

UPDATE 2022



**UNITED NATIONS
TURKMENISTAN**



COMMON COUNTRY ANALYSIS



TURKMENISTAN

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INTRODUCTION

The new generation Common Country Analysis (CCA) refers not only to a document/report, but rather to the ongoing analytical function of the United Nations system in programme countries. The CCA is being updated to identify actual or anticipated shifts in national development landscape. It serves to provide an updated public analysis by the UN to stakeholders and partners, helping the UN and partners in identifying course corrections that might be needed in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). The regularly updated analysis will also equip the UNCT to engage with government and other relevant stakeholders in policy dialogue and advocacy about pathways towards achieving the SDGs.

In 2022, the UN Country Team presents the findings of Country Analysis as the combination of the following evidence products:

- Country Situation Update providing developmental trends to identify gaps in SDG financing around 5P (People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnerships) dimensions
- Results Groups Factsheets covering five outcomes of the UNSDCF for 2021-2025 to facilitate the discussions of the joint results and work plans around SDG acceleration areas
- Policy Briefs to inform policy dialogue and joint proposals for SDG financing

Following the 2030 Agenda LNOB principle, the current package of the Policy Briefs uses the advantage of the new data from the two recent surveys (on Persons with Disabilities and Women's Health and Family Status) allowing to cover the situation of the groups most at risk of being left behind as defined in the initial CCA.

Some changes in data and indicators are possible after receiving the feedback from the government following the UN Country Team presentations at the UNSDCF Results Groups and the UNSDCF Steering Committee.

COUNTRY SITUATION UPPDATE





Macroeconomic Forecast	2021	2022	2023
Real GDP growth, %	6.2	6.2	6.2
Real GDP growth (IMF), %	4.6	1.2	2.3
Consumer Prices (yoy), %	15.0	17.5	10.5
Current Account Balance, % of GDP	0.6	2.5	2.5
Human Development Indicators	2019	2020	2021
Human Development Index (HDI)	0.742	0.741	0.745
Inequality-adjusted HDI	0.618	0.618	0.619
Planetary Pressures-adjusted HDI	0.628	0.629	0.632
Real Sector	2019	2020	2021
GDP, bln TMT	158	160	175
Production of natural gas, bcm	70.2	69.8	83.8
Investments, bln TMT	36	36	32
Average monthly wage, TMT	1685	1857	2052
Public Sector	2019	2020	2021
State budget revenues (Tier I), bln TMT/ share in GDP, %	22/ 13.7	22/ 13.6	24/ 13.9
State budget expend. (Tier I), bln TMT/ share in GDP, % including:	21/ 13.6	22/ 13.4	23/ 13.4
- Education	5.4/3.4	6.0/3.8	6.7/3.9
- Health	2.1/1.3	2.2/1.4	2.7/1.6
- Social assistance and Pension Fund	5.9/3.7	5.0/3.1	5.7/3.3
External Sector	2019	2020	2021
External debt, mln TMT	2.3	363	691
Exchange rate USD/TMT	3.5	3.5	3.5
Import, bln USD	5.8	5.9	6.3
Export, bln USD	11.1	7.7	10.6
Export of natural gas bcm/bln USD	37.6/ 6.9	34.1/ 4.4	45.9/ 5.9

KEY HIGHLIGHTS⁴:

- Turkmenistan is an upper-middle-income country with significant revenues from exports of hydro-carbon resources, mainly natural gas. The Presidential Programme for 2022-2028 sets a target to increase the GDP by 47% in 2028 compared to 2022.
- According to Turkmenstat, the real GDP grew by 6.2% in 2021. The IMF estimated the real GDP growth of Turkmenistan at 4.6% in 2021 and forecasted the growth at 1.2% in 2022.
- Despite government subsidies, the prices on essential food are raising that requires constant monitoring of vulnerable households' conditions and introducing of the national poverty measurement. The inflation reached 21.1% by end of 2021.
- The expected continuation of the current account surplus leading to higher budget revenues should sustain fiscal means for policy actions to fight inflation and introduce medium-term budgeting framework. Fitch estimates that the Central Bank reserves can finance imports for 39 months.
- In 2021, Turkmenistan's HDI of 0.745 (0.726 for female and 0.760 for male) positioned the country in the High human development category at 91st rank out of 191 countries. However, the loss due to inequality (16.9%) lowers the HDI to 0.619.
- In April 2022, mean land temperature in Turkmenistan recorded by 3.5 degrees Celsius higher compared to 1960-91 normal.
- In 2022, the hydrocarbon resources of the country are estimated at more than 50 trillion cubic meters of natural gas and over 20 billion tons of oil. The IEA estimates that Turkmenistan's oil and gas methane emissions amounted to around 5 million metric tons in 2021, representing more than 6% of methane emissions globally.

PROSPERITY

- The Government used an advantage of high oil and natural gas prices to develop the hydrocarbon sector that enabled large-scale public investment, including in social sectors. In 2022, the National Programme for 2022-2052 and Presidential Programme of Socio-Economic Development for 2022-2028 were adopted with the latter envisaging the growth of the natural gas production by 59% and GDP by 47% by 2028. According to the Cabinet of Ministers, in Q1-3 2022 GDP of Turkmenistan grew by 6.2%.
- In 2022, hydrocarbon trade has continued securing net exports helping the country in accumulating sizeable foreign exchange reserves and create a comfortable fiscal buffer. In Q1-3 2022, Turkmenistan exported \$7.32 billion worth of pipeline gas to China, an increase of 51% compared to Q1-3 2021. Diversification of the economy remains an issue, as there is high commodity dependence and export market concentration (76% of gas export goes to China). It is even more urgent with the 2022 World Energy Outlook prediction of more demand for LNG and significant reallocation of the pipeline gas from Russia to Chinese market.
- An absolute decrease in gross investment in 2021 by 12% and depressed consumption result in lower aggregate domestic demand. With the underutilized production capacity, this may negatively influence mid-term prospects of the labour market and, in turn, household consumption, further reducing its contribution to GDP growth.
- The state budget is expected to have a surplus in 2022. In Q1-3 2022, the revenue part of the state budget increased by 112.9%, the expenditures executed at 97.5%. With the share of state budget (Tier I) in GDP around 14%, the surplus state budget is estimated at 2% of GDP.

To sustain prosperity, the country needs to consolidate the budget and further diversify the economy implementing structural policies and attracting investment.

PEOPLE

- According to MICS 2019, 67% of all the households receive at least some kind of social transfers from the government (68% of households with children). However, the size of the benefits is neither adequate and nor adjusted to inflation. In 2021, minimum wage, pensions, stipends and social allowances were increased by 10% while inflation reached 21%. Likely, consumer prices have adjusted to the parallel exchange rate degrading the purchasing power of incomes earned in national currency. In 2021, spending on education comprised 3.9% of GDP, on health – 1.6% of GDP. In Q1-3 2022, 80.3% of the state budget expenditures (Tier I) were spent on social needs. The UN supported piloting of 12 new social services reaching out to the most vulnerable people. A new Law on Social Services was adopted in 2021 representing an impressive step forward in enhancing equity and LNOB principle.
- In 2021, 1485.4 thousand tons of grain harvested, close to the 2020 production. The state order covers 99.7% of the wheat harvest. Last year 43.4 thousand tons of wheat flour were imported, the prices for wheat as well as for bread are subsidized to population. National Programs envisage creation of reserved amounts of essential food. Despite government subsidies, the prices on essential food are raising. In June 2022, the President allocated 300 million USD, of which half would go to producers to support production and another half to Ministry of Trade to import necessary food items.

While the government's spending power has been improving since a while, there is no evidence on the performance of income transfers. To prevent vulnerable households from expanding negative coping strategies it is extremely important to improve monitoring of their well-being, introduce national poverty measurement and assess the current design of the social safety net programmes.

PLANET

- The potential hydrocarbon resources of Turkmenistan today are estimated at more than 71 billion tons of oil equivalent, including more than 50 trillion cubic meters of natural gas and over 20 billion tons of oil. At the same time, the International Energy Agency estimates that Turkmenistan's oil and gas methane emissions amounted to around 5 million metric tons in 2021, representing more than 6% of methane emissions globally. This makes Turkmenistan one of the largest methane hotspots in the world, though 75% of emissions from oil & gas activities can be reduced, and more than half of that – or close to 2.5% of the global emission – at zero net cost.
- In April 2022, recorded mean land temperature in Turkmenistan was 3.5 degrees Celsius higher compared to 1960-91 normal. Recent extreme heat waves and droughts are a stark reminder of the near-term threat from climate change and its likely impact on agricultural productivity. Turkmenistan's HDI value for 2021 is 0.745, while Planetary Pressures-adjusted HDI for the country equals 0.632.
- Preparing NDCs for COP27 the country is committed that by 2030 the growth rate of GHG emissions will significantly lag behind the growth rate of GDP. [Thus, the carbon intensity of the country's economy, as well as the intensity of greenhouse gas emissions should decrease. Turkmenistan plans to reduce its GHG emissions in 2030 under the BAU scenario by 20% compared to the level of emissions in 2010.](#)

PEACE

- The country puts forward a number of initiatives in the area of sustainable development for the UN General Assembly, which are then developed into UN GA Resolutions, such as on reliable and safe transit of energy resources, sustainable multi-modal transport, sports, proclamation of International Day of Neutrality.
 - Advancing transport diplomacy, Turkmenistan hosted the LLDC Ministerial transport Conference in August 2022.
- [In 2022, Turkmenistan's Resolution «Zone of peace, trust and cooperation of Central Asian countries» was unanimously adopted at the 76th session of the UN GA. This is another acknowledgment of the role of the policy of neutrality in ensuring sustainable development in the world and Central Asian countries.](#)

PARTNERSHIPS

- In 2021 Sustainable Development Report Turkmenistan with SDG index 66.10% ranks 99 globally mainly because of poor data availability in the databases of UN custodian agencies.
 - Turkmenistan has obtained a WTO observer status, and then received the status of an acceding country. The WTO estimates that it will take some time before the country is ready to join.
 - The construction of the fourth branch (Line D) of the Central Asia-China gas pipeline, Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) and of Trans-Caspian gas pipeline is being considered. The construction of the fourth branch to China is expected to allow Turkmenistan to increase its annual gas deliveries to China by up to 65 bcm.
 - According to the UNCTAD 2021 World Investment Report, in Turkmenistan, FDI inflows decreased by 45% to \$1.2 billion.
- [Jointly with the UN and other development partners the country's promotion of human rights, equity and gender equality, backed up with wise redistribution of energy revenues as part of the public finance reform should sustain progress in achieving the national SDGs. The SDG priority areas to accelerate:](#)
- strengthening human capital by advancing integrated social protection, health and education investments;
 - improving food security, water management and climate action;
 - enabling use of labour, digitalization and diversification of the economy heading to the WTO.

Sources:

¹ UNSDCF, SERP, 2020

³ Sust Dev-t Report, 2022

² Stat Yearbook, 2021

⁴ IMF, Turkmentsat, HDR, Fitch

Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator

www.turkmenistan.un.org

RESULTS GROUPS FACTSHEETS





I. Developmental challenges at a glance

	Value	Year	Trend
5 GENDER EQUALITY	Demand for family planning satisfied by modern methods (females aged 15-49), %	79.6	2019 ●
	Ratio of female-to-male labor force participation rate, %	66.1	2020 →
	Seats held by women in national parliament, %	25	2020 ↓
	Extent to which legal frameworks address human and labour rights, including gender equality and non-discrimination on the basis of age, sex, disability, ethnicity, religion, political opinion, economic or other status	2	2020 ↗
	Proportion of ever-partnered females (15+ years) subjected to violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence, %: total, physical, sexual, psychological	5.4 3.0 0.9 3.4	2021 ●
	Share of women in managerial positions, %	23.8	2020 →
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	Adults with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider (population aged 15+), %	40.6	2017 ●
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	Ombudsman's Office to effectively handle appeals in accordance with the Paris Principles		2022 ↗
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	Annual mean concentration of particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM2.5), µg/m³	19.9	2019 ↗
	Satisfaction with public transport, %	71.0	2019 ●



Note: SDG colour-coding

	Value	Year	Trend
16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONGER INSTITUTIONS	Population who feel safe walking alone at night in the city or area where they live, %	93	2019 ●
	Birth registrations with civil authority (children under-5), %	99.6	2019 ↑
	Nationalized SDG Indicators that have disaggregated data (where relevant) available to report, %	50	2019 ●
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	Population and household census data used for development of national socio-economic programmes and strategies	yes	2012 ↑
	Statistical Performance Index (0-100 best)	23.5	2019 ↗
	SDG Performance Country Ranking	99/163	2022 ↗

II. Results in 2022

Population Census 2022 conducted based on **international standards** and provides **baseline data for the SDGs**

20 Parliamentarians were trained as **trainers in CRC and CRPD** and raised awareness and capacity of **150 children**

Capacity Assessment of the Ombudsmen Office conducted jointly with the Asian Pacific Forum and its capacity strengthened with the **grievance mechanism** and **child rights monitoring**, including developing **alternative report to the CRC**

Domestic Violence study evidence uptake resulted in the Government's commitment to initiate actions for **legislation and policy update**, positive **social norms** promotion, **reproductive rights** uphold and **gender-based violence prevention**

Civil registration system digitalization piloted with strengthened capacity of **10 System Administrators**

Turkmenistan citizenship was granted to **1,530 stateless people** (including 2 refugees), comprised of 26 ethnicities, 57% of women

Assessment of the child protection system led to creation of a national platform to develop a framework for the **Child Protection System Strengthening**

15 young leaders with disabilities improved their knowledge on **human rights and CRPD**

Special Working Group on Development of **Educational Programs on Human Rights** was created to integrate courses in the universities and institutes

CEDAW National Report submitted for the first-time providing data on **domestic violence against women**

Report on situation of PWDs developed informing further actions on improving **inclusive and accessible social services**

Youth reference Group established consisting of **85 young people** to consult on **local development issues**

Legislative Review conducted informing the Government on the ways to **strengthen legislation in conformity** with ILO Convention No.105 on Abolition of Forced Labour

Criminal and Criminal Procedural Codes amendments were informed by evidence created on **legislative frameworks concerning children in contact with the law**

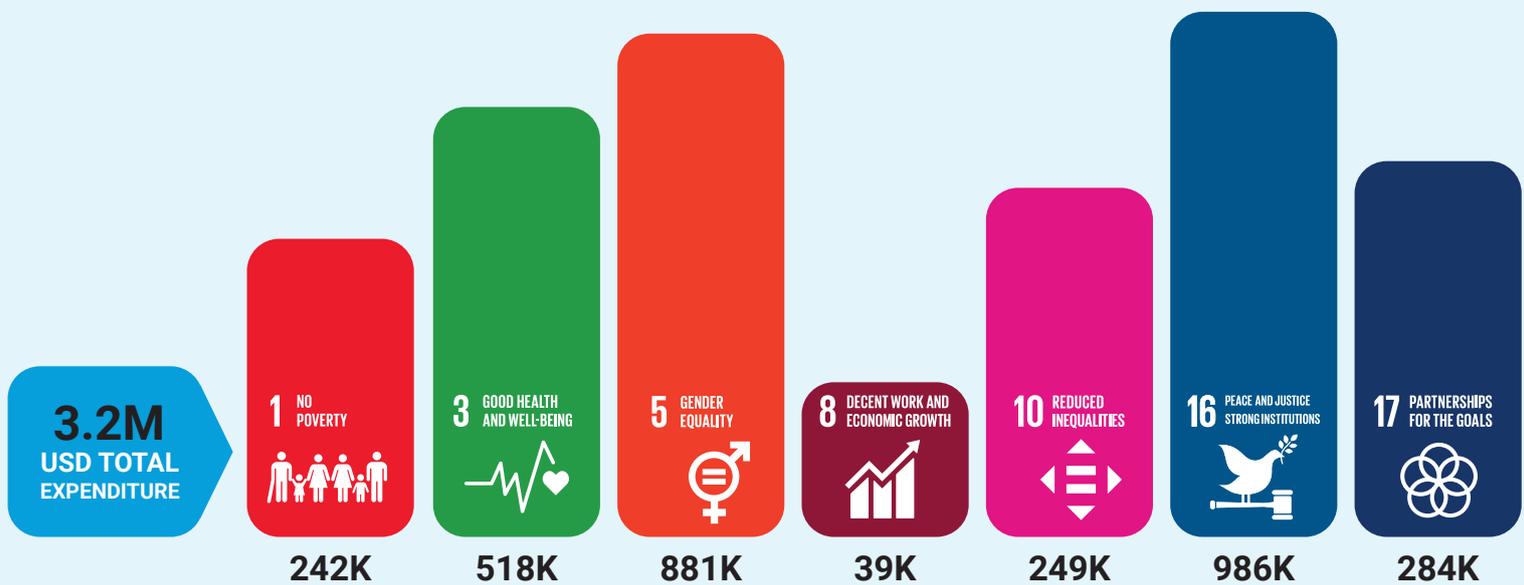
New NAP on child rights for 2023-2028 based on } **2018-2022 Evaluation NAP** } **local municipalities consultations**

100 parents from vulnerable settings **50** children

III. Contribution to the SDGs in 2022 (expected), USD

Note: SDG colour-coding

By output	Total required resources	Available resources	To be mobilized
1.1 Digital solutions in governance	389 801	359 801	30 000
1.2 Targeted budgeting and SDG financing	423 311	377 711	45 600
1.3 Revamped civil service	308 864	218 864	90 000
1.4 Human rights and gender equality	639 203	564 203	75 000
1.5 Disaggregated data	1 487 593	1 051 593	436 000
Total USD:	3 248 772	2 572 172	676 600



IV. Key policy messages for SDG acceleration areas

- Accession to Optional Protocols (OPCAT and CRC) and capitalizing on UPR 4th cycle process and dialogue with the HR Council in 2023
- Including the violence definition (GBV, violence against children etc) into the national legislation
- Advancing human rights education for ALL and education for justice and crime prevention
- Improving capacity of Ombudsman Office with establishing a child rights function and supporting with Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) accreditation
- Implementation of the SG's Call to Action for Human Rights

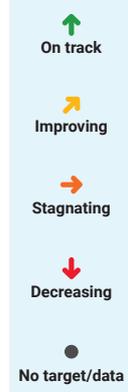
- Further development of digital public services for more effective and transparent public administration
- Development of the national youth participation mechanism in policy and decision-making processes
- Improving data availability for developing evidence-informed policies
- Ensuring availability of the Population Census preliminary results
- Signing of the NAP on child rights 2023-2028
- Identifying the National Evaluation Lead Agency and building National Evaluation Capacities for better monitoring of SDGs, policy/programme planning and budgeting

Sources: Sustainable Development Report 2022; Human Development Report 2022; MICS 2019; WB 2022

I. Developmental challenges at a glance

Note: SDG colour-coding

	Value	Year	Trend
5 GENDER EQUALITY Ratio of female-to-male labor force participation rate, %	66.1	2020	→
Number of entrepreneurs, disaggregated by sex M/F, %	69/31	2020	↗
Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person, %	104.5	2020	↑
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH Unemployment rate (of total labor force), %	4.88	2020	↗
Fatal work-related accidents embodied in imports (per 100K population)	0.4	2015	↑
9 INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE Total amount of Credits provided by credit institutions to enterprises and population, mln TMT	109k	2021	↑
Household that have access to the internet at home, %	48.9	2019	↗
Mobile broadband subscriptions (per 100 population)	14.8	2019	→
Logistics Performance Index: Quality of trade and transport-related infrastructure (worst 1–5 best)	2.2	2018	↗
Relative connectivity (compared to the Netherlands, worst 0–100 best)	68	2021	↑
Articles published in academic journals (per 1K population)	0.0	2020	↓



	Value	Year	Trend
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES Human Development Index (HDI)	0.745	2021	↗
Inequality-adjusted HDI	0.619	2021	↗
16 PEACE AND JUSTICE Budget spending on education, health and social protection programmes, share of GDP, %	3.9 1.6 3.3	2021	→
Corporate Tax Haven Score (best 0–100 worst)	0.0	2019	↑
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS Turkmenistan exports, mln USD	11.5	2021	↗

II. Results in 2022

6 Education Information Centers established at Employment Departments of 6 cities
Ashgabat, Dashoguz, Mary, Tejen, Turkmenabat and Turkmenbashi

35 women empowered to pursue careers in **digital professions** through the **Women Hackathon**

184 young people (107 women and 77 men) improved knowledge on **digital trade** and **soft skills**

Development Finance Assessment conducted to further **strengthen SDG financing** efforts

Pilot CRVS information system is **developed** and **being tested** in Ashgabat Civil Registration Office

Government awareness raised on developing the national strategy on **food loss and waste (FLW)**

WTO Accession Roadmap developed and **submitted** to the Government

State Statistics Committee capacity improved: **Statistical business register** and **SNA 2008 methodologies** developed, **WG on financial account** established

Framework Agreement on Facilitating **Cross-Border Paperless Trade** in the Asia-Pacific Region was ratified

Internet and mobile banking application is being **developed** with the State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs

Single Window for export-import operations **application development** has started with State Customs Service

Readiness Assessment conducted to **inform implementation** with the UN support

23 government specialists trained on **Regulation of digital financial services** – main issues and world practice

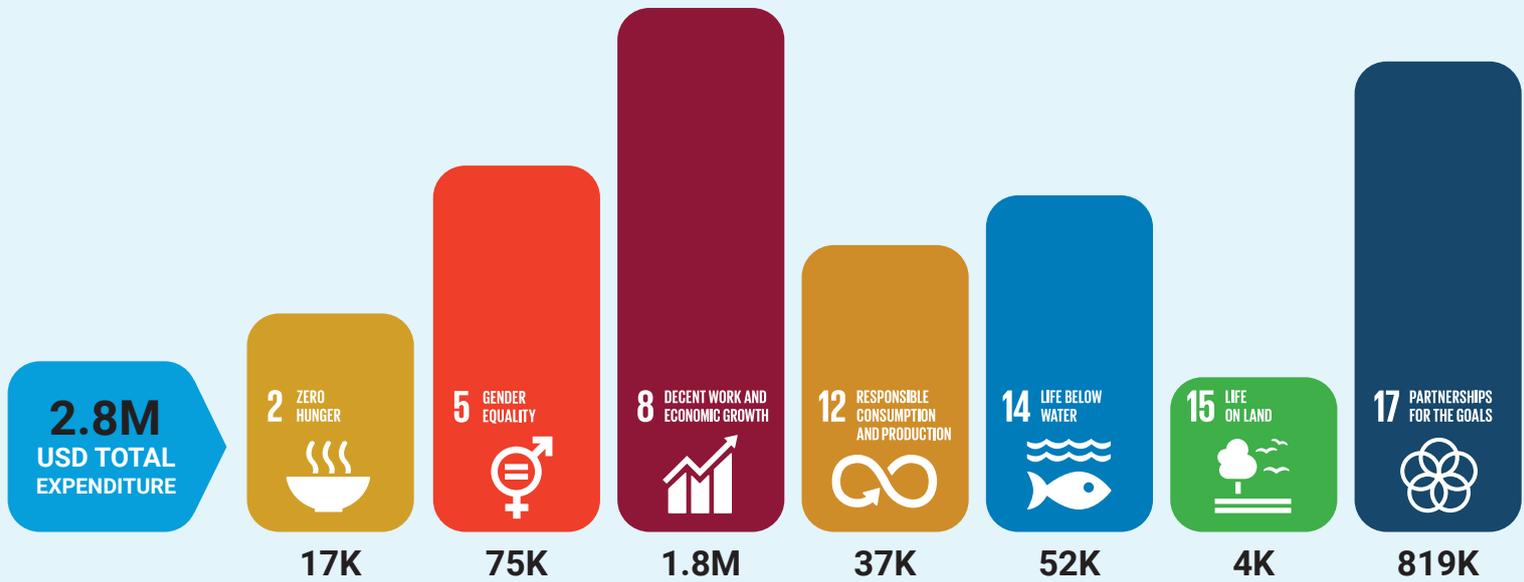
39 government specialists trained in **key WTO Agreements** to support the initiation of **accession negotiations**

Private sector representatives strengthened capacities and awareness on compliance with **cross-border trade requirements**

III. Contribution to the SDGs in 2022 (expected), USD

Note: SDG colour-coding

By output	Total required resources	Available resources	To be mobilized
2.1 Business procedures simplification	1 603 619	1 603 619	0
2.2 Capacity development for public and private companies	605 348	605 348	0
2.3 Innovative financial instruments	384 720	384 720	0
2.4 Investment promotion	61 051	61 051	0
2.5 Capacity building in data	178 000	178 000	0
Total USD:	2 832 738	2 832 738	0



IV. Key policy messages for SDG acceleration areas

- Supporting women and youth employability, including skilling
- Supporting agricultural reforms and rural development with focus on efficient resource use and food security
- Identifying potential new sectors for diversification of the economy and markets with growing export opportunities
- Enhancing digitalization of the economy
- Establishing a national socio-economic research center to support implementation of the Programme-2052

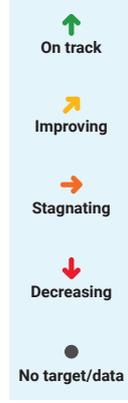
- Advancing WTO accession process
- Supporting MSMEs sector, including by strengthening capacities to comply with cross-border trade requirements
- Implementing structural policies and attracting investment
- Advancing Public finance management reform, including through technical assistance on MTBF and budget consolidation
- Developing financial markets

Sources: Sustainable Development Report 2022; Human Development Report 2022; MICS 2019; WB 2022

I. Developmental challenges at a glance

Note: SDG colour-coding

SDG	Indicator	Value	Year	Trend
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	Number of nationwide (sectoral or community-based plans) investments and/or measures implemented for the sustainable and integrated management of land, water, biological diversity, energy and other natural resources taking into account gender aspects	1	2021	↗
	Using at least basic drinking water services, %	100	2020	↑
	Using at least basic sanitation services, %	99.4	2020	↑
	Freshwater withdrawal (available resources), %	143.6	2018	●
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	Population with access to electricity, %	99.9	2019	↑
	Population with access to clean fuels and technology for cooking, %	99.9	2019	↑
	CO ₂ emissions from fuel combustion per total electricity output, MtCO ₂ /TWh	4.0	2019	→
13 CLIMATE ACTION	Gender-sensitive adaptation and mitigation measures implemented and scaled-up	1	2021	↗
	CO ₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion and cement production, tCO ₂ /capita	12.5	2020	→
	CO ₂ emissions embodied in imports, tCO ₂ /capita	0.7	2018	↑
	Planetary Pressures-adjusted HDI	0.632	2021	→
	Mean area that is protected in terrestrial sites important to biodiversity, %	14.0	2020	→
15 LIFE ON LAND	Red List Index of species survival (0–1 best)	1.0	2021	↑
	Permanent deforestation of area (5-year avg.), %	0.0	2020	↑



SDG	Indicator	Value	Year	Trend
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	Knowledge products for sustainable development included in national education curricula, teacher education, student assessment, media and other public info	3	2022	↗
	Production-based CO ₂ emissions, kg/capita	5.7	2018	●
	CO ₂ emissions embodied in imports, kg/capita	1.8	2018	●
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	Land consumption / population growth rate	98.8	2020	●
	Velayats and communities implementing programmes to strengthen DRR, preparedness and response to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in line with the Sendai Framework for DRR, which are gender sensitive and have sex disaggregated data	1	2022	↗
	Annual mean concentration of particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM2.5), µg/m ³	19.9	2019	↗

II. Results in 2022

Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) response strengthened

5 Methodological Manuals for teachers mainstreaming the **CCA and DRR topics** endorsed by the Academy of Sciences

Bilingual Methodological Manual on CCA and DRR for teachers and **digital Training Course** for Children's Summer Recreation Centers developed

The **Child-Centred DRR Strategy** of Turkmenistan with the **Multi-year Action Plan** developed

Waste Management of Turkmenistan Draft Concept is being finalized

Waste sorting and management advanced in selected **pilot residential areas** jointly with Ashgabat city municipality and **Nature Protection Society** of Turkmenistan

Nationally Determined Contributions updated, finalized, approved and submitted to UNFCCC

4th National Communication and 1st Biannual Update Report for UNFCCC are being developed to strengthen the **national legal and regulatory frameworks** to promote **sustainable and green development**

«**Green School**» Programme and MoU developed with MoE for signature and implementation in 2023

MoHMIT supported in the **Global analysis and assessment of sanitation and drinking water assessment (GLAAS)** covering the 2021-2022 reporting cycle

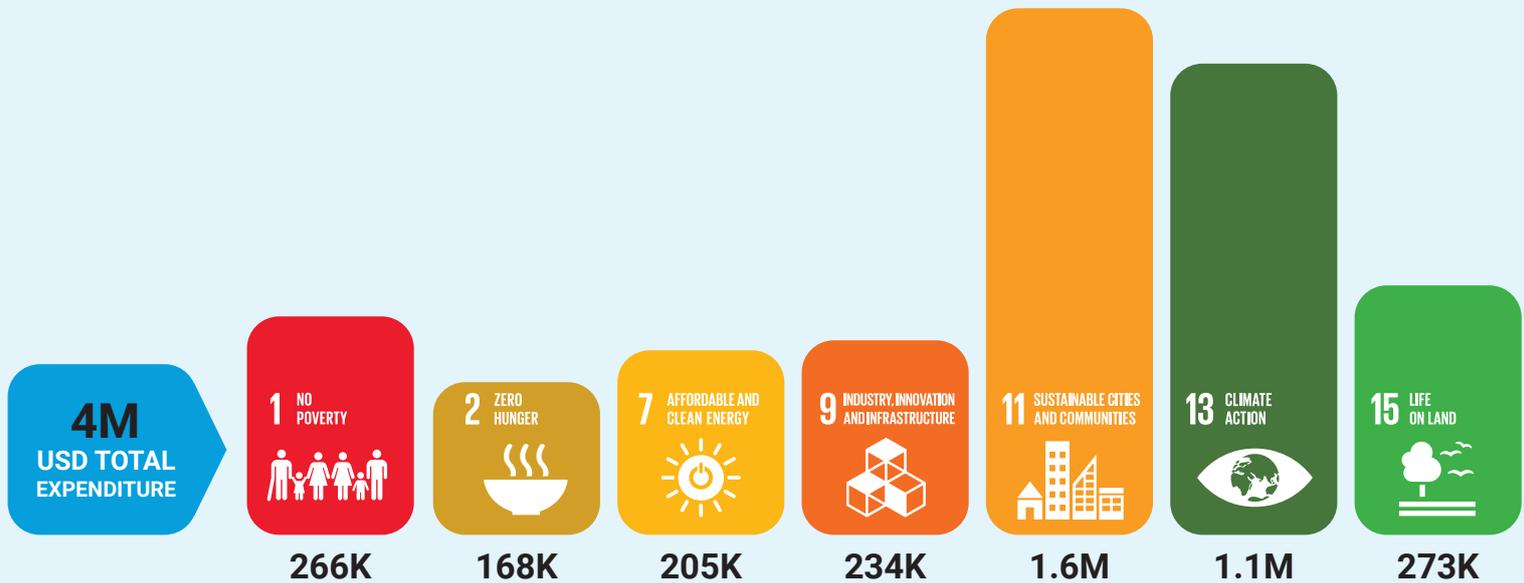
Processed in Ashgabat:

- 92 tons of plastic
- 35 tons of waste paper
- 19 tons of glass

III. Contribution to the SDGs in 2022 (expected), USD

Note: SDG colour-coding

By output	Total required resources	Available resources	To be mobilized
3.1 Policies and strategies in climate change	1 521 088	1 521 088	0
3.2 Readiness to disasters	641 756	601 756	40 000
3.3 Green solutions	1 029 720	1 029 720	0
3.4 Capacity development in climate change	721 340	721 340	0
Total USD:	3 913 904	3 873 904	40 000



IV. Key policy messages for SDG acceleration areas

- Advancing energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy across economic sectors
- Knowledge transfer and assessment missions (UNEP, UNIDO, UN-Habitat and UNECE) to Ahal City on sustainable cities development
- Supporting actions on DRR, including developing seismic contingency plan, resilient cities/rural areas concept
- Improving data collection tools and availability on environment and DRR

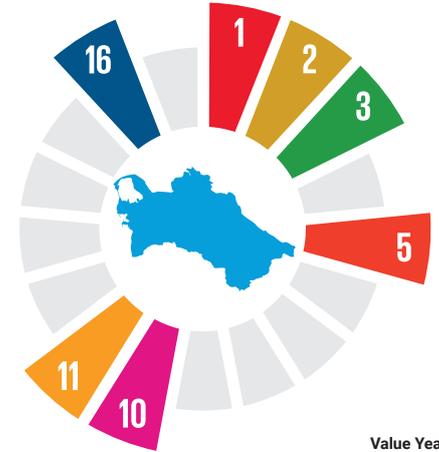
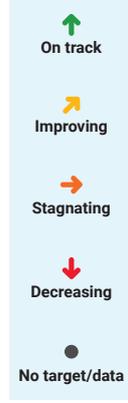
- Improving food security, water management and climate action
- Supporting the government in the establishment of the Regional Center for Climate Change Technologies for Central Asia in Turkmenistan
- Supporting the government partnerships with UNEP IMEO aiming at the reduction of methane emissions in the country
- Sustaining engagement of Youth in Climate Change
- Promoting topics of green economy: «green school», «green hospital», «green building»

Sources: Sustainable Development Report 2022; Human Development Report 2022; MICS 2019; WB 2022

I. Developmental challenges at a glance

Note: SDG colour-coding

	Value	Year	Trend
1 NO POVERTY Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90/day, %	0.6	2022	↑
Number of people covered by social protection systems (including community-based social services), thsnd	988.1	2021	●
Households receive some kind of social transfers from the government, %	67	2019	↗
Household out-of-pocket expenditure (of current health expenditure), %	76.8	2019	↓
2 ZERO HUNGER Children under-5 who are stunted, %	7	2019	↗
Women of reproductive age (15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern method, %	47.3	2019	↗
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1K live births)	23.5	2020	↓
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1K live births)	41.8	2020	→
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING TB case notification rate (per 100K population)	29.7	2021	●
Extent to which primary health care facilities and children's hospitals have integrated the IMNCI approach	Score 2	2022	↗
Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease, %: total, male, female	24.1 28.9 19.8	2020	→
Life expectancy at birth (M/F), years	69.8 (65/72)	2019	→
Universal health coverage (UHC) index of service coverage (worst 0–100 best)	73	2019	↗



	Value	Year	Trend
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES Share of etraps providing early intervention services to children under-5, %	18	2021	↗
Human Development Index (HDI)	0.745	2021	↗
Inequality-adjusted HDI	0.619	2021	↗
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES Access to improved water source, piped (urban population), %	77.4	2020	↓
16 PEACE AND JUSTICE, STRONG INSTITUTIONS Budget spending on education, health and social protection programmes, share of GDP, %	3.9 1.6 3.3	2021	→

II. Results in 2022

COVID-19 response

Country Preparedness and Response plan developed and approved

100 000
PCR tests delivered

975
Lab specialists and health care workers trained

National COVID-19 vaccination and distribution plan developed and approved

National Laboratory strategy for COVID-19 testing was developed and approved

387 000
communication products distributed

4 National Strategies and Action Plans developed for 2023-2028 (medical rehabilitation; palliative care; mental health; lowering population intake of salt, sugar, saturated fats, and elimination of trans fats for 2023-2027)

Supporting the MOH with the updating CVD, Diabetes and Oncology clinical protocols, COVID-19 Response delivered:

- National strategy** on comprehensive response to cervical cancer
- Action Plan** development for preparedness improvement for 2022-2025
- National Action Plan** development for health security

- \$3 mln Japanese funding improved MoH capacity
- 88** med. equipment delivered to 47 hospitals to benefit 500,000 patients per year
- 125 specialists trained to work with modern equipment

MoHMI capacity in areas of NCD, infectious diseases and TB improved through WB and GF grants

- Early intervention system for children with disabilities (0-6 years) and their families strengthened
- cross-sectoral approach enabled by inter-ministerial provision (MoHMI, MoE, MoLSP)
- 150** professionals improved capacity through in-service training

5000
vulnerable people including

3100
directly supported with social worker assistance

235
children, adults and their families

to meet their specific needs

support people to live independent lives in their communities

Law on Social Services adopted

A new model of inclusive community-based services was initiated

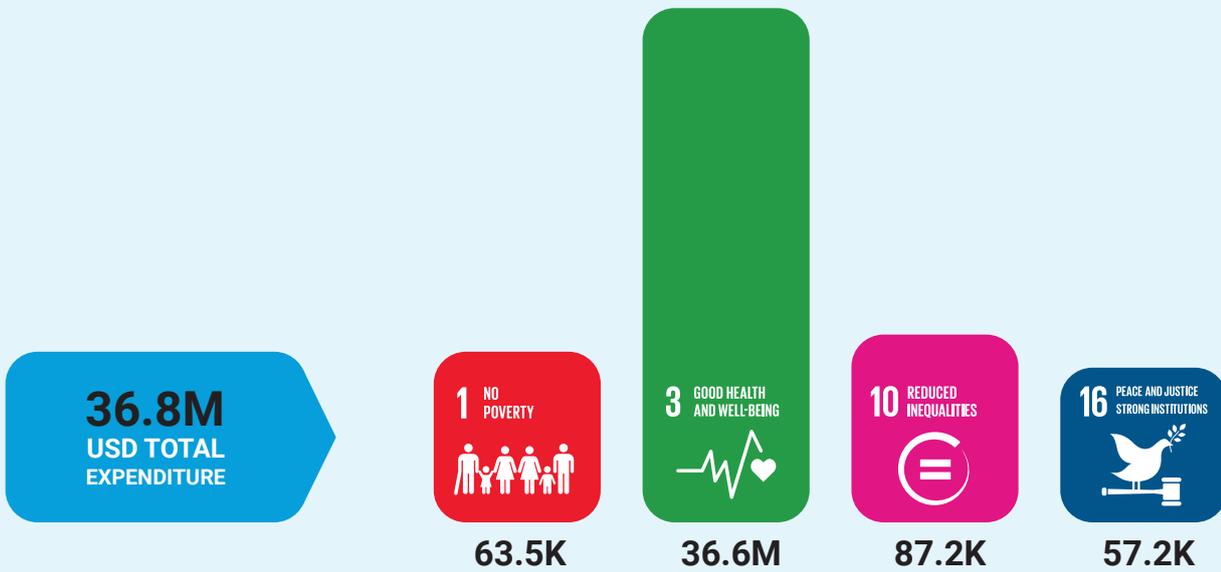
12 new types of specialised social services, including personal assistant services, piloted in Ashgabat, Turkmenabat and Mary

- for families with children
- children left without parental care
- young people at risk
- women facing gender-based violence
- people and children with disabilities
- elderly people living alone
- people with chronic illnesses

III. Contribution to the SDGs in 2022 (expected), USD

Note: SDG colour-coding

By output	Total required resources	Available resources	To be mobilized
4.1 Health and social protection legislation	549 588	436 588	113 000
4.2 Data disaggregation improved	368 700	177 700	191 000
4.3 Access to health information	52 000	52 000	0
4.4 National programmes and strategies	35 579 143	35 559 143	20 000
4.5 Integrated social services	276 125	211 125	65 000
Total USD:	36 825 556	36 436 556	389 000



IV. Key policy messages for SDG acceleration areas

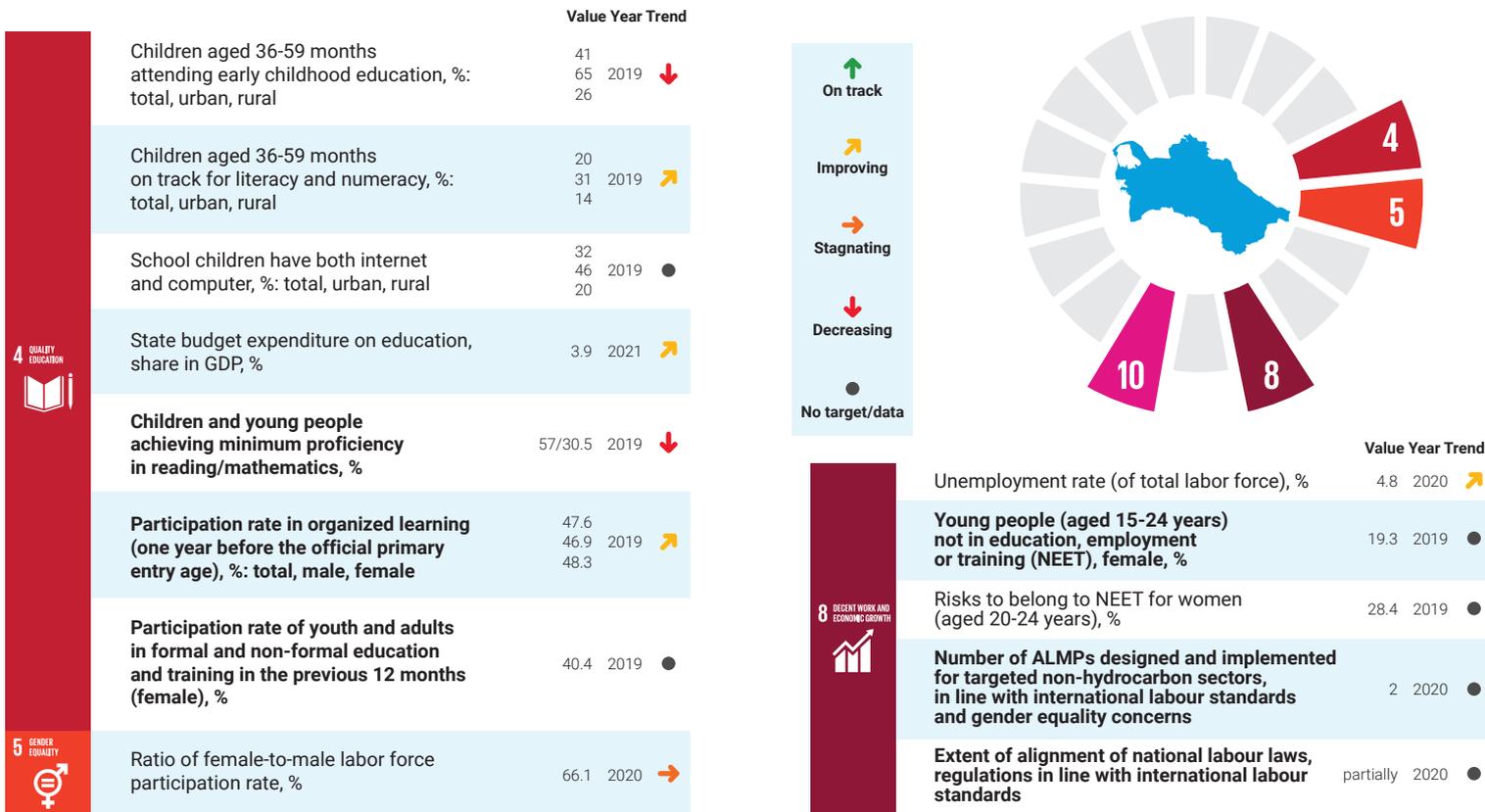
- Moving towards and sustain Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and monitoring progress
- Reduce out-of-pocket health expenditures
- Improving and strengthening health system performance and digitalization for health
- Support surveillance, prevention and control of NCDs and NCD risk factors
- Accelerating tobacco control and achieving tobacco free country by 2025
- Integrating the One Health approach to balance and optimize the health of people, animals and the environment

- Improve country preparedness and response plan for respiratory pathogens and strengthen IPC and contact tracing
- Improve Public Health and Social measures, documenting lessons learned, data sharing and analysis of respiratory pathogens and sequencing COVID-19 for better response
- Advancing health diplomacy
- Prioritize implementation of the Healthy Mother – Healthy Child – Healthy Future national strategy 2021-2025
- Improve adequacy of social benefits, social protection coverage and access to integrated social services at the district level

Sources: Sustainable Development Report 2022; Human Development Report 2022; MICS 2019; WB 2022

I. Developmental challenges at a glance

Note: SDG colour-coding



II. Results in 2022

National capacity in Education in Emergencies (EiE) will be strengthened through

training for 25 national specialists aimed at developing an institutionalized mechanism of **delivering education response in emergencies**

Draft Roadmap for developing national capacity in EiE is under development

The national commitment to achieving SDG4 renewed

6 National Consultations

>90 participants in the **National Consultations**

Transforming Education Summit 2022

National Statement of Commitment

TES Follow up roadmap is being developed

MoE capacity to monitor, plan and manage education sector was strengthened through technical support in:



drafting a digital **EMIS Action Plan**



developing pilot **software application**



capacity-building for **25 national specialists**

MoE capacity in effective teaching methods was strengthened with:



training of **12 Education specialists**



support development of **foundational, transferable, and digital skills** of schoolchildren



designing **competency-based teaching materials**

Introductory training laid the ground for further joint work on **promoting digital accessibility and assistive technologies** for education

Access to digital Open Educational Resources (OER) was increased by delivery of **100 open-source digital simulations** used in teaching STEM subjects

MoE national capacity to develop digital books was strengthened by training **25 national specialists in EPUB3** accessible digital books creation

Gender equality mainstreaming in education was supported



5-day seminar on gender-responsive pedagogy



27 education specialists

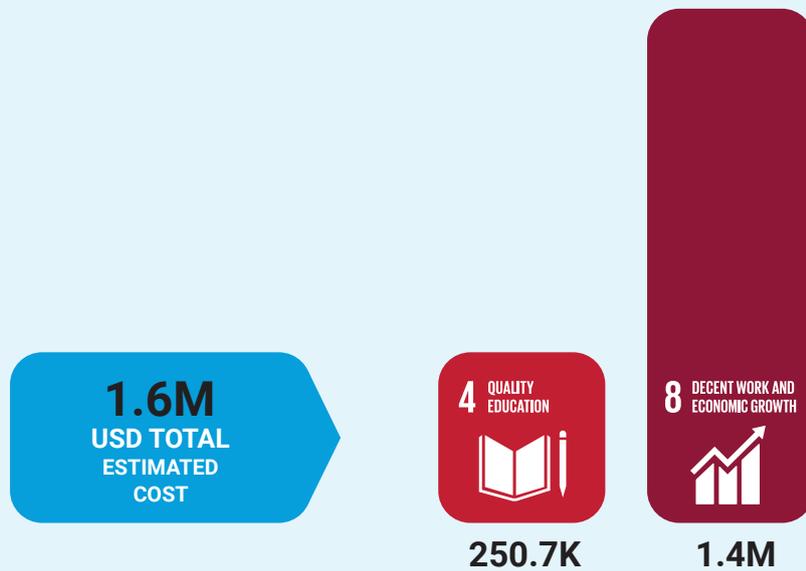


Manual for educators on gender-responsive pedagogy is drafted

III. Contribution to the SDGs in 2022 (expected), USD

Note: SDG colour-coding

By output	Total required resources	Available resources	To be mobilized
5.1 Access to education	80 000	80 000	0
5.2 Life skills	44 000	18 000	26 000
5.3 Inclusive education	50 000	50 000	0
5.4 Bridging education and labour market	1 442 180	1 442 180	0
Total USD:	1 616 180	1 590 180	26 000



IV. Key policy messages for SDG acceleration areas

- Increase participation in pre-primary education, to boost early childhood development and learning
- Accelerate revision of teacher training and school curricula to increase efficiency of instruction
- Invest in digitalization of education, ICT skills of students and teachers, digital Open Educational Resources (OER)
- Adopt a national concept of inclusive education to mainstream inclusion of people with disabilities at all education levels

- Develop Education Management Information System (EMIS) to monitor, plan and manage education sector more effectively
- Support transitioning of youth, especially women, to the labour market
- Sustain Empowering and Engaging Youth to Mitigate the Multi-Dimensional Threats of the Health Pandemic
- Engage young people more in decision-making processes amplifying their voices at national, regional and global levels

Sources: Sustainable Development Report 2022; Human Development Report 2022; MICS 2019; MICS EAGLE; Labour Force Survey

POLICY BRIEFS





Empowering women to live with dignity and freedom from fear

1

Background

Gender equality is intrinsically linked to sustainable development and is vital to the realization of human rights for all. The overall objective of gender equality is a society in which women and men enjoy the same opportunities, rights and obligations in all spheres of life. Gender equality does not mean that men and women become the same; only that access to opportunities and life chances is neither dependent on, nor constrained by, their sex.

Gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and advancement of reproductive rights are critical prerequisites for achieving the three transformative results contributing to the 2030 Agenda:

- ending preventable maternal death,
- ending unmet need for family planning,
- ending gender-based violence (GBV) and all harmful practices.

7 strategic areas of National Action Plan on Gender Equality 2021-2025:



Strengthening and improving **legal framework** for gender equality



Ensuring **gender-responsive** healthcare



Fostering **equal access** to education



Countering **gender-based violence** against women and girls



Economic **empowerment** of women and girls



Advancing **women's participation** including the political and social dimensions



Strengthening **institutional arrangements** for support of gender equality



Turkmenistan ratified the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** in 1997, and its Optional Protocol in 2009

58,4%

women, 15-49
justify violence
against women

42,2%

women, 15-49
make own informed
decisions: sexual
relations,
contraceptive use
and reproductive
healthcare



Turkmenistan nationalized all relevant **Sustainable Development Goal 5** indicators on Gender Equality

Yet, gender-based discrimination persists, including GBV and acceptance of such within the context of a traditional patriarchal society. The Review of national legislation, facilitated by UN in 2021, revealed significant gaps when it comes to social support services for GBV victims, ranging from the absence of definition of GBV to lack of legal provision to fully support GBV services.

The results of the assessment of the implementation of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality 2015-2020 provided a basis to continue strengthening gender equality and preventive measures for GBV at all levels. The second National Action Plan on Gender Equality for 2021-2025 includes for the first time a specific reference to prevention and response to domestic violence.

In 2020, Turkmenistan completed the first-ever survey on health and status of a woman in family in an attempt to assess the situation of domestic violence against women.



3

UN and Partners in Action

The UN has been a strategic partner of the Government of Turkmenistan in advancing women's empowerment and promoting gender equality. The UN's response to promoting gender equality in Turkmenistan includes:

- supporting Turkmenistan's national human rights system in fulfilling its obligations as part of the international human rights treaties and conventions it ratified, including CEDAW;
- supporting the implementation of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality in areas where UN can provide its expert support;
- developing the capacity of policy makers and civil servants in gender-sensitive policies and gender mainstreaming;
- building capacity of national institutions and professionals on ways to address gender equality issues;
- institutionalizing a multi-sectoral approach to GBV, consisting of constructive cooperation among health, psychosocial and law enforcement sectors to support GBV survivors.

The UN will support the Government in using data generated from the national survey on health and status of a woman in the family to formulate effective actions towards ending GBV.

Integration of gender education in the courses of the Academy of State Service under the President of Turkmenistan is an important

initiative to educate mid-level decision makers on gender equality and on how to mainstream it into socio-economic programming and policy actions. A course on gender-sensitive reporting for media professionals developed and piloted at the department of journalism of the International University for Humanities and Development is another important contribution to nurturing a culture of speaking up about gender equality issues in the country.

The UN joined efforts with the Government of Turkmenistan to implement a Joint Programme entitled «Improving the system of social protection through the introduction of inclusive quality community-based social services».

UN agencies joined efforts to support the Government of Turkmenistan in successful implementation of the Immediate Socio-economic Response Plan to acute infectious disease pandemic.



4

Recommendations

To support the Government of Turkmenistan in addressing the issues of human rights and gender equality, especially for those furthest left behind, five immediate determinants are required:

- Enhanced capacity of national institutions to better respond to the needs of rights holders;
- Improved national legislation to address gender equality issues;
- Promoted inclusive participation of partners, especially men and boys, and youth;
- Improved accountability of duty bearers;
- Advanced results-oriented planning and monitoring.



Sustainable Development Goals Indicator **5.2.1.**: Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 18-59 who were subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by their husband or partner **in the previous 12 months**

Value

5.4

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Persons with disabilities

1

Background

Turkmenistan was one of the first countries globally to join the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). In line with the 2015 recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) for Turkmenistan, the country needs to review and align the national legislation and normative base across sectors, align disability definition, assessment and referral system with the principles of CRPD, develop national accessibility plan, community based social rehabilitation and habilitation programs for persons with disabilities (PwD), early intervention and inclusive support services for children with disabilities and their families, and build an inclusive education system. Development and implementation of a comprehensive deinstitutionalization strategy and database with disaggregated statistics on PwD are other important priorities under Turkmenistan CRPD implementation agenda. These commitments are a crosscutting issue within the broader 2030 Development Agenda as people and children with disabilities constitute one of the most disadvantaged groups in every society that are likely to have been left behind. Disability is referenced in various parts of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and specifically in parts related to education, growth and employment, inequality,

accessibility of human settlements, as well as data collection and monitoring of the SDGs (Goals 4, 8, 10, 11 and 17).

Moreover, there are also numerous international frameworks, that Turkmenistan has ratified and that include standards to support PwD during an emergency and improve accessibility across society. Among them: Sendai Framework, which highlights an inclusive, people-centred approach to emergency management. Turkmenistan supports the implementation of the Sendai Framework through the United Nations. Turkmenistan also ratified United Nations CRPD, in which Article 11 asserts the importance of emergency management policies and programs to support PwD during an emergency.

The objective of the Survey is to assess and analyze the vulnerability aspects of PwD in Turkmenistan, according to the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health for Children and Youth (WHO). This Survey will provide data for the analysis of barriers and bottlenecks in the provision of quality and inclusive services.



Sampling framework: Administrative data on recipients of the state benefits on pensions on disabilities in Turkmenistan

 **Sample size:** 4,352 households

 **Response rate:** 77.5%

 **Questionnaires:** Household Adults (age 18+) and Children (age 0-17)

 **Regional coverage:** Ashgabat and 5 regions (Ahal, Balkan, Dashoguz, Lebap, Mary)

of a ramp, handrails and other facilities for access to a medical facility (25 %) and quality services (20 %).

Out of all PwD, it makes 23% of persons that need assistance at home, and 22 % need it outside of home. At home and outside of home, assistance is most provided by member of the family, (98 and 97%, respectively). 14 % of those in a need for assistance at home, receive it from health care worker, and 4 % from individual assistant, while this is applies to 11 and 4 % of persons in a need for assistance outside of home. Herewith, 15 % of persons who need assistance outside of home, receive help from outsiders (neighbours, passer-by).

Health care services

Results show that the inability to obtain paid services when needed for persons with disabilities (PwD) age 18 and over is the most common restriction in access among the aspects considered. For more than half of PwD (61%), experience with restrictions in obtaining paid services, from the point of view of financial opportunities, while they are inaccessible to 16%.

In second place in terms of inaccessibility among the considered aspects is the distance to the medical institution. Although inaccessibility is only 6%, for 28% of PwD, the distance to a medical facility is partially inaccessible.

Other health services considered are not accessible or partially not accessible to a lesser extent: availability of medical professionals (24 %), availability

Physical growth, literacy and numeracy skills, socio-emotional development and readiness to learn are vital domains of a child’s overall development, which build the foundation for later life and set the trajectory for health, learning and well-being. A 10-item module was used to calculate the Early Child Development Index (ECDI). The primary purpose of the ECDI is to inform public policy regarding the developmental status of children (with disabilities) in Turkmenistan. The index is based on selected milestones that children are expected to achieve by ages 3 and 4. The 10 items are used to determine if children are developmentally on track in four domains:

- Out of all children with disabilities age 3-4 years, only 27% are developmentally on track
- 68% – social-emotional development



- 79% of children with disabilities are on the right path in physical development
- 30% are on the right path in learning, while only 7% skilled in reading and numeracy.

Education

Among persons aged 18-29 years, 28% never attended educational institution, and again, disparities are very high among persons with and without functional difficulties – 46% of persons with functional difficulties never attended educational institution, comparing to 15% of persons without it.

Overall, among adults with disabilities 15% have no education, while majority (68%) have secondary education (basic or general).

Every fifth adult PwD has a profession (22%) and 11% of them would like to master in another profession while 27% cannot do so due to health conditions. While in Lebap velayat 41% of adults with disabilities have profession this is the case with only 2% of persons living in Ahal velayat.

Employment

- 14% of adult PwD is currently working, 29% have worked before, while 57% have never worked. In Ahal velayat, currently 98% of PwD are not working while, 81% have never worked before. Persons with intellectual and mental impairments are least involved into labour market, as 97% of those are currently not working.

- During COVID-19 pandemic, majority of PwD who are working (54%), used to work outside of home, while 43% used to work from home. During the conducting interview, the situation did not change significantly, as 56% are working outside from home, and 44% from home. Less than 1% of adults with disabilities who were working from home during the pandemic, nowadays have returned to a workplace outside home. Out of persons working outside home, every fourth (23%) would prefer to shift to distant (remote) working regime and work from home.

Using information and communication technologies

- Every fifth person aged 18 years or over with disabilities, has ever used Internet (19%). Persons who have used internet, most frequently used it for the purpose of listening and downloading music, video clips, movies (69%) and for communication, games (67%). Around half of them used it for obtaining information (56%) and for obtaining electronic services (52%).
- Out of all persons who have used internet before, 28% used it almost every day in past three months, while 30% did not use it at all during those months. Therefore, we can conclude that out of all persons aged 18 years and over, only 5% are regular users, as they use it almost every day.
- On the other hand, 78% of adult PwD have personal mobile phone, but there are great differences among persons with different types of health disorders. In line with that, only 30% of persons with speech disorder



and 34% of persons with mental disorder have personal mobile phone, comparing to 88% of persons with physical disorder. Similarly, only 56% of person with functional difficulties own it, comparing to 88% of persons without functional difficulties.

Equal Rights

- Overall, the awareness of adult respondents with disabilities of their rights and benefits seem to be very high as 25% think they know their rights and privileges very well and 64% knows them sufficiently. On the other hand, 8% have poor knowledge about their rights and privileges and 3% do not know those at all.
- Awareness among respondents for children with disabilities on the international documents for legal protection is not high. Only half of the respondents are familiar with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (54% for each document). On the other hand, awareness of the normative and legal documents in force in Turkmenistan is higher. Most respondents have heard or are familiar with the Code of Turkmenistan on Social Protection of the Population (75%), the Law of Turkmenistan «On State Guarantees of the Rights of the Child» (83%) and the Law of Turkmenistan «On Education» (90%).
- Generally, problems faced by adults with disabilities are similar to problems faced by children with disabilities, except the problem in obtaining the education which was evaluated as one of the main problems among 26% of respondents for children, comparing to 8% of adults.
- Overall, both groups have a similar opinion that main problem for PwD are low level of pensions and allowances (35 among adults and 38 among children). Although more rarely than low level of pensions and allowances, quality and availability of health care services, was somewhat frequently listed as one of the problems both among adults and among children with disabilities (21 vs 17% respectively). On the other hand, isolation from the society and its attitude to PwD, which can be assumed as a main proxy for discrimination, is rarely listed as one of the problems, both among adults and among children (6 vs 8% respectively).
- Also, presence of functional difficulties seems to affect the life satisfaction significantly, as persons who had some functional difficulties are much less satisfied that those with no difficulties – 77 vs 92%.
- On the other hand respondents for children with disabilities aged 10-17, were asked about different aspects of emotional condition of the child – frequency of state of emotional stress, helplessness, loss of interest, apathy, feeling of loss, heart grief; Children expressing suicidal thoughts and if child have ever told them about suicide attempts of his/her peers.
- Around 6 percent of children with disabilities are always or often under the state emotional stress, helplessness, loss of interest, apathy, feeling of loss, heart grief. Children living in Ashgabat city and Balkan velayat, as well as children with functional difficulties are more often under this state than children living in rural areas and in other regions, or children with no functional difficulties.



3

UN and Partners in Action

UN and Working Group of the Interdepartmental Commission prepare the Combined Second, Third and Fourth National Periodic Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Turkmenistan was the first State in the region to ratify the CRPD and its Optional Protocol. Commitments under the CRPD open the opportunity for a number of important reforms, enhancing existing legal framework and practices providing better protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. The aim of the new combined national periodic report is to provide information on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the CRPD Committee for the 1st concluding observations, as well as provide information on current challenges and plans on realization of reforms in several important directions.

In 2022, the joint inter-ministerial provision (MoHMI, MoE, MoLSP) on early intervention services for young children with disabilities and their families was developed to support cross-sectoral continuum and quality of early intervention provisions towards inclusive education and overall social inclusion.

UN and MOHMI continued implementation of the National Early Childhood Development (ECD) Strategy for 2020-2025. The national capacities were developed to establish early identification of developmental delays and disabilities among young children. As a result of inclusion of district-level PHC clinics in Dashoguz and Mary velayats to the programme, the share of etrapts providing early intervention services to under 5 children reached 18% in 2021 (compared to 12% in 2019 and 14% in

2020). Over 200 PHC professionals were trained in early identification of the developmental delays. Together with the National Red Crescent Society, UN trained over 50 Red Crescent volunteers in the basics of Infant Young Child Feeding and Early Childhood Development.

In 2022, National concept of inclusive education for 2023-2028 (IE) was developed under the lead of the inter-ministerial Working Group (MoE, MoHMI, MoLSP, Enme). The course on social inclusion for persons with disabilities as part of the 5 years undergraduate medical-social work curriculum at the Turkmen State Medical University was developed and approved to support building the new cadre of professionals with the competencies necessary for planning and leading work on policy reform for mainstreaming disability inclusion.

Training programme on preparation of trans-disciplinary specialists to provide a comprehensive early intervention support for young children with disabilities (0-6 yrs.) and their families towards their inclusive education path and overall social inclusion was delivered for 150 childcare professionals from health, education and social protection sectors. The in-service training package includes modules on trans-disciplinary services, mental health, and communication. Core modules as part of a short in-service course on inclusive education to support building initial capacity of pedagogical professionals on promoting inclusive learning environment were developed for further testing in 2023.



UN supported social media campaigns during International and National Breastfeeding Weeks reached over 11,000 mothers with information on IYCF during the reporting year. Persons with disabilities were targeted within the information campaign #menhabarly on COVID-19 safety and prevention, fighting stigma, importance of vaccination, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and mental health.

UN and the Blind and Deaf Society of Turkmenistan enhanced the knowledge of 66 members from the cities of Ashgabat, Mary and Turkmenabat who learned international experience of barrier free employment, social security and protection of the rights and interests of persons with disabilities. National capacity in inclusive skilling systems was strengthened by modernization of one of three selected Training-Production Enterprises of the Blind and Deaf Society of Turkmenistan.

With UN advocacy efforts the Government purchased 1,000 hearing aid devices for young

children. Furthermore, audiological screening equipment was delivered to maternity hospitals and audiologists trained in early identification of hearing problems. Draft Regulation on Establishment of Support System to children with Hearing Impairment was developed.

UN and the public organizations of Turkmenistan with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Sport and Youth Policy joined their efforts and hosted the Inclusive Sport Festival «We are strong, we are equal» that also marked the 30th anniversary of Turkmenistan's membership to the United Nations. The public organizations included Central Physical and Sports Club of the Disabled of Turkmenistan, Center for Support of the Disabled, Chess Center for the Blind, Society of the Blind and Deaf of Turkmenistan, Agama, Yenme, Recovery and Rehabilitation center.

UN provided the preparation for the Census 2022, migration and disability questions were included in the Census questionnaire to ensure the alignment with internationally agreed standards.



4

Recommendations

- Accelerating adoption of the National Concept of Inclusive Education;
- Advancing enabling and funding of Assistive Technologies and Products for PwD;
- Addressing negative attitudes and behaviors towards persons with disabilities and promoting the children's right to family environment;
- Building partnerships with all stakeholders to promote social inclusion, participation, employability and empowerment of PwD;
- Assisting the government in reforming a system of medical-social expert and medical-pedagogical commissions in line with the principles of CRPD and International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF);
- Building the new cadre of professionals for disciplines required for comprehensive support for PwD including physical therapy, occupational therapy, social work, psychology, assistive technology and products;
- Advocating for a transition towards the social model of disability through the major milestones: national accessibility plan, social rehabilitation and habilitation, early childhood intervention, inclusive education, skills development, deinstitutionalization and family support;
- Reducing the gap in early childhood development and reducing or abolishing of medical contraindications for attendance of educational institutions because of disability;
- Assisting the government in bringing deinstitutionalization agenda into practice;
- Strengthening social protection of PwD, expanding its coverage and adequacy, matching between cash transfers and the availability of social services and family support by the place of their residence;
- Strengthening national capacity of monitoring and data collection, introducing international methodologies for disability definition and measurement;
- Using the life course approach to public policies and programming to ensure that health, education and protection services for children and adults with disabilities are accessible, affordable, child and family centered;
- Ensuring sustainability of funding of the existing community services, further development and improvement of its the quality.

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Rights and choices for all adolescents and youth

1

Background

The global pandemic has had a dramatic impact on the lives of young people, on their education, job prospects, mental health, and social life. But young people are also at the forefront of responding to the pandemic. Across the globe, young people stepped up and devised responses in their communities and for their peers, young people volunteer in crisis, reaching out to older persons to help them overcome loneliness and exclusion, and assisting older people with new technologies so they can connect online with family and friends.

UN works with governments, civil society and diverse partners, to help empower young people to make their own choices and determine their own futures. They, in turn, will be able to shape and improve the world around them by sustaining Peace, People, Planet and Prosperity.

Definitions of adolescent and youth:



The UN embraces all adolescents (aged 10 to 19) and youth (aged 15 to 24) as per the UN definition for statistical purposes without prejudice to other definitions by the Member States



The Law on Youth Policy of Turkmenistan identifies youth as young citizens 14 to 30 years old



2

Situation Overview in Turkmenistan



Turkmenistan is a country with a predominantly young population. How well they navigate adolescence will determine not only the course of their own lives, but that of the country.

«Creating favorable conditions for the establishment of youth mechanisms and platforms for youth participation in the socio-economic, political and cultural life of the state and society» is one of the priorities of the Law and State Programme on Youth Policy of Turkmenistan 2021-2025. Thirty percent of members of Parliament are younger than 30 years, while the Youth Organization of Turkmenistan counts over 900,000 members in the country aged 14–37 and works closely with the Cabinet of Ministers. This government-supported public organization has the potential to drive the interests of young people across the country.

Creating and strengthening youth-friendly healthcare services is a priority within the framework of the National Strategy on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Children and Adolescent Health for 2021-2030. Adolescent birth rate for 15–19-year olds is at 22 births per 1,000

women in that age group, a slight decrease since 2016 (SDG indicator 3.7.2.). In 2018, adolescent girls aged 15-19 were included into the list of most at-risk women eligible for reproductive health commodities in the 95 reproductive health rooms countrywide.

Schoolchildren receive information about their reproductive health and rights, gender equality and life skills education within the framework of the Basics of Life Skills mandatory subject taught in 7-10 grades in secondary-level schools. However, the education is abstinence-focused and omits the issues of contraception, sexuality education and gender-based violence.

Young people are often the ones who drive social progress and transform social and gender norms promoting positive changes. For this, they need to be empowered with knowledge, skills and to exercise and express their rights. According to MICS 2019, 53.6% of girls aged 15-17 justify violence against women² due to established traditional gender roles in the family and society. The percentage is even higher among women aged 20-24, reaching up to 61.8%.



3

UN and Partners in Action



Summary of what UN has been done:

- Promotes young people's participation in decisions affecting them and in contributing to policies and services that are more likely to respond to their rights and needs
- Leads the work of the UN Task Force on Youth Policy to support the Working Group on Youth Policy in the implementation of the State Programme on Youth Policy for 2021-2025
- Promotes the meaningful participation of young people in decision-making and dialogue during the process of policy development, implementation and monitoring
- Supports programmes centered on adolescents with a particular focus on girls that can support their health, social, economic and cognitive assets and their overall development

Within the framework of the new State Programme on the Youth Policy, UN supports the government in establishing innovative platforms for youth participation and reinforcing youth-related statistical and SDG measurement systems. The partnership also focuses on promoting men and boys' engagement in advancing gender equality and positive social norms in society.

UN's support to the education sector has focused on strengthening the quality of reproductive

health, gender equality and life skills education within the Basics of Life skills subject through the adoption of teaching norms and standards and expanding the pedagogy resource base.

In out-of-school settings, UN also works with partners to equip adolescents with life skills and expand their knowledge on reproductive health, gender equality and positive social norms.

Yashlyk.info website provides evidence-based information on youth health issues for young people, parents and teachers. The site also provides new and updated evidence-based information for adolescents and their parents on adolescent reproductive health during the global pandemic, as well as virus prevention and health risks through a new rubric on COVID-19. UN also supports the activities of the Youth Peer Education Network or Y-PEER, a group of volunteers who promote healthy living and gender equality among peers.

UN supports health policies and programmes that prioritize the needs of adolescents and youth. Within the framework of the National Strategy on Reproductive, Maternal, Children and Adolescent Health, UN continues supporting the government in making health services for adolescents accessible, affordable and trustworthy. UN is also providing technical support in the establishment of an adolescent health center in the capital, including the development and integration of the different standards of clinical



care for adolescent boys and girls. The center will serve as a knowledge hub and training center for the country and will offer a wide spectrum of health services to adolescents.

Joint Programme funded by the Human Security Trust Fund on «Empowering and engaging the young people in mitigating the multi-dimensional threats of the global health pandemic» has been launched.

UN strengthened national capacity under «Listen First» science-based drug prevention initiative aimed to **prevent drug use among youth and children**. UN also launched Youth Network in Turkmenistan within the framework of the Youth Initiative to empower young people through establishing regional network of youth organizations aimed at mainly addressing issues related to UN mandate areas including prevention of drug use, crime prevention, prevention of radicalization, anticorruption measures as well as gender dimension.

Throughout 2021, **the UN Agencies conducted institutional strengthening and capacity building activities for national partners at national and local community level** covering issues of human rights including people with disabilities (PWDs), women, children and youth, gender based violence, drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, digitalisation of public services including CRVS, health including for prison inmates, statelessness prevention and reduction, refugee protection and inter-agency refugee preparedness and response, migration management, CRPD-compliant budgeting, human security methodology, youth related SDGs and application of results-

based-management (RBM) to monitoring the state youth programme, preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE), forensics, statistics, including demographic and methodological support on SDG indicators and reporting on Sendai DRR and disaster resilience assessment on local level.

UN continued supporting national state and not-state actors, including women, youth and their organisations in prevention of violent extremism under the implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and the UN Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE) through the EU-UN initiative on Strengthening Resilience Against Violent Extremism in Asia (STRIVE Asia).

Four community-based initiatives were developed by youth, contributing to the overall goal of the Joint Programme on «Empowering and Engaging Youth in Mitigating the Threats of the Health Pandemic» to strengthen the capacities of local communities in overcoming health, environmental, community, and personal insecurities resulting from the global pandemics.

More than 80 youth volunteers proposed projects that potentially could help reduce vulnerabilities and alleviate community, health, personal and environmental insecurities in their velayats. Four youth-led projects will promote solidarity with older persons and advocate for the intergenerational dialogue; healthy lifestyle using the «peer-to-peer» approach among the at-risk youth; awareness raising campaigns among the potential migrants and their families; and promote environmental awareness among the teachers and schoolchildren.



In the lead up to the Conference of Youth (COY17) and 27th session of the Conference of Parties (COP27) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UN in Turkmenistan, jointly with the British Embassy and the Government of Turkmenistan supported Turkmen youth to convene the Conference of Youth on Climate in Turkmenistan. The conference gathered over 250 participants and included presentations and seminars from leading experts, young activists and politicians. This year's themes included challenges posed by climate change; green, sustainable and modern energy; food security and sustainable agriculture; sustainable consumption and production patterns; and environmental education and upbringing, gender equality and climate change.

In 2022, UN in partnership with the Eurasia Foundation (EF) within the framework of the Social Innovations in Central Asia (SICA) program and with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), held a round table on the topic «Implementation of the Youth Policy – new opportunities and perspectives» in Ashgabat. Representatives of ministries and governmental agencies, public organizations and associations of Turkmenistan (NGOs),

as well as active young leaders took an active part in this event. It was a platform for discussing the new version of the law of Turkmenistan «On State Youth Policy» dated September 1, 2022. This law defines the main directions of the state youth policy, and is also aimed at increasing state support in ensuring the rights and freedoms of young people and formation of their complete personality. Earlier, a round table in Ashgabat raised the issues on employment and career guidance of Youth.

The new group of young SDG Ambassadors in Turkmenistan was selected for 2022-2023 to mobilize and unite the youth of Turkmenistan, whose activities contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Turkmenistan, and also create a platform for dialogue with the youth of other countries. The UN also established Youth reference Group consisting of 85 young people to consult on local development issues.

UN will continue providing technical support and policy advice to empower young people enabled by population dynamics, human rights and gender equality, and creating conditions for the population to contribute to the development of the country.



4

Recommendations

The UN Cooperation Framework has a specific focus on the populations furthest behind, including young girls in rural areas and from the lowest wealth quintile, adolescent girls and boys, and young people with disabilities. The UN together with the partners will contribute to:



Supporting the realization of the State Programme on Youth Policy, specifically in the area of youth legislation, youth-related statistics, promotion of volunteerism, health, and life skills education, as well as creating support platforms for engaging men and boys' to advance positive gender practices in the society



Support transitioning of youth, especially women, to the labour market



Development of the national youth participation mechanism in policy and decision-making processes amplifying their voices at national, regional and global levels



Enabling environment for reproductive health services and implementation of reproductive rights:

- Supporting the implementation of the National Strategy on Reproductive, Maternal, Children and Adolescent Health for 2021-2030
- Operationalizing comprehensive reproductive health education in school settings



Gender equality and empowerment of women and adolescents to claim their rights and to make informed choices while creating demand for high-quality services:

- Promoting men and boys engagement in advancing gender equality, positive social norms and ending gender-based violence
- Promoting innovative mechanisms and platforms for youths and adolescents' participation in decision-making and intergenerational dialogue
- Supporting the realization of the State Programme on Youth Policy, specifically in the area of youth legislation, youth-related statistics, promotion of volunteerism, health, and life skills education

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Women facing gender-based violence

1

Background

Violence against women is a global problem that knows no cultural, geographic, religious, social and economic boundaries. Physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence against women is a widespread phenomenon. It is well known that violence against women in its many forms and manifestations is a violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The sample survey «Health and Status of a Woman in the Family in Turkmenistan» was conducted in 2020 as part of the implementation of objectives of the first National Action Plan on Gender Equality in Turkmenistan for 2015-2020.

Collecting and analysing data on violence against women, as well as on women's and children's health is essential in order to facilitate the development and implementation of state policy, to stimulate in-depth scientific research and to raise public awareness on the issue. This analysis is also important for the fulfillment of Turkmenistan's international obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and monitoring the progress within the framework of the national agenda on achieving the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In Turkmenistan, **12% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse** by a husband/partner at least once in their lives



Sample size: 3,596 households



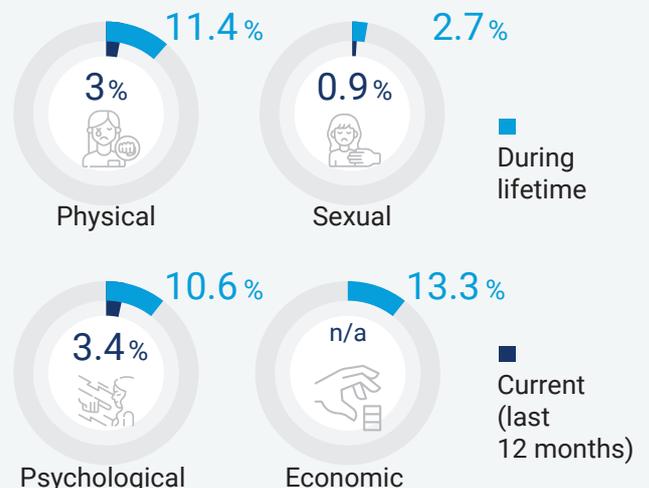
Response rate: 99.1%



Respondents: women aged 18-59 who are or have been married/ in a relationship



Regional coverage: Ashgabat and 5 regions (Ahal, Balkan, Dashoguz, Lebap, Mary)





Frequency of violence by marriage age

Women who first got married or got in a relationship before the age of 18 were more likely (24.7%) to report physical violence from their husbands than women who entered their first marriage/relationship after the age of 18 (10.1%).

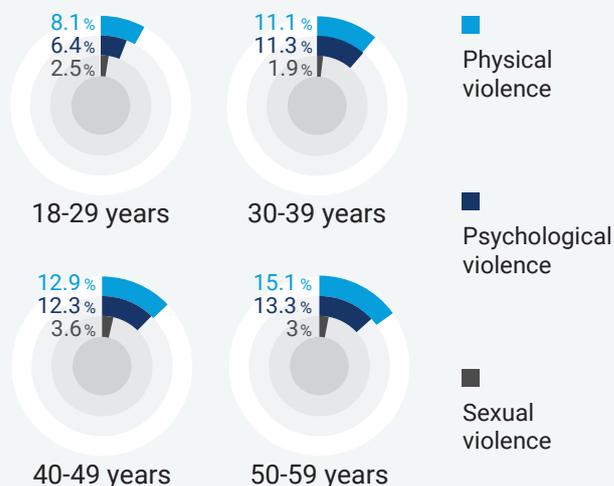
In general, acts of physical and sexual violence by the husband/partner are recurring, not a one-time incident. Only 24% of women who experienced physical violence and 21% of women who experienced sexual violence reported that it happened once. The majority of women (64%) who experienced physical abuse by their husband/partner reported severe forms of physical abuse. Among women who experienced husband/partner violence, one in five (21.6%) experienced it during pregnancy.

Impact of violence on women's health and children's well-being

The survey found that the experience of violence in a woman's life is correlated with an increased prevalence of specific health problems and negative reproductive health outcomes. Among women who experienced physical and/or sexual abuse by their husband/partner, 33.5% resorted to abortion, 26% had a miscarriage, and 6.3% gave birth to stillborn children.

In families where a woman has been physically and/or sexually abused by her husband/partner, her children are more likely to suffer from behavioral problems such as nightmares, bedwetting at night, withdrawal/shyness, aggressiveness.

% of women aged 18-59 who have been subjected to lifetime violence by their current or former husband/partner, by age groups





Coping strategies for partner violence

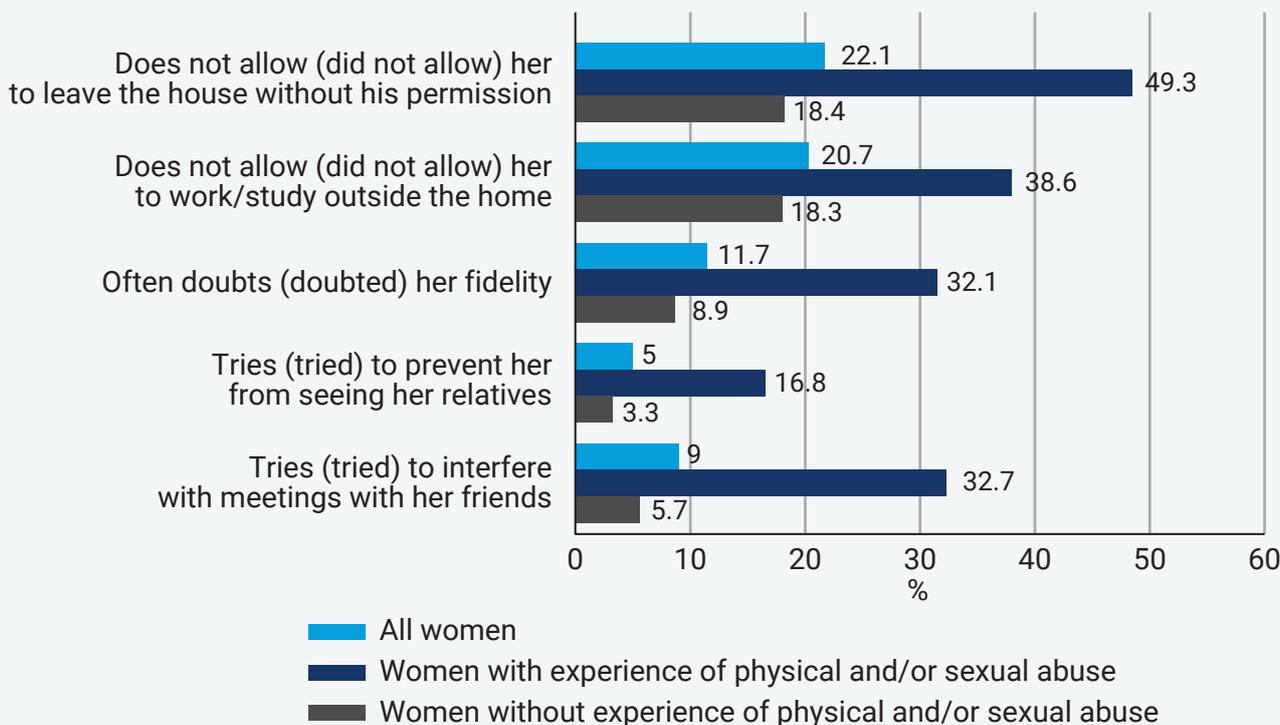
Most women who have experienced domestic violence do not tell anyone about it. Only 36.8% of women said they had told someone about their experience. Most often, the respondents reported violence from their husband/partner to their parents (23.8%), less often – to the husband’s family (13.1%), other members of their family (11.1%).

Among women aged 18-59 who were ever married/relationships and experienced intimate partner

violence (IPV), only 11.9% chose to seek help from relevant organizations and institutions. They mainly turned to the police (9.8%), less often to the courts (5.9%), medical institutions (3.8%), and local elders (3.2%).

The survey showed that women turn to the relevant organizations and institutions for help when the situation reaches the limit: the majority (80.1%) of the respondents made this decision because they «couldn’t endure it anymore».

Percentage of women aged 18-59 who have experienced various **controlling actions** from their current (last) husband/partner





3

UN and Partners in Action

UN continued supporting national state and not-state actors, including women, youth and their organisations under the implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and the UN Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE) through the EU-UN initiative on Strengthening Resilience Against Violent Extremism in Asia (STRIVE Asia)

For almost three decades, UN has been a strategic partner of the Government of Turkmenistan in advancing women's empowerment and promoting gender equality. UN's response to promoting gender equality in Turkmenistan includes:

- supporting Turkmenistan's national human rights system in fulfilling its obligations as part of the international human rights treaties and conventions it ratified, including CEDAW;
- supporting the implementation of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality in areas where UN can provide its expert support;
- developing the capacity of policy makers and civil servants in gender-sensitive policies and gender mainstreaming;
- building capacity of national institutions and professionals on ways to address gender equality issues;
- institutionalizing a multi-sectoral approach to GBV, consisting of constructive cooperation among health, psychosocial and law enforcement sectors to support GBV survivors.

UN will support the Government in using data generated from the national survey on health and status of a woman in the family to formulate effective actions towards ending GBV.

Integration of gender education in the courses of the Academy of State Service under the President of Turkmenistan is an important initiative to educate mid-level decision makers on gender equality and on how to mainstream it into socio-economic programming and policy actions. A course on gender-sensitive reporting for media professionals developed and piloted at the department of journalism of the International University for Humanities and Development is another important contribution to nurturing a culture of speaking up about gender equality issues in the country.

UN joined efforts with the Government of Turkmenistan and other UN Agencies to implement a Joint Programme entitled «Improving the system of social protection through the introduction of inclusive quality community-based social services».

The purpose of the Joint Programme is to foster a transformative change in the current system of social service delivery in Turkmenistan, to reach out to the most deprived and vulnerable population and to address their specific needs. The Programme aims to design a new model of inclusive community-based services for vulnerable population groups, including women facing gender-based violence.



4

Recommendations

The results of the survey demonstrate the need to develop a roadmap for the prevention of domestic violence and other types of violence against women. Taking into account the complex nature of the problem, it is necessary that the actions include measures on four main components:

- improving legislation
- building a coordinated system of services to support and protect survivors of violence
- measures to prevent violence against women and all forms of gender discrimination
- collection and analysis of data on the frequency, prevalence and characteristics of gender-based violence in and outside the family.

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Stateless people

1

Background

A stateless person is someone who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law. Without a nationality, stateless people often have difficulty accessing basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement. They are unable to register marriage, or even the birth of their children. UN works with governments, parliaments, authorities, and civil society in Turkmenistan to identify and protect people without a nationality, resolve existing situations of statelessness, and prevent new cases from emerging.

The 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness are the key international conventions addressing statelessness. Both are complemented by international human rights treaties and provisions relevant to the right to a nationality.

Definitions:



Stateless persons individuals recognized and documented by the State as being without any nationality



Persons with undetermined nationality individuals who do not have proof that they possess any nationality, and have links to more than one State, or are perceived and treated by the authorities in the State of residence as possessing such links



For over a decade Turkmenistan, supported by UN, have made significant progress in reducing and preventing statelessness on their territories.

As of December 2021, cases of 10,271 people known to be stateless were resolved. With stateless people continuously identified, the true number is believed to be higher.

A majority of stateless people in Turkmenistan are ex-citizens of the former Soviet Union who have not yet acquired or confirmed citizenship of the independent States. Others are born stateless or became stateless due to gaps in nationality laws, international migration, and mixed marriages.

With only two years left of the #IBelong campaign, in 2022 UN and partners continue supporting the efforts of Turkmenistan to accede to the Statelessness Conventions, develop and strengthen dedicated statelessness determination procedures, and align national legislation and practices with international standards.

With the upcoming round of national population censuses in Turkmenistan, UN will provide technical support and expertise in mapping the full extent of statelessness in these States. The UN legal partners will continue outreach and providing legal counselling and support for confirmation or acquisition of nationality to stateless persons, persons with undetermined nationality and those at risk of statelessness.

Turkmenistan statistics since the start of the #IBelong campaign in 2014 to 31 December 2021 in

	IDENTIFIED	RESOLVED
 Stateless Persons	3,618	10,271
 Individuals with undetermined nationality	2,333*	255

Based on partner organization data



3

UN and Partners in Action

In 2020, