



**United Nations
Turkmenistan
Annual Report
2023**

March 2024

Credits

Photos: IOM, RCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO

Report: UN Country Team

Design: Maya Islamova



TABLE OF CONTENTS

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 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

2.2. Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes & 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 for Sustainable Development

2.6. Evaluations and Lessons Learned

2.7. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

CHAPTER 3

UN KEY FOCUS FOR THE NEXT YEAR



In 2023, the UN system remained committed to the priorities laid out in the **UN-Turkmenistan Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025**. It has actively engaged with key stakeholders, including government ministries, civil society organizations, development partners, and the private sector to develop people-centred policies, laws, and frameworks, to deliver support to the most vulnerable, with our approach firmly rooted in the leaving no one behind principle.

The UN partnered with the government to improve human rights, inclusion, and protections for vulnerable groups. This included **legal reforms, assessments of national legislation against international standards, capacity building to support human rights, and improving people's access to social protection**, particularly for individuals with disabilities and children. The release of the **2022 Census results** and **public access** to the National SDG database mark **significant progress**.

The UN supported Turkmenistan's **economic growth** by promoting **digitalization** (banking, business processes), **public services** (civil registration), and **green initiatives** (energy efficiency and waste management) and **improving legal frameworks** for sustainability and green development. The UN also helped build civil servant skills, advanced further in financing for SDGs, and **increased employment** and **income generation opportunities** for persons with disabilities. Additionally, UN provided national capacity building to support **WTO accession**.

The UN offered technical expertise to improve Turkmenistan's **health, education, and social support systems**. This included supporting **Tuberculosis and COVID-19 control, vaccinations, and health supplies**. The UN initiatives also focused on mothers and children, disease management, mental health, and emergency preparedness. In addition, the UN helped develop **social protection by-laws**, introduced **social worker programs** in universities, and **strengthened the education system** capacities to address **climate change** impacts and **reduce disaster risks in schools**.

The UN System will continue its **partnership** with **government institutions, private sector, civil society organisations and development partners** to support the people of Turkmenistan in achieving their development objectives, the country's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals by mobilising additional human & financial resources, skills, and international expertise.



Dmitry Shlapachenko
*UN Resident Coordinator in
Turkmenistan*



UN Country Team in Turkmenistan

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Turkmenistan consists of 19 UN specialized agencies, funds, and programs. Together, they support the country in achieving its national development priorities outlined in the UNSDCF. The UNCT serves as a platform for collaboration among these agencies, facilitating joint policy formulation and decision-making. It offers strategic guidance and oversight to ensure that UN agencies provide cohesive, effective, and efficient assistance. Despite being signatories to the UNSDCF, two UN entities (UNOPS and UNDRR) closed their offices in the country due to the completion of their projects in 2022 and the lack of funding for further programming. In 2023, these two and UN-Habitat actively explored opportunities to establish in-country presence through consultations with and offers to the government.



Key Development Partners of the UN Development System in the Country

In **2023**, the government of Turkmenistan remained a key development partner of the **United Nations Development Systems**. UN agencies and government entities discussed national development priorities and potential UN support at different platforms and levels.

The **UNSDCF Results Groups** and the joint **Steering Committee** were the primary forums for dialogue and decision-making on priority issues of the **UNSDCF** implementation. The country's progress in SDG implementation was the focus of a series of National SDG Working Group high-level meetings during the year. The issues of SDG Financing and implementation of the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda** of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development were regularly discussed within the Joint UN-Government Experts Group on SDG Financing.

In addition, there were several engagements under the thematic groups, government-led national platforms, and fora. In **December 2023**, during the annual CF Steering Committee meeting, MFA called for establishment of the **Government-UN Strategic Advisory Board (SAB)** that will focus on the implementation of priorities stipulated in the **National Development Strategy 2022-2052** and the **National Social-Economic Development Program 2022-2028**, realization of Turkmenistan's announced commitments on SDGs through development of joint UN-GOV programs in areas covered by the commitments.

Traditionally, the Development Partners Coordination Group (DPCG) chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator remained the primary platform for UNCT engagement with development partners in the country. Two DPCG thematic working groups were active during the year.

DPCG WG on Climate Action co-chaired by UNDP and UK Embassy, as well as DPCG WG on Human Rights and Governance co-chaired by **UNFPA** and **EU Delegation**, convened several meetings with development partners to discuss issues related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, gender-based violence, women empowerment, and other. The partnership between the UN and private businesses in Turkmenistan gained momentum in 2023.

The UN signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the **Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan on Cooperation in Implementation of the 2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development and SDGs in Turkmenistan. Following the inauguration of the MoU, the UN and the Union launched a two-year Action Plan to implement the priorities of the Memorandum.

To coordinate activities under the Action Plan, the parties established the UN-Private Sector Partnerships Platform in Turkmenistan serving as a common forum for the UN, private businesses, and other stakeholders such as the Government of Turkmenistan, international organizations, IFIs, CSOs, etc., to discuss the role and engagement of private business in supporting and contributing to the implementation of national development priorities, the Agenda 2030 and SDGs.

- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- USAID
- OSCE
- JICA
- GIZ
- ADB
- EBRD
- World Bank
- IMF
- IsDB
- Eurasia Foundation
- International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

International organizations

13

Funds

15

Governments & Embassies

11

NGOs & CSOs

24

National Partners

32

- 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
- Spotlight Initiative Fund
- Multilateral Fund for Implementation of Montreal Protocol
- Conflict, Stability and Security Fund
- Bloomberg Philanthropies
- United Nations Development Account
- German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) Fund
- UNFPA Strategic Investment Facility

- EU mission in Turkmenistan
- UK Embassy in Turkmenistan
- US Embassy in Turkmenistan
- Japan Embassy in Turkmenistan
- EU Commission
- Government of Norway
- Government of Turkiye
- Government of the US
- Government of Canada
- Government of China
- German Embassy in Turkmenistan

- "Center for Support of people with disabilities"
- "Ynanch Vepa"
- "Mashgalar"
- "Dap Dessur"
- "Beyik Eyyam"
- "Yashyl Shohle"
- Society of Environment Protection of Turkmenistan
- "Eco Durmush"
- "Taze zaman"

- Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs
- National Red Crescent Society
- Women's Union
- Youth Organisation named after Magtymguly
- "Keyik Okara"
- Society of Blind and Deaf of Turkmenistan
- "Yenme"
- "Ynam"
- "Central Physical Sport Club for people with disabilities"

- "Yash Tebigatchy"
- Turkmenistan Women Economic Society
- Society of Economics and Accountants of Turkmenistan
- Society of Accountants of Turkmenistan
- Society of Chess of Blind People
- "Ynamly Egindesh"

- 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
- Ministry of Environment Protection
- Ministry of Energy
- Ministry of Construction and Architecture
- Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations
- Ministry of Adalat
- Ministry of Defence
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- General Prosecutor Office

- Transport and Communications Agency under the Cabinet of Ministers
- Hakimliks of velayats, and cities of Ashgabat and Arkadag
- State Migration Service
- State Statistics Committee
- State Customs Service
- State Committee for Water Management
- State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports
- Central Bank
- "Turkmengas" State Concern
- "Turkmennebit" State Concern
- "Turkmenstandartlary" State Main Service
- Office of Ombudsperson
- Institute of State, Law, and Democracy
- Institute for the Caspian Sea
- State Service Academy
- State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs

The major partners that the UN partnered with in the implementation, funding, and financing of the CF in 2023



Key Developments in the Country and Regional Context

People & Prosperity

population poverty headcount ratio

\$2.15/day — 0.5%

\$3.65/day — 0.8%

Poverty Reduction

To prevent vulnerable households from expanding negative coping strategies, it remains critical to improve monitoring of their well-being, introduce national poverty measurement and assess the current design of the social safety net programmes.

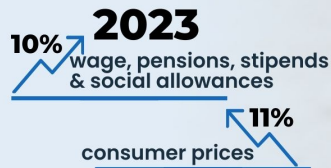
However, there is no evidence on the performance of income transfers, their size is neither adequate nor fully adjusted to inflation.

Leaving no one behind

Leaving no one behind imperative was strongly reflected in the UNCT proposals prioritized for UN joint programming with government co-financing and in the Turkmenistan's National Commitments to **SDG Transformation** submitted at the SDG summit in September 2023.



Wellbeing



Informal Unemployment

Women 30%



Men 18%



In 2023, average earnings of employees increased less than inflation while demonstrating a sizable gender gap. Moreover, significant part of labour resources, especially women, was not attached to the labour market.

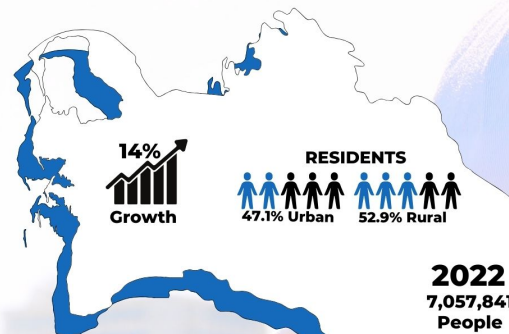
NEETs rate



15.4% (15-29 years old)

Turkmenistan Population

As evidenced in the Common Country Analysis and second Turkmenistan's Voluntary National Review of the SDGs, **68%** of the state budget expenditures (Tier I) were spent on **education, health and social protection** in 2022. The new social services piloted with the UN continued to support the most vulnerable people enhancing equity. With UN support the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers the National Social Services Development Plan until 2028.



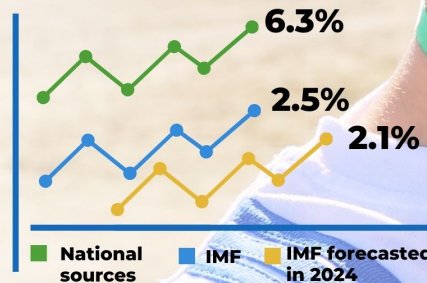
Economy

Turkmenistan is an upper-middle-income country with large hydrocarbons sector accounting for the majority of the country's exports significant revenues.

Export Market

In 2023, economic activity continued to be driven by the hydrocarbons sector benefiting from still-high global energy prices. This secured net exports (current account balance of **7% of GDP**). High commodity dependence and export market concentration (**76% of gas export** goes to China) makes the Turkmen economy vulnerable and the Government explores markets of EU, Iran and Iraq.

GDP 2023 GROWTH



Work on economic diversification has to be enhanced to reduce dependence of Turkmenistan's economic performance from undiversified demand for gas and global energy prices. As the world gradually shifts away from fossil fuels towards greener energy sources, this likely will limit revenues from the sector keeping Turkmen economy anchored to a low-growth trajectory. To sustain prosperity, the Government needs to consolidate the budget, unify exchange rates and further diversify the economy implementing structural and industrial policies and attracting investment, including in just green energy transition.

