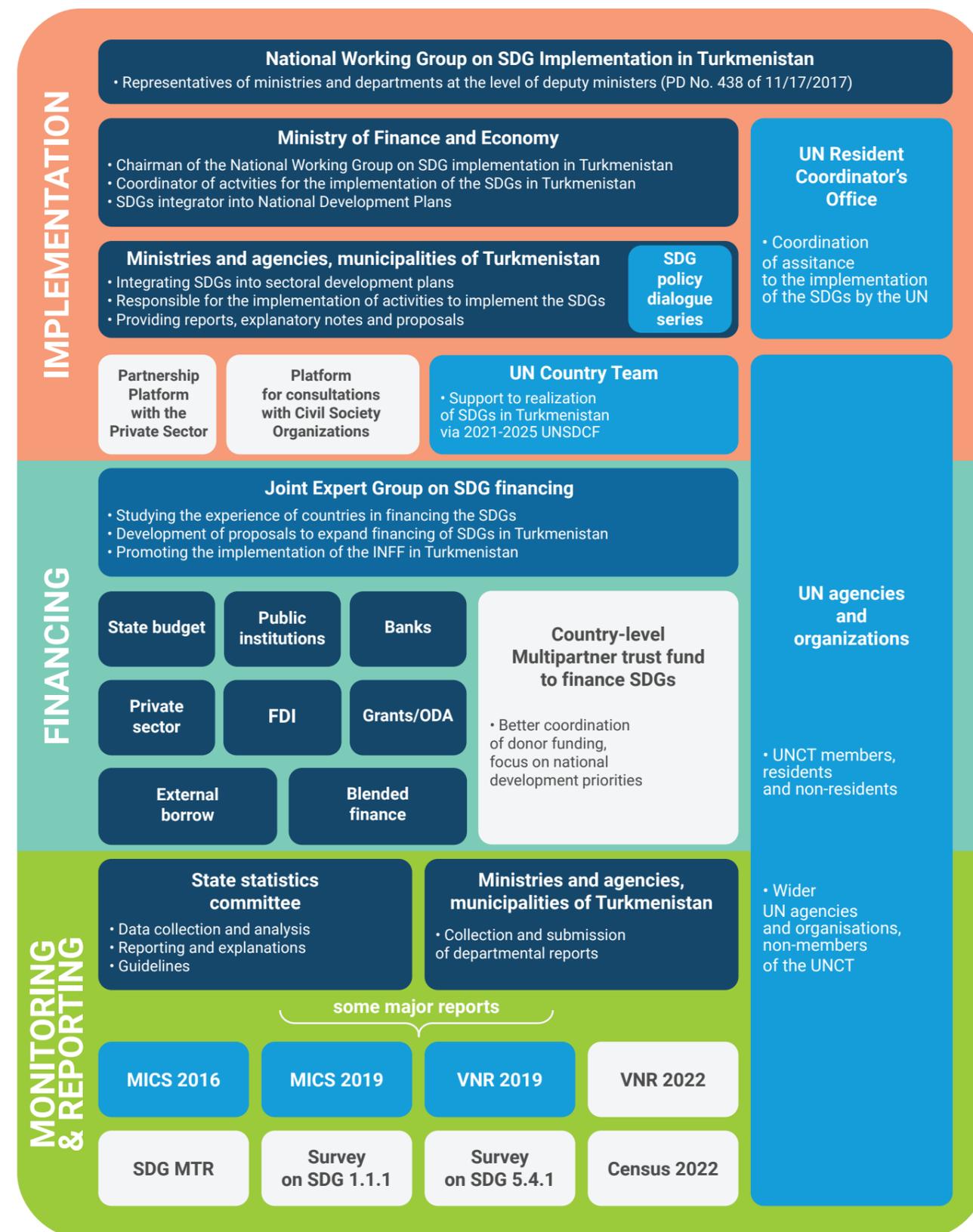
After its establishment in May 2021, the JEG convened three regular meetings, and conducted two series of capacity-building workshops. During these meetings and seminars, members of the Group, as well as participants from the government agencies and UN organizations, learned about the INFF approach in SDGs financing as a concept, country examples from the ECA region and

beyond; principles of responsible banking and sustainable banking in Turkmenistan, including a national vision of sustainable finance, etc. The UNRCO engaged representatives of UNDP Finance Sector Hub and Istanbul Regional Hub, UNEP Finance Initiative, UNICEF to contribute to the knowledge sharing and discussions on the JEG platform. From the national side, country examples were shared by representatives of the Ministry of Finance and Economy, Central Bank, and other agencies.

Further support from the group to government efforts in SDGs financing area will be focused on facilitating the Development Finance Assessment exercise, implemented by UNDP Turkmenistan, seen as a prerequisite to INFF roll out in the country and significant information source for development of INFF Roadmap.



NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM FOR THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN TURKMENISTAN



RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER: UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS, AND EFFICIENCY

The progress in implementation of the UN Development System reform has materialized through several joint initiatives at the country level in 2021

All of them contributed to strengthening the one-UN approach to issues such as:



COVID response



SDG implementation



building partnerships



ensuring access to data



joint communications



mobilizing joint action for climate agenda

In 2021, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office went through a transition process, in the first seven months of which the UNICEF Representative fulfilled the UN Resident Coordinator ad interim functions. Despite this change, the RC Office has remained the first point of contact for many inquiries coming from the sister UN entities – members of the UN Country Team, the Government and international development partners, which speaks of the recognition of the Resident Coordinator System as an efficient convenor and coordinator of UN's collective efforts to support Turkmenistan to meet its 2030 Agenda aspirations.

The UN Country Team's capacity and expertise was effectively engaged to serve the emerging development needs of Turkmenistan as committed in the Cooperation Framework. It was demonstrated through the policy dialogues on improving efficiency of freight transport in the times of pandemic, which affected economic diversification policies, investments, and trade due to lockdowns and restrictions, and on the reform of social protection system, including social support subsidies. On transport issues, the Resident Coordinator's Office engaged experts from UNECE, UNESCAP, International Road Union and other stakeholders to exchange knowledge on existing economic incentives and possible solutions for improved freight transport management, options of re-viving the transport sector in Turkmenistan as well as the country's international transport connectivity. The

consultation resulted in the development and submission to the Cabinet of Ministers of an analytical/policy note with the recommendations aimed at improving the efficiency of the transport sector, including digitalization of customs procedures and tariffs.

On social protection system reform, the expertise of UNICEF, World Bank and IMF was brought in to look at possibilities for enhancing the effectiveness of the social protection system. The national stakeholders and international partners reviewed the best international practices of social protection of population, looked at the aspects of adequacy and efficiency, benefits of targeted social protection and prerequisites for it, and expansion of fiscal space to accommodate social protection while maintaining fiscal stability. As a result, developing a Social Protection Reform Roadmap, including the social protection system assessment using the CODI tool was agreed. To ensure a coordinated follow-up on supporting the formulation of a Social Protection reform roadmap, the ILO was also invited to join the process.



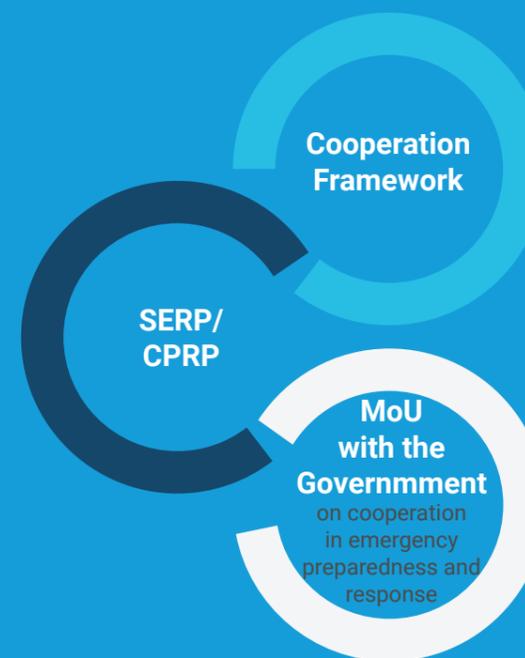
To respond to the Government's need for digital development, expansion of the dialogue between ITU, not a signatory of UN-Turkmenistan Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, was facilitated. The ITU-Government meetings have resulted in the agreement that ITU will support the country in the development of the National Cybersecurity Strategy. The support, including in other areas of expertise selected by Turkmenistan, from ITU will be reflected in the 2022 Joint Action Plan. The ITU may potentially become a new UNCT member contributing to the UNSDCF if the collaboration gradually expands and acquires the long-term nature.

Finally, the RCO effectively engaged the regional expertise available in the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub and UNEP Finance Initiative to build the national capacity on establishment of INFF and sustainable banking. The engagements have resulted in the development of the Action Plan for 2021-2022 of the Joint Expert Group under the National SDG Working Group to support the INFF rollout in Turkmenistan; in agreement to conduct the Development Finance Assessment (DFA) to inform further steps, including the development of the INFF Roadmap for Turkmenistan, in 2022. These examples vividly demonstrate the UN Country Team's ability to provide tailored responses to the development tasks of the programme country.

The UN Country Team members adequately responded to the agreed principle of aligning their Entities' programming documents with the strategic results of the Cooperation Framework. In 2021, the Food and Agriculture Organization developed their Country Programming Framework for Turkmenistan 2021-2025, which fully aligned with the priorities and results framework of the Cooperation Framework 2021-2025. Such alignment enabled the understanding of complementarity of the FAO programmatic activity to the achievement of strategic goals that the Government and the UN system agreed to achieve by the end of 2025 within the CF.

One of the bright examples of the alignment of the UN Entity program priorities and CF strategic objectives was the development and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Government on cooperation in climate change mitigation and adaptation, the implementation of which will be monitored by the CF Results Group 3 under the guidance by the CF's Joint Steering Committee.

All activities of the UN entities were implemented as part of the agreed annual joint work plans under three umbrella documents:



COMMUNICATING TOGETHER

The UN Resident Coordinator fostered closer collaboration between the UN Country Team and development actors and ensured the coordinated engagement with the Government throughout the year. This was evidenced by reaching out to the UN Climate Technologies Center and Network in Copenhagen, the joint efforts of the UN Country Team and the British Embassy in preparing the Government to the 26th high-level meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Glasgow, by organizing youth consultations on this issue, and inviting the Government to attend the meeting of the Development Partners thematic group on climate change.

Building stronger country-level partnerships with the development community was one of the important areas of UNCT work. Discussions with the EU and the Embassy of the Russian Federation of opportunities coming together to address the country's development needs, as well as presentations of the results of CF implementation in 2021 to the wider development partners' community have generated genuine interest in exploring new opportunities of coming together and providing joint support to the country.

The UNCT inter-agency efforts were strengthened in advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Government has agreed to carrying out the SDG Mid-Term Review to conduct the inventory of available data for SDG indicators, existing gaps and to reinforce national monitoring mechanisms to be able to produce a quality national report during the preparation of the Second Voluntary National Review with the results of the VNR to be presented to the ECOSOC segment of the

High-Level Political Forum in 2023. This has also led to increased data reporting to the custodian UN Entities for SDG indicators.

The successful inter-agency collaboration was demonstrated through implementation of the Joint Programme on community-based social services funded by the Joint SDG Fund. The high-level results of the collaboration were described in Outcome 4. The Joint Programme enhanced programmatic synergies, avoided duplicated efforts, and reduced transaction costs in terms of joint operational support. This was achieved by cost-sharing of capacity building activities, sharing and building on the knowledge products, using results of the recruitment/procurement of another agency for hiring local consultants, at the same time ensuring consistency and further building of the local technical capacity.

The results produced by the Joint Programme may serve as a good example to follow for the second Joint Programme, which is funded by the UN Human Security Trust Fund and brings together UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC and IOM. Likewise, the operational efficiencies achieved by the Social Services Joint Programme can be scaled up to the entire UNCT which is implementing the Business Operation Strategy.

The leadership exercised by the UN Resident Coordinator, the readiness for collaboration demonstrated by the UNCT entities, the established discussion platforms and mutual accountability mechanisms existing within UNCT have ensured implementation of the UN reform on the ground and strengthened the UNCT cohesion as well as coherence of UN programs of support.

The joint UN communications were strengthened as a result of the development of new Communication Strategy for the UNSDCF 2021-2025 describing the vision, mission and strategic objectives of UN communications in the country based on global priorities. During 2021, the UN Communications Group's activities focused on enhancing joint work across UN agencies on key communication priorities, such as COVID-19 risk communication, climate agenda, gender, and human rights.



Within risk communication framework, efforts tackled the distribution of information on COVID-19 safety and prevention, fighting stigma, importance of vaccination, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and mental health. **The information campaign #menhabarly** was preceded by online perception survey to understand the information trends and existing knowledge gaps. The overall reach out exceeded 35 thousand. The campaign also targeted vulnerable groups and three sessions for people with disabilities were delivered (about 100 people). The rubric on COVID-19 was launched within the UNFPA-run Yashlyk.info website dedicated to youth sexual and reproductive health with more than 96,000 users reached since the launch of the rubric.



On the climate agenda UNCG organized a number of initiatives to raise public awareness and knowledge on **plastic threat and waste management**, tree planting activities with the focus on engaging Turkmen youth. Moreover, the first ever **Youth Climate Conference** was organized in the lead up to COP 26 that resulted in the adoption of National Youth Statement that fed into COY16 session.

On International Women's Day, the Government and UN launched the National Action Plan on Gender Equality in Turkmenistan for 2021-2025, where key strategic priorities of the document were presented.

On 16 Days of Activism, UN agencies launched the #DiverseButEqual campaign to promote the culture of tolerance, dignity, inclusiveness, gender justice and rights-based engagement online and in society. Series of Youth Dialogues were organized with participation of the Olympic silver medal winner and Instagram influencers with the campaign engagement rate reaching more than 220,000 young people. Besides, young SDG Ambassadors and young activists enhanced their knowledge on international human rights protection mechanisms by participating in Human Rights Youth Festival.

The significant progress achieved in the implementation of the Joint Programme on Social Services (funded by the Joint SDG Fund) was also widely communicated through all available communication channels, including national newspapers, TV, and social media outlets.

Additionally, the UNCG supported the number of Government led activities including the Regional Youth Forum, the observance of the International Year of Peace and Trust, the International Day of Neutrality and other.



EVALUATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED



The UN established cooperation with the Government on strengthening the national system for SDG data collection, monitoring, and reporting. As a result of the UN support, the National SDG database was established while being operated in an offline mode by the State Statistics Committee.

Besides, the National SDG Mid-Term Review in Turkmenistan was initiated to take stock of SDG implementation progress in the country. 17 back-to-back meetings of the UN custodians with relevant Government entities to discuss data availability and challenges on specific SDG indicators revealed high potential to fill the existing and sizable data gaps. In this regard, the UN will continue supporting the Government in adopting methodology, target setting, significant integration of SDGs into sectoral programmes and regular national data reporting to international databases.

Furthermore, the UN will continue uniting efforts and resources of the UN agencies to maximise the impact and ensure better results in promoting data transparency and availability for development planning and the implementation of SDGs. One of the interventions will be institutional strengthening and professional capacity building of the State Statistics Committee and respective national authorities in terms of effective use of data in strategic decision-making.

The UN will also continue supporting relevant government institutions in preparation for the Census 2022 which is to provide disaggregated population data to monitor and set baselines to several SDG indicators. Development of a Unified CRVS Register and Unique ID for further digitalization of services and population data processing is another important focus for the joint UN action.

The Government is also expected to contribute to adoption of new digital solutions through re-orientation of financial plans and budgets, as well as development of digital solutions, capacities and skills at national and local levels enforcing and expediting the implementation of the Concept of Development of Digital Economy for 2019-2025.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The below matrix provides an overview of the total amounts of funding that were required to implement UN agencies' programmes, projects, and activities during the first year of 2021-2025 UNSDCF, disaggregated by UNCT members. The matrix also shows the difference between the required amounts with the actual available funds supported by information on its expenditures.

A significant difference between the Available funds and Expenditures in the table is largely due to the lead time for procurement of some goods and services, especially those health-related. It takes about 9-12 months to raise contract and organize the delivery of such products. The activities and their funds in this type of procurement are planned accordingly by 9-12 months in advance.

2021 UNSDCF Annual Funding Framework disaggregated by UN agencies

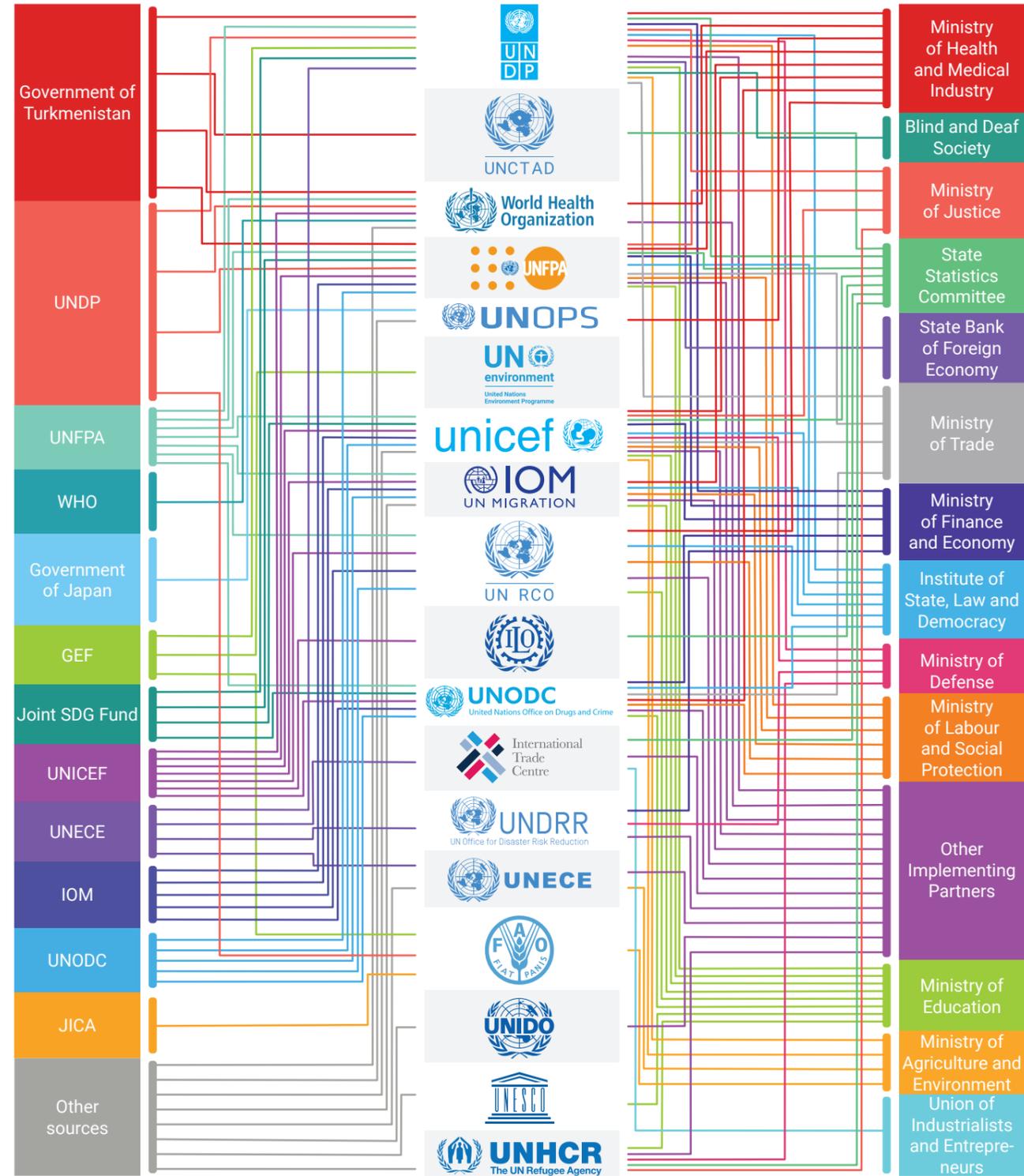
UN agency	Total amount	Available amount	To be mobilized	Expenditure
IOM	5 000.00	5 000.00	0.00	0.00
FAO	763 794.00	763 794.00	0.00	254 976.12
UNDP	44 903 423.91	44 556 762.41	346 661.49	17 170 390.83
UNDRR	146 563.12	146 563.12	0.00	98 130.00
UNESCO	25 000.00	25 000.00	0.00	27 800.00
UNECE	87 010.00	87 010.00	10.00	51.50
UNFPA	2 143 280.26	2 130 280.26	13 000.00	1 165 906.00
UNHCR	192 788.00	192 788.00	0.00	160 730.00
UNICEF	3 009 449.00	2 797 006.00	212 443.00	2 387 405.00
UNIDO	240 000.00	240 000.00	0.00	80 612.00
UNODC	170 410.00	170 410.00	0.00	48 910.00
UNOHCHR	9 200.00	9 200.00	0.00	9 200.00
UNOPS	2 749 465.00	2 749 465.00	0.00	1 519 215.00
WHO	491 244.43	262 994.10	228 250.33	279 579.00
ITC	752 380.60	752 380.60	0.00	487 832.00
Total	55 689 008.32	54 888 943.49	800 064.82	23 690 737.45



RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The below figure depicts the scale and weight of the funding sources channelled through the UN agencies with the indication of implementing partners.

Resources flows by source | UN agency | implementing partner



UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR

The UN-Government cooperation in 2022 will be continued under the Cooperation Framework 2021-2025

Within the **Outcome 1** People-centred governance and rule of law, the key interventions will be around:

- State institutions implementation of programs and mechanisms in the field of human rights, including labour rights and gender equality
- Digital government and effective public service delivery
- Integration of SDGs into national plans and programs
- Improving professional skills, knowledge, and practical skills of civil servants
- Strengthening the capacity of government agencies to collect and analyse disaggregated data, including on stateless population as part of the census
- Justice for Children system strengthening
- Community-based social services
- Youth participation and empowerment
- Strengthening capacity of law-enforcement agencies on international human rights standards
- Disability inclusive policies
- Strengthening the capacity of Ombudsperson's Office in line with Paris Principles to apply for GANHRI accreditation
- Advisory support in preparation of National reports to CRPD and CEDAW Committees
- CRPD and CEDAW National Reports
- Human Rights education at the university level and professional training for public servants and law enforcement agencies
- Support for the 2022 Census in line with the UN principles and standard, including quality assurance and technical support to the Government
- Support the identification and documentation of stateless persons, and mapping of the full extent of statelessness through the national population census and registration campaign for stateless persons as part of the implementation of the National Action Plan to end statelessness 2019-2024
- Emergency preparedness (refugee context)
- Support to CRVS
- Implementation of the HSTF Joint Programme
- Continue the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality (NAPGE) for 2021-2025
- Support in adoption of the legislation on family well-being and prevention of domestic violence
- Develop a roadmap to implement multisectoral response to gender-based violence and scaling up strategy for GBV services at the community level
- Identify and implement follow-up actions resulting from the Survey on the Health Status of a Woman in the Family
- Pilot services for consulting newlywed couples on creating a strong, harmonious, healthy family
- Develop an information package on gender equality and an online course on gender equality for state employees
- Support to the implementation of the State Youth Policy

Under the **Outcome 2** on Sustainable economic diversification, competitive private and financial sectors, enhanced trade and investment promotion, the UN will support the Government in:

- Potential support for WTO accession (institutional, regulatory, and human capital development)
- Implementing the National Trade Facilitation Portal
- Ensuring compliance with cross-border procedural and regulatory requirements on trade through the delivery of online and in-class trainings for local SMEs
- Enhancing capacities of women entrepreneurs to strengthen their soft and business skills, including through e-commerce related initiatives
- Joint initiatives in cooperation with IFIs (support for digitalization, development of securities markets, improvement of the quality of customs services, etc.)
- SDG Implementation and Financing (SDG National Database, Development Finance Assessment, Integrated National Financing Framework)
- Scaling up current digitization initiatives (E-Government, Digital Civil Registry, Digital Banking, Export-Import Single Window, Business Registry, National Data Center, National ID Number, etc.)

Within the **Outcome 3** on Strengthened environmental management and climate resilience, the UN will support the Government in:

- Continuing cooperation on environmental issues, climate change and sustainable land and water management within the framework of new projects «Aral Sea», «National Adaptation Planning» and other ongoing projects
- Opportunities for the development of a national GHG (greenhouse gas) emission inventory system and action plan on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- Capacity building to deal with transboundary hazards
- Reducing the impact of climate change on human health
- Continuing strengthening the national legislation by introduction of CCA and DRR topics through finalisation and institutionalisation of the Child-centred Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy
- Reducing the impact of climate change and disaster risks on schoolchildren by introduction and implementation of the joint UNICEF and the Ministry of Education Programme «Green School»
- Capacity building and reduction of the impact of climate change and disaster risks to the schoolchildren, local communities and the most vulnerable groups in the disaster prone areas of Turkmenistan by continuing implementation of the joint UNICEF and the National Red Crescent Society Programme Document «Strengthening education, health, sanitation and hygiene and emergency preparedness in vulnerable areas through school and community-based interventions in the Aral Sea area of Turkmenistan»
- Supporting Government efforts in working with the Climate Change Centre in Copenhagen aimed at establishing a Central Asia regional centre for climate mitigating technologies



UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR

In the **Outcome 4** on Quality, inclusive, affordable health and social protection services, the UN will strengthen national health and social protection systems through:

- 

Continue monitoring and supporting the provision of specialised social services at the district level



Support to the implementation of the Healthy Mother-Healthy Child-Healthy Future national strategy 2021-2025
- 

Support in realisation of provisions of the new Law on Social Services



Continue to mobilise resources to accelerate progress in family planning and cervical cancer reduction
- 

Implementation of Social Work Curricula in Higher Educational Institutions



Support to the Ministry in improving the quality of Reproductive health (RH) services for women with disabilities
- 

Collaboration with other regions and capacity building in bacteriology and virology based on the One Health Principles



Promoting the expansion of the coverage of women at risk with family planning and cervical cancer screening through procurement of reproductive health commodities and equipment
- 

Strengthening the health information system and digitalization



Assisting in updating the mechanisms of maternal health financing and providing technical and advisory support for the establishment and equipping of the Adolescents Centre in Ashgabat and velayats
- 

Capacity Building in Health Diplomacy. Support progressing of Turkmenistan in the field of NCDs and tobacco control. Exploring further regional health initiatives, Expanding COVID-19 vaccination of population



Implementing the National Action Plan on Prevention of and Response to Infectious Diseases for 2022

The UN will contribute to **Outcome 5** on Quality, inclusive, affordable education, and skilling systems, through support in:

- 

Collaboration of UNESCO, UNICEF, and government partners toward creation of a sustainable national Education Management Information System
- 

Development and introduction of assistive technologies in education to increase inclusiveness of the national education system
- 

Preparing a national digital education roadmap based on the National Digital Education Concept and a joint assessment of school connectivity and ICT skills in education in Turkmenistan
- 

Conducting training on data analysis aimed at improving results-based management capacity of the education sector

In delivering support to the Government, the UNCT will engage expertise from across the broader UN system and beyond to respond to the emerging development needs of the country, including:

- UNDESA
- ITU
- UNCTAD
- WTO
- EU
- OECD
- IFIs (EBRD, ADB, IMF, IsDB, WB)



