



**GOVERNMENT OF TURKMENISTAN
AND UNITED NATIONS**

**PARTNERSHIP
FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT
2016-2020**

PROGRESS REPORT



UNITED
NATIONS
TURKMENISTAN



Government of Turkmenistan

and

United Nations

Partnership Framework for Development
2016-2020

March 2019

Agenda 2030 to Leave No One Behind

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List of abbreviations

CARINFONET	Central Asian Republics Health Information Network
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEP	Caspian Environmental Program
CLAC	Climate Landscape Assessment for Children
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
EMIS	Education Management Information System
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCTC	Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
FEC	Fuel and Energy Complex
GEM	Global Education Monitoring
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HDI	Human Development Index
ICLS	International Conference of Labor Statisticians
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MAPS	Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MDRTB	Multiple Drug Resistant Tuberculosis
MICS	Multi Indicator Cluster Survey
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoHMI	Ministry of Health and Medical Industry
MSR	Multi-Sectoral Response
NAS	National Accounts System
NEAP	National Environmental Action Program
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PFD	Partnership Framework for Development
PJSO	Public Joint-Stock Organization
PHC	Primary Health Care
RC	Resident Coordinator
RF	Russian Federation
RIA	Rapid Integrated Assessment
SCO	Civil Society Organizations
SCS	State Customs Service
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRH	Sexual and reproductive health
SSC	State Statistics Committee
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UN	United Nations Organization
UNCT	UN Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department on Safety and Security
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund

UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
Y-NAP	National Action Plan on Youth Development

Foreword



As the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Co-Chair of the National Steering Committee, I am pleased to introduce the 2018 Annual Progress Report of the Government of Turkmenistan – United Nations Partnership Framework for Development (PFD) 2016-2020.

The implementation of the PFD in 2018 was guided by the national slogan of the year - "Turkmenistan is the heart of the Great Silk Road". All activities on the domestic and international arena aimed at positioning Turkmenistan as champion of strengthened multi-dimensional regional and global cooperation. The UN was actively engaged in supporting the Government with the organisation of numerous initiatives of national and international importance. The international conference «Importance of Great Silk Road: present and future development» held under the auspices of UNESCO, and the International Conference «Partnership for the development finance in the heart of Great Silk Road» organized by UNDP and the State Bank for Foreign Economic Relations are bright examples of such joint initiatives, which promoted Turkmenistan as convener of regional and global dialogues.

In 2018, the Government continued its commitment to co-finance joint programmes with the UN, investing more than US\$ 5 million (USD 5,459,574). This is much higher than the total for the previous two years (for 2016-2017 - USD 4,075,000). In addition, the Government allocated over US\$ 7 million (USD 7,224,742) to the procurement of vaccines through UNICEF.

The Government and the UN are strategic partners in the implementation of Agenda 2030. Along with many advances in mainstreaming the SDGs into national planning, we have worked closely together to prepare the National Voluntary Review, which Turkmenistan will present at the ECOSOC segment of the High-Level Political Forum in 2019.

At the request of the Government, the UN was privileged to provide inputs to the National Programme of the President of Turkmenistan on socio-economic development of the country for 2019 – 2025 and ensure its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals.

I would like to also note the fruitful cooperation between the UN and the SDG Methodological Center at the Institute of International Relations. Together with the Center, we celebrated the month of October as the SDG month and conducted numerous joint initiatives to raise awareness of the SDGs and the main principle of Agenda 2030 “leave no one behind” among children, youth and adults.

I hope you will find the Progress Report informative, insightful and inspirational.

We welcome your feedback to further improve our engagement and work in Turkmenistan for the sustainable development of the country.

Elena Panova
UN Resident Coordinator in Turkmenistan

Development trends in Turkmenistan

The political, socio-economic and human capital developments in Turkmenistan reached other milestones in 2018.

In foreign policy, the country prioritized the regional cooperation in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, promoting regional economic, transport and energy cooperation, and addressing the economic and environmental impacts of the Aral Sea related issues. The main milestones included the following.

First, important advances were made in creating the energy transportation link from Turkmenistan to South Asia through construction of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline (TAPI). Viewed as a new energy Silk Road, TAPI is expected to provide access to reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and form new architecture of global energy security. With the estimated cost of US\$ 7 billion, this largest gas pipeline will give a powerful impetus to the development of the economies in the region, creating thousands of new jobs associated with formation of electric power, transport, communication and social infrastructure. In July 2018, the Turkmen delegation, attending the UN High-Level Political Forum in New-York, presented the project to international stakeholders.

Second, Turkmenistan also hosted a number of high-level consultations in SPECA and CAREC formats on transport and communications, including the launch of railway from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, operationalization of the Afghanistan-Turkmenistan-Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey corridor (Lapis Lazuli), and inauguration of the Turkmenbashi seaport as a regional hub connecting Europe and Asia.

Third, Turkmenistan promoted economic and environmental cooperation among Central Asian states by hosting the Summit of the CA heads of states – co-founders of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) in August 2018. The heads of state agreed to work together towards developing the UN Special Program for the Aral Sea Basin and its Action Plan as well as implementation of the UNGA Resolution # A/72/L.42 “Cooperation between the United Nations and IFAS” sponsored by Turkmenistan, which calls for strengthening cooperation between the UN system, International Financial Institutions and IFAS. Upon historic signing of the Convention of the legal status of the Caspian Sea, Turkmenistan invited the littoral states for the first Caspian Economic Forum to be held in August 2019 in Awaza, Turkmenistan.

In June 2018, Turkmenistan was elected as a member of the UN ECOSOC for the period 2019-2021. President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov presented his book “Turkmenistan on the way to achieving Sustainable Development Goals” to the world community at the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly. Along with it, during the 73rd session, Turkmenistan outlined its priority positions¹ in the cooperation with UN in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation, countering terrorism and drug-trafficking, water diplomacy, SDGs, sustainable transport and energy, climate change, and youth development.

¹<http://cci.gov.tm/index.php/en/news-en/turkmenistan-news/6824-priority-positions-of-turkmenistan-at-the-73rd-session-of-the-un-general-assembly>

Domestically, priorities of the socio-economic policies of Turkmenistan remained the same: ensuring high-living standards of the population, improving social conditions in rural areas, diversification of the national economy by creating solid industrial base and development of private sector, attracting foreign investments, promoting national exports and creating import substituting industries.

All these objectives were set in the new Presidential Program of the socio-economic development of the country for 2019-2025. The Programme aims at accelerated transition to market relations and prioritizes investments in human capital as a reliable and quickly repayable source of investment. Therefore, investments in education and healthcare remain one of the promising areas of state policy.

In 2018, Turkmenistan grew steadily at 6.2%². The IMF missions in April and October 2018 noted that “trade and fiscal balances have improved, and increased exports of natural gas, petrochemicals, and other products are expected to support economic growth”. At the same time, IMF recommended to “recalibrate policies to further reduce external imbalances, improve competitiveness, and realize the vision of ensuring robust, diversified, and inclusive growth in the coming years.”³

A critical role in the success of economic transformations is attributed to the private sector, which share in the national economy reached 62%⁴. In the last 10 years, the total number of private companies exceeded 18,000, which provided jobs to almost 150,000 people⁵. The national private sector invested TMT 15.3 billion (\$4.3 billion) into the economy. With a view to ensuring incentives for the private sector, the Government developed the State Program of support for small and medium-sized entrepreneurship for 2018-2024. This program aims to increase competitiveness of the national economy, increase the country's export potential, strengthen food security, stimulate the innovation and investment activity of the private sector.

Recognizing the important role of private producers in ensuring food security, the Government introduced major agricultural reforms approved by the September 2018 People’s Council meeting. They included the provision of farm land for 99 years’ lease, soft loans to producers to purchase agricultural machinery, increasing government procurement prices for cotton and wheat, and creating incentives for farmers to sell the surplus product in external markets.

In March 2018, the parliamentary elections took place in Turkmenistan, where three political parties (Democratic Party of Turkmenistan, Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan, Agrarian Party of Turkmenistan) delegated their representatives to the Mejlis (Parliament) of Turkmenistan. The Democratic Party

² <https://www.adb.org/countries/turkmenistan/economy>

³ <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2018/10/08/pr18384-imf-staff-concludes-staff-visit-to-turkmenistan>

⁴ <http://www.newscentralasia.net/2018/03/19/turkmenistan-10-years-of-public-private-partnership-ru/>

⁵ [as](#) previous

won 55 seats, the other two Parties reserved 11 seats each. Women MPs represent 24.8% and the Speaker of Parliament is a woman⁶.

The collaboration with the United Nations remained strong in 2018. The focus of the cooperation was on supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and mainstreaming the SDGs in the national planning and implementation. UN supported the Government to operationalize the functioning of the National Working Group on SDGs, engage civil society and private sector, review the SDG targets and indicators and assign responsibilities of different national entities for data collection, analysis and reporting. The UN also supported the State Statistics Committee with the establishment of SDG data base and the Ministries of Education and Health and Medical Industry with creating electronic management information systems (MIS).

Following the expressed intention to report in 2019 at the global level on the progress in implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Turkmenistan, UN supported the Government in preparation of the National Voluntary Review (VNR) and introduced Government officials to the work of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development held annually under the auspices of the ECOSOC in New York.

“Partnership for Development Financing at the Heart of the Great Silk Road”. The Government and UN co-hosted the International Conference “Partnership for Development Financing at the Heart of the Great Silk Road”. It brought together partners from state agencies, international financial institutions, private sector and commercial banks and shed light on the country’s sustainable development priorities, the related financing needs and various options that exist for mobilizing resources, especially from international financial institutions and private capital.



“Partnership for Development Financing at the Heart of the Great Silk Road”, June 2018/UNDP

In partnership with the National SDG Center, the UN introduced the concept of innovative impact investment to the representatives of private and banking sectors.

With the support from WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNODC, several important national programmes were adopted in the area of healthcare. They will contribute to the implementation of SDGs and eventually lead to decrease of the burden of non-communicable diseases. The adopted programmes are as follows:

- National Program for 2018-2022 for the protection of the mental health of the population in Turkmenistan and the Action Plan for its implementation;

⁶<http://archive.ipu.org/parline/reports/2325.htm>

- National Strategy for 2018-2025 to increase the physical activity of the population in Turkmenistan and the Action Plan for its implementation;
- National Program for 2018-2024 on prevention of harmful effects of alcohol and the plan of measures for its implementation.

A number of joint initiatives were implemented in the areas of health and education, gender equality, women's, children's and disability rights, social protection, reduction of illegal migration and statelessness. The country participated in dialogues on UPR, CEDAW and CESCR, and adopted the National Plan of Action for Children.



Turkmen Delegation at CESCR committee, October 2018

Strategic Area 1- Quality Data and Progress Monitoring

Outcome 1: Quality data, aligned with international standards, is available to policy makers, legislators, and the interested public to monitor the major goals of national programmes, the post-2015 SDGs, UNPFD and to formulate new national strategies and programmes.

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

Planned: USD 1,606,379

Spent: USD 1,114,972.53*⁷

UN continued to provide support to mainstream the SDGs in the national programs and plans.



Turkmen delegation at HLPF 2018

A significant milestone in 2018 was the UN substantive input to the new National Program of Socio-Economic Development of Turkmenistan for 2019-2025. The new Presidential Programme for 2019-2025 was approved on 1 February 2019.

To strengthen further the intersectoral monitoring, management and reporting of SDG progress, a joint UNDP-Ministry of Finance and Economy project on Establishment of SDG Integrator Platform was approved in December 2018. This project involves joint UN efforts to support the Government with setting up SDG Database and development of SDG evidence-based planning and

budgeting.

As Turkmenistan will present its first VNR at HLPF in July 2019, the Government has approved the Action Plan to prepare the national report. The UN system provided focused support to the Government in this process by helping in the review of metadata and development of the reporting formats for the preparation of the VNR report.

The UN initiated detailed review of indicators, data sources and frequencies focusing on selected individual goals. Such a goal-by-goal review with partners, first experimented with the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry (MoHMI) for SDGs 2 and 3, was then replicated for other six Goals that fall under the theme of the 2019 ECOSOC Segment of the HLPF. This initiative proved to be very useful for further clarify accountabilities and capacity development needs of concerned Government entities.

To ensure participation of multiple stakeholders in this process, UN facilitated meetings with private sector and NGOs to familiarize them with the process of VNR preparation and ensure their contributions to the VNR.

Furthermore, UN technical expertise was made available to the national statistical system to enhance data availability for indicators and ensure alignment with global definitions and disaggregation.

The results of the Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) undertaken by Turkmenistan in 2017, indicated that the global SDG targets are well integrated into national strategies, programs and plans. Out of the 148 targets adopted by the Government of Turkmenistan 124 targets (84 percent)

⁷ *The difference between planned and spent budgets is due to the delays in approval of projects or activities. Same justification will be applied to other Outcomes.

are integrated or notionally covered in the national and sectorial development programs and plans. RIA analysis showed, that while many SDGs are included in national policy documents, this inclusion remains normative and the next step should be integration of SDG monitoring and evaluation systems into these documents. Experience of the national health sector can be used as a good example of possible use of SDG indicators for monitoring of national programs. To ensure this, a number of capacity building initiative will be required, such as:

- Training for staff of the State Statistics Committee and line ministries on the use of statistical data collection and analysis software;
- Training for staff of the Ministry of Finance and Economy and line ministries in setting mid-term and long-term targets for SDG indicators;
- Training in application of existing tools (e.g. systems thinking approach) that help identify priority development areas and on techniques/methods of assessing the progress (gaps and distance) towards achieving the targets.

The baseline assessments covered about 100 SDG indicators adopted by the country. Conducted in close consultations with the State Statistics Committee (SSC) and concerned Government entities, these assessments looked into actual data. UN and partners started discussions about proxy indicators and frequency of data collection.

Another area of UN support was aimed at strengthening national capacity in producing and using disaggregated data for SDGs and evidence-informed policy-making. The UN system supported the State Statistics Committee and other entities in planning and implementing household surveys, improving data on trade, economic and environmental accounting and others. For example, WHO finalized and disseminated the results of such surveys as STEPS (tobacco use) and COSI (childhood obesity). The Government approved conducting the Health Status of Women in Families survey supported by UNFPA to be conducted in 2019. Preparation for the 2019 MICS started with listing of households and preparing questionnaires for pre-testing. The SSC representatives participated in the second series of MICS workshops, namely Data Processing Workshop, having started the customization of the application. UNDP conducted an assessment to support an introduction of the system of economic-environment accounts (SEEA). The roadmap for the introduction of SEEA in tourism sector will be developed in 2019. In addition, a pilot survey on imported goods by individuals was conducted to support in updating the system of national accounts.



Let's talk SDGs training, October 2018

UNFPA, WHO and UNICEF supported MoHMI in the creation of Health Management Information System (H-MIS). An assessment of the current health data systems was conducted and the health data strategy is being developed. UNICEF and UNESCO are ready to further support the Ministry of Education with developing Education MIS. In 2018, the UN and the Government intensified its cooperation in increasing the national awareness of SDGs. The UN and Government jointly marked 1000 days of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda by conducting

the SDG Month of October. This joint initiative disseminated more in-depth knowledge of the SDGs among public at large. In partnership with the SDG Training and Methodology Center, the initiatives included:

- Three-day training sessions "Let's talk SDGs" for the representatives of academia and students;
- More than 20 lectures delivered at the SDG Training and Methodology Center for NGOs, political parties, teachers, mass media, etc;
- Students' debates with a focus on parliamentary debates for 40 students.
- Dance Festival with one dance performance per SDG goal performed by children and youth.
- Contest "SDG Ambassadors" was launched among youth of age 18-30. Ambassadors will start their work in 2019. It is expected that most active will join the Turkmen delegation at the HLPF in 2019.

While significant progress was made in developing a comprehensive and nationally relevant system to measure progress on the SDGs, it is recommended to strengthen the alignment with climate change, gender equality and inequality issues.

During the development of the new Presidential Programme, the need for strengthened strategic planning capacity linked to budgeting and longer-term planning was identified. This should include costing and inclusion of monitoring, data collection and quality assurance into main planning documents of the country and promotion of evaluation culture. Therefore, developing a Law on Strategic Planning was recommended.

It is important to enhance the capacities of government entities in better understanding of data sources, meta-data, reliability, quality assurance etc.

The investment needs and schemes to support SDGs remain unclear, as well as the involvement of different stakeholders, private sector and NGOs into the reporting on SDGs. This will require more efforts and human resources.

The national Training and Methodology Center under the Institute of International Relations has a wide agenda but limited human resources and management capacity. These reduce the opportunities for the Center to become a centre of excellence on SDGs and deliver on its goals. Selected SDG Ambassadors have a potential to support and expand the work of the Center.



UN Model exercise, October 2018



Lecture at SDG center,, April 2018/UNDP

Strategic Area 2 - Quality, Inclusive Social Services

This strategic area joins three Outcomes:

Outcome 2: Pre-school, primary and secondary education services are of higher quality, in line with international standards, and with priority given to inclusive education

Outcome 3: The social protection system is ready to provide inclusive quality community-based support services

Outcome 4: The people of Turkmenistan, especially vulnerable groups, enjoy better coverage of quality health care services focusing on women and child health, nutrition, NCDs, Multiple Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDRTB), early detection and early prevention of diseases

*Focus: young children, children with developmental delays, MDRTB patients, young people, pregnant and lactating women, reproductive age women

Outcome 2: Pre-school, primary and secondary education services are of higher quality, in line with international standards, and with priority given to inclusive education

Agencies: UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF

Planned: USD 96,500.00

Spent: USD 143,599.50

In 2018, UN continued to promote access to and quality of early learning for all children through expanding child-friendly principles to preschool, pre-primary and primary education. Its focus was on pre-primary preparation, developing multi-disciplinary support and inclusive learning approaches for children with disabilities. With UN support, the topics of sexual and reproductive health were introduced into the education curriculum of schools.



Source: UNICEF Turkmenistan

In the framework of the national policy on Early Child Development (ECD), the Ministry of Education further scaled up the approved pre-school education documents including play-based quality pre-primary curriculum resource, parental empowerment and sports and play for development documents, all developed in line with best international standards. These quality normative documents were integrated into the annual training plans of regional methodological associations in charge of in-service training of local pre-school professionals in their respective regions. The materials also include the approved early readiness checklist, child-friendly measurement tool, aimed to track and measure progress of child development with focus on child's readiness for school.

UNICEF supported the Government in development of an operational plan for introducing one-year quality pre-primary education program for all five-year-old children as a foundation for lifelong learning and wellbeing. The above is in line with consistent Government efforts and commitment towards ensuring universal pre-primary preparation in line with SDG 4. The operational plan, which includes costed and equity focused options and models with projected

increase, timelines and indicators for monitoring, is ready for approval and further operationalization through piloting of the relevant options and models in selected region(s).

Consistent capacity development and policy dialogue ensured the finalization of the National ECD Strategy for 2018-2024 which is ready for approval by the Government. The ECD Strategy reiterates Turkmenistan's commitment towards comprehensive early childhood development policy with focus on cross-sectoral integration of vulnerable young children and their families.



Source: UNICEF Turkmenistan

To support a child's transition to mainstream education and to build inclusive learning environment, the multi-disciplinary support services for young children with disabilities and their families emerged as an imperative to leave no one behind. These services also promote overall family empowerment and social inclusion. Consistent UN support included modelling and strengthening capacities for provision of the above services, introduction of new disciplines and update in training/retraining programmes as well as development/alignment of relevant normative framework. Guided by the approved child-friendly education policy, the UN ensured an on-going capacity development of national stakeholders in inclusive education with focus on building inclusive learning environment across selected pre-school and primary education.

The UNFPA supported the update of the Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Education methodology manual for teachers in the Turkmen language. Board games and video materials on healthy life skills and healthy choices for adolescents in school settings were introduced to the secondary education system. The curriculum of SRH education in school settings was updated and revised. Seventy two percent (72%) of secondary school teachers improved their qualification and skills in teaching the SRH by the newly introduced manual during the trainings in the regional methodology centers.

Despite the notable progress, there are still some areas that need improvements. These relate to:

- further advances in human resource capacity across all levels of education including nurturing professionals in core childcare disciplines;
- improving planning capacities of the education system;
- removing stigmas around the topics of sexual and reproductive health rights and education in order to foster RH topics in schools in general.

The coordinated M&E framework should be introduced to advance multi-sectoral cooperation. There is a need to establish the management information system in education (EMIS) to improve data collection and analysis, to measure education quality and to monitor its progress in line with globally approved benchmarks such as SDGs. The current disability assessment and referral system, legislative and normative frameworks based on medical model of disability are the major constraints in promoting inclusive approaches to education and development of inclusive education policy.

It is worth mentioning a few lessons learned in the area of reproductive health education. Expansion of thematic scope of SRH education in schools, from pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) to topics such as condom use and gender-based violence (GBV), is

still highly sensitive and censored. Adolescents can learn more on SRH topics from medical doctors visiting schools and providing information briefs on such topics as teen pregnancy, HIV/STI prevention. In addition, teenagers also learn where the Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health (ASRH) services can be actually received. This intersectoral approach is promising to be successful.

To ensure sustainability of results and their scale-up in education, it is important that sectoral or multi-sectoral policy documents also contain relevant sectoral budgetary allocations. Also, in adopting new practices, experience sharing within the South-South cooperation is helpful.

Overall, the consistent efforts are in line with the Government agenda towards achieving SDG 4 to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Some other activities that contributed to achieving these goals include:

- The Leadership Academy and Innovation Lab for youth. Two hundred and twenty (220) young people generated more than 200 issues and 28 social innovation projects on health, environment, inclusiveness, youth participation and education. The ideas will feed into the new Action Plan of the State Programme on implementation of Youth Policy Law for 2021-2026.
- Online information campaign, which was aimed at empowering young women and girls. Eight ladies, who are successfully engaged in a variety of fields, presented their paths in life, how they coped with daily difficulties and how they achieved success.



Y-PEER Center in Ashgabat

Outcome 3: The social protection system is ready to provide inclusive quality community-based support services

Agencies: UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP

Planned: USD 207,000.00

Spent: USD 207,000.00

The national social protection system is undergoing reforms. They are related to revisiting the services and benefits previously provided free of charge towards more focused and targeted social protection floors. These reforms make the UN interventions timely and relevant.

A service delivery standard frame was developed with the participation of main stakeholders and shared with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of



Source: UNICEF Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan. The pilot community services were costed, and the scheme is available. However, it has not been rolled out yet as it requires securing funding.

To support those most in need, the UNICEF initiated development of course for social workers. A draft curriculum was prepared and discussed with relevant stakeholders, including the Ministry of Education. The social work curriculum was introduced at the Pedagogical College and there are plans to introduce similar curriculum at the National Medical University starting from 2019 academic year.

To continue strengthening the role of NGOs, UN built capacity of representatives of local civil society organizations and ministries in social service provision. Study visits were organized for NGOs to learn about best practices of legal frameworks and implementation mechanisms for social contracting of NGOs in social service provision. In November 2018, UNDP and Government organized the forum on “Role of NGOs in social service delivery for sustainable development in Turkmenistan”. It stimulated productive dialogue between the officials and NGOs in identifying necessary steps for integration of social contracting in the country. Rapid assessment of social services in Turkmenistan, conducted by UNDP identified possible short-term measures for introducing social contracting in practice within existing legislation.

In November 2018, Turkmenistan further reduced the number of stateless persons through granting citizenship to 735 persons in 2018. UNHCR initiated a comprehensive analysis of national legislation relevant to refugees and statelessness in each of the Central Asian countries, including Turkmenistan. The objective is to highlight good practices in respect of ensuring the rights and safeguards for stateless people and refugees in the region and to encourage relevant authorities to undertake further reform to ensure alignment with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. UNHCR supported NGO Keik Okara to conduct case work to find durable solutions for remaining 22 refugees under UNHCR’s mandate. The National Red Crescent Society assisted people of unconfirmed nationality to clarify their eligibility of a third-country nationality through liaising with embassies in Ashgabat and helped those who are at risk of stateless to obtain necessary ID such as birth certificate.

There is a clear need to strengthen the social service sector and cooperation with UN Agencies. Establishment of the inter-ministerial expert working group is required, which will discuss and develop the community-based social services system. As a next step in this area, it is required to assess the national legislation with provisions related to social services and regulations on activities of public organizations. However, limited funding to roll out community based social support schemes are major constraint to introduce social work.

Outcome 4: The people of Turkmenistan, especially vulnerable groups, enjoy better coverage of quality health care services focusing on women and child health, nutrition, NCDs, Multiple Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDRTB), early detection and early prevention of diseases

**Focus: young children, children with developmental delays, MDRTB patients, young people, pregnant and lactating women, reproductive age women*

Agencies: UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO

Planned: USD 6,170,399.9

Spent: USD 5,960,826.27*

The UN and Government continued joint work towards strengthening the control of main risk factors of non-communicable diseases (NCD) (cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic pulmonary diseases). With the support of UN agencies, the Government developed and approved the 2018-2025 National Strategy for increasing the physical activity of the population and Action Plan and 2018-2024 National Program on prevention of harmful effects of alcohol and its Action Plan.

UN assisted in the development of evidence informed policies by gathering data from three surveys on nutrition and key risk factors of NCD: on urban food environment (FEED cities), obesity in children (COSI) as well as survey on the prevalence of risk factors for NCD (STEPS). The results will be published at the High-level International Conference on NCDs in the first quarter of 2019 in Ashgabat. WHO conducted comprehensive assessment of the health system, which identified challenges and opportunities to improve outcomes for NCDs; and explored innovations, good practices that can be used for cross-country learning. The assessment has country-specific policy recommendations to be published in 2019.

Turkmenistan significantly improved legislation and normative framework for mental health services by revising Mental Health Law and adopting National Strategy on Mental Health in Turkmenistan for 2018-2022. The strategy envisages integration of mental health services into the primary health care, improvement of detection, prevention and treatment of borderline disorders.



Source: UNDP Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan strengthened its capacity to detect and control communicable diseases, especially high treat pathogens. The support was provided in:

- strengthening the national capacities in implementation and monitoring of the International Health Regulations (IHR). It included development of different national guidelines related to IHR such as: National Emergency Risk Communication Plan, National Policy, Strategic and Operational Plans for development of laboratory services in healthcare of Turkmenistan in 2018;
- implementation of the 2017-2025 National strategy and control of antimicrobial resistance by improving surveillance and laboratory capacity;
- pandemic influenza preparedness by improving laboratory diagnostics, establishing epidemiological surveillance electronic databases, approving the new Guidelines on Outbreak investigation and response measures and on Clinical Management of Patients with SARI (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and SOPs.
- strengthening control and maintaining the status of polio free country;
- implementation on 2003-2020 National program of Turkmenistan on Immunoprophylaxis;



Source: UNDP Turkmenistan

- control of viral hepatitis. Turkmenistan developed and approved the first 2019-2030 Strategic Plan on Strengthening Control Measures for Viral Hepatitis in Turkmenistan signed in December 2018.

In fighting TB, the Government and UN implemented comprehensive actions in the area of policy advice, capacity building and technical support as well as in provisions of drugs and reagents. The Government supported the transition from the Global Fund support to its own funding for TB medicines and reagents. Under the cost-sharing agreements signed in 2016-2017, the Government provided financing to procure high-quality TB medicines, reagents, and HIV tests. The Government and UN agreed on a new cost-sharing arrangement for procurement of diagnostic equipment and medicines for 2019-2020 needs.

The UN and Turkmenistan implemented the Stop TB Strategy throughout the country by improving laboratory diagnosis, introducing new drugs, new treatment regimens and new definitions and registration forms. The national MDR-TB M&E guidelines were updated. Assistance was provided to support the management of MDR-TB patients in line with WHO recommendations and infection control requirements. A special focus was given to strengthening capacities of TB and primary health care (PHC) specialists in clinical management of MDR-TB including 6 cascade trainings of trainers for key TB specialists throughout Turkmenistan.

National capacities and knowledge were built in TB control (including bio-engineer infections control) focused on M/XDR-TB transmission prevention. Trainings helped improve proper maintenance of the laboratory equipment, ventilation system and biosafety cabinets. In addition, TB drug specialists from all over Turkmenistan increased their knowledge of Quantification and Early Warning System tool (Quan-TB) for proper management of anti-TB drugs (including new drugs) and prevention of stock out.

In 2018, more than 2,5 thousand patients with drug-susceptible TB, 680 patients with various types of DR-TB were enrolled in the treatment; 4,856 people were tested for drug susceptibility; 10,482 people were tested with rapid molecular method GenXpert MTB/Rif technology, which was made available in the Central Prison Hospital. The National Reference Laboratory and three regional TB labs (Mary, Lebap and Dashoguz) passed external quality assessment. The National Red Crescent Society (NRCS), a sub-recipient of the Global Fund grant, trained 77 primary health care and TB doctors, provided social and psychological support to 1,078 MDR-TB patients and their families; 394 people received information during patient schools; conducted 10,274 home visits.

The UN supported the Government to develop the National Nutrition Strategy for 2019-2025, which focuses on reduction of malnutrition represented by stunting, obesity and anemia among children and their mothers. The UN supported parents with relevant information and services through effective Communication for Development (C4D) interventions, health care and counselling for pregnant women, as well as fathers and mothers. The UN continued advocating for the establishment of Health Information Management System (H-MIS) in the country to support improving quality of care with evidence-based decision making in health system strengthening and monitor progress towards SDGs 2 and 3.

Screening on cervical cancer is now performed in 90% of Reproductive Health rooms at PHC level. Starting from 2018, 15-19 years age adolescents are eligible for free access to contraceptives per the MoH order. The Government takes full ownership in procuring and securing the family planning services and access to free contraceptives for vulnerable women.

The Government provided \$65,900 to procure medical instruments and simulation equipment to educate midwives and obstetricians for provision of emergency obstetric care in line with clinical protocols. MoH adopted the Order on Male RH service provision, which contains provision on male RH services from early detection to comprehensive service provision and addressing the male infertility issues.

Data on 143 indicators was collected for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent (RMNCAH) health services assessment. The assessment will serve as a basis for the development of the new programme in 2019. Nine clinical protocols in the area of pregnancy in women with chronic diseases were developed and submitted for peer review. Near miss cases reviews practice was expanded to 5 more districts. As a result of advocacy efforts, the national data collection system has an indicator on age specific pregnancies for girls 10-14 years; and is able to collect disaggregated data on age-specific fertility and birth rates.

The quality of periodic TB data received from the National TB Programme needs to be improved. As NRCS is the only NGO with meaningful engagement in TB care, there is a need to increase community involvement in TB care. Women's Union (WU) of Turkmenistan is another potential partner in this area as it has an expanded coverage. Following the discussions, MoHMI, WU and NRCS signed a tripartite work plan and 800 women working in textile factories and women coming to Houses of Health were informed about TB. This tripartite collaboration will be continued in 2019.



Source: UNDP Turkmenistan

In the area of reproductive health, there is a need for introduction of analytical tools such as near miss cases reviews. Perinatal audit is highly effective to run quality improvement cycle especially given the sensitivity of reporting maternal mortality rates.

To achieve better outcomes from implementation of the RMNCAH strategy, a number of factors need to be taken into account. These relate to ensuring sufficient finance, enhancing academic training and training capacity, strengthening the system of human resource management, setting standards and quality assurance tools for mother and child care and improving health management information systems, which allow to address limitations through periodical updates, revision of protocols, audits etc.

Strategic Area 3 - Environmental Sustainability and Energy Efficiency

In 2018, work in this area focused on:

- Energy efficiency and renewable energy for sustainable water management in Turkmenistan
- Supporting climate resilient livelihoods in agricultural communities in drought prone areas of Turkmenistan
- Sustainable cities in Turkmenistan: integrated green urban development in Ashgabat and Awaza

Outcome 5: The national policy, legislative and institutional frameworks are aligned to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to promote sustainable practices on energy efficiency, the use of renewables, urban development and waste management

Agencies: UNDP

Planned: USD 1,308,368

Spent: USD 1,247,859*

The Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for Sustainable Water Management in Turkmenistan initiative delivered two major strategic milestones.

First, in April 2018 a gravity-flow water pipeline was launched for the town of Kaahka to prevent ground water losses. As a result, around 40 water pumps were shut down and associated GHG emissions reduced. The initiative had both mitigation and adaptation effect. Given the country has a number of other settlements in similar conditions, potential for replication is high. The current ongoing monitoring of the new pipe operation serves as a basis for entering into a dialogue with national counterparts regarding possible upscale of this initiative.

The other benefits of the project include: (i) better quality of water contributes to the health of local population; (ii) the pipeline ensures reliable and secure delivery of water as compared to damages to the river course caused by frequent mudflows in the past; (iii) saved river water can be used to expand local irrigated areas for agriculture, thus improving the livelihoods of the local population.



Source: UNDP Turkmenistan

Second, a 145 ha research site was launched in June, with various irrigation systems and infrastructure up and running. The project triggered the process of research and analysis on how these irrigation systems interact with various crop types. This multi-year process will be documented, and findings will be presented to the Government for strategic adjustments of the country's agricultural development. These will also include changes in the curricula of agricultural education.



Source: UNDP Turkmenistan

The 145-ha research site as a platform for water saving irrigation and sustainable land management (SLM) in agriculture showcases the latest know-how in irrigation and smart agriculture. They include laser land leveling, drip irrigation, sprinklers, rotary and linear water systems. Within less than a year, water saving reached 50% as compared to traditional water use practices, while yields gave surplus of average 40-50%, depending on the crop type. These findings have now been penciled by the government for the long-term agricultural development.



Source: UNDP Turkmenistan

An audit of 121 state-owned industrial water pumps was carried out. It disclosed inefficiencies and gaps in terms of water delivery and energy consumption. As a result of the audit, the project replaced five worn-out pumps with modern water and energy efficient ones and helped the national counterparts to align water and energy related norms and standards of procuring, installing and maintaining water pumps in the country. As expected, this major exercise will further lead to GHG reductions.

The project triggered development of four regulatory acts to support Water Code, including (i) operational regulations for pump stations; (ii) regulation for scheduled preventive maintenance and repair of water systems and facilities; (iii) technical regulations of irrigation infrastructure; and (iv) technical regulations of drainage infrastructure. These regulations, when approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection, will improve the using efficiency of water infrastructure and contribute to GHG reduction in the water sector.

The UN continued to provide support in improving the national legislation to support climate resilient livelihoods in agricultural communities in drought prone areas. The examples include adoption of the Law on Land Cadastre in 2017, updating the Land Code, which is being considered by the national parliament. A working group was established to improve water legislation. In particular, a package of amendments was proposed to the Water Code, and the Laws on Farmers Associations and Farmers Unions.

Under the Sustainable Cities initiative, an inception workshop and the first meeting of the project board were held. In October 2018, an Interactive Dialogue was held with active participation of the private and public sectors, at which experts in sustainable cities presented their experiences and lessons learnt in management of such cities.

In January 2018, a National Expert Group meeting was held under the Project “Strengthening the implementation of and accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents in Central Asia”. The conference helped enhance capacity for assessing industrial safety and developing national action plans for the implementation of and accession to the Industrial Accidents Convention.

The UN also promoted environment friendly and efficient operations by conducting “Let’s go Green” Initiative aimed at introducing Reduce-Reuse-Recycle and saving practices in the UN House. As part of the campaign, the Donation Drive was installed to collect clothes, books and toys, and other household items which will be sent to needed families through local NGOs; a practice on waste paper collection and recycling in the UN building was established in cooperation with a local private company. As regards the Earth Day on April 22, the UN staff mobilized to clean up the UN House surroundings and plant flowers around the UN compound, while the kids had crafting session using recyclable materials.



Source: UN Turkmenistan

Outcome 6: The national policy, legislative and institutional frameworks are responsive to climate change issues by promoting climate resilience, adaptation, climate risk management and disaster risk reduction measures at sector and community level

Agencies: UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA

Planned: USD 1,889,703

Spent: USD 1,426,740.47*

Progress made towards this Outcome in 2018 was remarkable. Activities focused on climate resilience, adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Adaptation practices on the 145-ha research site with the results showcased above were backstopped by the field work in the other two regions in Lebap and Dashoguz regions.



Source: UNDP Turkmenistan

Within the UNDP project “Supporting climate resilient livelihoods in agricultural communities in drought prone areas of Turkmenistan”, two Agro-information (resources) Centres, serving as agricultural knowledge centres, were established.

They provide cost-free consultations to representatives of local communities on agricultural issues. 1,500 farmers (50%) and their family members, of which at least 30% are women-headed households, improved crop production systems and livelihoods through implementation of

a number of adaptation measures, such as:

- Improved irrigation practices through application of water-saving technologies such as flat irrigation hosepipe, siphons, water-measuring units;
- Land levelling with the help of the laser equipment that reduces time and water for irrigation, allows for uniform distribution of water, less water consumption in land preparation, uniform moisture environment for crops;
- Land reclamation by draining the return water from fields and balancing groundwater table through installation of the powerful modern pumps with back-up options for energy saving purpose.

The Centers also focus on demonstration of most effective adaptation measures and the use of the climate-smart information systems. The private farmers showed growing interest in the virtual climate-smart information systems that enable quality advice for their agrobusinesses. As a result, more than 10,000 farmers increased their livelihoods by an average of 5-10%, as they started to receive larger yields and consume less water on the land with the improved quality. The testing of the system will be continued in 2019 to understand its impact and further prospects for replication.

Under this initiative, 470 people including 80 government officials, farmers of pilot regions and local specialists (20% are women) were trained on rational use of land and water resources, sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation. Capacity development activities were regularly carried out with over 50 national experts from state agencies and local farmers, 100 national water engineers from all five regions of the country having been trained in various topics related to sustainable water management, SLM and energy efficient irrigation techniques for various crops in 2018.

Methodology on development of inter-farm, district and regional level water distribution plans is in progress. The methodology will help the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection to develop regional Integrated Water Distribution Plans.

Four participatory local adaptation plans (LAPs) are in the process of development. The final version of LAPs will be shared with local authorities and other project partners to get support in application of innovations in adaptation to climate change.

In 2018, the UN initiated the process of updating the Climate Change Strategy (2012) and development of the Action plan for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The purpose of the revision is to integrate climate change issues into the newly adopted National Social and Economic Development Programs of the country and to align it with international documents such as the 2030 Development Agenda with the list of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. A new version of the Strategy will also define the monitoring mechanism to track progress in implementing and financing of mitigation and adaptation measures at the national level with the clear set of indicators and timeframes. The revision process also involves international partners. For instance, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH expressed its interest in the cooperation with UNDP in updating National Climate Change Strategy and preparation of the Paris Agreement Action Plan.

Climate change adaptation measures should start from the young age. In this regard, the UN supported a number of initiatives to integrate environment-related subjects in schools from the young age. In the framework of the UNDP Regional initiative “Climate Change Education and Awareness Project – Climate Box”, the Climate Box education toolkit was presented to the educational authorities of the country. Thirty



Source: UNDP Turkmenistan



Source: UNICEF Turkmenistan

(30) teachers and methodologists were familiarized with the Climate Box. The Ministry of Education and provincial local education departments supported the training. A series of 1-day Climate Box introduction workshops were held in all 5 provinces and Ashgabat with participation of around 200 teachers. Two (2) national experts (1 expert on methodological aspects, 1 expert on the issue of climate change) were hired to develop the localized version of the "Climate Box" for Turkmenistan.

UNICEF supported the development and integration of climate change across formal primary and secondary school curricular. This effort will be reinforced with the on-going implementation of the joint initiative with Ministry of Education and NRCS on "Strengthening Resilience for Climate Change adaptation for Children" aimed to empower children in schools to better adapt to climate change and environmental risks. Government is considering for approval the proposed Curriculum on Climate Change in primary and secondary schools.

In the frame of Turkmenistan commitments under SDGs 12 and 13, UN supported the development of the National DRR Strategy with special emphasis on the most vulnerable to disasters (women, children, and persons with disabilities). Disability inclusive and child sensitive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) was initiated with the aim to introduce standards of the DiDRR in pre-school settings and rehabilitation centres nation-wide.

Under the regional UNDP-GEF project "Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report (6NR) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)", the final version of the 6th National Report was prepared. The report, to be officially submitted to the CBD Secretariat and posted on its website (<https://www.cbd.int/reports/>), reflects the government's efforts to conserve the country's flora and fauna, in particular:

- country's efforts in greening cities and settlements according to the National program;
- the effects of the construction of the Turkmen Lake "Altyn Asyr" on improving land reclamation conditions, increased crop yields, and enrichment of local flora and fauna;
- adoption of laws on environmental legislation;
- contribution of international partners/joint projects (UNDP, GEF) to biodiversity conservation, land and forest resources.

The report stresses the need for adoption of the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

In 2018, UNDP launched a project "Strengthening National Capacity for Seismic Risk Assessment, Prevention and Response to Potential Earthquakes" which is co-financed by the Government. This flagship initiative aims to support Turkmenistan in the development and implementation of a complex strategic approach for forecasting and assessing seismic hazards and risks, and to strengthen national capacities in preparation and response to emergencies. The partnerships were established with leading research centers on seismic risk such as the Research Institute of aerospace monitoring „Aerospace“, National Center of Digital Economy in Lomonosov Moscow State University, Institute of Physics of the Earth of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geo-ecology, Central Asian Institute for Applied Geosciences, Russian Research institute of civil defense and emergency situations, German Research Centre for Geosciences (GeoForschungsZentrum), Global Earthquake Model (GEM), etc.

Strategic Area 4: Economic Diversification, Employment and Trade

Outcome 7. Strategies and simplified regulations are in place to promote high quality inclusive employment through sustainable economic diversification

Agencies: FAO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO

Planned: USD 2,594,467.23

Spent: USD 2,159,042.85*

In the Strategic Area 4, the UN and the Government worked in international financing; labour safety and inclusive employment; digital economy; trade facilitation

With a view to ensure investments in achievement of the SDGs, the UN and Government worked on the improvement of access of government agencies to international financing in support of the SDGs, as well as on improvement of its capacity to deliver and manage such financing streams effectively. Under this initiative, UNDP and the State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs (TFEB) conducted the International Conference on “Partnership for Development Financing at the Heart of the Great Silk Road” on 20-21 June 2018 in Ashgabat. The Conference brought together high-level officials from the Government of Turkmenistan, UN system, international financial institutions (IFIs), and business sector and explored new opportunities for development financing in Turkmenistan. The event identified ways in which the Government of Turkmenistan, business sector and IFIs could broker partnerships and catalyse new financing to stimulate the country’s further economic growth.

UN partnered with the British Embassy to introduce the Impact investment concept to 50 participants (among them 50% are women). During the workshop 5 proposals for impact investment were presented for implementation. However, there is a need to create an enabling environment for private sector to implement such projects.



Impact Investment workshop, October 2018

In the area of access to development finance, UNDP supported the development of Manual setting out main requirements and criteria for potential borrowers applying for financing for development projects for the TFEB. The Manual included lenders’ profiles, priority areas of activities and modalities, guidance on loan review, appraisal and approval processes, as well as reporting requirements. The Manual sets standardized format, content and quality on the requests submitted by state agencies, thereby facilitating TFEB’s task in reviewing, vetting and prioritizing the requests.

Workshops on Project Management, Innovative Financing, Strategic Negotiations, IT Management and Security for more than 100 people were carried out to build capacities employees of TFEB and relevant ministries and agencies of Turkmenistan. With the support of UNDP, the TFEB developed its Innovative Business Development and IT Strategy, incl. enhanced development of retail banking, SME banking, corporate business and project financing. The

Strategy focuses on strengthening corporate governance, promoting innovative and competitive financial services, strengthening banking infrastructure, improving financial literacy and consumer protection for bank's clients - households and enterprises, as well as introducing new technologies and innovative business processes into banking activities.

The UNDP and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Turkmenistan (MOLSPT) reviewed and analysed laws and regulations in the area of labour and employment. The review of the labour safety system was carried out to align the legislation and regulations with international and ILO norms and standards. Recommendations for the gradual transition of the labour safety system to meet international requirements in the long term were provided to the Ministry.

Over 140 specialists (57 women and 83 men) took part in a series of regional workshops focusing on employment legislation and labour safety. These workshops were also attended by the velayat, etrap and city level employment agencies of MOLSPT, who responded to the burning questions raised by the etrap and velayat service providers. It was recommended to continue this practice and organize more trainings at the regional level.



Source: UNDP Turkmenistan

An interagency round table was conducted to exchange experience and best practices on the issues of legislation in labour, labour safety and labour and employment at the national and international levels. Over 45 specialists from MOLSPT, the Ministry of Finance and Economy, Main State Standardization Service, State Statistics Committee, Union of Entrepreneurs and Industrialists took part in this meeting. The visiting specialists from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Belarus, as well as the UNDP specialists on inclusive employment and labour markets presented international best practices in this area.

One of the main focuses of inclusive employment is youth: graduates of foreign educational institutions and youth at risk are the target groups of the UNDP regional initiative on Strengthening Community Resilience and Regional Cooperation for Prevention of Violent Extremism in Central Asia.

Needs assessment mission completed in 6 pilot cities revealed the following:

- Youth organizations are very much interested in the cooperation. They work with communities and have regular site visits to meet with youth in various settings: schools, colleges, universities, workplaces. These meetings are joined with other organizations (Ministry of Health, Education, Interior, Women Union, other).
- Quite often, young people lack knowledge of existing state programs focused on youth support to facilitate their participation in the socio-economic life of the country.
- Employment challenges vary from region to region. As the pilot cities differ by predominant economic activity, being agrarian, semi-agrarian, or urban, they influence the employment opportunities for young people.
- Opportunities for youth involvement and employment in rural areas are few.
- The idea of grant programs, internships with successful entrepreneurs and foreign businesses is very much welcomed in the pilot sites.

The UN helped 86 youth service providers representing Youth Union, local administrations, employment agencies, youth and sports department in the pilot cities to develop their facilitation skills. As a follow-up, they facilitated round tables on the topic of “Youth: Traditions, Aspirations and Future” for 180 target youth (mostly graduates from foreign educational institutions) in pilot cities in November-December, 2018.

Further, the UNDP discussed the format of cooperation and areas of collaboration with Hedayah International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism on the issues of preventing violent extremism (PVE) and further expansion of opportunities for strengthening inclusive employment. A tri-partite Roundtable was suggested with the participation of the Government of Turkmenistan, UNDP management and Hedayah Center to discuss and agree on the format of cooperation.

Within the project, the UNDP and MOLSPT discussed recommendations for apprenticeship scheme, training programme for target youth and selection of the target youth. It was suggested to develop materials for startup businesses and select a pool of trainers/mentors as a business support system. ILO and UNDP experience of international certification of business trainers was suggested to be used for Turkmen graduates from foreign universities. For former youth prisoners, the project will facilitate social and psychological counselling as well as trainings on work-related soft skills and job search.

To expand further employment opportunities for people with disabilities and promote inclusive practices in social and economic life of the country, UN supported the first ever Career Fair for people with disabilities. UN brought together 80 representatives of the private sector, government, people with disabilities (PwDs) and public associations. The Career Fair provided a platform for multiple stakeholders to promote employment of PwDs in the private sector of Turkmenistan. As a result of the Career Fair, people with disabilities had the opportunity to find suitable jobs, learn about new interesting vacancies, meet employers and have a productive dialogue. Invited companies collected the resumes of potential future workers, thereby fulfilling requirements of the national legislation of Turkmenistan on protection of the right of people with disabilities.



Career Fair, UNDP Turkmenistan

The area of tourism is considered an important direction of development. The second round of Silk Road Heritage Guides Training was organized in Ashgabat by the UNESCO in cooperation with World Federation of Tourist Guides Associations (WFTGA) and State Committee of Tourism on 14-29 November 2018. This was a follow-up to a training program that started in 2017. Upon successful completion of the programme, the participants were officially certified as “Silk Road Heritage Guides” by WFTGA capable of contributing to the principles of sustainable development, heritage management and conservation associated with Silk Road tourism.

UNDP, together with Eurostat, organized a two-day regional seminar on foreign trade statistics. The seminar provided an opportunity for national statistical agencies from the region of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to familiarize with international recommendations in the field of international trade statistics, as well as share experiences and learn from each other. The participants learned about the advantages of using EUROTRACE for preparing statistical reports on international trade in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

In November 2018, UNDP organized a five-day seminar on the development and introduction of digital economy in Turkmenistan as part of the UN assistance to the Government of Turkmenistan in the area of digitalization and preparing the national programme “Digital Turkmenistan”. The workshop, facilitated by experts of the Moscow School of Management “Skolkovo”, exposed over 24 key government officials to the concept of digital economy and international experience in digitalization. The



Mission of experts from Skolkovo, UNDP Turkmenistan

The participants discussed e-government services, personal data protection and identification of individuals, and the role of public-private partnership in development of the national digital transformation program. In December 2018, a draft design of the integrated platform for development of digital economy was presented. It envisages structural transformations, including better and equal access to Internet, digitalization of key industries, e-governance, provision of e-services to population, etc.

Along with the achieved results, it is important to continue strengthening capacity in labour and employment policy planning and implementation, promote the exchange of experience and best practices. High turnover of national consultants and lack of consultancy resources at the national level limits the opportunities for development of inclusive employment strategies and plans.

Strategic Area 5 - Governance and Rule of Law

Outcome 8: State institutions implement and monitor laws, national programmes, and strategies, in a participatory manner and in line with the country's human rights commitments

Agencies: UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNODC, OHCHR, IOM

Planned: USD 892,689.57

Spent: USD 717,315.24*

In 2018, Turkmenistan continued engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms. With the support of UN, the country provided regular reporting on UPR and implementation of the Convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) and International Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights (CESCR). UN provided assistance to Turkmenistan in preparing its delegations through organising mock sessions on CEDAW and ICESCR.

The mock sessions helped the Government delegations better understand:

- the nature and purpose of reporting and the obligations of the Government on the basis of which the review is conducted,
- the purpose of the review as a constructive dialogue and a mechanism that helps Government fulfil its obligations under the Conventions,
- working methods and procedures during the constructive dialogue,
- the role each member of the delegation plays to enhance cohesiveness of the performance of the delegation during the review,
- the nature and rigor of the questions asked by the Committee and expectations for frank and precise answers from the delegation,
- gaps with respect to their preparation for the review through feedback from the mock Committee and a self-assessment.



Furthermore, 17 members (including, 9 women) of the Working Group of the Interdepartmental Commission on Implementation of National Commitments under International HR Laws increased their knowledge on the Simplified Reporting Procedures (SRP), which prioritize and cluster thematically the recommendations from the HR mechanisms. The seminar aimed at strengthening capacity of the Inter-Ministerial Commission that constitutes a national mechanism for reporting and follow up to the UN human rights mechanisms recommendations.

In the framework of celebrations devoted to the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), awareness of the local government, public organizations and students about human rights was raised. The key outputs of the series of events celebrating the 70th Anniversary of UDHR included:

- Training of 6 master-trainers on human rights;
- raising awareness of nearly 400 students and civil servants about UDHR through delivering lectures, conducting round tables and intellectual games in Ashgabat, Turkmenabat and Mary;
- High-level advocacy round table on UDHR and human rights-based approach to SDGs with the Ombudsman of Turkmenistan;
- More than 150 government, public organizations and UN representatives, students were involved in promoting a society free of gender-based violence within the framework of actions under the 16 Days of Activism Global Campaign. The messages emphasized that violence against women and girls has significant consequences on the well-being, health, rights and safety of women and girls. If unaddressed, these human rights violations will have serious implications on development in general and efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.



Brain ring devoted to 70th Anniversary of UDHR, December 2018

The Government actions and initiatives were rated high and especially recognized following the decision to hold the first-ever national Survey on the Health and Status of Women in Family and approval of the questionnaire for this Survey. A devoted technical Working Group was established consisting of the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population, Ministry of Interior, State Statistics Committee, Turkmen Institute of State, Law and Democracy and Women's Union. The UN will provide advisory support throughout the whole exercise including preparatory phase, data collection, processing and analysis, and report writing. The Survey is planned to take place in 2019 and the results will be presented in early 2020.

The UN continued supporting the implementation of the National Action Plans in the area of human rights. Sixty percent (60%) of actions under the National Action Plan on Gender Equality in Turkmenistan for 2015-2020 was implemented. The critical actions of the Plan such as review of the national legislation to ensure its conformity with international instruments in the area of gender equality resulted in a number of valid recommendations. One of them called for the country to develop a stand-alone law on gender-based violence and provision of a definition of gender discrimination in line with international treaties. Another important undertaking was raising awareness of civil servants and public organizations about CEDAW, Turkmenistan's commitments and implementation of those commitments. More than 250 national representatives took part in the round table discussions throughout the country learning the latest developments in the area of gender policy and suggesting ideas for improving the current practices in promoting gender equality and initiating new actions and approaches.

An Analysis of the Situation of the Children and Women (SitaAn) was also carried out in close consultations with the national partners. SitAn was aimed at understanding the current situation of children and women, outlining progress and areas where more attention is required to improve their wellbeing. The results of the analysis will better inform the programme and future policy advocacy efforts.

The Government continued its efforts to align its legislation and practice with the 2015 CRC Concluding Observations. The National Plan of Action for Realisation of the Rights of Children (NPAC) was signed by the President of the country on 22 June 2018. The UN and Government discussed the next steps stemming from the approval of the NPAC. The UNICEF together with the Office of the Ombudsman conducted sub-regional workshops and consultations with local

authorities on issues pertaining to the full implementation of the rights of children. The visits served as a tool to monitor the rights of the child and advocate for them.

Staff of the Ombudsman office attended several regional activities under the Central Asia Support Initiative for NHRIs (CASI-NHRI). They learned about human rights education approaches and developed ideas for the 2019 Human Rights Education work plan that could be implemented by the Ombudsman office.

Likewise, the UN continued its support in implementation of the National Action Plan on Combating Human Trafficking for 2016-2018 (TIP NAP). As it was the last year of the Action Plan, the national partners held a Review Meeting on the progress of implementation of TIP NAP on August 31, 2018. As a result of the meeting, the Government agreed to develop a new NAP on TIP for 2019-2021.

The UN also made significant advances in promoting the development of the National Referral Mechanism by drafting a Cooperation Agreement to assist and protect victims of trafficking (VoTs), Regulation on Repatriation, and Regulation on Social Rehabilitation of VoTs. All these documents are under the Government's consideration.

The UN provided assistance in reviewing the new Law on Combating Trafficking in Persons and the amended Criminal Code for their compliance with the United Nation's Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons.

The UNODC conducted a number of capacity building trainings/workshops for law enforcement officers to combat TIP. Sixty (60) law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges were familiarized with the Training Manual on Investigation and Prosecution of TIP cases, its Standard Operating Procedures (TIP SOPs), which focus on psychological vulnerability of VoTs and applying human rights approach to victims. The Manual was sent to the relevant higher educational establishments.



Source: UNDP Turkmenistan

About 75 representatives of law enforcement agencies were trained in identification and protection of victims of trafficking; 40 judges were trained in human rights of victims of trafficking, including rights to a remedy (compensation) during trial process. More than 75 representatives of law enforcement agencies were trained in investigation, prosecution and adjudication of trafficking cases and more than 50 law enforcement officers were trained in investigation of trafficking cases with the purpose of labor exploitation.

The UN ensured participation of three state representatives (Ministry of Justice, the Prosecutor's Office of Ashgabat city and the Supreme Court) in the 7th Criminal Justice Forum for Central Asia held in Bishkek/Kyrgyzstan. During the event participants were exposed to international expertise and best practices that could inform future criminal justice reforms, including possibility of introducing of non-coercive methods of interrogation, investigative interviews and plea bargains, ensuring fair trial standards.

The national policy makers also attended a UNODC-led international meeting on implementation and monitoring of the SDGs 16 and 3 (targets 3.3; 3.5; and 3.8), which raised awareness of national

policy makers about the imperatives of a unified approach to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development with a special focus on Justice, Security, Countering Corruption, Peace and Healthy Lives.

There is a need to conduct awareness raising on the Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights for civil servants to ensure respect, protection and fulfilment of the rights contained therein. More awareness raising activities are needed in the national language in velayats to increase the level of awareness of people on human rights and the national legislation pertaining to human rights. Advocacy to promote human rights education at the institutes of the higher education is needed as well.

There is a need for further improvements in the TIP Law, including in the provisions relating to the inclusion of additional forms of punishment, such as fines, payment of compensation to victims for harm done and confiscation of property; additional analysis of the Criminal Procedure Code and secondary legislation, such as draft instructions on victim identification, referral and support.

Development of new TIP training materials is highly needed given that previously developed materials are nearly a decade old and are no longer relevant following the adoption of new legislation. Moreover, criminal justice practitioners need more capacity building activities on TIP in line with amended legislation and international standards which would include a focus on specific investigation skills. There is a need for a more comprehensive approach to public awareness raising on TiP issues that need to reach out to the most vulnerable populations in rural areas on a regular basis.

Annex 1. Progress on Indicators

OUTCOME 1: Quality data, aligned with international standards, is available to policy makers, legislators, and the interested public to monitor the major goals of national programmes, the post-2015 SDGs, UNPFD and to formulate new national strategies and programmes

Indicator 1.1 % of the recommendations from the adapted Global Assessment of the national Statistical System (NSS) implemented

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
20	21.6	33.7	40

Indicator 1.2 SDG targets adopted and incorporated into national strategies and sector plans

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
MDG Targets, adopted by Turkmenistan	<p>As a result of “Super March” in 2016 among 169 global SDG Targets Turkmenistan adopted 148 Targets.</p> <p>In 2017, Rapid integrated assessment identified, that nearly 84% of SDG targets are incorporated into national strategies</p>	Programme of socio - economic development for 2019-2025 developed and SDGs incorporated (12 environment-related SDG Targets mentioned in the text of the Programme)	SDG targets, adopted by Turkmenistan

Indicator 1.3 National system on SDG monitoring is in place in line with international standards

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
No	Presidential Decree on the establishment of monitoring system on SDGs and creation of the National working group	National system on SDG monitoring including indicators, responsible parties, sources of data and frequency of data collection, with the special focus on VNR SDGs	Yes

OUTCOME 2: Pre-school, primary and secondary education services are of higher quality, in line with international standards, and with priority given to inclusive education

Indicator 2.1 % of five-year-old girls and boys enrolled in pre-primary education

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
33.5	46.2		48

Indicator 2.2 % of secondary (incl.primary) schools that implement quality and inclusive education standards

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
4.2	4.2		5.5

Indicator 2.3 % of secondary school Basics of Life Skills teachers certified in comprehensive gender sensitive and age appropriate reproductive health education

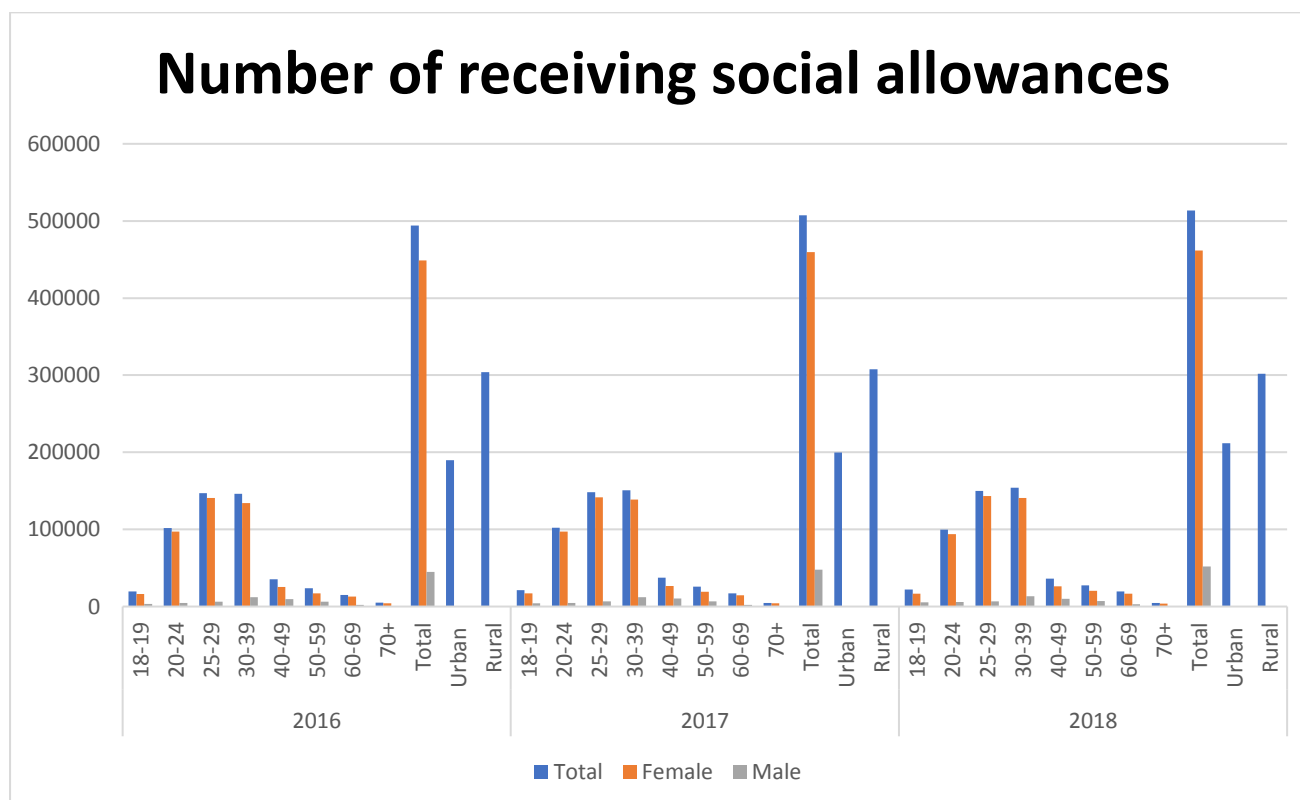
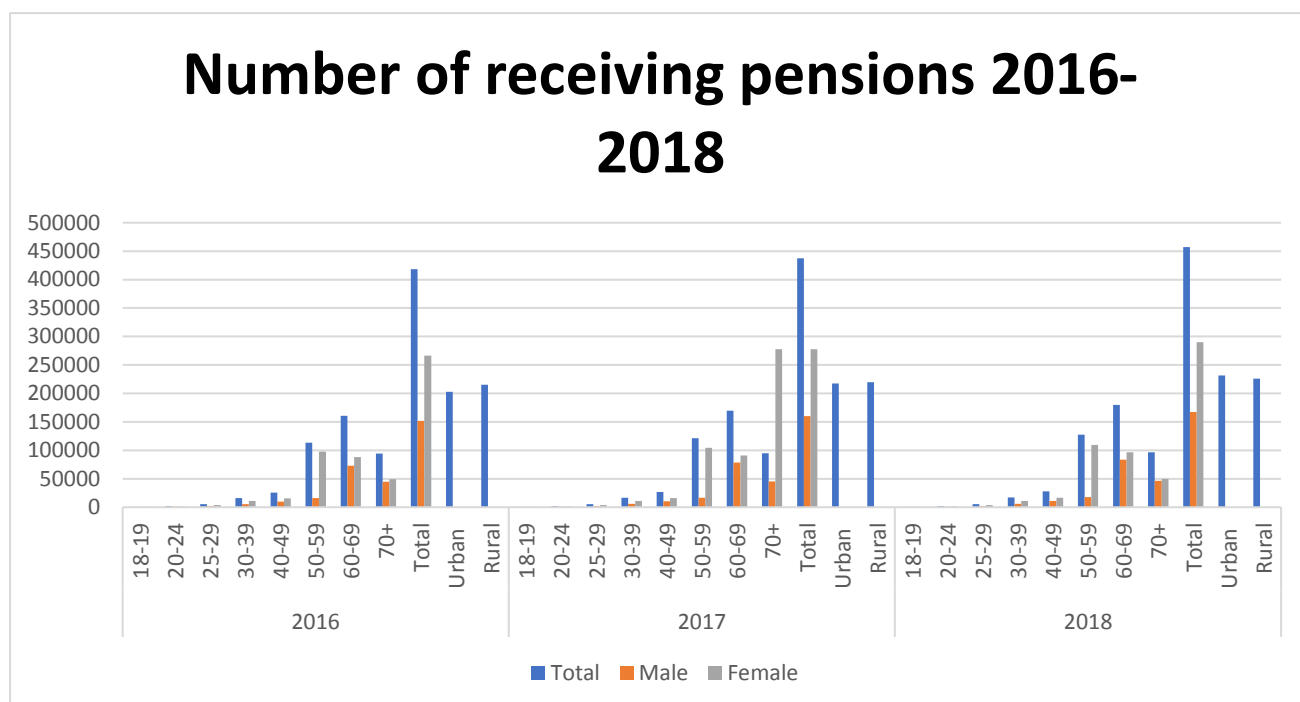
Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
42	51	68	95

Indicator 2.4 Availability of sex and age disaggregated data to track access to education for girls and boys, including children with disabilities

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
Desegregated data on primary education coverage (SSC, 2015)	In progress	In progress	All TransMonee indicators, related to education

OUTCOME 3: The social protection system is ready to provide inclusive quality community-based support services

Indicator 3.1 Coverage of social protection systems, disaggregated by sex, age, rural/urban and at risk groups



Indicator 3.2 Availability of inclusive community-based support services compliant with international standards

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
Services not available	In Progress	Developed plan for 10 years on the introduction of social work	Development of the conceptual basis for the reform of social services.

Indicator 3.3 % of Population (disaggregated by residence, age, and disability status) who have knowledge of where and how to access community based social services

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
To be measured in 2018 MICS	To be measured in 2019 MICS	To be measured in 2019 MICS	Data from MICS 2019

OUTCOME 4: The people of Turkmenistan, especially vulnerable groups, enjoy better coverage of quality health care services focusing on women and child health, nutrition, NCDs, Multiple Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDRTB), early detection and early prevention of diseases

Indicator 4.1 U5 mortality rate, %

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
51 (UNINGME)	47 (UNINGME) 29 (MHaMI)	In progress	43.4

Indicator 4.2 % of pregnant women covered by antenatal care in 1st trimester

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
70	76	82	90

Indicator 4.3 % of maternity facilities providing comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care in line with adopted clinical protocols

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
42	68	74	60

Indicator 4.4 Mortality rate from cardio-vascular diseases, cancer, diabetes mellitus and chronic respiratory diseases, %

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
24.9	24.5	In progress	14.9

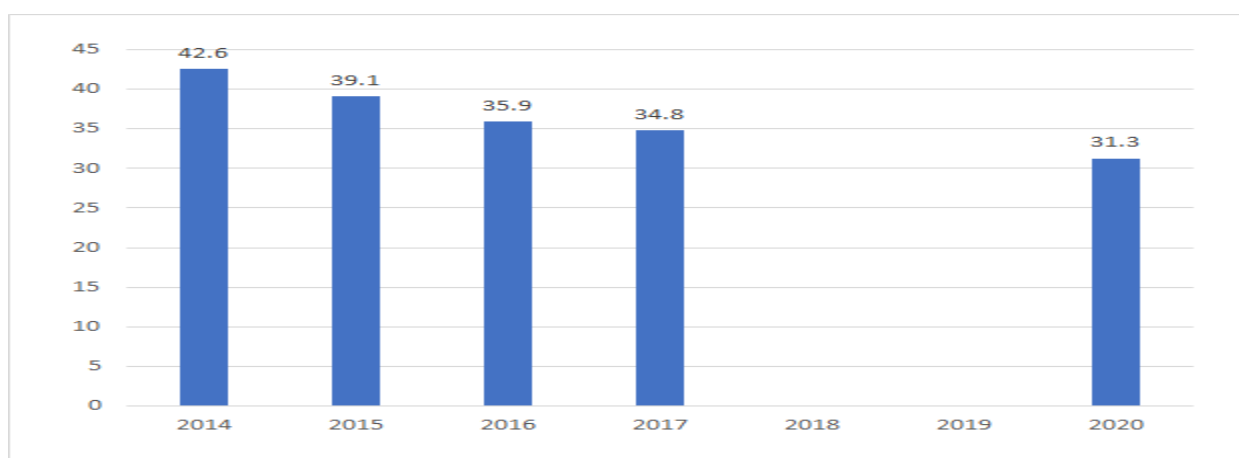
Indicator 4.5 Proportion of people receiving medical treatment and counselling (including glycemic control) for prevention of heart attack and stroke, out of all in need, %

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
25	In progress	In progress	50

Indicator 4.6 Tobacco use rate among population groups of 18-64 age, %

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
8.3	In Progress	3.4	6

Indicator 4.7 TB and MDR-TB incidence rate disaggregated by sex, age and urban/rural groups, %



Indicator 4.8 Neonatal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) disaggregated by sex

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
23 (UNIGME)	22 (UNIGME)	22 (UNIGME) 13.6 % (MHand MI)	21.85

Indicator 4.10 Prevalence of stunting, moderate and severe, %

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
11.5 (Moderate) 2.7 (Severe)	In Progress	In progress	1.5 (Moderate) 0 (Severe)

OUTCOME 5: The national policy, legislative and institutional frameworks are aligned to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to promote sustainable practices on energy efficiency, the use of renewables, urban development and waste management

Indicator 5.1 Number of current and new institutions that research, pilot and replicate sustainable energy efficiency initiatives in rural and urban development, and the use of renewables, urban development and waste management practices

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
0	1 (Ministry of construction and architecture)	3 (Ministry of construction and architecture, Ministry of agriculture and environment protection, Hakimlik of Ashgabat city)	2

Indicator 5.2 Number of state laws, regulations and procedures developed or amended that incorporate energy efficiency standards and practices, the use of renewables and sustainable waste management

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
0	4 construction norms	6 (+2 regulations and decree on exploitation of water pumps)	2

Indicator 5.3 Annual emissions of carbon dioxide (in million metric tons) are measured by an established integrated monitoring system in place

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
53 million metric tonn (2010, 3d national communication)	No data	No data Started development of National strategy on climate change	Not identified (4 th National communication development)

OUTCOME 6: The national policy, legislative and institutional frameworks are responsible to climate change issues by promoting climate resilience, adaptation, climate risk management and disaster risk reduction measures at sector and community level

Indicator 6.1 Availability of solutions developed and implemented at national and sub-national levels for climate change adaption, sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems services as part of National Programme on implementation of Paris Agreement, %***⁸

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
0	3	7	10

Indicator 6.2 Availability of DRR and CRM/adaptational legal instruments approved and under implementation with appropriate financial and technical arrangements, and quality sector plans developed and initiated that have DRR/CRM adaptation practices, include gender aspects and appropriate DRR cross-sector coordination mechanisms included

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
0	2 laws (Water code and Law on Land Cadaster)	2 laws (Water code and Law on Land Cadaster)	3 laws and 2 sectoral plans

Indicator 6.3 Number of cross boundary water and climate change initiatives undertaken to support regional efforts for building climate resilience and adaptation

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
0	0	1	2

⁸ Indicator is calculated as Number of solutions developed and implemented at national and sub-national levels for climate change adaption, sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems services. There is no National Programme on implementation of Paris Agreement

OUTCOME 7: Strategies and simplified regulations are in place to promote high quality inclusive employment through sustainable economic diversification

Indicator 7.1 Number of enhanced and simplified legal instruments (or measures), bylaws to facilitate import and border crossing procedures

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
2 programmes (export orientation and import substitution)	4 (2 state programs and 2 regulations)	6 (2 state programs and 4 regulations)	4

Indicator 7.2 Share of non-hydrocarbon sectors to GDP, %

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
73.1	82.2	-	80

Indicator 7.3 Number of state, sectoral, regional programs including on SME development aimed at piloting new initiatives related to economic diversification at national and sub national levels

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
2 State program of support for small and medium-sized businesses in Turkmenistan 2011-2015, State program of privatization in Turkmenistan of enterprises and objects of state ownership for 2013-2016	-	4 (Program for the development of small and medium businesses 2018-2024 Created fund to support small and medium businesses Created a state commission to support small and medium businesses)	4

Indicator 7.4 Number of newly created jobs

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
10,897	16,444 (5547 additionally)	21,097 (4,653 additionally)	35,000

Indicator 7.5 A national action plan has been developed to create conditions and opportunities for the realization of rights for employment of people with disabilities

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
The program of improving employment and creation of new jobs in Turkmenistan for 2015-2020	Progress Report on implementation of the Programme provided by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection	Progress Report on implementation of the Programme provided by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection	Programme implemented

Indicator 7.6 A national socio/economic interim plan 2017-2021, developed and a monitoring system established to measure progress in implementation

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
The program of the President of Turkmenistan on the socio-economic development of the country for 2012-2016.	In progress	The program of the President of Turkmenistan on the socio-economic development of the country for 2018-2024 and for 2019-2025 approved	The program of the President of Turkmenistan on socio-economic development

OUTCOME 8: State institutions implement and monitor laws, national programmes, and strategies, in a participatory manner and in line with the country's human rights commitments

Indicator 8.1 Number of new laws, and amendments that are gender sensitive and developed in line with UN human rights standards

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
7 (Constitution of Turkmenistan, Law of Turkmenistan on Equality and Equal Opportunities for Men and Women, Law of Turkmenistan on Employment, Law of Turkmenistan on Ombudsman, Law of Turkmenistan on	5 (The law of Turkmenistan on information about privacy and its protection, the Law of Turkmenistan on refugees (new edition), amendments to the Labor Code of Turkmenistan, the Law of Turkmenistan	7 (amendments to the Family Code of Turkmenistan, the Law on Advocacy and Advocacy in Turkmenistan, the Law of Turkmenistan on combating trafficking in persons, the Law of Turkmenistan on education, amendments to the Law of Turkmenistan on employment, amending the Law of Turkmenistan on advertising, the	4

Volunteering, Code of Turkmenistan on Social Protection of Population, Criminal Code of Turkmenistan)	on guardianship and trusteeship, the Law of Turkmenistan on administrative procedures)	Code of Turkmenistan on social protection of the population)	
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Indicator 8.2 Number of human rights national plans approved and percentage of actions implemented

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
3 2015 (1) 2016 (2)	3 2015 (1) 2016 (2)	4 2015 (1) 2016 (2) 2018(1)	4
% NAP on Gender (2015)	-	44%	60%
% NAP on HR (2016)	-	20%	60%
% NAP on TiP (2016)	-	65%	90%
% NAP on CR (2018)	-	-	10%

Indicator 8.3 Number of civil society development bodies representing women, youth, children and people with disabilities participating in design and implementation of national and sectoral programmes

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
5 (National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan, Union of Women of Turkmenistan, OO Keik Okara, Yenme, Ynam)	9 (National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan, Union of Women of Turkmenistan, Union of Youth of Turkmenistan, Support Center for Disabled, Bar Association, Yenme NGO, Ynam, Keik Okara, Masgala)	9 (National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan, Union of Women of Turkmenistan, Union of Youth of Turkmenistan, Support Center for Disabled, Bar Association, Yenme NGO, Ynam, Keik Okara, Masgala)	10

Indicator 8.4 Number of new key initiatives implemented that can assist with addressing emerging cross border issues including the legal flows of goods and people in an integrated manner

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
0	10	19	3

Indicator 8.5 Number of e-governance services offered to improve the efficiency and accountability of public governance service delivery

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
0	1 The concept of development of a digital education system	1 The concept of the digital economy	2

Indicator 8.6 Number of new initiatives implemented that strengthens law enforcement and judiciary bodies to promote greater access to justice

Baseline, 2016	2017	2018	Target, 2020
0	1	1	2