



UNITED NATIONS
TURKMENISTAN



DECADE
OF
ACTION

UNITED NATIONS IN
TURKMENISTAN
Annual Report 2022

March 2023

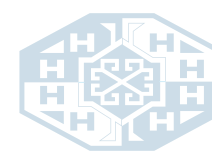
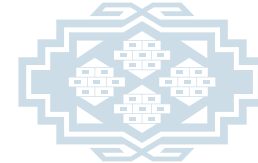




UNITED NATIONS
TURKMENISTAN



TURKMENISTAN 2022



UN COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

CREDITS:

Photos: UN Turkmenistan, UNDP Turkmenistan,
UNICEF Turkmenistan, UNFPA Turkmenistan,
WHO Turkmenistan, Ahmet Hallyev

Report: UN Country Team

Design: Ekaterina Ershova

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS

FOREWORD BY THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR

UN COUNTRY TEAM

KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY

CHAPTER 1

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

CHAPTER 2

UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

- 2.1. Overview of the Cooperation Framework Results
- 2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes, and outputs
- 2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda
- 2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency
- 2.5. Communicating Together
- 2.6. Evaluations and Lessons Learned
- 2.7. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

CHAPTER 3

UN KEY FOCUS FOR THE NEXT YEAR



ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank	NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
BDST	Blind and Deaf Society of Turkmenistan	OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
CCA	Climate change adaptation	PVE	Prevention of Violent Extremism
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
COP27	27th session of the Conference of the Parties	RIA	Rapid Integrated Assessment
COY17	Conference of Youth 17	SABER	Systems Approach for Better Education Results
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics	STEM	Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
CSO	Civil Society Organization	UNGA	UN General Assembly
DPCG	Development Partners Coordination Group	UNOHCHR	UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
DR-TB	Drug-resistant tuberculosis	UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	UNCG	United Nations Communications Group
ECD	Early childhood development	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
EFTA	European Free Trade Association	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
EMIS	Educational Management Information System	UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation	UNESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
GHG	greenhouse gas	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
HDI	Human Development Index	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
ICATT	IMCI Computerized Adaption and Training Tool	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
ICD-11	International Classification of Diseases	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
IFIs	International Financial Institutions	UNHSTF	United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security
ILO	International Labour Organization	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
IMEO	International Methane Emissions Observatory	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund	UN MPTF HQ	UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
IOM	International Organization for Migration	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank	UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
ITC	International Trade Centre	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	VNR	Voluntary National Review
LLDC	landlocked developing countries	WB	World Bank
LNOB	Leave No One Behind	WHO	World Health Organization
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys	WTO	World Trade Organization
MLSP	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of Turkmenistan		

FOREWORD

On behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Turkmenistan I am very pleased to offer you the 2022 United Nations Country Results Report. The report summarizes the progress made in 2022 by the United Nations, together with its many partners, in supporting the country to achieve its national priorities and the goals set in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

During the year, the UNCT continued to support the Government in its measures addressing the impacts of the rising cost-of-living crisis globally caused by soaring of food and energy prices in the country through continued interventions, policy advice and strengthening of the social protection system.

In addition, health procurement remained the major area of government co-financing within the UN-Turkmenistan Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. Over three fourths of total financing was directed for procurement and supply of medicines, vaccines, test systems, diagnostics and treatment equipment, update of clinical protocols and training of health care workers.

Joint United Nations support contributed to reaching important milestones towards the SDGs, such as agreeing on the national commitments in accelerating progress on SDG 4 within the global Transforming Education Summit process and strengthening accountability mechanisms

on SDG indicators. The UN interventions also strengthened institutional framework on gender equality and human rights through development of the new National Action Plan on Gender Equality for 2022-2028 and new National Action Plan on Child Rights for 2023-2028, and preparation of the periodic national report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), combined second, third and fourth periodic report to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and alternative report on Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The United Nations worked with partners across various sectors to ensure that we make significant contributions to the developmental landscape of the country. We continued to make good progress on the implementation of the Cooperation Framework (CF), with a focus on advancing the well-being of people in Turkmenistan, particularly the most vulnerable. The UN Development System continued to be a strategic partner of the Government being flexible and responsive to national circumstances and needs. The UN remains committed to delivering as one and ensuring that no one is left behind.

On behalf of the entire UN Country Team in Turkmenistan, I express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all our partners for their contribution alongside our joint efforts to support the country priorities in 2022.



Dmitry Shlapachenko

UN Resident Coordinator in Turkmenistan



UN COUNTRY TEAM

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) comprises 19 UN specialized agencies, funds, and programmes working in Turkmenistan and jointly supporting the country in the achievement of its national development priorities indicated in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF/CF). The UNCT is an interagency forum for joint policy formulation and decision making. It provides strategic

direction and oversight to ensure that the United Nations Development System agencies deliver coherent, effective, and efficient support. Although being signatories of the UNSDCF, two UN entities (UNOPS and UNDRR), with country presence at the project level, closed their offices due to completion of their projects and absence of funding for further programming.



KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY

The government of Turkmenistan remained a primary strategic partner of the UNCT over the year. UN agencies and government entities met at different platforms, primarily, the UNSDCF Results Groups, Steering Committee, National SDG Working Group, and others. In addition to the interaction within the above platforms, there were several engagements under the thematic groups, such as Joint Experts Group on SDG Financing, government-led national working/thematic groups, etc.

Traditionally, the Development Partners Coordination Group (DPCG) chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator remained as the primary platform for UNCT engagement with development partners in the country.

In 2022 the Government adopted two national development strategies, namely, the Program for the Revival of a New Era of a Powerful State: The National Program for the Socio-Economic Development of Turkmenistan in 2022-2052 (Programme-2052) and the Programme of the President of Turkmenistan for the socio-economic development of the country in 2022-2028 (Programme-2028). The UNCT, in pursuit of the alignment of its programmatic support with the national development priorities, signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of Turkmenistan and United Nations in Turkmenistan on cooperation in the implementation of the Programme – 2052 in March 2022, considered as a tangible result of the UNCT's alignment with the long-term national priorities. The parties agreed to develop annual action plans for implementation of the MoU and entrusted UN RC Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan with coordination of this work.

The UNCT built the awareness of the development partners community about Turkmenistan's development priorities set out in these important long-term documents, informing further alignment of the country-level cooperation and partnership instruments to better serve national developmental needs.

Moreover, the UNCT engaged with the development partners to promote joined-up approaches and create synergies in advocating for gender equality and supporting the climate action with co-chairing of the dialogues by the UNDP and UNFPA on the one side and the British Embassy on the other. In the course of three meetings, the partners exchanged on the priority areas for cooperation with the Government, potential areas for partnerships and underscored the need for strengthening communication and coordination to avoid parallel investments in similar projects, duplication and enhance complementarities.

The UNCT and the national partners benefitted from the policy advisory support of WB and IMF lead experts presenting the emerging impacts of war in Ukraine on Turkmenistan at the extended UNCT-IFIs meeting in 2022. The analysis of potential impacts on the economy was instrumental in ensuring the alignment of the UN programming in the country with emerging multidimensional crises.

Moreover, with RCO facilitation, consultations with IMF, WB, ADB, EBRD, and IsDB took place under the preparations for Development Finance Assessment in Turkmenistan. IFIs have shared their vision of the country's further development, considering the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, post-pandemic recovery needs, and implications of the war in Ukraine to the region and Turkmenistan's trade partners and markets. IFI experts also shared their plans for adjusting their operations on the ground to address these emerging risks. Results of the consultations were fed into Turkmenistan's first-ever Development Finance Assessment Report, which is now being reviewed by the Government and prepared for public launch.

The major partners that the UN partnered with in implementation, funding and financing of the CF in 2022:

National Partners:

- Mejlis (Parliament)
- Supreme Court
- 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 Sport and Youth Policy
- Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations
- Ministry of Adalat
- Ministry of Defence
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Hakimliks of velayats and c. Ashgabat
- 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

NGOs and CSOs:

- Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs
- National Red Crescent Society
- Women's Union
- Youth Organisation
- Keyik Okara
- Blind and Deaf Society
- «Yenme»
- «Ynam»
- «Central Physical Sport Culture of Disabled People»
- «Center for Support of Disabled People»
- «Ynanch Vepa»
- «Yalmy Yegendesh»
- «Mashgala»
- «Dap Dessur»
- «Beyik eyyam»

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
- IOM Development Fund
- United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security

Embassies and international organizations:

- EU mission in Turkmenistan
- UK Embassy in Turkmenistan
- US Embassy in Turkmenistan
- Japan Embassy in Turkmenistan
- USAID
- OSCE
- JICA
- GIZ
- ADB
- EBRD
- World Bank
- IMF
- IsDB
- Winrock International
- US Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)
- Russian Academy of Sciences



KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

Prosperity and People

In 2022, the President approved the National Programme for 2022-2052 that reiterated Turkmenistan's commitments to achieve SDGs and national priorities towards economic diversification and human capital development, public finance and fiscal reforms, oil and gas sector development, improving energy efficiency and renewable energy, enhancing water use efficiency, agriculture reform and rural development.

Turkmenstat data shows that in 2022 GDP grew at a rate of 6.2%, remaining strong, though international estimates differ from the national data. While the global economic slowdown and inflation have continued in 2022, for Turkmenistan hydrocarbon trade secured net exports helping the country in accumulating sizeable foreign exchange reserves and create a comfortable fiscal buffer.

The approved Presidential Programme of Socio-Economic Development for 2022-2028 envisages the growth of the natural gas production by 59% and GDP by 47% by 2028. To sustain prosperity, the Government made important steps to consolidate the budget and further diversify the economy implementing structural policies and attracting investment. To support food security the National Programs envisage subsidies and creation of reserved amounts of essential food. In June 2022, the President allocated 300 million USD, of which half would go to producers to support production and another half to Ministry of Trade to import necessary food items.

The economic growth led to state budget surplus in 2022 improving the government's spending power. In 2022, around 80% of the state budget expenditures (Tier I) were spent on social needs.

In 2022, the UN Joint Programme supported piloting of 12 new social services reaching out to the most vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities, elderly, children and youth at risk, children in residential institutions, single mothers, etc. The creation of the new workforce of social workers was enabled by the new Law on Social Services and funded by the Government. These steps contributed to enhancing equity in the country.

In 2022, Turkmenistan's HDI of 0.745 (0.726 for female and 0.760 for male) positioned the country in the High human development category at 91st rank out of 191 countries.

Turkmenistan completed the field enumeration phase under the Population and Housing Census in December 2022. This major population data collection event was implemented within the international standards and using tablet computers, a contemporary solution recommended by the United Nations.



Planet

In 2022, the hydrocarbon resources of the country are estimated at more than 50 trillion cubic meters of natural gas and over 20 billion tons of oil. The side effect of exploiting rich hydrocarbon resources is methane emissions with warming potential more than 80 times higher than of carbon dioxide for the 20-year period. At the same time investments to reduce methane emissions in the oil and gas are much lower than in agriculture. In partnership with UNEP's International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO), the training was prepared for the oil and gas sector specialists to intensify reducing of the methane emissions in the country.

In April 2022, recorded mean land temperature in Turkmenistan was 3.5 degrees Celsius higher compared to 1960-91 normal. Recent extreme heat waves and droughts are a stark reminder of the near-term threat

from climate change and its likely impact on agricultural productivity. The UN continued to support the Government to strengthen national adaptation planning and advocated to raise ambitions on Turkmenistan's NDCs. At the COP27 the country announced its commitment that by 2030 the growth rate of GHG emissions would significantly lag behind the growth rate of GDP. Turkmenistan plans to reduce its GHG emissions in 2030 under the BAU scenario by 20% compared to the level of emissions in 2010. Thus, the carbon intensity of the country's economy, as well as the intensity of greenhouse gas emissions should decrease.

The UN supported the Government in its efforts to scale up climate change adaptation and mitigation, including through the establishment of the Regional Center for Climate Technologies for Central Asia in Ashgabat.

Peace and Partnerships

In 2022, building on the principle of positive neutrality and good-neighbourly relations, Turkmenistan's Resolution «Zone of peace, trust and cooperation of Central Asian countries» was unanimously adopted at the 76th session of the UNGA. Moreover, the UNGA at its 77th session adopted another initiative by Turkmenistan, namely declaring 2023 year as the International Year of Dialogue as a Guarantee of Peace, which was preceded by the series of country-level, regional, and global events, such as the International Conference «Dialogue is a guarantee of peace» held in Ashgabat on 11th December.

Partnerships were intensified in many areas, including data, WTO accession, involvement of private business to SDG implementation, investments in traditional and new sectors to diversify the economy, as well as promoting water diplomacy in the context of the Aral Sea basin crisis.

Advancing transport diplomacy, Turkmenistan hosted the LLDC Ministerial transport Conference in August 2022 with important practical solutions to improve regional connectivity and trade. The construction of the fourth branch (Line D) of the Central Asia-China gas pipeline, Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) and of Trans-Caspian gas pipeline is being considered. The construction of the fourth branch to China is expected to allow Turkmenistan to increase its annual gas deliveries to China by up to 65 bcm.

With regard to the World Trade Organization accession the UN helped to strengthen the national capacity. One of the breakthroughs was the Government accession to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, as well as conducting the readiness assessment of the country to implement the Agreement in consultations with a number of national entities. The recommendations on the legal and technical sides of the assessment, if realized, will create a strong foundation for advancing the WTO accession process.

Overall, the combined efforts of the Government, the UN and other development partners the country have strengthened promotion of human rights, equity and gender equality. As evidenced by [Common Country Analysis](#) discussed at the Results Groups Meetings, the UNSDCF for 2021-2025 interventions should continue sustaining progress in achieving the national SDGs with acceleration in strengthening human capital by advancing integrated social protection, health and education investments; improving food security, water management and climate change adaptation efforts; enabling use of labour, digitalization and diversification of the economy heading to the WTO.



2



UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

In 2022, the United Nations in Turkmenistan continued to support the country in the implementation of its development priorities and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), making progress in all three strategic directions of the Cooperation Framework.

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, strengthening of national capacity to protect and respect human rights including people with disabilities and children.

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 public services (registration of acts of civil status) and building capacities of civil servants on the way to establishment of the integrated national financing framework (INFF) for SDG financing. The UN supported development of a Roadmap on accession to the WTO. Besides, the national legal and regulatory frameworks to promote sustainable and green development were strengthened through development of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC2), 4th National Communication and 1st Biannual Update Report for UNFCCC, National Child-centred Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy with the Multi-year Action Plan and environment-related Methodological Manuals for Teachers. The UN provided technical assistance to the national partners in strengthening capacities in preparedness to disasters and disaster response, adoption of climate-smart agriculture practices.

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, medicines and goods related 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. Comprehensive support was provided in taking care of the family and protecting mother and child health and development of national strategies and plans including the preparedness and response to acute infectious diseases (such as tuberculosis) and non-communicable diseases, tobacco control, rehabilitation and palliative care, mental health, public health in emergencies, adverse effects of heat. The Government and the UN continued the cooperation aimed at improving the national social protection system through development the legal framework for piloting 12 community-based social services and their further scale-up, building the social service workforce and enhancing the inclusiveness in the national education and skilling system through development of National concept of inclusive education for 2023-2028, and elaboration of the National Statement of Commitment within the Transforming Education Summit 2022. Education management capacity was strengthened by drafting a digital Education Management Information System (EMIS) Action Plan and capacity building of national specialists.



2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

OUTCOME 1

Enhanced governance and rule of law

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 2022, the UN Agencies further strengthened the institutional and human capacities of national partners at central and local community levels covering the following areas:



- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 respect for human rights including people with disabilities (PWDs), women, children and youth 2 promoting gender equality and preventing gender based violence 3 piloting of digital public services on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) 4 investigation and prosecution of trafficking in persons cases 5 promotion of international cooperation and facilitating mutual legal assistance in transnational trafficking in persons cases 6 statelessness prevention and reduction 7 migration management and combating trafficking in persons 8 refugee protection and refugee preparedness and response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation 10 combatting terrorism financing and corruption 11 cargo examination, illegal cash smuggling identification and documents verification 12 family creation and planning, active fatherhood and protecting the health of mother and child 13 women and youth empowerment 14 juvenile justice 15 preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) 16 advancing population statistics, including technical and methodological support in holding Population and Housing Census, generating evidence for SDG indicators and reporting on Sendai DRR |
|---|---|

Turkmenistan completed the field enumeration phase of the Population and Housing Census in December 2022 with UN having played a critical role in guiding the process, procuring essential census equipment, training of around 14.5 thousand enumerators, facilitating communication campaign and arranging two missions of high-level UN experts to advise and observe the census preparations and field work. It ensured alignment with internationally agreed standards. The use, for the first time, of tablet computers to collect census data facilitated quality assurance, enabled accelerated data editing and processing, and permitted timely release and dissemination of preliminary and final census results. The country has now all data available and the capacity to analyse geo-referenced and disaggregated data, which is critical to identify those left behind.

The high-level UN expert mission in December 2022 concluded that the preparatory phase and fieldwork for the 2022 Population and Housing Census had been run smoothly and as planned, and in line with UN Principles and Recommendations on the 2020 Round of Censuses. UN will advocate that Turkmenistan timely releases the census preliminary and final results, considering that the population census of 1995 was the last one with the published results. Therefore, this census is going to fill the gap and enable to measure progress on the SDGs and national development strategies, at the aggregate level and in different groups and categories through calculation of relevant social indicators. The released data will support evidence-based national and local policy formulation, and ensure the distribution and allocation of government funds for education, health, housing and other social needs among the country's various regions and districts.

Cooperation with the Academy of Civil Service, Turkmenstat and the Ministry of Education to identify the avenues for establishment of demographic education in Turkmenistan helped to understand the associated needs and gaps as well as opportunities for effective demographic education. In the absence of formal demographic education in Turkmenistan, the Turkmenstat recognizes serious difficulties when it comes to analysis of population data and demographic forecasts. Within the cooperation, a set of training materials for demographic education for masters, bachelors and civil servants was developed and tested, evoking a great interest of the national side to mainstream and promote demographic education in the educational system of Turkmenistan. Demographic forecasts will help to understand the needs for family planning, reproductive health services and services for women subjected to GBV. With this in mind the cooperation will be continued to promote the demographic education in Turkmenistan by developing needed national capacities.

Comprehensive RIA assesment

85% alignment of national planning and development documents with the SDG target

35% vs. 29% in 2019 integration of indicators



Development of CRVS system

3 Civil registration acts piloted with **strengthened capacity**

8 System Administrators

Other results on data-generation and availability, and statistical capacity strengthening of included:



Finalisation of the first-ever **Survey of Children and Adults with Disabilities** that improved understanding by policy makers of the situation of children and adults with disabilities in Turkmenistan. The findings also contributed to the **State Party periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**



Global assessment of the national statistical system conducted by UNECE/EFTA



Release of the report of the first-ever national sample **Survey on Health and Status of a Woman in the Family** (domestic violence survey) measuring baseline for SDG 5.2.1. Based on the survey recommendations and discussions, a **Road Map** was developed for implementation at the government level



Development of software for the procured equipment and piloting of **CRVS Register** in one of the Registry Offices of Ashgabat



Development of the **National Action Plan (NAP)** on strengthening national reporting on SDG indicators



Preparation of the MoU for partnering with the State Statistics Committee (SSC) to conduct **MICS in 2023**



Release of the results of the updated **Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA)** to identify the integration of SDG goals, objectives and indicators in program and strategic documents for the purposes of the second **Voluntary National Review (VNR)**

Share of women in managerial positions, % (SDG 5.5.2)

25.3% 2021

23.8% 2020

22.1% 2019

In 2022, within the UN support to the Government to implement the NAP to end statelessness (2019-2024), 1 530 stateless people were granted Turkmen citizenship, comprising 26 ethnicities and 57% of women. Amongst them were two former refugees, and now only 13 refugees need still to be integrated in Turkmenistan in 2023. Through local civil society partners, additional 251 stateless persons were identified and counselled. 34 applications for citizenship confirmations were submitted to third country consulates in Ashgabat and 31 responses were received.



The UN took the following measures to strengthen the institutional framework:

- 1** Development of the 6th Periodic National Report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) that included for the first-time information on domestic violence against women
- 2** Development of a new NAP on Child Rights for 2023-2028 and of the Concept Note for a dedicated child rights function at the Office of Ombudsperson
- 3** Development of a new NAP on Gender Equality for 2023-2028
- 4** To ensure multisectoral response to gender-based violence (GBV), a Guidance was developed for police to work with vulnerable populations, including women, minorities, and people with disabilities
- 5** Assessment of the national electoral system by the UN Electoral Needs Assessment Mission with subsequent recommendations for enhancement of the system
- 6** Preparation of the combined second, third and fourth periodic report to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with involvement of representatives of civil society organisations (SCOs) and UN agencies
- 7** Analysis of the national legislation for compliance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- 8** Development of the alternative report on Convention on the Rights of the Child
- 9** Development of a package of legal documents including the draft Regulations of the Commissions on Child Protection and Family Support at all levels, which provides opportunities to reform the child-care system of the country
- 10** Amendment of the Criminal and Criminal Procedural Codes informed by evidence created on legislative frameworks concerning children in contact with the law
- 11** Establishment of the first child-friendly interview room for children in contact with the law in the Kopetdag district Police Department of Ashgabat city
- 12** Multiple documents developed under the recent NAP on trafficking in person (TIP) 2020-2022 including Standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the identification of the victims of human trafficking, Regulation on social rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking, Regulation on voluntary return (repatriation), Terms of Reference of the national working group on TIP, Agreement on cooperation between IOM and Government Agencies on TIP, National Referral Mechanism
- 13** Revision of the Law on trafficking in persons (TIP) and development of the third NAP on TIP for 2023-2025 making sure that they are in line with international standards and based on a victim-centred approach
- 14** Development of 27 procedures, guidance documents and 85 related forms to support the Management System of the Central Forensic Bureau of Turkmenistan
- 15** Capacity Assessment to analyse the Ombudsman's Office current strengths, capacity gaps and readiness to promote and protect human rights in line with the UN endorsed Paris Principles
- 16** Strengthening the capacity of the State Migration Service and National Statistics Committee on the methodology for measuring the SDG indicator 10.7.2 for countries with well-managed migration policies
- 17** Development of the normative framework required to support the Law on Social Services to ensure the law application in practice
- 18** Establishment of Hotline, Crisis Center and Shelter services at the local CSOs to provide GBV services including psychological counselling, legal advice, and social support to women experiencing domestic violence
- 19** Establishment of the Youth education-information centres in the facilities of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population to promote PVE interventions and strengthen local support systems

OUTCOME 2

Sustainable economic diversification

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 and the Government achieved certain milestones in the area of digitalization of public sectors and simplification of business processes, which included development of:



Statistical Business Register to simplify the registration procedures and submission of documents for legal entities and individual entrepreneurs and accelerate processing of documents for employees of statistical bodies



Single Window System for Export-Import Operations which will coordinate the work of more than 15 state regulatory bodies, simplify the document submission for the private sector, and enhance the work of customs authorities



Trade Facilitation Portal by populating related information on over 20 import and export products explaining cross-border trade procedures and aims to resolve non-tariff barriers to enhance country's compliance with WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. This work was complemented by building knowledge of 70 female representatives of the private sector on trade related cross-border management and export management coaching services



Digital platform for mobile and Internet banking for the purposes of digital transformation in the banking sector and enhanced banking services for both retail and corporate clients

In 2022 ESCAP implemented the Readiness Assessment for Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Turkmenistan. According to ESCAP 2020 study, despite the progress achieved in recent years in North and Central Asia, the subregion continues to suffer from high transport costs and low transport connectivity levels, shortages in the transport infrastructure coverage and operational weakness in freight transport operations. Relatively low levels of digitalization and facilitation of cross-

border transport and trade operations add up to existing challenges. The benefits of the successful implementation of cross-border paperless trade are large. In this respect, the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA) provides promising avenues for the parties to progress together. As a result of joint Government-RCO-ESCAP efforts, Turkmenistan joined the Agreement in 2022.



The UN expanded the dialogue with the financial sector of the country to promote national development financing for the Agenda 2030 delivery. More specifically, the UN will advocate on the use of recommendations of the development finance assessment (DFA) supported by the UN.

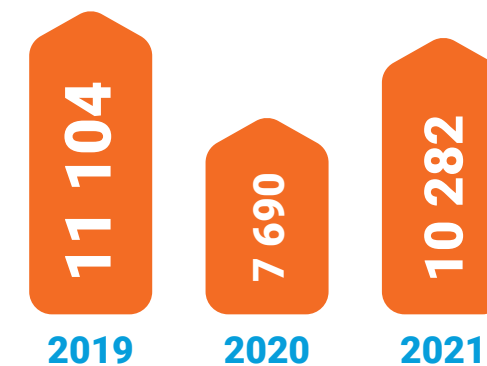
In February 2022 Turkmenistan received the status of a WTO acceding country. The UN supported the country in the WTO accession through a number of interventions:

- 1 conducted an analysis of legislation and institutional architecture regarding the process of accession to the WTO;
- 2 developed a roadmap for the country's accession to the WTO;
- 3 developed a project document on the implementation of priority measures for the WTO accession process;
- 4 included the country in trade facilitation and electronic business activities in the region, notably in the digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange, based on UN standards;
- 5 strengthened capacity of national partners to enrich their knowledge in the main WTO agreements to help initiate the negotiation process with the WTO;
- 6 will respond to the request of Turkmenistan to do an assessment of the country's readiness to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

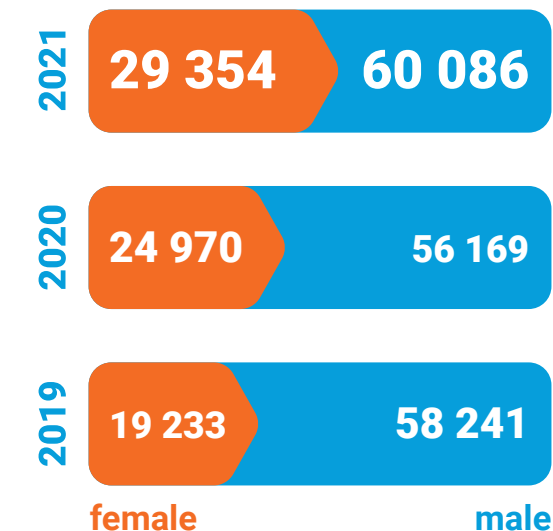
The UN initiated concrete measures to strengthen policy and legal frameworks of food loss and waste (FLW) which expectedly will lead to reduction of economic losses along food supply chains. The national strategy and action plan on food loss and waste (FLW) was prepared and will be presented to the Government. The analysis of national legislation and policies for the disposal of food and the prevention and secondary use of FLW identified further steps for adjustments and improvements will be taken in 2023.

The strategic partnership with the State Statistics Committee (SSC) was continued by supporting gradual introduction of SNA-2008 and launching of a sample survey of economic entities, which would help to obtain data on the structure of costs for production and sales of products, as well as on the structure of gross fixed capital formation and capital in the context of a detailed range of products (goods and services) for 2022. The results of the survey will help to update the Supply and Use Table (SUT). UN continued to support SSC in operationalizing the SDG database established in the Committee in the very end of 2021. It also benefited from the Global Assessment of National Statistical Systems of Turkmenistan, which will allow to introduce required improvements.

Turkmenistan exports, mln. USD (SDG 17.1.1)



Number of entrepreneurs, disaggregated by sex (SDG 5.5.2)



OUTCOME 3

Strengthened environmental management and climate resilience

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.

Significant progress was achieved in the development of national policy, legal and regulatory strategic documents to promote sustainable and green growth including:

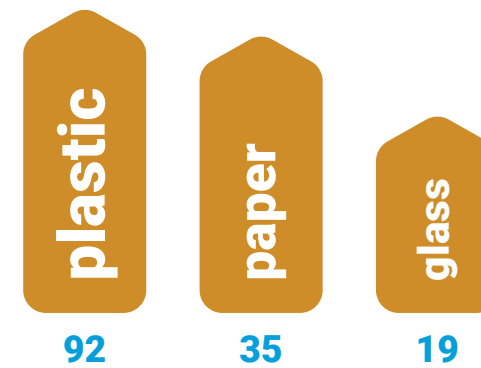
- 1 finalization, approval, and submission of the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC
- 2 finalization of the Concept of Turkmenistan on Waste Management
- 3 ongoing development of the 4th National Communication and 1st Biannual Update Report to the UNFCCC, and preparatory work for the development of the national GHG inventory
- 4 review of the national legislation and policies in view of its alignment with the Industrial Accidents' Convention requirements
- 5 finalization of the National Child-centred Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy along with the Multi-year Action Plan to support integration of the child-focused components into the national legal framework
- 6 development of the concept of the draft Law of Turkmenistan «On Soils»
- 7 finalisation of the Global Sanitation and Drinking Water analysis and assessment (GLAAS) led by the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry (MoHMI) covering the 2021-2022 reporting cycle

Turkmenistan also benefitted from various regional tools and studies such as on energy efficiency in buildings, status of renewable energy, recommendations on using natural gas in road transportation, carbon neutrality and sustainable hydrogen production.

Other UN measures to integrate resilience into policy, legal and institutional frameworks included:

- 1 Finalisation of 5 environment-related Methodological Manuals for Teachers ensuring incorporation of the Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction into education system of Turkmenistan;
- 2 Development and introduction of training course on Climate change adaptation and Disaster risk reduction for pre-school institutions;
- 3 Finalisation of the «Green School» Education Programme and preparation of the MoU for signing with the Government for implementation and expansion of the Programme in 2023;
- 4 Exposure of national stakeholders to the best international practices on mainstreaming the migration, environment and climate change nexus in the national adaptation planning processes.

Waste sorting and processing in Ashgabat by city municipality and Nature Protection Society (tons, 2022)



The UN demonstrated best practices in rational use of natural resources and disaster risk reduction through the initiatives below:

- Promotion of 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
- Procurement and handover to the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection (MAEP) of four units of the vehicle-mounted sprayers for locust control, survey kits and sprayer calibration equipment with subsequent provision of locust management technical trainings
- Construction of 2 nurseries for growing various planting material and a demonstration plot (3 ha) for carrying out agro-reclamation measures to reduce the level of soil salinization and procurement of 25,000 seedlings of fruit trees to expand horticultural areas in various soil and climatic conditions of Turkmenistan
- Procurement and handover to MAEP of resource-saving agricultural equipment including mini-tractors – 3 units, cultivator – 3 units, seeder – 3 units, no-till planter – 1 unit, motoblocks – 15 units
- Construction of 10 wells and 10 sardobas for livestock farms of the production association under MAEP
- Construction of 11 greenhouses for the needs of the Forestry departments of MAEP in all provinces of Turkmenistan
- Construction works and provision of equipment was complemented with a series of workshops for local farmers and pastoralists to adopt climate-smart agriculture and scale-up best practices to increase crop yields, water efficiency and combat soil salinity, sustainably manage desert pastures. The farmers, teachers at the Agricultural Institute and specialists of the water management departments of the Dashoguz province enriched their knowledge of recultivation of salt-affected soils, field soil quality research

OUTCOME 4

Quality, inclusive health and social protection

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

The UN support in healthcare focused on four major streams: COVID-19 response, strengthening national healthcare including policy and legislation, reproductive health and TB prevention.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- 1 development of Acute Communicable Disease Preparedness and Response Plan
- 2 development of National vaccination and deployment plan along with building the capacity of health care workers on the latest vaccination protocols and WHO recommendations about emergency use vaccines
- 3 development of National laboratory strategy for COVID-19 testing
- 4 revision and development of national guidelines for the clinical management of patients with severe acute respiratory infections
- 5 deployment of 10 equipped and functional PCR laboratories
- 6 assessment of infection prevention and control (IPC) in the 5 hospitals in 5 regions and preparation of recommendations to health care workers on standard and universal precautions, and systematically conducting IPC assessment in hospitals
- 7 procurement and supply of medicines, test systems including rapid COVID-19 tests and personal protective equipment (PPE) as well as diagnostics and treatment equipment to serve potential 1 000 COVID-19 patients
- 8 development of software to improve registration on vaccination against COVID-19 its operationalisation and testing



The UN provided substantial technical support in building national capacities, strengthening regulatory framework, enhancing vaccination deployment and immunisation programme, critical risk communications and procurement of equipment and goods to prevent COVID-19 spread in Turkmenistan including:

250 000 rapid PCR tests	640 000 PCR tests
200 000 anti-body tests	6 mobile digital x-ray
20 sets of ECG	50 sets of Ambu bags
30 sets of cardio monitors	10 sets of defibrillators
50 pulse oximeters	12 spirographs
14 Toyota Hilux pickups	5 816 lab specialists and health care workers trained
387 000 communications	

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL HEALTHCARE

The UN strengthened national healthcare system including legislative and regulatory frameworks for health protection through following interventions:

- 1 Country program plan for preparedness and response to acute communicable diseases
- 2 National strategy and action plan for tobacco control
- 3 National strategy and action plan for palliative care
- 4 National action plan for capacity building for public health emergencies
- 5 Action plan to prevent the effects of heat on public health
- 6 Maintaining polio-free status of the country
- 7 National strategy on comprehensive response to cervical cancer
- 8 National Action Plan for health security
- 9 Clinical protocols of NCD, CVD, Diabetes and Cancer
- 10 Roadmap for the implementation of ICD-11 in the country
- 11 Vabase software and an electronic register developed and installed in the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry to record the purchase and storage of vaccines
- 12 Improved medical waste management through delivery of 21 autoclaves and training of 2 443 physicians and nurses in infection prevention and control in accordance with approved WHO protocols
- 13 Over \$15 million worth vaccines and vaccine equipment for regular immunization as well as Premix for flour fortification procured and supplied as planned in 2022
- 14 Procurement and handover to three local NGOs the necessary equipment to improve their access to trainings and job skills for drug users, youth at risk of contact with criminal justice and their families
- 15 Specialists of four regional narcology centres from Balkan, Dashoguz, Lebap and Mary velayats and specialized NGOs equipped with knowledge and skills enabling evidence-based treatment methods available to patients of the narcology services



- 16 Medical equipment (modular ICU vital sign monitor, ICU ventilators, advanced ultrasounds systems, and bronchoscopy systems) procured and installed in hospitals across the country. Specialists to work with modern equipment and three engineers to maintain the equipment for the sustainability of the outcomes trained
- 17 Medicines amounting over \$11.5 million for treatment of cardio-vascular, oncology, neurology, endocrine and respiratory deceases procured and delivered
- 18 Support for country survey «Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS) 2021-2022»
- 19 Support to the implementation of the National Nutrition Programme for 2020-2025 and launch of the National Micronutrient Survey with training of 62 data collection specialists and procurement of required laboratory reagents and consumables
- 20 Harmonization of national food safety standards in line with Codex Alimentarius standards

TB PREVENTION

The following results were achieved thanks to the UN continued efforts on the prevention, treatment, and control of TB:

- 1 Detection rates of tuberculosis and drug-resistant TB improved due to supply of the necessary equipment and reagents to laboratories. 95% of patients were taken for treatment with 2nd line drugs, including in the penitentiary system
- 2 10 351 patients tested on GeneXpert (40% higher than 2021)
- 3 Additional 5 laboratories supporting the new Xpert XDR technology deployed in four velayats (Akhal, Balkan, Mary and Lebap) and Ashgabat
- 4 1st line medicines for nearly 2 400 TB patients including children and 2nd line medicines for 900 multi-drug resistant TB patients, reagents and consumables for TB diagnostics procured
- 5 Drug susceptibility testing (DST) was performed on 2 986 patients demonstrating improvement in success rates for TB treatment. Testing for new 3rd line drugs begun at the velayat level
- 6 70 832 sputum microscopy tests performed in TB laboratories – tests for solid and liquid cultures performed 1.4 times more than in 2021
- 7 A total of 1 064 M/XDR-TB patients were supported by the National Red Crescent Society (compared to the target of 777). At least 7 home visits for each patient arranged and 139% of patients and their relatives attended educational sessions
- 8 7 class 2 biological safety cabinets, 6 autoclaves, 4 mobile X-ray units, 5 RotorGene PCR, 5 laboratory refrigerators with a volume of 347 litres, 3 low-temperature freezers, anti-tuberculosis drugs, consumables and reagents for TB laboratories purchased and supplied
- 9 Maintenance and repair of ventilation systems carried out in the TB laboratories of the Dashoguz, Lebap, Mary velayats and the MDR department of the Akhal velayat, as well as SelectraProS biochemical analyzers, BACTEC MGIT 960/320 automated systems
- 10 National TB Lab network plan for 2022-2025 developed
- 11 National clinical protocol of Hepatitis C virus (HCV) treatment developed










SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM

Following the adoption of the new Law on Social Services in the end of 2021 setting out provisions for the development of community based social services, undergraduate social work curriculum was developed. 55 service providers representing the sectors of social protection, health, education, home affairs and community associations were trained to provide specialized social services. 60 families, including 120 parents and their children, were examined, counselled and provided with social support. 25 youth activists took part in national consultations on empowerment, youth social protection.

The UN supported Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population with development of National Programme for the Development of Social Services in Turkmenistan, which addresses the need to scale up the provision of an inclusive community-based social service model from a more strategic perspective. Analysis of financial landscape and fiscal space for social services was conducted along with consultations with national partners on potential financing sources of the National Social Services Development Program.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

The UN interventions to improve reproductive health policies and practices include the following:

-  Standards for the provision of patronage services to mothers and children aged 0-6 at the primary health care (PHC) level developed and **Monitoring and Evaluation System** for patronage services designed and modelling in pilot institutions launched
-  Piloting of the optimized standards of patronage service started in 3 health houses (two in Ashgabat and one in Ak Bugday etrap, Akhal velayat)
-  Roadmap and a 5-year plan for the implementation of **Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI)** at the national level developed and approved; **E-learning course on IMCI (ICATT)** developed
-  Training course on **Early Childhood Development** into the program of Turkmen State Medical University introduced; **1 432 medical workers trained** on nutrition and early child development
-  More than **22 000 early childhood children** included in the early development program while **800 children** are completely restored in development
-  **94% of maternity hospitals** and 15 primary health care facilities received/confirmed the status of a **friendly relationship in the child**
-  **12 paediatric protocols** developed and adopted; **clinical standards of care** for safe abortion, cervical cancer and HIV prevention updated
-  The **state-guaranteed basic package** of maternity protection services calculated; **family planning methods** expanded from 4 to 7 at family planning service points
-  **Women with visual and hearing impairments** increased their access to reproductive health information through the development of **sign language materials and audio files**

Health capacity improved

88 units of medical equipment supplied to **47 hospitals** to benefit **500 000 patients** per year



125 med personnel and **3 engineers** trained

Cardio-vascular medicines (over 1.4 million packs)



Oncology medicines (over 272 thousand packs)

Neurology medicines (nearly 273 thousand packs)



Endocrine medicines (over 180 thousand packs)

Respiratory medicines (nearly 65 thousand packs)



OUTCOME 5

Quality education and skilling

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

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.

In 2022 with UN support Turkmenistan participated in the Transforming Education Summit convened by the UN General Secretary to develop a shared vision, commitment, and alignment of action across constituencies to transform education between now and 2030. Nearly hundred representatives from governmental and non-governmental education stakeholders participated in the National Consultations with substantive focus on recovery of learning loss after COVID-19, transforming education – thinking, approaches, learning resources and methods, reviewing national education targets in SDG 4 and commitment to sustainable financing of education. As a result, two outcome documents were developed including National Consultations Report and National Statement of Commitment which outlined major directions of work to accelerate achievement of SDG 4 in Turkmenistan. For the follow up of the Transforming Education Summit the UN and national partners are planning to establish a Working Group to accelerate the achievement of SDG 4 in Turkmenistan.

The UN supported Ministry of Education in improvement of early learning standards. Methodological instructions on how to organize pre-primary preparation in schools and general provision on pre-primary preparation in schools were developed for the Ministry of Education to support initiation of one year half day pre-primary curriculum in line with Turkmenistan SDG 4.2 commitment to ensure pre-primary preparation for all 5 years old children. 150 childcare professionals from health, education and social protection sectors increased their knowledge of providing a comprehensive early intervention support for young children with disabilities (0-6 years) and their families towards their inclusive education path and overall social inclusion. The in-service training package includes modules on trans-disciplinary services, mental health, and communication.

Joint inter-ministerial provision involving Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population on early intervention and multi-disciplinary support for young children with disabilities (0-6 years) and their families was developed in the framework of Support for the implementation of the Plan of Action and monitoring



and evaluation system for the National ECD strategy 2020-2025. Core modules as part of a short in-service course on inclusive education to support building initial capacity of pedagogical professionals on promoting inclusive learning environment were developed for further testing in 2023.

In 2022, as a result of continued UN technical assistance to the national inter-ministerial Working Group on inclusive education coordinated by the Ministry of Education, the national concept of Inclusive Education (IE) for 2023-2028 was developed and ready for finalization and adoption. Support for building initial capacity of pedagogical professionals on promoting inclusive learning environment and inclusive pedagogy led to development of a training course on inclusive education for introduction in the menu of in-service trainings for teachers at the National Institute of Education in 2023.

The Ministry of Education and Innovation Information Center strengthened their potential in delivering digital education thanks to the capacity-building in e-book development and delivery of 100 open-educational-source interactive digital simulations (PhET simulations) that can be used to teach STEM subjects at secondary schools. 25 specialists from the national education system were trained in developing EPUB format accessible digital books. The simulations are currently under review by MoE and will be distributed after quality assurance and approval.

The national education system continued to develop its capacity in collecting and using data in education management through initiating the development of Education Management Information System (EMIS). Evidence was generated on the state of the existing national EMIS using the SABER-EMIS framework. The evidence generated was used in drafting EMIS development action plan and supporting the policy dialogue at the Ministry of Education level for its approval and implementation. The foundational modules of EMIS software application were developed and delivered to the Ministry of Education and installed on test server. Foundational capacity in EMIS at various levels of the education system was strengthened through capacity-building.

As a result of consistent efforts with joint expertise from St. Petersburg Early Intervention Institute, Russian Federation and Cercy Lisboa, Portugal, the pre-service training course on social inclusion for persons with disabilities as part of the 5 years undergraduate medical-social work curriculum at the State Medical University was developed.

The Ministry of Education has increased capacity in delivering competency-based curriculum at primary and secondary levels aimed at developing foundational, transferable, and digital skills. UNICEF organized trainings to strengthen national capacity in developing teaching materials aimed at formation of competencies in schoolchildren. In three selected pilot schools, 180 students in Grade 5 were taught with newly developed teaching materials based on the competency-based education approach in Maths, Turkmen language, and English language subjects.

The UN promotes mainstreaming of the Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCA and DRR) agenda into the education sector of Turkmenistan and strengthening children's knowledge on environment and the resilience of schoolchildren towards climate change through strengthening teaching capacities of more than 500 school administrators, teachers and education sector specialists. The CCA and DRR education strengthened through publication and introduction of 5 environment-related Methodological Manuals for teachers.

The UN also continued its support to Blind and Deaf Society (BDST) to enhance employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Procurement of printing equipment, sewing equipment, and reconstruction of 3 training-production enterprises of the BDST is underway. 66 members of the BDST from the cities of Ashgabat, Mary and Turkmenabat, of which 43 are female

members, enhanced their knowledge on socio-economic integration of people with disabilities and learned international experience of barrier free employment, social security and protection of the rights and interests of people with disabilities.

The UN supported development of leadership, networking, employment, and other soft skills of youth necessary for contemporary labour market. Trainings in project design and management, information coverage of social projects organised for 61 young people (36 females and 25 males) who increased knowledge and practical skills in application of new media tools for initiation of new project proposals. Grants totalling US\$ 15 thousand were awarded to projects developed by young people and implemented in close partnership with local NGOs supporting community development initiatives, building infrastructure, services, and systems for improvement of living condition of youth and their empowerment, respect for diversity and inclusivity and youth involvement in decision-making at the local level. Youth empowerment initiatives were conducted to promote volunteering, respect for diversity and inclusivity, Youth advocacy initiatives that promote youth involvement in local decision-making and youth constituency needs. Six Education-Information Centres were established at Employment Departments of the MLSP in 6 cities to support youth employment and to conduct skills building trainings for vulnerable youth. The projects were realised in close partnership with local NGOs.



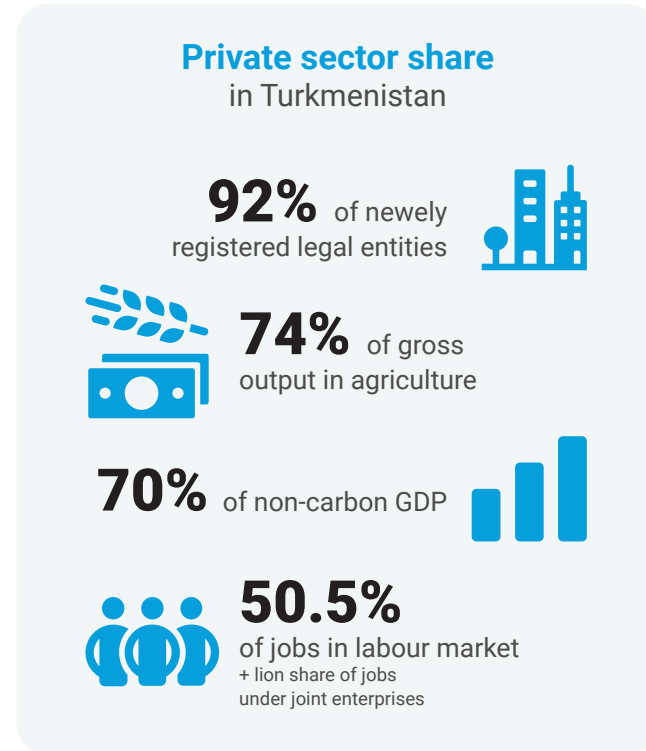
2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

As per the UNSDCF Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Strategy (RMPS), UN agencies used several approaches to build new partnerships and maintain the existing ones. An important step for the UNCT to engage with private business, one of the largest stakeholders in terms of contribution to SDGs implementation, was made in 2022. With UN RCO leadership, UNCT developed the Concept of Building partnerships with the private sector in Turkmenistan to advance the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

The Concept articulates the importance of having private business on board while implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and other global agreements. It was stressed and continuously reiterated at different levels and in many of the UN flagship reports, research papers, and speeches by high-level speakers all over the world.

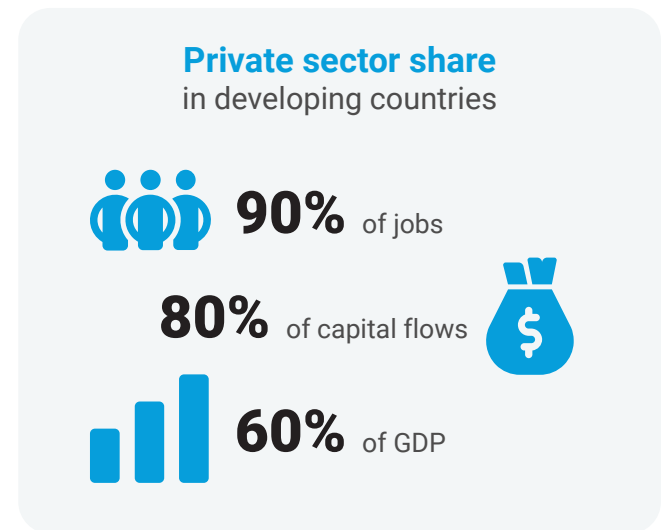
It is also clearly understood that the private sector is a fundamental driver of many aspects of sustainable development. Its investment and innovation propel economic growth as well as job creation, reducing poverty and contributing to other forms of social progress. Its operations also strongly affect the environment, including through patterns of resource use, as well as respect for human rights. The SDGs constitute a huge opportunity for the private sector to contribute to sustainable development, and to profit from new markets and investments in areas such as food and agriculture, energy, and health care. At the same time, current models of growth led by the private sector have contributed to rising inequality, unsustainable production patterns, illicit financial flows, and human rights violations. Future progress will largely depend on aligning private sector practices with the aims of the 2030 Agenda.

modalities of cooperation, the legal framework, a set of UN policies, procedures, and practices for establishment/ sustaining partnerships with the private business, and a package of global good practices of how the UN-private business partnerships resulted in SDGs implementation and realisation of the LNOB approach on the ground.



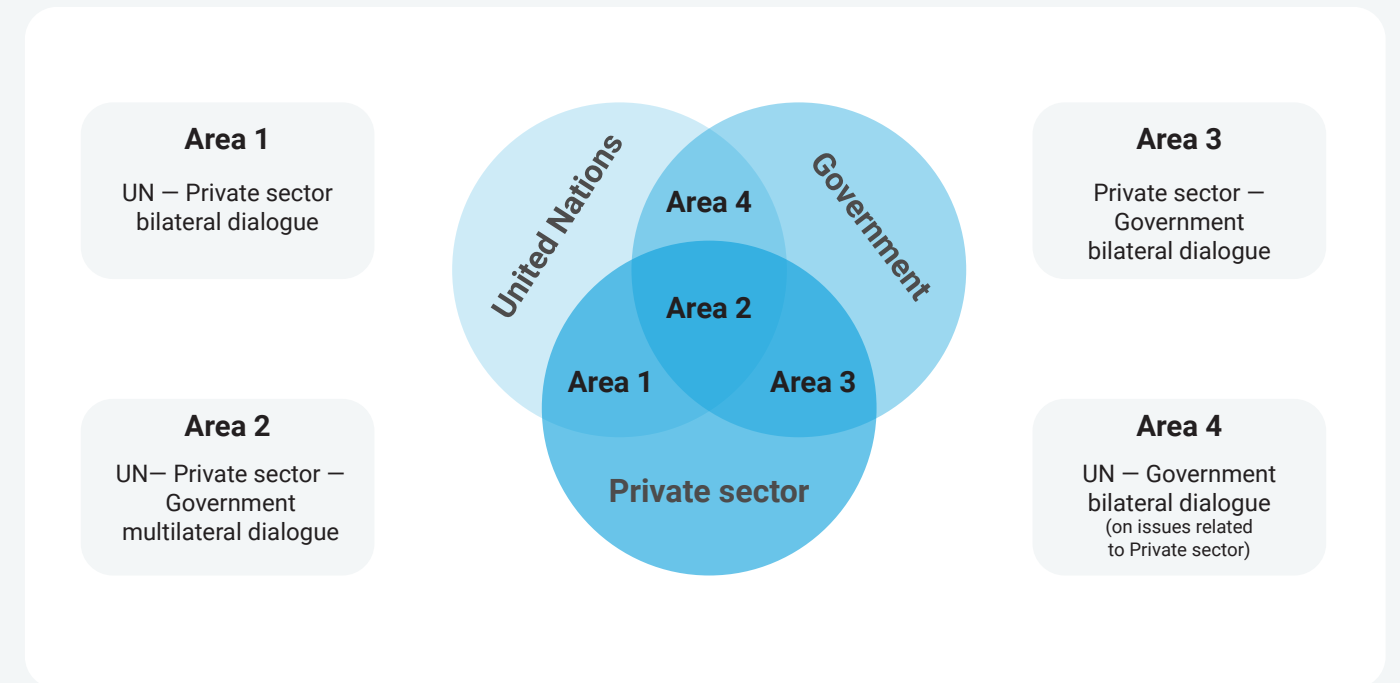
The Concept was welcomed by the government and the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan (UIET), which is viewed as a key national counterpart for the UNCT to engage with the private sector in the country. After mutual endorsement of the Concept, UNCT and UIET drafted the Memorandum of Understanding between the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan and the United Nations in Turkmenistan on Cooperation in Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals in Turkmenistan and submitted it to the government for the official procedures of signing. By the end of 2022 all the stakeholders had a vision of further steps in implementation of the agreed roadmap to involve private business on board in realisation of the Agenda 2030 in Turkmenistan.

Following the UN global initiatives on deepening the engagement with the private sector, the UNCT and UIET will establish a dedicated platform for dialogue with the private sector in Turkmenistan. This Platform will provide a space where the UN, private sector companies and entrepreneurs, as well as the government, will discuss issues of common interest, learn from each other, develop joint projects, etc.



In addition to the background information on the importance of the involvement of the private business in implementation of the Agenda 2030, there are several chapters in the Concept, that provide broader view on further UN-private business potential partnerships, namely, the UN's offer to the private sector in Turkmenistan, linkages of the Concept to the UNSDCF 2021-2025, proposed

Combinations for UN - Private sector - Government dialogue on the Private Sector Partnerships Platform



The UN-Government Joint expert group on SDG financing (JEG on SDG financing) continued its work during the course of 2022. Capacity building for government and UN experts and dialogue on financial policies towards SDG achievement in the country continued under the following topics:

- 1 Global perspectives of INFFs
- 2 The Launch of Development Finance Assessment (DFA) in Turkmenistan: results and a way forward
- 3 Overview of the Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2022
- 4 Alternative instruments for financing sustainable development: emerging stock market in Turkmenistan
- 5 Data sources for DFA: presentation of IATI data portal
- 6 Overview of the Public Finance Architecture in Turkmenistan

In the framework of the development finance assessment (DFA) exercise, the initial step towards INFF implementation in the country, a series of consultations with IFIs present in the country was conducted. Representatives of IMF, World Bank, ADB, EBRD, and IsDB have shared with the JEG their views on further developments in the financial landscape in the country, and these observations were fit in the draft report of DFA.



2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency

The 2022 has been exceptional in mobilizing the UN Country Team to respond to the emerging priorities of the country. On many development issues, such as human rights and gender equality, social protection and youth and disability inclusion, climate change, WTO accession, improving statistical capacities and digitalization, the UN Country Team acted as «One UN», providing coherent policy advice and integrated support. The UN Deputy Secretary-General's visit to Turkmenistan has amplified the importance of the UN being agile and united to support the country to deliver on SDGs. The below examples demonstrate how the country benefited from the UN coming together, rather than different parts of one whole.

The progress of the UN reform on the ground has been vividly demonstrated through the successful implementation of the Joint SDG Fund's joint program on introduction of the community-based social services. The efforts of four participating UN entities (UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC) have resulted in the adoption of the national Social Services Law, introduction of 45 social worker positions funded by the state budget, introduction of the social work syllabus in the national universities, institutionalizing of 12 new social services and drafting of the National Social Services Development Plan developed on the basis of evidence produced by the needs assessment. The JP enhanced programmatic synergies, avoided duplicated efforts, and reduced transaction costs in terms of joint operational support. This was achieved through mutual recognition of policies, cost-sharing, building on the knowledge products and further building of the local technical capacity.

Similarly, the UN Country Team was also mobilized to advocate for youth participation in mitigating the multidimensional risks to human security through establishment of the youth reference groups in the country that would support the local authorities in the reach out to and protection of the most vulnerable populations in the times of a crisis. This was achieved through implementation of the UN Human Security Trust Fund's joint program delivered by UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC and IOM.

The youth participation was also demonstrated through involving youth in the global conversation on climate change through holding, in partnership with the British Embassy, of the second Youth Climate Conference in preparation to the COP27. The national youth statement was submitted to COY17 and COP27 Secretariat.

Women's rights and addressing harmful social norms were another area where impact on the ground was achieved due to the unified advocacy from the entire UN Country Team and wider UN system. The expertise of the regionally based UN entities and collaborative platforms, such as UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia and Issue-based Coalition on Gender, and of the development partners coordination forum was engaged to advocate for lifting of restrictions on women and girls, as well as to persuade the Government to share the findings of the domestic violence survey that revealed sensitive for Turkmenistan occurrence of gender-based violence in the country.

The benefit of the evidence-based policy formulation to address the needs of the most disadvantaged to leave no one behind was demonstrated by the UN to the national stakeholders and international partners through the wide dissemination of the fact sheets and situation updates pertinent to every UNSDCF Outcome. In addition, led by the UNRCO, the UNCT developed the policy briefs on women empowerment and prevention of gender-based violence, persons with disabilities, stateless people, youth and adolescents. These were widely shared within the joint CF Results Groups and Joint Steering Committee, that, in effect, has caused the positive interchange on data sharing for the UNSDCF.

The greatest impact of the joint UN intervention in 2022 was from advocacy and policy advice on the reduction of methane emissions in Turkmenistan. The Resident Coordinator's Office paired with UNEP's International Methane Emission Observatory, and in partnership with USAID, to build awareness of the national stakeholders on Turkmenistan's share of 6% of the global methane emissions. The joint advocacy at different government levels and government-led international conferences has resulted in the agreement of the Government to undergo through a series of capacity building trainings that would lay a foundation for dedicated efforts from the Turkmen side towards reduction of methane emissions. These efforts were coupled with strong support to the Government in facilitating a number of sub-regional discussions to establish the Regional Center for Climate Technologies in Central Asia, including in the framework of the UNFCCC Conference in Bonn in June 2022, as a mechanism to follow up on COP26 and COP27 agreements.

The use of IFIs expertise was instrumental in advancing further the dialogue with the Government on financing for SDGs within the efforts to establish the Integrated National Financing Framework, especially noting their contribution to the Development Finance Assessment. They were also consulted during the Common Country Analysis update exercise and briefing the UN Country Team about



the socio-economic development trends of the country and the broader CIS and Central Asia Region in the time of the increased cost-of-living crisis within the broader context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The coherent UN support, including UNECE, UNESCAP, ITC, World Bank, IMF, with participation of such development partners as EU and USAID, has contributed substantially to building the national capacity to support the Government's ambition to join the World Trade Organization. The policy dialogues with Government on various aspects of WTO accession were organized and various options of accession were reviewed. Another breakthrough was the Government's accession to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific. Conducted by UNESCAP, the readiness assessment recommendations, if realized, will create a strong foundation for advancing the WTO accession process.



2.5 Communicating Together – Amplifying the Voice of the Voiceless

In order to maximise the impact of its communications and mobilise people to action for the SDGs, the joint UN Communications focused on the most challenging areas identified during the **Common Country Analysis** update such as climate action, fighting inequalities, human rights, also aligned with the Global Communications Priorities. They were also promoted within the year-long campaign to mark the 30th anniversary of Turkmenistan's membership to UN, through the high-level conference, exhibition and video interviews with former UNRCs and Turkmen nationals making careers within the UN system in the spotlight, an online quiz, and posts on social media platforms.

The UN Communication Group (UNCG) reached out target groups and entities in Turkmenistan, with the aim to educate, mobilise and help them further embrace SDGs. The events helped strengthen the national counterparts' ownership of the Agenda 2030 and understand the «bigger picture» of SDGs.

To promote SDGs, the UN in partnership with the Ministry of Finance and Economy and Ministry of Foreign Affairs selected 17 young leaders through a Call for Young SDG Ambassadors cohort #3. The UN increased their awareness of the UN system and its mandates, equipped them with knowledge of the global Youth 2030 Strategy, story writing, interviewing, etc. As a result, the Young Ambassadors have mobilized more followers through peer-to-peer dialogues on SDGs, active participation in UN events and campaigns.

Gender equality and women empowerment was promoted through the annual campaign #ZenalarHakda (about women), Men Engage (#ErkeklerHem) Platform, which featured inspiring stories of ordinary women and girls in Turkmenistan, youth dialogue on rights, equality, inclusiveness titled «What a man should know about his rights and gender equality». To mark 16 days of activism UNCG built on the results of «Health and Status of women

in families» survey and released key messages by the UNCT members and development partners on GBV through social media channels.

UNCG jointly with OPDs and MFA hosted the first Inclusive Sport Festival «We are strong, we are equal». The event aimed to engage and empower people with disabilities and promote sport activities to be inclusive for everyone so that «no one is left behind».

The joint publication on the results of the two-year programme on the community based social services in English, Russian and Turkmen languages and a number of communication products as video stories, human interest stories and RC's blog showcased the impact of the UN working together to support the development aspirations of the country.

Similarly, within the Joint Programme on «Empowering and Engaging Youth in Mitigating the Threats of the Health Pandemic» funded by the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) the participating UN agencies (namely UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC and IOM) promoted the intergenerational dialogue through the empowerment of youth and older persons in two communities of Lebap and Dashoguz velayats and Ashgabat. Later the National Youth Consultations to support Turkmen youth's participation in the sustainable development processes of the country were organized.

Through the joint UN communications, the UN system in the country amplified the global launch of 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through its messages on social media and online platforms. Common messaging was also used to prevent hate speech and misinformation/disinformation by raising awareness about respect for human rights, gender equality, non-discrimination, and understanding of other cultures and religions including in the digital space.

2.6. 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 completed to take stock of SDG implementation progress in the country. It was not possible to assess the progress in SDG implementation due to significant gaps in data availability. As a result, National SDG Working Group made a decision to develop National Action Plan on strengthening national reporting on SDG indicators adopted by the country. The NAP was developed and submitted to the Government for review and approval. The NAP is designed to support and guide national entities

and ministries on the concrete steps to be taken to establish 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. 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.



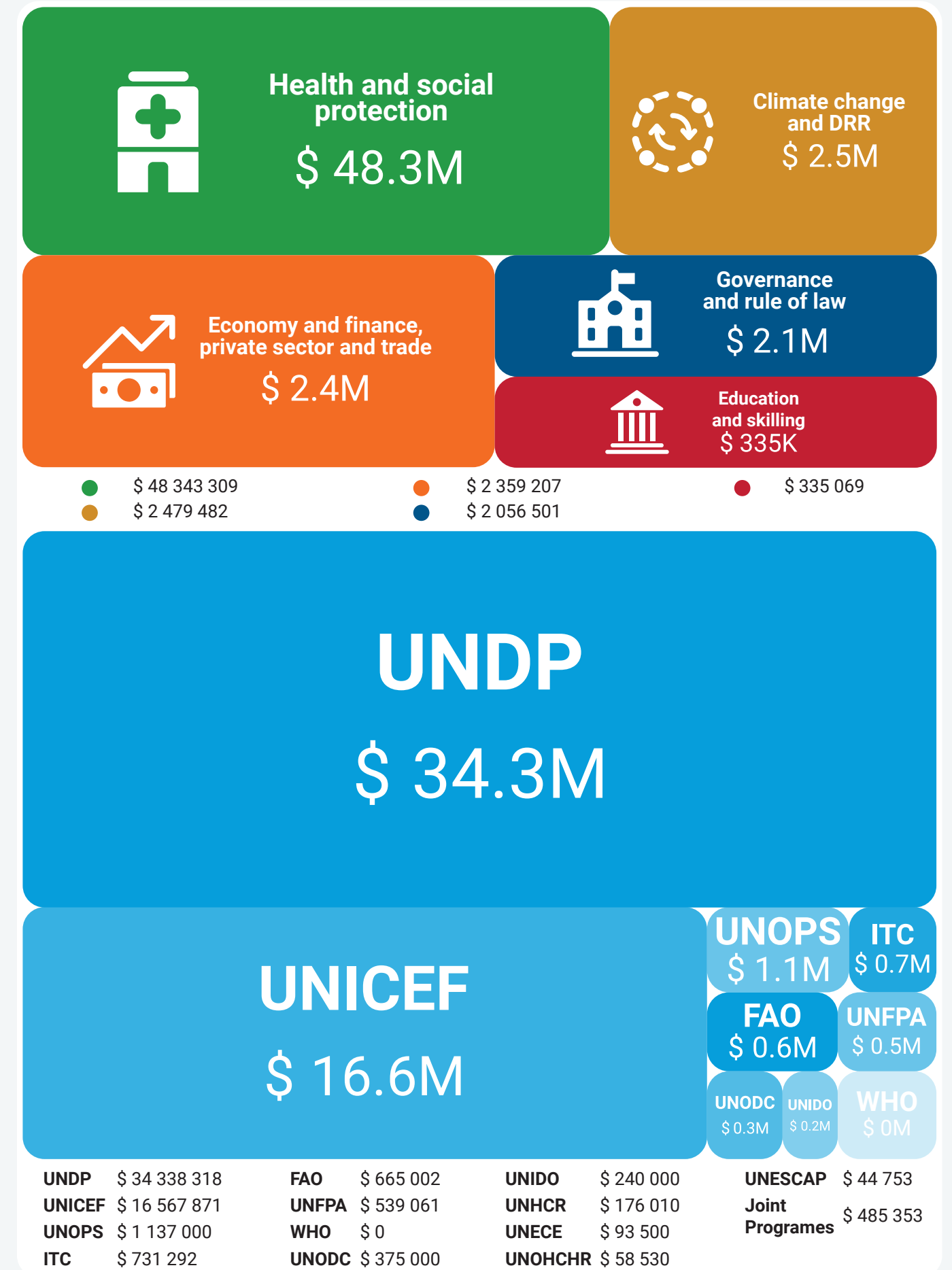
2.7. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

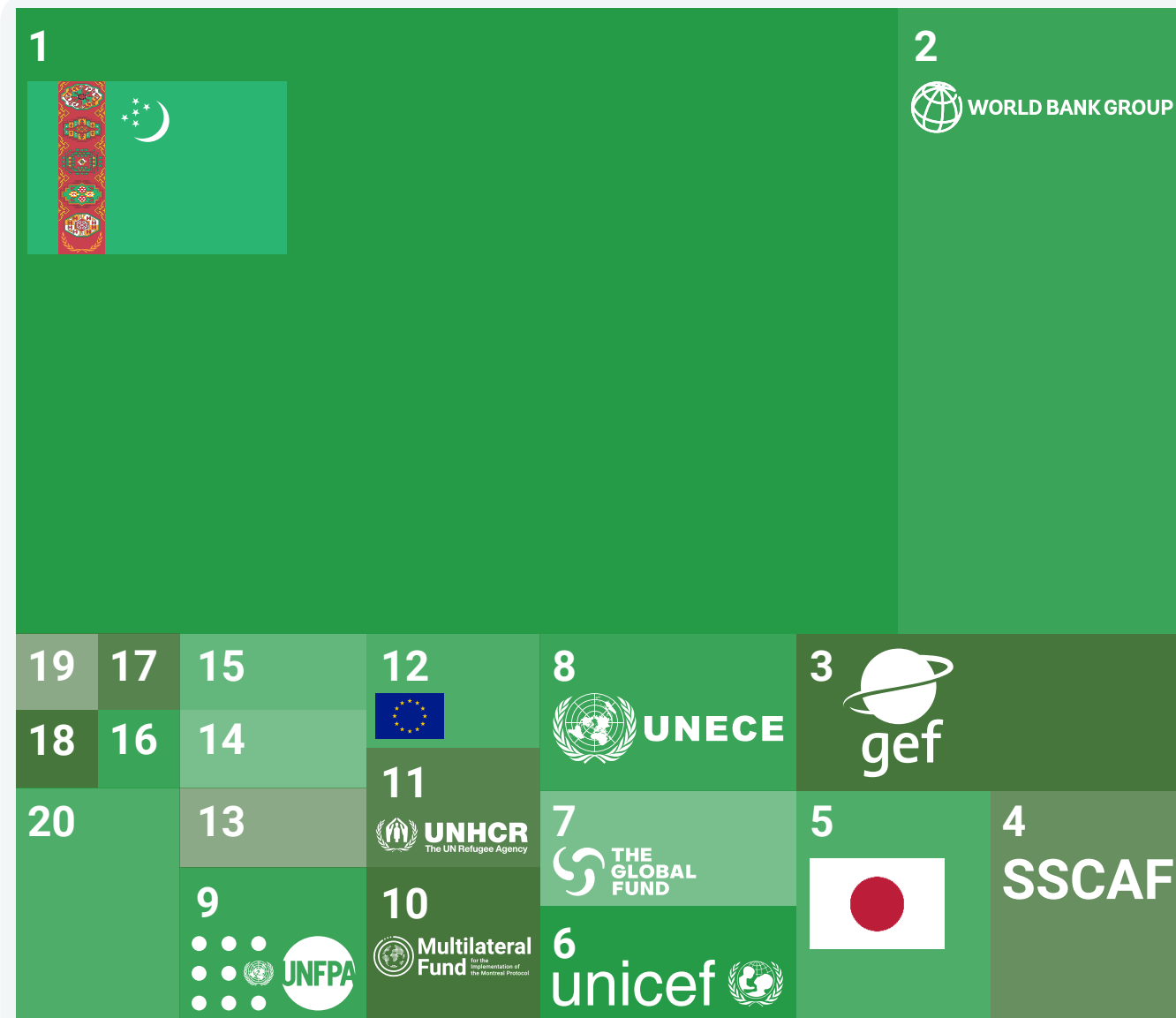
2022 UNSDCF Annual Funding Framework disaggregated by SDGs



2022 UNSDCF Annual Funding Framework disaggregated by UNSDCF Outcomes and UN agencies



2022 UNSDCF Annual Funding Framework disaggregated by contributing partners



1. Government of Turkmenistan
\$ 40 666 849 – 61.8% of total

2. The World Bank
\$ 13 030 750 – 19.8% of total

3. The Global Environment Facility
\$ 2 311 304 – 3.5% of total

4. South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund
\$ 1 348 440 – 2.1% of total

5. Government of Japan
\$ 1 337 000 – 2% of total

6. UNICEF
\$ 1 179 847 – 1.8% of total

7. Global Fund for Fighting AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
\$ 1 122 339 – 1.7% of total

8. UNECE
\$ 762 995 – 1.2% of total

9. UNFPA
\$ 494 993 – 0.8% of total

10. Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol
\$ 240 000 – 0.4% of total

11. UNHCR
\$ 200 653 – 0.3% of total

12. The European Union
\$ 183 948 – 0.3% of total

13. Department of Interior USA
\$135 000 – 0.2% of total

14. IOM Development Fund
\$ 100 000 – 0.2% of total

15. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
\$ 98 000 – 0.1% of total

16. Eurasia Foundation
\$ 81 712 – 0.1% of total

17. UNHSTF
\$ 60 000 – 0.1% of total

18. UNDP
\$ 58 488 – 0.1% of total

19. USAID
\$ 40 000 – 0.1% of total

20. Other
\$ 2 304 947 – 3.5% of total

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Strengthening UN's resource mobilization and partnerships for SDGs continued to remain one of the UNCT priorities in agencies' engagements within the broader development community and with the national partners.

Understanding that the country's upper-middle income status prevents the country from large in-country flows of ODA, UNCT looked for opportunities of leveraging joined-up approaches with development partners community in Turkmenistan to address the development challenges in the country. To this end, the RC continued chairing regular meetings of Development Partners Coordination Group to inform of the opportunities opening up within the UN support to implement the national priorities specified in UNSDCF 2021-2025 and the new National Development Programme 2022-2052, including in the areas of human rights, gender equality, environment and climate change, health and social protection, education and skilling and green economy. Furthermore, a series of focused meetings with EU, Embassy of RF, USAID, OSCE, ADB, IMF, WB, IsDB and the IFIs on opportunities for partnerships and joint initiatives were held. The topics included:

Given the global priority to rescue SDGs and as part of UNCTs advocacy to streamline national financing to achieve SDGs, the team also explored an opportunity of establishing a national SDG pooled fund with the Government and selected development partners that potentially may be interested in joining such fund. The UN MPTF HQ engaged with UNCT in conducting a series of introductory and technical meetings with the team and the Government to create awareness of the functions and benefits of having such Fund. The establishment of the country-level pooled fund was also discussed at the UNSDCF joint Steering Committee and Results Groups meetings, National SDG Working Group, bilateral meetings with the government and development partners, thematic meetings and events. As a common denominator, the draft ToR for the Fund envisages its funding windows around UNSDCF priorities and climate change action.

- 1 Turkmenistan's WTO accession process to align approaches and map mandates, explore future synergies and efficiencies. WTO Deputy Director General and his team attended the meeting in-person while in Ashgabat for the government event
- 2 exchange of ideas on common topics of interest and priority areas with ADB, especially concerning the exchange of information on socio-economic indicators and analysis, to further inform country-level programmes and projects
- 3 supporting the development finance assessment exercise, implemented by UNDP and supported by RCO in the framework of the INFF roll-out initiative in Turkmenistan
- 4 advocacy towards transparency in financial data, which informed the implementation of the development finance assessment in Turkmenistan, in partnership with International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)
- 5 introduction of sustainability principles in banking sector of the economy for Central Bank and commercial banks staff in collaboration with UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI)
- 6 exchange of a number of analytical pieces and products in close cooperation with IMF HQ, now seen as model of good collaboration between IFIs and the UN at the country level by other partners





3

UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR

In 2023 the UN will continue advancing the achievement of the SDGs in line with the Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 and based on the UNCT priorities below:

Social Dimension

- 1 Social Protection
- 2 Inclusion issues for LNOB groups
- 3 Accession to Optional Protocols and capitalizing on UPR process
- 4 Including the violence definition (GBV, violence against children, any other form of violence) to the national legislation
- 5 Development of the national youth participation mechanism
- 6 Human rights education and education for justice and crime prevention
- 7 Implementation of the Call to Action
- 8 Data and digitalization (MICS, H-IMS, CRVS, STEPS) for development of evidence-based policies, including using census findings and human rights indicators
- 9 Sustainable Universal Health Coverage (UHC) including health system strengthening, addressing non-communicable diseases, life-course approach and control of infectious diseases.

Environment Dimension

- 1 Implementation of MoUs with the government on Climate Change and DRR
- 2 Co-host with the government the International Conference on Food Security and Climate Change
- 3 Support the government in the establishment of the Regional Center for Climate Change Technologies for Central Asia in Turkmenistan
- 4 Follow-up with the government on the implementation of agreements made at COP27

- 5 Organize a conference on Youth and Climate Change
- 6 Support the government in building partnerships with UNEP IMEO (including assessment mission to TKM, joining The Oil & Gas Methane Partnership 2.0 (OGMP 2.0), piloting MARS system, etc.) aiming at the reduction of methane emissions in the country
- 7 Support the government in organizing the assessment missions by UNEP, UNIDO, UN-Habitat, and UNECE to Arkadag City on sustainability and smart assessments
- 8 Support in the organization of a regional event for CA countries on DRR. Resilient cities concept to be discussed
- 9 At the DPCG Climate Group, pay more attention to efficiency, synergies, collaboration, and joint advocacy
- 10 Following the good practice of preparing the Refugee Response Plan, develop similar plans for the environmental dimension, i.e., seismic contingency plan and other
- 11 Joint UNCT advocacy to be on the topics of green economy. «Green school», «green hospital», «green building», etc., are concepts to be presented to the government
- 12 Development of data collection tools. The issue

Economic Dimension

of the lack of data is to be raised.

- 1 WTO accession process support
- 2 Provide policy advice on diversification of economy, including social protection element
- 3 Digitalization of economy
- 4 Public finance reform support
- 5 Support of women and youth employment, including skilling
- 6 Data collection improvement which would allow UNCT to provide better advice and to adjust its programmes to better support the Government and people of Turkmenistan.



UNITED NATIONS
TURKMENISTAN



Contacts:

United Nations House
21 Archabil Street, Ashgabat,
Turkmenistan, 744036

turkmenistan.un.org

