

Estimating the SDG Financing Gaps in Turkmenistan

In April 2024, the Steering Committee of the UN Cooperation Framework for 2021-2025 endorsed conducting the SDG gaps analysis jointly by UN country team in Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan and the Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan. The aim of the SDG gaps analysis was setting the national targets where absent, identify key areas of acceleration and risks, assess the financing gaps in meeting [National Commitments to SDG Transformation in Turkmenistan](#), announced at the SDG Summit in 2023¹ in alignment with the national priorities of socio-economic development.

The SDG gaps analysis resulted with estimates² that Turkmenistan would require **46.1 billion manats (USD 13 billion)** in additional government funding during 2026–2030 to achieve its **national SDG transition targets**. This translates to **2.8% of GDP annually** during 2026–2030. To meet **globally set SDG targets**, the financing gap increases to **5.5% of GDP annually**.

SDG financing gaps in 2026-2030 to reach targets for national commitments to SDG transitions

| SDG transition | National level targets | | Global level targets | |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Financing gap, million manats | % of GDP on average per year | Financing gap, million manats | % of GDP on average per year |
| Jobs and social protection | 6 119 | 0.37 | 13 087 | 0.79 |
| Food security and water management | 5 431 | 0.33 | 9 921 | 0.60 |
| Education | 3 507 | 0.21 | 4 039 | 0.25 |
| Green energy transition | 5 579 | 0.34 | 14 699 | 0.89 |
| Digital connectivity | 6 275 | 0.38 | 10 817 | 0.66 |
| Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution | 8 657 | 0.53 | 9 473 | 0.58 |
| Universal health coverage | 7 935 | 0.48 | 24 397 | 1.48 |
| Peace and security | 2 640 | 0.16 | 4 126 | 0.25 |
| Total | 46 143 | 2.8 | 90 559 | 5.5 |

Source: Expert assessment of UN consultants and UNCT in Turkmenistan as part of the [2024 Common Country Analysis](#)

¹ SDG Summit 2023, see sdgs.un.org/national-commitments-sdg-transformation/22302

² The report was discussed with the Government at a dedicated side event at the Turkmenistan Investment Forum (September 2024) <https://turkmenistan.un.org/en/282893-un-agencies-host-side-event-integrated-national-financing-frameworks-financing-sustainable>, and at UNSDCF Steering Committee meeting in December 2024.

Summary of Findings:

1. Breakdown by Development Dimensions:

- **Social Dimension:** 1.23% of GDP annually (44% of total financing gap).
- **Economic Dimension:** 1.05% of GDP annually (37% of total gap).
- **Environmental Dimension:** 0.53% of GDP annually (19% of total gap).

2. Per Capita Costs:

The estimated additional cost of achieving national SDG targets is **USD 373 per person annually**, while achieving global targets would require additional **USD 733 per person annually** during 2026–2030.

3. Risks and Challenges:

- The financing gap could increase to **8% of GDP annually** if economic growth slows due to reduced hydrocarbon revenues and economic imbalances.
- Limited data availability and public spending transparency hinder more comprehensive assessments of financing needs.

4. Key Recommendations:

- **Conduct joint policy dialogues (Hard Talks)** developing actionable recommendations for advancing Turkmenistan's SDG transitions.
- Improve **social safety nets** and **environment protection frameworks**.
- Strengthen **industrial and innovation policies** designing government measures to restructure and diversify the economy.
- Implement **Public Financial Management (PFM) reforms** to consolidate financial resources.
- Develop and implement an **Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF)** to mobilize and align resources for SDG financing.
- Explore innovative financing mechanisms, such as **green bonds, blended finance tools, pooled funding** and **public-private partnerships (PPPs)**.

The UN emphasizes that addressing the SDG financing gaps is critical for Turkmenistan to achieve its National Commitments to SDG Transformation and sustain progress toward the 2030 Agenda.

Reference

UN Common Country Analysis, 2024, see <https://turkmenistan.un.org/en/289766-common-country-analysis-2024-update>