Credit to GDP Ratio Growth 65%

Share of loans to public sector 70%

Shaping a viable high-growth strategy is a priority for Turkmenistan to avoid the middle-income trap, while sustaining progress in achieving the national SDGs further promoting human rights, equity and gender equality. To set the stage for continuous growth, shared prosperity, and social cohesion the national economic strategies translated in industrial policies should be consistent with comparative advantages determined by the existing endowment structure.



Key Developments in the Country and Regional Context

Planet, Peace & Partnerships

HYDROCARBON RESOURCES

 OIL 71 BILLION TONS

 GAS 50 TRILLION CUBIC METERS

The IEA estimates that Turkmen oil and gas methane emissions amounted to around 5 million metric tons in 2022 or 3.6% of methane emissions from the energy sector globally. 75% of emissions from oil & gas activities can be reduced, and more than half of that — or close to 1.5% of the global emission — at zero net cost.

In September 2023, at the UN General Assembly in New York, the President renewed Turkmenistan's commitments to achieve **zero growth in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030**, and in the long term, to significantly reduce emissions annually. In addition, Turkmenistan proposed opening of a **Center for Climate Technologies** for the Central Asia in Ashgabat on the initiative of Turkmenistan with the UN support. A respective MoU with UNEP was signed in **November 2023**. The efforts to introduce low-carbon technologies and join the Global Methane Pledge have been strongly emphasized at various high-level meetings by the country leadership. At **COP28** Turkmenistan joined the **Global Methane Pledge** and three **COP28 declarations**.



UNCT submitted to the Government for co-financing the proposal for **UN Joint Programme on supporting just green energy transition** in Turkmenistan. Among other things, the proposal suggests that with the international support the country should embark on reducing methane emissions and investment needs required to attain **net-zero by 2052** should be assessed, mapping the way for PPPs to deliver low-carbon solutions. Establishing a Centre for Climate Technologies for the Central Asia in Ashgabat with the UN support is important to enable technology transfer for climate action and energy transition.



Turkmenistan's role in supporting good neighborly relations and outspoken support to multilateralism is very important for **Central Asia sub-region**. Turkmenistan is a critical supplier of electricity to Afghanistan. Bi-lateral agreements reached in **December 2023** significantly boosts **Afghanistan's** energy security. With the UN support the country conducted important regional dialogues on food security, climate change and financing the water recourse management.



REDUCING TRADE BARRIERS

In May 2023, a high-level delegation of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** visited Turkmenistan. The government is preparing a Memorandum on the foreign trade regime of Turkmenistan. UN is seen as an important partner to support Turkmenistan in joining the WTO, including by generating evidence on trade facilitation and reducing trade barriers.

In September 2023, the Parliament adopted **Laws on accession** to the Agreement on the establishment of the **International Anti-Corruption Academy** as an International Organization and the **Basic Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for Development of the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia Corridor** that are very important for developing economic relations, trade and transport connectivity in the Caspian Sea and Central Asia region.

GAS SUPPLY

The construction of the fourth branch (Line D) of the **Central Asia-China gas pipeline, TAPI and of Trans-Caspian gas pipeline** is actively promoted along with gas supply diversification.

PUBLIC FINANCE

The public finance management reform supported jointly by the **IFIs** (International Financial Institutions) and **UN** and linked to the integrated national financing framework (INFF) is needed for SDG financing. In cooperation with IFIs, design of innovative SDG financing mechanisms (blended finance, pooled funds etc), adjustments in legislation and timely actions with regard to transition finance and carbon markets are required.

2 UN Development System Support to National Development Priorities Through the Cooperation Framework

2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

In 2023, the United Nations in Turkmenistan remained committed to assisting the country in advancing its developmental objectives and reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), showing progress across all three key areas outlined in the Cooperation Framework.

Strategic Priority 1

Under the **first strategic priority** focusing on people-centred governance and the rule of law, the UN collaborated with the government to **uphold human rights, promote gender equality, safeguard labour rights, protect vulnerable populations and combat trafficking** in persons. This involved various activities such as the development and revision of laws, assessments of national legislation against international standards, and strengthening national capabilities to uphold human rights, particularly for individuals with disabilities and children. Tangible breakthrough was achieved with publication of **Census 2022** results and opening of the **National SDGs data base** for public.



Strategic Priority 2

In the **second strategic priority** covering inclusive, environmentally friendly, and sustainable economic growth, the UN aided in implementing crucial initiatives related to **digitalization in the banking and financial sectors, streamlining business processes, and providing digital public services** like civil status registration. Efforts were made to enhance the capacity of civil servants, lay the groundwork for the **Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF)** to support SDG financing and create favourable work conditions for PwDs. Additionally, support was extended to facilitate **WTO accession** and enhancing national legal and regulatory frameworks to promote sustainable and green development, including initiatives in the areas of energy conservation and efficiency in hotels, waste management, disaster risk reduction and incorporating climate change adaptation topics into the education system.



Strategic Priority 3

Regarding the **third strategic priority** focusing on quality, inclusive, and affordable health, education, and social protection systems, the UN provided technical assistance to the government. This included support for **tuberculosis control, COVID-19 prevention measures, vaccination campaigns, and raising awareness about health risks**. Efforts were also directed towards maternal and child health care, strategies for infectious and non-communicable diseases, mental health, and public health emergency preparedness. Collaboration continued to enhance the national social protection system through legal framework development to facilitate implementation of the Law on Social Services, introduction of the social work program to the national universities and improving workforce capacity. Furthermore, initiatives aimed to enhance inclusiveness in education and skills development through the **National Concept of Inclusive Education**, capacity-building activities for education management and incorporation of climate change adaptation and DRR into primary and secondary education.



UNSDCF 2023 Delivery at a Glance



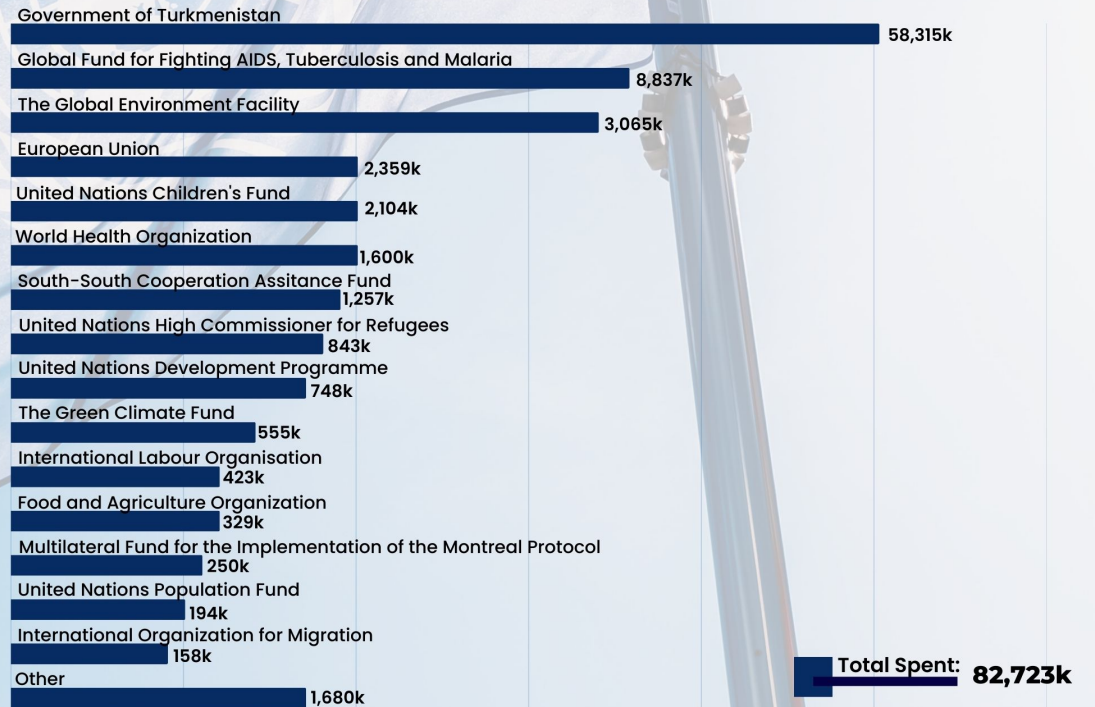
UNSDCF Annual Funding by Outcomes

Allocated Budget in 2023 (USD)



UNSDCF Contributing Partners

Allocated Budget in 2023 (USD)



2.2. Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes & Outputs

Outcome 1

Enhanced Governance & Rule of Law

Agencies: ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNDRR, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, OHCHR, UNOPS, WHO

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.



Throughout 2023, the UN maintained its cooperation with Turkmenistan, focusing on the priority area of human rights and the reinforcement of national human rights mechanisms. UN Agencies worked diligently to enhance the institutional and human capabilities of local partners at both central and community levels. The accomplishments in 2023 encompass a variety of achievements including:

- Preparation and presentation of the **2nd Voluntary National Review** at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.
- Release of the **Population Census 2022** aggregated results and preparation of the National Report with disaggregated data for publication.
- Launch of the **National SDGs data platform** for public access.
- Progress made in integrating the **national accounts system** with the SNS 2008 methodology.
- Review of the **National CRVS system** business processes on births and death registration conducted and recommendations for improvements developed and submitted to the government.
- 7th round of **Multi-indicator cluster survey** launched with trainings and field works to be completed and results released in mid-2024;
- Mid-term assessment of the **NAP** on human rights **2021-2025**.
- Approval of the new **NAP** on child rights for **2023-2028**.
- Capacity of the Office of Ombudsperson in child rights was strengthened and the first-ever alternative report with voices of **250 children** collected throughout the country prepared and submitted to the Committee on child rights.
- Criminal and civil legislation** improved to enhance the protection measures for children in contact with the law in compliance with international standards.
- National child-friendly procedures strengthened for the protection of child victims and witnesses of crime by adopting **child interview guidelines, strengthening the capacity of police investigators and prosecutors, and creating two child-friendly interview rooms**.
- Visual and audio materials on **Reproductive rights** adopted for women with disabilities.
- Support provided to the **Central Bureau of Forensic Medicine of Turkmenistan** in obtaining an ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard certificate.

Development and submission of the draft **National Action Plan** of Turkmenistan to **combat trafficking** in persons.

Preparation of **National Reports** to the UN Treaty Bodies on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

Preparation of response to the **List of Additional Issues to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** and participation of the country in CEDAW Constructive Dialogue.

Legal assistance and humanitarian support for the remaining **13** refugees provided, including documentation assistance, cash-based interventions, improving their legal standing and well-being.

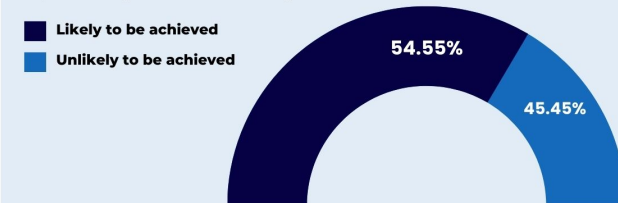
Facilitation of **naturalisation for 1,301 stateless individuals**, in line with the National Action Plan to end statelessness by 2024.

Reiteration of commitment to promote **reproductive health and women's rights** at the High-level ICPD30 Conference in Geneva.

Independent monitoring of **working conditions** in the cotton harvest and 3 ILO missions conducted to advise the Government on strengthening conformity with ILO Convention No.105 on Abolition of Forced Labour and ILO Convention No.182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour, as well as to **enhance labour market governance**.

Outcome achievement probability

The outcome assessment is based on perceptions of eleven respondents representing six international agencies



*Source: UNSDCF Mid-term review report, November 2023

Child-Friendly Rooms Opened in Turkmenistan

In a significant step towards safeguarding children's rights, two Child-Friendly Rooms were inaugurated in the Police Departments of Ashgabat and Turkmenabad. This initiative, built upon international best practices, provides a safe and supportive environment for child victims and witnesses of crime.

The collaborative efforts of the UN, German Embassy, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs made these rooms possible. The Child-Friendly Rooms offer a calming and non-intimidating atmosphere, keeping a child's age, maturity, and emotional state in mind. This dedicated space allows children to feel comfortable while providing vital information to law enforcement officials.

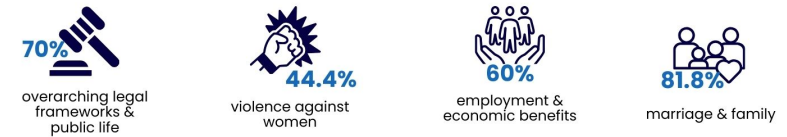
Built upon international best practices, the rooms ensure child-friendly procedures adhere to the highest international standards for child justice. This exemplifies the positive impact of international collaboration in advancing children's rights and ensuring a more just legal system for all.



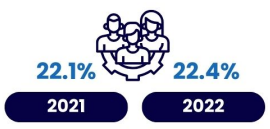
Updates on Outcome 1 & Output Indicators

5 GENDER EQUALITY

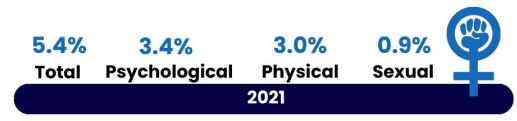
Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex (2022, SDG 5.1.1):



Percentage of women in managerial positions (SDG 5.5.2)



Proportion of ever-partnered females (18+ years) subjected to violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by forms of violence (SDG 5.2.1):



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Ombudsperson's Office to effectively handle appeals in accordance with the Paris Principles. The mechanism improved and progress achieved on sub-targets (SDG 10.3.1):

- The complaints and appeals procedure is contained in a regulation that is publicly available to all, including persons with disabilities (published or posted on the institute's webpage);
- Ensure full access for complainants to the premises of the Institute and its staff when submitting & following up on applications and complaints, including for persons with disabilities;
- Record of disaggregated data on applicants: gender, age, social status, region of residence, belonging to national, ethnic or other minorities;
- Appeals and complaints can be received from third parties who become aware of an alleged human rights violation;
- A record of timelines, outcomes of appeals and a system for tracking the final outcome of a case;
- Disaggregated data: the nature of the treatment and legal classification, including under international human rights law; the alleged perpetrator (body, organisation, official); the alleged location of the human rights violation;



Draft National Action Plan on Global Compact for Migration (GCM) implementation was developed with UN support and presented to the Interdepartmental Working Group for review (OI 10.2).

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

With UN support Strategic Plan of the Ombudsperson's office for 2024-2028 developed and approved by the Government (OI 16.3)

Draft Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) National Action Plan for 2024-2026 was developed (OI 16.3)

316 stateless persons were identified and registered;
1,301 stateless people received Turkmen citizenship (OI 16.5)

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Percentage of nationalized SDG Indicators that have disaggregated data (where relevant) available to report (SDG 17.18.1):



A population and household census in Turkmenistan conducted in 2022. Consolidated data published in 2023. Release of disaggregated data is expected in 2024 (SDG 17.19.2)



2.2. Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes & Outputs

Outcome 2

Sustainable Economic Diversification

Agencies: ILO, UNDP, FAO, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCAP, UNIDO, ITC

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.



Planned

\$ 2,804,785



Mobilised

\$ 2,804,785



Spent

\$ 1,950,737



In 2023, significant achievements were made in various areas of development, including improving the institutional environment for the private sector and women entrepreneurs. Some key accomplishments include:

- Integration of **13** out of **15** government organizations into the digital system "**Unified Window for Export-Import Operations**" to automate permitting processes;
- Development of the digital platform "**Statistical Business Registry**" for orderly registration of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs, including **women entrepreneurs**;
- Launch of a trade information portal with information on **25** types of export-import products;
- Launch of the regional portal "**Central Asia Gateway**" to promote intra-regional trade and access to international markets;
- Provision of individual consultations for companies led by **women** on conducting **e-commerce** and **improving online sales**;

Additionally, steps were taken to **strengthen** human, institutional, and **research capacity** for accession and efficient implementation of UN **transport-related legal instruments**, **facilitate** **accession to the WTO**, **develop the financial and banking sectors**, **develop evidence-based policy making for digital and sustainable trade facilitation** in the Central Asia and enhance statistical capacity regarding financial-economic issues.

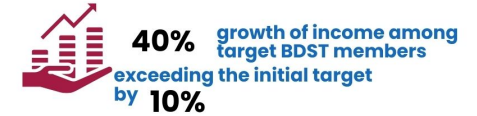


Expanding employment opportunities for persons with disabilities

The UN considerably strengthened the capacity of the Blind and Deaf Society of Turkmenistan (BDST) through development and realization of business strategies as well as renovation and re-equipment of their three Training and Production Enterprises (TPEs) including:

- **Printing and cardboard workshop in Ashgabat;**
- **Sewing workshop in the city of Mary;**
- **Sewing workshop in the city of Turkmenabat;**

The modernization of the three TPEs included supply of printing equipment and sewing equipment that created favourable work conditions for people with disabilities and increased employment opportunities for PwDs.



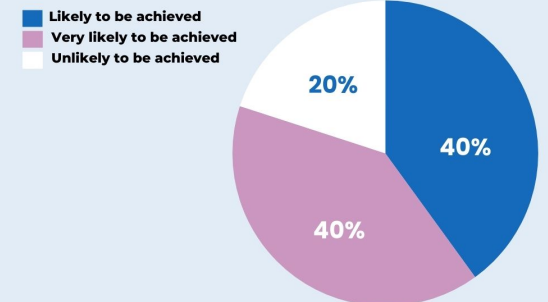
direct & indirect beneficiaries exceeded 5000 people including disabled relatives of BDST members



The recommendations were developed to promote vocational education and employment for PwDs and shared with national partners.

OUTCOME ACHIEVEMENT PROBABILITY

The outcome assessment is based on perceptions of five respondents representing three international agencies.



*Source: UNSDCF Mid-term review report, November 2023

Updates on Outcome 2 & Output Indicators



1000

Approximate number of people benefitted from the skills building events and lifelong learning programmes with UN support in 2023 (OI 4.3)



9

women-led enterprises improved performance and increased business transactions as a result of UN support in 2023 (OI 5.5)



Population 14%
Non-Public 8%
Public 78%

Total amount of Credits provided by credit institutions to enterprises and population, 109 358.3 mln TMT in 2021 (->SDG 8.10.1, SDG 9.3.2)



2021 10,281.80 **2022 14,670.10**

Turkmenistan exports, mln. USD (SDG 17.11.1)



32.5% 67.5%

Number of entrepreneurs, disaggregated by sex in 2022 (SDG 5.5.2)

2021 104.7% **2022 102.9%**

Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person (SDG 8.2.1)



9 private companies improved performance as a result of UN support in 2023 (OI 8.2)



A trade information portal launched, which provides legal and procedural information on trade formalities for **25** products of both import and export categories with UN support in 2023 (OI 17.1)

2.2. Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes & Outputs

Outcome 3

Strengthened environmental management and climate resilience

Agencies: IOM, FAO, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNEP, UNICEF, UNIDO, WHO

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



Planned

\$ 5,151,126



Mobilised

\$ 5,151,126



Spent

\$ 3,282,521

The United Nations maintained its role as the primary strategic partner in enhancing national legal and regulatory frameworks to advance sustainable and green development initiatives. This included efforts to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, greenhouse gas emission reduction, waste management, and disaster risk reduction.

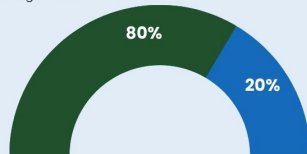
Notable advancements were made in the formulation of key national policy, legal, and regulatory strategic documents aimed at fostering sustainable and green growth. These achievements include:

- **Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy** focused on **children's rights and needs for 2023-2030**, along with a Multi-Year Action Plan, submitted to the government for official approval;
- **Seismic micro-zoning** (mapping of seismic risks) in the city of Ashgabat was completed;
- New "**Green Standard for Hotels and Hotel Complexes of Turkmenistan**" developed together with **five** new standards for the Ministry of Energy focusing on energy conservation and efficiency, and a draft Concept for Turkmenistan's Waste Management;
- Support provided to the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry in implementing the National Action Plan for Adaptation of Turkmenistan's **Population Health to Climate Change and its Adverse Consequences for 2020-2025**, as well as the **Heatwave Health Action Plan** for Turkmenistan;
- A survey on **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in Healthcare Facilities (HCF)** was conducted;
- Two initial stages in establishing the **National Greenhouse Gas Inventory System** completed;
- The "**Green School**" Joint Program along with a memorandum of understanding for its implementation was prepared together with the Ministry of Education;
- Integration of methodological **Climate Change Adaptation manuals** for teachers in curriculum across primary and secondary education further increased the resilience of schools to climate change impact. **14,000** teaching manuals were prepared and disseminated to support this initiative;
- Improved national understanding of **sustainable hydrogen production strategies** while raising awareness and overcoming economic, technical, policy and investment barriers;
- Strengthened tailings risk governance through exchange experiences, good practices and lessons learned on the **prevention of accidental water pollution** from tailings at the regional level;

Outcome achievement probability

The outcome assessment is based on perceptions of five respondents representing four international agencies.

- Likely to be achieved
- Very likely to be achieved



*Source: UNSDCF Mid-term review report, November 2023

In 2023 the UN continued cooperation with the Turkmen Society for **Nature Protection on waste collection and public awareness campaign** in Ashgabat. After purchasing two mini-trucks and increasing mobility, the Society further expanded its activities for the collection of various types of plastic, glass and paper waste. During the year, additionally **600** plastic containers and **180** three-section bins was purchased and installed for better waste collection and sorting at the pilot sites.

The high-level government delegation participated in the 28th Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP 28) in Dubai, UAE, which resulted in the official announcement of the country joining the Global Methane Pledge, development of the Roadmap to implement national commitments under the COP 28 declarations (Climate and Health, Emirates' Declaration on sustainable agriculture, and CHAMP)

Institutional and human capacity building and strengthening component occupied an important place in the UN's engagement with the government, including for:



Ministry of Agriculture in improving locust control and readiness, including early warning and response systems, reducing pesticide risks, and facilitating information exchange and experience sharing among Central Asian countries;



The Hydrometeorological Service in collecting and processing climate data, as well as relevant departments on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources;



In application of advanced methods of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) / Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) / Sustainable Land Management (SLM) to boost crop productivity, water and land resource efficiency, and desert pasture management;



Knowledge was increased regarding the interconnection between migration, environment, and climate change, including understanding the role of migrant remittances as an adaptation mechanism, and the IOM methodology for integrating this nexus into national climate plans.



1,043 students, 130 teachers, 400 staff, and volunteers of the National Red Crescent Society in disaster risk reduction in schools, gender equality, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) in emergencies, including participation in earthquake-related simulation activities.



Updates on Outcome 3 & Output Indicators

Extent to which knowledge products for sustainable development (including climate change education) are included in (2021, SDGs 4.7.1/12.8.1/13.3.1):

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

(a) national education policies: **0.875**

(b) curricula: **0.828**

(c) teacher education: **0.900**

(d) student assessment: **0.100**

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

3,210.3 TJ
Energy saved

Cumulative of (3.2 billion MJ) **energy savings achieved**, with UN support in 2023 (OI 7.1)

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Ratio of **land consumption** rate to population growth rate (%), SDG 11.3.1

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

950

Number of **people** directly benefitted from the UN capacity building initiatives to **protect nature and promote sustainable use** of resources in 2023 (OI 12.3)

13 CLIMATE ACTION



UN supported policy measures to enhance implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the **Paris Agreement** including development of the new national Inventory System on GHG emissions and preparatory work on development of the monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) system (OI 13.1)

535,000 tons

Cumulative **GHG emission reductions** of CO2 eq. achieved, with UN support (OI 13.2)



The **Child-centered DRR Strategy** complemented by the Multi-year Action Plan finalized with UN support (OI 13.3)

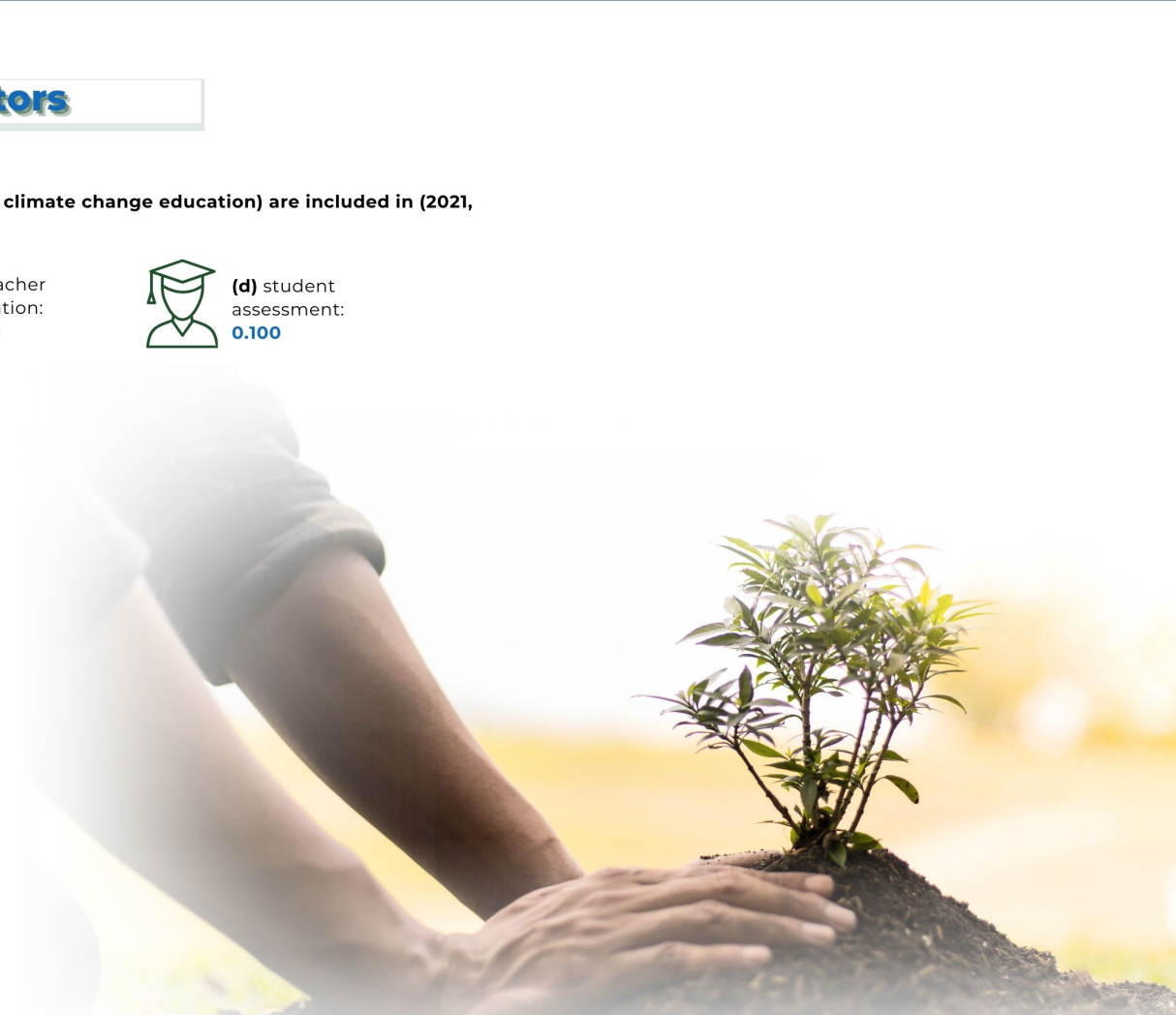
15 LIFE ON LAND



Field surveys, mapping and data collection conducted at the **60,000 ha** (Pyatnyak, Zengibaba) in Lebap and Dashoguz regions for further improvement of land management practices supported by the UN (OI 15.2) in 2023



With the UN support, a **250 m2** nursery planted in the Amudarya Reserve and **1,2 ha** in Kaplankyr Reserve for growing seedlings of coniferous and deciduous trees to expand the area of forest plantations as indicated in the national **Forest Programme for 2021-2025**. The required water supply equipment procured. The annual capacity of two nurseries to provide seedlings for afforestation can cover **311 ha** (OI 15.3)



2.2. Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes & Outputs

Outcome 4

Quality, Inclusive Health & Social Protection

Agencies: IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO, UNOPS

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



Planned

\$ 72,402,042



Mobilised

\$ 71,094,773



Spent

\$ 68,503,497

Throughout 2023, efforts were directed towards the establishment of the **National Immunoprophylaxis Program for 2024-2030**, along with a **National Plan** for the distribution and implementation of COVID-19 vaccination, tailored to sub-regional needs. The UN provided substantial technical support to prevent COVID-19 spread in Turkmenistan including supply of equipment and innovative medical waste disposal systems to 15 SES institutions and mobile disinfection chambers to 19 SES institutions, development of software for epidemiological surveillance. **6,000** specialists received **training in epidemiological laboratory surveillance, infection control, and clinical management of severe COVID-19 cases**.



A joint regulation (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection) was developed on early intervention for children with disabilities and their families to ensure quality and continuity.

A roadmap was devised for the formation of an inter-sectoral system for assistive technologies and products for people with disabilities, under the overall coordination of the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry. The national criteria for **tobacco free country** have been developed.



In the area of Maternal and Child Health support the focus was on enhancing maternal, child, and adolescent nutrition within the implementation of the National Strategy **"Healthy Mother - Healthy Child - Healthy Future"** (2021-2025), alongside the **State Nutrition Program** (2020-2025). Initiatives were undertaken for the implementation of the **"Friendly Hospitals for Children Initiative"** program. National **research on micronutrients for children aged 6-59 months and reproductive-age women** was conducted. Supplies for emergency care for newborns and mothers were provided. Access to **family planning** services was expanded for over **10,000 women at risk**. Medical and legal services were offered to over **300 women and children** from Afghan and local communities residing in remote villages of the Ahal and Lebap regions of Turkmenistan.



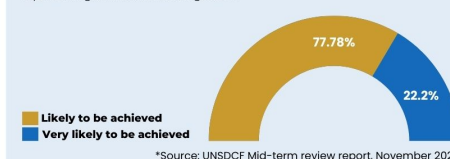
Measures were taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including the provision of over **1 million HIV test systems, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs)**. Modern pan-genomic drugs for the treatment of **3,500 patients** with viral hepatitis C were supplied. Clinical protocols for the treatment of viral hepatitis B were developed. A seroepidemiological study on hepatitis B was conducted, and Turkmenistan received a certificate confirming the achievement of regional goals in **combating hepatitis B**. National clinical standards for the **diagnosis and treatment of STIs** were updated. Analytical studies were conducted on public **awareness of human papillomavirus (HPV)** vaccination.

A strategy for genomic surveillance of pathogens with epidemic and pandemic potential was developed, and a virus sequencing methodology was introduced. Full-genome sequencing of **10 influenza virus samples** was conducted for the first time. A protocol for influenza and acute respiratory infection surveillance was developed.

The National strategy and action plan for mental health was developed and approved. The UN supports integration of the mental health services into the primary health care level. The third round of STEPS survey on NCD risk factors was conducted. Comprehensive assessment of Turkmenistan's healthcare information system was conducted and prospective areas for cooperation were identified. Electronic inventory system for medical equipment, video-monitored tuberculosis treatment, and smart pill boxes was commenced. The TB-RRIS electronic information system for maintaining accounting and reporting documentation on tuberculosis was developed and is ready for launch. Review of the immunization information system was conducted. Development of the electronic immunization program "Vabase" is underway.

Outcome achievement probability

The outcome assessment is based on perceptions of nine respondents representing five international agencies.



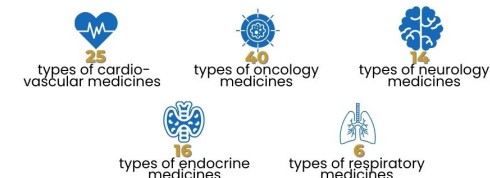
drug-susceptible TB enrolled patients 2,232

multidrug-resistant TB 607 enrolled patients

2021 81% treatment success rates 2020 60%

Support for Tuberculosis Control included testing of TB patients, introduction of short and fully oral TB treatment regimens and development of national guidelines for systematic TB screening and preventive treatment and TB management in children and adolescents. In **2023**, around **3,000 drug-susceptible TB patients** and over **780 MDR-TB patients** were expected to be treated by the end of the year. Support was provided to **ensure treatment adherence for 889 MDR-TB patients**.

NCD clinical protocols were updated, and relevant specialist were trained throughout the country. To further prevent spread of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), the UN continued **supply of medications** including:



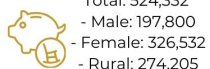
Among the achievements in the Social Protection system, the **Social Services Development Plan in Turkmenistan for 2024-2028** as well as the five regulatory acts governing the implementation of the **Law on Social Services** were developed. Assessment of the readiness of the Social Protection System for emergencies was conducted. A new **"Social Work"** program was opened at the Turkmen State University and Turkmen National Pedagogical Institute. A new course was introduced on **"social inclusion for people with disabilities"** and postgraduate programs in a five-year curriculum for the speciality of **"medical social worker"** at the State Medical University. Job descriptions and a list of services developed and approved for the new speciality of medical social worker.

Updates on Outcome 4 & Output Indicators

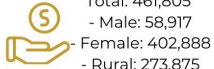


Number of people covered by social protection systems (including community-based social services), by sex and type of beneficiaries. (SDG 1.3.1)

Pensions



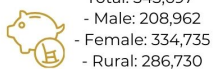
Social Allowances



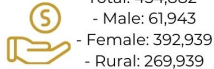
People Receiving Social Services (PwDs & elderly)



Pensions



Social Allowances



People Receiving Social Services (PwDs & elderly)



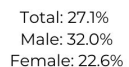
2021

2022

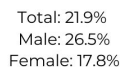
5 new and revised by-laws, developed with UN support, regulating implementation of the Law on Social Services 2020 were approved by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population (OI 1.1)



Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease (->SDG 3.4.1)



2021



2022

The UN supported development of **10 national policies on health covering immunization, mental health, palliative care and rehabilitation, STIs, TB** including TB in children and adolescents, **sexual, reproductive and maternal health** (OI 3.1)



Over 350 thousand people benefited from UN supported health services including:

- a) 1403 in communicable diseases;
- b) 600 in non-communicable diseases (NCD);
- c) nearly 349 thousand in sexual & reproductive health; (OI 3.3)



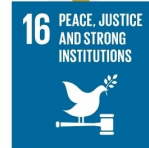
TB case notification rate per 100,000 population (SDG 3.3)



Share of **etraps** providing early intervention services to under 5 children (%)



Nearly 29 thousand people including school children and youth benefited from health education articles and healthy lifestyle educational sessions conducted with UN support (OI 4.3)



Budget spending on education, health, and social protection programmes as % of GDP (->16.6.1)



2021



2022

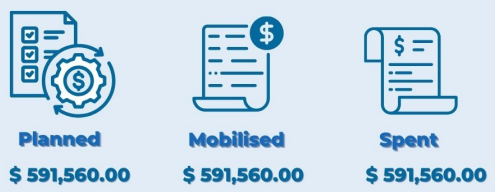


2.2. Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes & Outputs

Outcome 5 Quality Education & Skilling

Agencies: IOM, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP

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

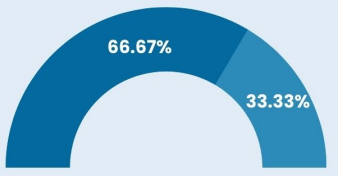


A joint inter-ministerial provision was finalized for early intervention and multi-disciplinary support for children with disabilities and their families. A **Turkmen text-to-speech voice** was developed to **aid visually impaired individuals**.

In terms of quality education and skilling systems, a youth conference on SDG 4 was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Over **100 young people** were trained in **soft and digital skills** and around **100 students** strengthened their teamwork and public speaking skills through participation in the **TAMUN Model UN conference**. Additionally, **18 young trainers** with disabilities were trained to advocate for disability rights. An inclusive festival promoted awareness of disability inclusion with over **300 participants**. Support was provided to **18 women** and **19 men** affected by migration, including medical assistance and vocational training. **876 vulnerable individuals improved their skills** through youth-led projects.

Outcome achievement probability

The outcome assessment is based on perceptions of three respondents representing two international agencies.

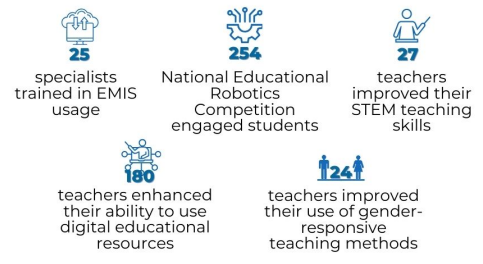


*Source: UNSDCF Mid-term review report, November 2023

The government and the United Nations maintained productive collaboration focused on improving the national education and skilling system. The UN strengthened the early learning system by supporting the Ministry of Education to implement a half-day pre-primary preparation program aimed at fulfilling the SDG 4.2 commitment. **Three training programs** were developed at the **Turkmen State Medical University**:

1. for trans-disciplinary specialists;
2. for communication support;
3. for mental health in young children;

With regards to quality education, the **National Concept of Inclusive Education** for 2023-2028 was finalized and is awaiting endorsement.



Lastly, efforts were made to integrate climate change adaptation into primary and secondary education through the integration of over **14,250 Methodological Manuals**. **128 teachers enhanced their skills in teaching climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction**. More than **1,000 Methodological Manuals on climate change adaptation** were provided to the Ministry of Education, along with digital curricula for summer camps. A curriculum and Methodological Manual for climate change adaptation in preschool education were drafted. A **new phase of the Climate Box project** was initiated to support climate education with innovative digital tools.

Updates on Outcome 5 & Output Indicators

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Extent to which knowledge products for sustainable development (including climate change education) are included in (2021, SDGs 4.7.1/12.8.1/13.3.1):

(a) national education policies: 0.875	(b) curricula: 0.828	(c) teacher education: 0.900	(d) student assessment: 0.100
--	----------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------

3175 people benefitted from the skills building events and lifelong learning programmes with UN support in 2023 (OI 4.3)

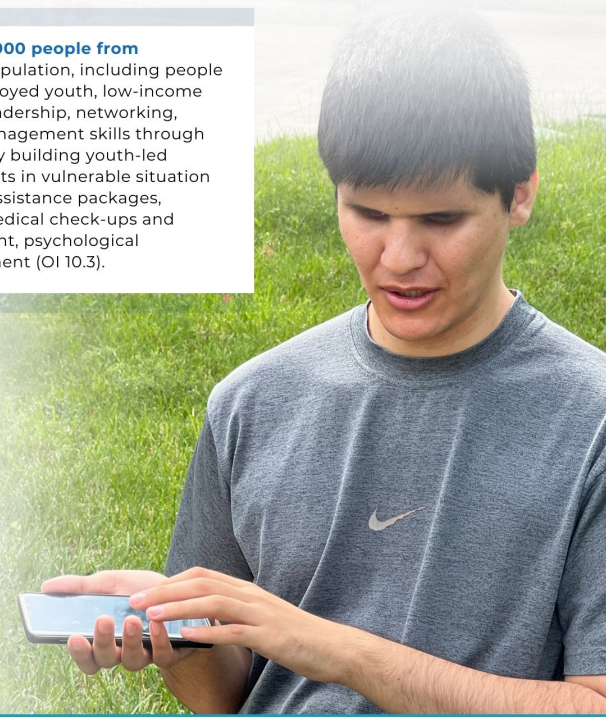
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment, or training (SDG 8.6.1):

2021	2022
15.80%	15.40%

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

The UN supported over **900 people from vulnerable groups** of population, including people with disabilities, unemployed youth, low-income families built up their leadership, networking, communication and management skills through IOM small-grant capacity building youth-led projects. Besides migrants in vulnerable situation received reintegration assistance packages, including house rent, medical check-ups and further medical treatment, psychological assistance, basic equipment (OI 10.3).



2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

As a result of the successful UNCT advocacy campaign in recent years regarding the involvement of private businesses in SDGs implementation in Turkmenistan, the government made a commitment at the SDG Summit to strengthen partnerships with the private businesses to implement Agenda 2030, and signed the "Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations and the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan (UIET) on Cooperation in Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs in Turkmenistan". This important milestone paved the way for several initiatives, such as the development and launch of the two-year Action Plan between the Union and the UN to implement the priorities of the Memorandum; and the establishment of the UN-Private Sector Partnerships Platform in Turkmenistan, a coordination mechanism serving as a common forum for the UN, private businesses, and other stakeholders such as the government, international organizations, IFIs, CSOs, etc. Under this platform, topics of the national development priorities, the Agenda 2030 and SDGs, and the role of the private business in supporting and contributing to the implementation of these priorities and frameworks will be discussed. The main areas of cooperation and partnerships with the private sector in the next two years will be[1]:

- Integration of national development priorities as well as those of the 2030 Agenda into private sector development strategies, business plans and mission and vision documents, focusing on a "leave no one behind" approach;
- Implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of private sector strategies, business plans, and mission and vision documents that are consistent with national development priorities and the 2030 Agenda;
- Access to international experience, knowledge, and technology to strengthen the private sector to achieve national development priorities and the 2030 Agenda;
- Joint research, surveys, analyses, observations, and exchange of information and knowledge on all dimensions of sustainable development related to the implementation of national development priorities and the 2030 Agenda;
- Joint participation in third-party platforms, forums, meetings and events related to the priorities of the Parties agreed upon under the Memorandum;
- Participation in joint actions to raise awareness and promote gender equality and human rights.
- Joint organization of regular information and educational events to increase awareness among the private sector.

UIET is the largest non-governmental organization in the country, consists of 29 thousand members – private companies and entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan.

The introduction of the UN Global Compact[2] mandate and objectives to Turkmen private businesses will be among the priorities for the coming months, with the aim to expand the global membership in UNGC with the Turkmen companies – leaders in their field of work.

The UN-Government Joint Expert Group on SDG financing (JEG on SDG financing) continued its work in 2023 under the following topics:

- INFF implementation in Turkmenistan: review global best practices in SDG Financing Strategy development and implementation;
- Review of the country's financing landscape: public finances, insurance sector;
- SDG costing methodologies: global practices and relevance for Turkmenistan;
- Review and discussion of a potential UN Joint Programme "Improving the Public Financial Management System in Turkmenistan";
- Best practices from the UN agencies in ECA region on PFM reforms and INFF implementation;
- Public Finance for Children (UNICEF);
- Development of the Policy Brief on SDG Financing in Turkmenistan;

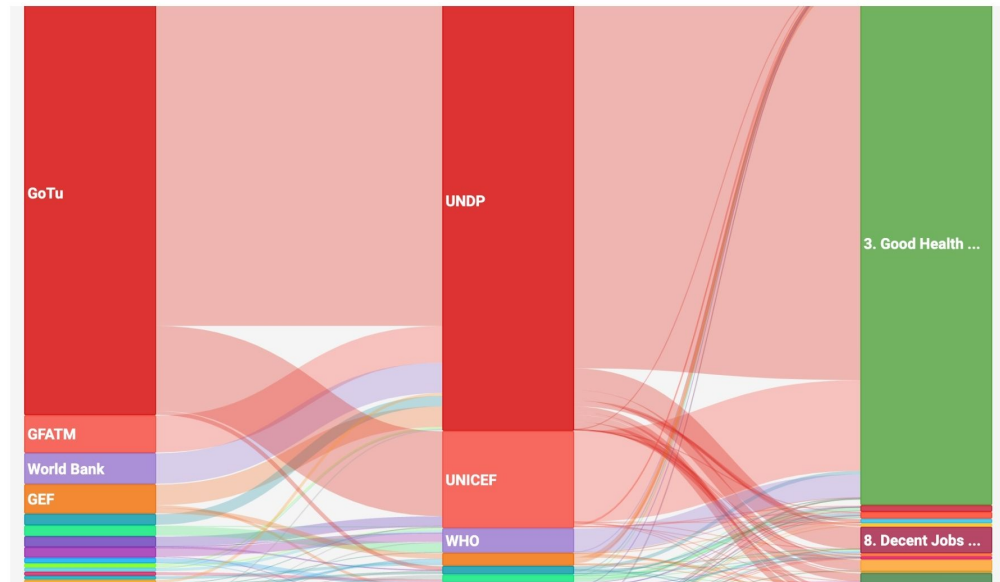
The partnerships landscape of UNCT in Turkmenistan in 2023 expanded by newly established collaboration with the ministries and public companies of the oil and gas sector. The government's firm commitment to reduce methane emissions in the country resulted in development and launch of a series of consultative expert- and high-level dialogues, culminated in Hard Talk on Energy Transition in Turkmenistan. The recommendations and a roadmap for further concrete actions were developed and submitted to the Government.

An Introductory Training Seminar on SDG Costing Methodologies for the Integrated National Financing Frameworks implementation in Turkmenistan, held under the auspices of JEG on SDG Financing, contributed to capacity development, experience and knowledge exchange among members of the group – representatives of the country's line ministries, public entities, banks, and UN agencies staff, on the existing SDG costing and investment needs assessment methodologies to implement INFF under its Building Block 1. Assessment and Diagnostics. This exercise allowed informing further the INFF Financing Strategy development, aligned with national development priorities.

[1] According to UN-UIET Joint Action Plan for 2023–2024 on the implementation of the MoU on cooperation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs in Turkmenistan

[2] The United Nations Global Compact is a non-binding United Nations pact to get businesses and firms worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies, and to report on their implementation.

Leveraging UN investments to advance the Sustainable Development Goals



This graphic shows how UN funding is contributing to the work of different agencies and partners to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The width of the lines represents the relative amount of resources being contributed.

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

Results of UN working together & better

In 2023, the UN system in Turkmenistan has strengthened its collaboration and exercised joined-up and coherent approach to address the following development issues:



Within all these areas, it was possible to **mobilize expertise, resources and assets** from across the UN system, multilateral and bilateral development partners and international financial institutions. The UN working together and its convening power has resulted in a number of policy recommendations, Outcome Statements disseminated at UNGA and other fora (COY18), decisions made at summits under different regional platforms (CIS, SCO, OTS, China+5) and the change of national policy course (joining Global Methane Pledge and COP28 initiatives, update of NDCs, national commitments for the SDG Summit) from discussions held at policy dialogues, "hard talks" and conferences on:

2.4. Results of the UN Working More and Better Together: UN Coherence, Effectiveness & Efficiency

- methane emission reduction with participation of RCO, UNEP, UNDP, UNECE, UNOPS, UNFCCC, USAID, WB, ADB, GIZ and private Carbon Limits company. There are positive signs from the Government in terms of developing an Action Plan to implement NDCs;
- regional and national dialogues of youth on impacts of climate change and local youth initiatives to raise awareness of public-at-large on and address climate change impacts with participation of Young SDG Ambassadors, RCO, UNDP, UNICEF, Embassies of the United Kingdom and United Arab Emirates;
- development partners' meetings on gender equality and gender-based violence with leading role of UNFPA and EU;
- on climate change with leading role of UNDP and UK Embassy;
- introduction of special protection measures for child victims and witnesses of crime in line with the international justice for children standards with the leading role of UNICEF and with support of the German Federal Foreign Office;
- national and regional youth dialogues on peace and development through organizing Model UN events with participation of RCO, UNRCCA, OHCHR, UNODC, USAID;
- regional discussions on food security and sustainable food systems with participation of environmental and agricultural ministers of Central Asia, Caucasus, Turkey and Iran, and RCO, FAO, UNDP, UNEP, WHO, regional Issue-based Coalitions on Environment and Food Systems, IMF, WB, EBRD, IsDB, Eurasian Development Bank, GIZ, John Hopkins University;
- sub-regional conference on sustainable use of water resources of the Amudarya River basin with participation of heads of water administration authorities in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, RCO, FAO, UNOPS, UNDP, UNECE, IFAS, IOM, Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia, University of Gessen, UNESCAP, GIZ;
- UN joint assessment mission of the smart city of Arkadag and policy recommendations on sustainable urban planning and livelihoods with participation of RCO, UN-Habitat, UNESCAP, UNIDO, UNEP, UNDP;

- brainstorming on joint UN approaches for establishment of the Regional Center for Climate Change Technologies in Central Asia with headquarters in Ashgabat with participation of Government, UNEP, Copenhagen Climate Technologies Center and Network, UNOPS, UNDP, ADB, GIZ, WB;

The impressive results of **two Joint Programs completed in 2022** funded by the **Joint SDG Fund and UN Human Security Trust Fund** served to strengthen the government's belief that **supporting joint UN programs** is more effective in terms of impact and a way forward in the cooperation with the UN. It has triggered the government's strong message to the UNCT on the ground. It enabled the **UNCT** to brainstorm and elaborate **ten joint program ideas**, based on globally agreed transitions for accelerated **progress on SDGs**.

The concepts of joint programs were submitted to the Government for possible cost-sharing. **Three proposals of ten** have greater potential to be approved by the Government:

- 1. Regional Center for Climate Change Technologies (UNEP, UNDP, UNOPS, UNECE, UNIDO);**
- 2. Social Protection and Jobs through implementation of the National Social Services Development Plan 2023-2028 (UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA);**
- 3. Youth, Peace and Security (UNFPA, UNDP, UNODC, OHCHR, IOM).**

As part of implementation of the Common Country Analysis update process and Joint Work Plans implementation, the UN system jointly advocated for SDGs achievement. Triggered by sharing of SDG progress data under the Cooperation Framework joint Steering Committee meetings, the UN managed to receive **updated national data for 2023 CCA RG factsheets and obtain data for a number of CF Outcome indicators**. At the same time, as a result of the UN's advocacy, for the first time since 1995, the Government released **2022 cycle population census data** featuring the total population and its disaggregation by gender, age and urban/rural composition. To have more detailed disaggregation, the UN has requested to release 12 disaggregation tables that would provide a clearer picture on the composition of the population and provide information on over 90 SDG indicators. There is an announced commitment of the Government to share the tables which have not materialized to date.

Additionally, the UN supported to finalize the National Action Plan on SDG Indicators and to develop Turkmenistan's 2023 VNR report. It provided more data and analysis on the SDG progress and was of much better quality than the previous one in 2019. Several years of the UN advocacy has finally resulted in the online launch of the **SDG database with data on nearly 130 indicators on the web platform of the State Statistics Committee**. Furthermore, the government submitted its **National Commitments for the SDG** acceleration evolving around key global transitions during the **SDG Summit**. Additionally, with support from **RCO and ESCAP, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF and WHO** continued promoting development of a joint program on **Civil Registration and Vital Statistics**. To this end, the assessment of the national CRVS system was completed and shared for GOV review, as the first step towards the JP.

Communicating Together - Amplifying the Voice of the Voiceless

Joint UNCT efforts to speak with one voice were also manifested through organizing joint UNCT campaigns to advocate for sensitive development issues. The purpose of joint UN communication events held in 2023 was twofold: (1) to draw the public-at-large attention to the importance of respecting and promoting human rights, inclusivity, and participation, (2) as well as build awareness of people on SDGs, and calls contained in the Our Common Agenda.

To this end, 8 joint events were held and devoted to the International Women Day, SDG Summit, youth inclusion in climate change (3 local and 1 national Conference of Youth), disability inclusion (2 disability festivals and visit to NGO Yenme that supports children with disabilities), 16 Days of Activism to fight violence against women, UN Day (regional Model UN) and many other activities organized by different UN agencies.

The events were conducive to sending strong messages to the government on the need to make concrete steps to implement its commitments under UN conventions and International Declaration of Human Rights. Overall, over 60 press releases, 20 stories, 13 videos were produced and disseminated.

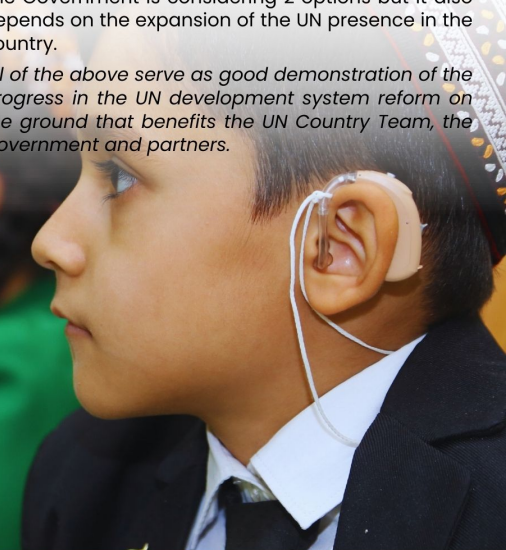
Progress in Implementation of the Efficiency Agenda

With regard to the efficiency agenda, UNCT took on initiatives that would reduce environmental footprint and focus on rational use resources. In particular, with leadership of UNICEF, the Operations Management Team implemented projects on saving water through the re-use of wastewater for gardening and carwash. The joint implementation of **60,000 USD** project to improve water efficiency resulted in **installation of wastewater treatment unit and well water pump in the UN compound** enabling to **reduce freshwater consumption to 50% in summer and 90% in winter**. The exact saving will be assessed by the end 2024.

UNCT conducted an assessment of the UN Building accessibility for people with disabilities with a representative of the Turkmen Deaf and Blind Society resulting in dozens of recommendations to be followed up in 2024. UNCT will continue targeting **cost reduction, improving efficiency and quality and looking for new opportunities and solutions for joint collaboration** that maximize collaboration within the Common Premises.

In 2023, UNCT kept sending messages to the government on the need of an additional rent-free building for the UN given the resident UN entities' staff increase, the interest of a number of non-resident UN entities to open their offices (UNOPS, UN-Habitat, FAO), and potential opening of the office of the Regional Climate Change Technologies Center. The Government is considering 2 options but it also depends on the expansion of the UN presence in the country.

All of the above serve as good demonstration of the progress in the UN development system reform on the ground that benefits the UN Country Team, the Government and partners.



2.5. Communicating Together for Sustainable Development

The United Nations Country Team in Turkmenistan continued its commitment to effectively communicate the mission and objectives of the United Nations through a series of impactful events and initiatives in 2023. Aligned with the joint **Communication Strategy for 2021-2025**, these endeavors aimed to **enhance stakeholder understanding of UN work** and **foster partnerships** for sustainable development in Turkmenistan.

In celebration of **International Women's Day**, the UN in Turkmenistan **hosted a dynamic dialogue** spotlighting the achievements and challenges faced by women and girls in the country. Distinguished women from government and the diplomatic community shared insights on women's empowerment and its vital role in national development. Inspiring stories of resilience and success were shared, encouraging participants to **champion gender equality and contribute to women's empowerment efforts** in Turkmenistan.

In collaboration with the Government and international partners, the UN **organized Local Conferences of Youth on Climate Change across three provinces** of Turkmenistan. These conferences provided a platform for young people to discuss climate change impacts and explore youth-led adaptation and mitigation projects. Recommendations from regional events culminated in a national conference, leading to the **adoption of a Roadmap of youth initiatives and a National Youth Statement for COP28**, emphasizing the urgent need for climate action.

Two inclusive festivals, held in Ashgabat and Dashoguz cities, celebrated the **75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by showcasing the talents and abilities of persons with disabilities**. Through sports competitions, artistic exhibitions, and cultural performances, these festivals promoted disability rights and highlighted the importance of inclusion in Turkmen society.

To mark the occasion the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls**, the UN in Turkmenistan launched a **16-day campaign against gender-based violence**. Through events and advocacy efforts, stakeholders came together to raise awareness, advocate for policy change, and foster action to end violence against women and girls. Community engagement activities emphasized the importance of collective action in **promoting gender equality and preventing violence**.

The inaugural **Turkmenistan Ashgabat Model United Nations (TAMUN) Conference** convened students from Central Asian countries to **simulate a UN committee work and address global issues such as online extremism, human rights, and drug prevention**. Organized in collaboration with the UN agencies, the US government, and youth organizations, this conference aimed to educate and empower young people to engage in international affairs and contribute to global peace and development.

In commemoration of the **Human Rights Day and the International Day of People with Disabilities**, the UN partnered with local NGOs to **raise awareness of disability rights** in Turkmenistan.

Through interactive activities and advocacy efforts, the event aimed to promote human rights and inclusion, particularly among youth and civil society organizations.

These initiatives have not only elevated the visibility of the United Nations in Turkmenistan but also contributed to advancing key development priorities, including human rights, climate action, and gender equality. By fostering dialogue, promoting inclusivity, and empowering stakeholders, the UN remains committed to supporting Turkmenistan on its path towards sustainable development.

2.6. Evaluations and Lessons Learned

In 2023 the UNSDCF underwent a light mid-term review (MTR) that, among others, brought useful evidence on alignment of UNSDCF interventions with national priorities, continuing relevance of UNSDCF outputs and probability of their achievement based on UNCT survey. The MTR assessed the

- i) relevance to current national context and global commitments of the country as well as the targeted vulnerable populations;**
- ii) progress in implementation of the UNSDCF;**
- iii) effectiveness of UNSDCF management arrangements;**
- iv) status of UNSDCF budget and corresponding resource mobilisation and delivery;**

The review was built around six evaluation criteria with the following key findings:

Relevance and Adaptability:

MTR used a participatory and consultative approach, whereby key stakeholders and national partners were engaged, and their views and feedback were collected and used at different stages of the review process. The MTR confirmed general strong alignment of the current CF with the key national priorities specified in numerous national sectoral programmes, strategies, and action plans, the Agenda 2030 and SDGs. The UNCT took a proactive approach to respond to changing context and incorporate the UN Secretary General's new initiatives such as 12 High-Impact Initiatives, Transitions Areas, and Cross-cutting Issues. MTR also confirmed that UNCT Turkmenistan was effective in responding to changing context, demonstrating a good level of adaptability.

Effectiveness and Efficiency:

MTR findings through desk review as well as additional information and cross-validation through the Review Survey showed a reasonably high accomplishment rate both at the outcome and output level at the mid-point of CF implementation as well as relatively high levels of full achievement probability. UN Joint Work Plans were found as useful tools for alignment and coordination. Statistics and data were indicated as a significant pain-point, both due to unavailability and inaccessibility of data including absence of disaggregated population data and gaps in CF outcome and output indicators. As for the funding situation for 2023, out of envisaged USD 80,74 million UN System managed to mobilize USD 62,86 million or 78 % of expected resources, which is a very positive result. Out of available resources, USD 32,6 million or 52 % are already delivered, corresponding to the expected level at mid-point of the CF implementation.

Coherence and Coordination:

MTR recognised that the United Nations in Turkmenistan has a strong position and is recognised as a credible and reliable partner. The internal governance structure of the CF is functioning effectively with regular Results Group meetings on planning and reporting. The direct link between National Working Group on SDGs and CF Steering Committee ensures high-level of political engagement and facilitates connection of the UN System work and CF implementation to the key domestic priorities and processes.

Sustainability and orientation towards impact:

MTR explored some impact level results, however noted that the sustainability and orientation towards impact will be evaluated in a comprehensive way during the planned final evaluation of the CF.

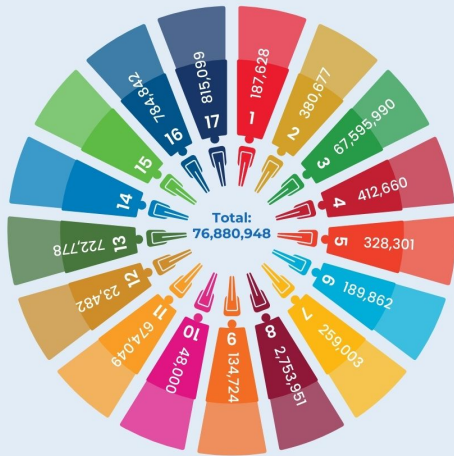


2.7. Financial Overview & Resource Mobilization

2.7.1. Financial Overview

The below graphs, Figure 1, Figure 3, and Figure 5 provide an overview of the total amounts of funding that were required to implement UN agencies' programmes, projects, and activities during 2023, disaggregated by UNSDCF Outcomes and Outputs, and UNCT members.

Figure 1: CF Funding by SDG (in USD)



Note: Expenditure of Multiple SDG initiatives \$1,569,902.00

Figure 2: UN Support by QCPR function

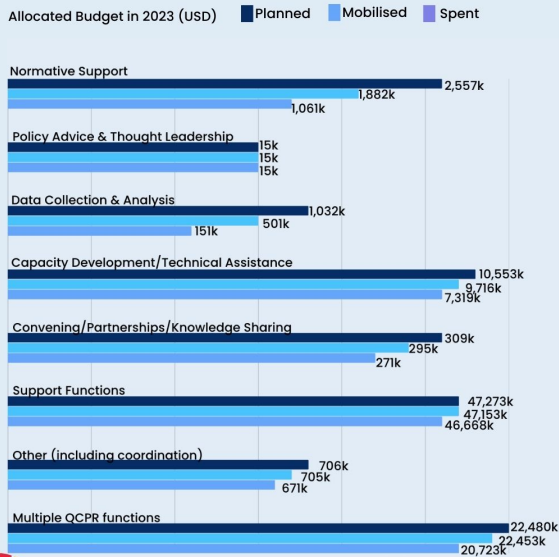


Figure 3: CF Funding by UN Agencies (in USD)

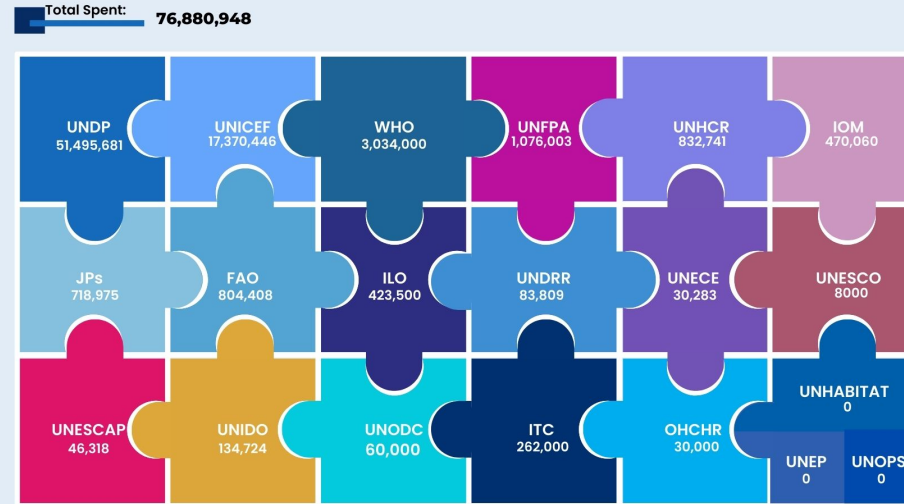


Figure 4: Sustaining Peace Marker

Allocated Budget in 2023 (%)

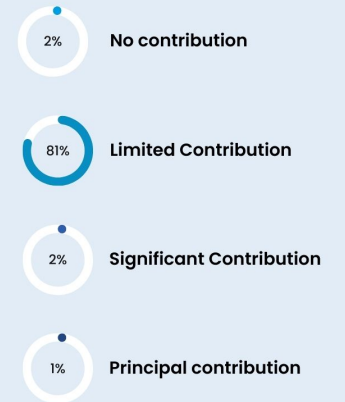
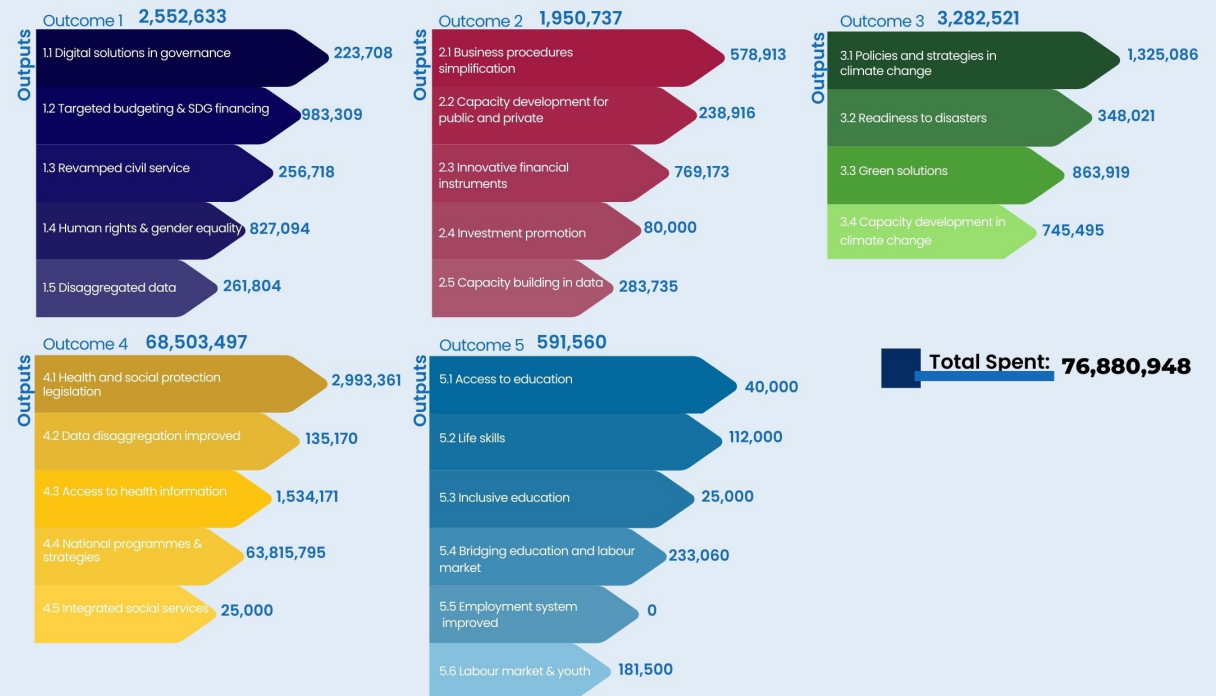
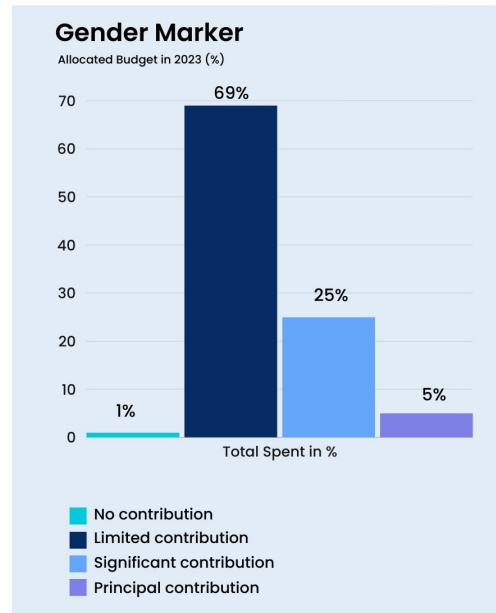
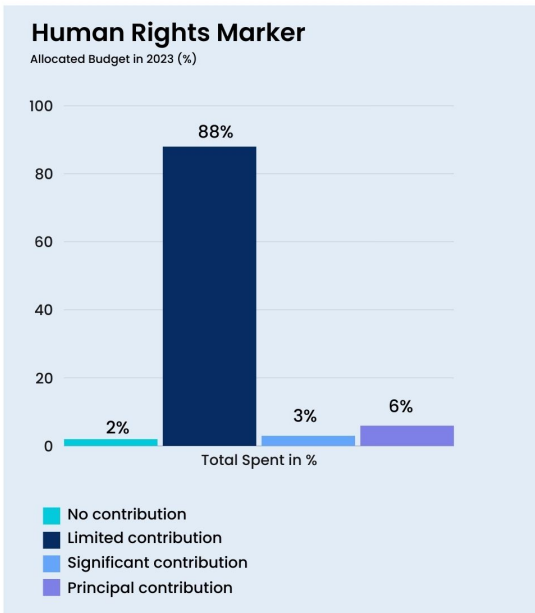


Figure 5: CF Funding by Outcomes & Outputs (in USD)





2.7.2. Resource Mobilization

A tiny funding gap of 1% of total required funds to fully implement the UN programmes in the country in 2023 is a self-explanatory evidence of UNCT working effectively and successfully together. According to UNCT's Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Strategy, UN agencies, funds and programmes continued to advocate for resources to fund UN programming in the country, using a set of approaches, such as bilateral agreements, advocacy campaigns, preparation of joint programme proposals for submission to various vertical and thematic funds, engagements within the development community and with the national partners.

After the release of Census-2022 data, as well as country's GDP growth estimations, Turkmenistan remained an upper-middle income country, with potential implications of reduced ODA flows and a narrowing donor base. With this in mind, the government put the commitment to mobilize its internal resources to deliver on national development priorities on the list of commitments at the historical SDG Summit in 2023.

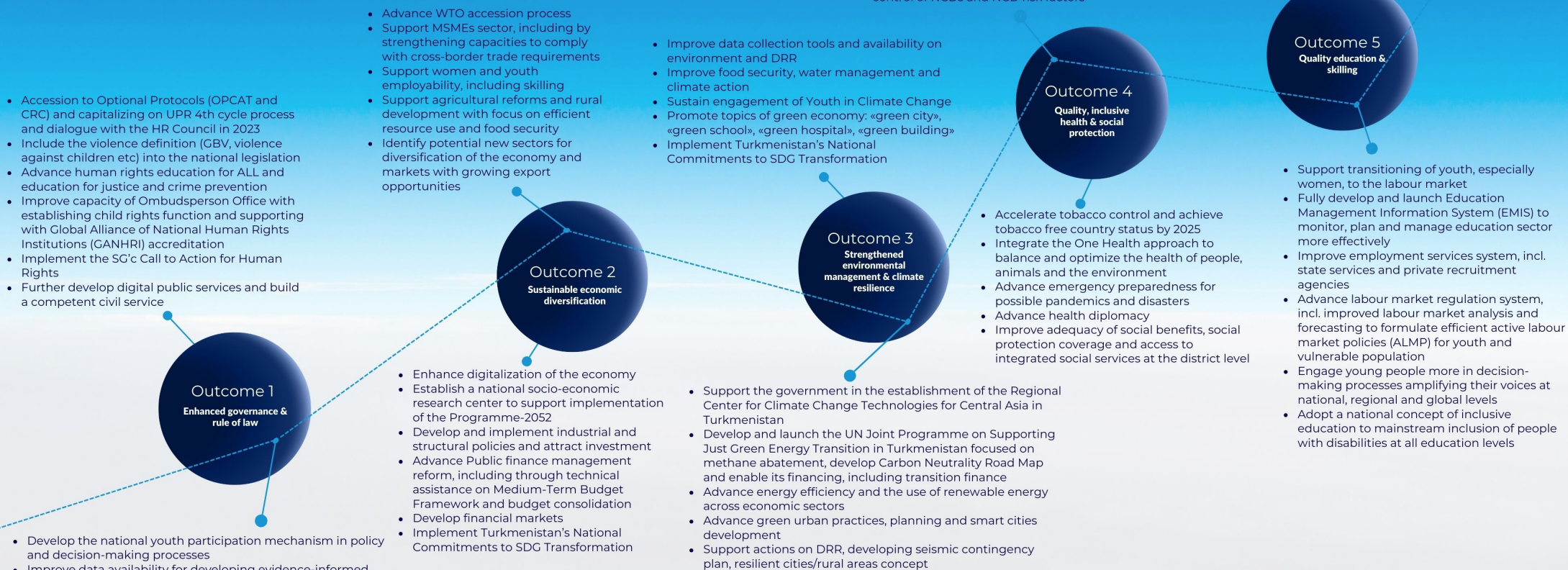
The government will use the findings of the development finance assessment (DFA) to develop and implement a roadmap for the integrated national financing framework (INFF) in Turkmenistan. Furthermore, a modern banking system, developed capital market, comprehensive insurance services, and strong and efficient public finance planning and management system, all operating together under an INFF, based on data and evidence, will support the transition to a green, diversified, and sustainable economy. Investments in human capital and people-centered education, healthcare, and social protection will remain the focus areas for public financing. As a concrete fiscal target for coming years, the government of Turkmenistan committed to keeping its spending on the social sector of the economy beyond 70% of the State Budget. Beyond the traditional strategic partnerships with the Government, UNCT looked for opportunities to leverage collective approaches with development partners community in the country to address developmental challenges and combine forces for synergies and efficiencies. UN 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 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, USAID, OSCE, ADB, IMF, WB, ISDB, and IFIs on opportunities for partnerships and joint initiatives were held.

UNCT continued advocacy with major stakeholders on the establishment of a country-level SDG pooled fund. The Government of Turkmenistan is seen as the primary partner and co-founder of such a fund in Turkmenistan. The establishment of the country-level pooled fund was 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.



3 UNCT Key Focus for Next Year

In 2024 the UN will continue supporting the Government of Turkmenistan in achieving its development priorities in line with the Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 and SDGs. The following key areas for accelerating SDG transformations were discussed during the last year Results Groups meetings:



Potential risks and obstacles to achieving the defined priority areas could include insufficient expertise of local professionals, limited inter-ministerial coordination, inadequate data availability, insufficient data usage for policy making, slow pace of decision making and approval of joint programmes/activities, as well as challenges related to scarcity in donor funding and government cost-sharing. Respective risk management strategies will be applied to mitigate the possible risks including capacity building and knowledge sharing events, strengthening collaboration with national ministries specifying their roles and responsibilities, supporting data generation efforts assisting government agencies with methodologies of effective data collection and management. Furthermore, support will be provided to strengthen capacities among government officials in data analysis techniques to ensure data is considered and integrated into the policymaking process. Additionally, alternative funding options such as private sector partnerships or innovative financing mechanisms will be explored to address scarcity in donor funding and government cost-sharing.



**United Nations
Turkmenistan**



<https://turkmenistan.un.org>



@un_turkmenistan



@UN Turkmenistan



@UN_Turkmenistan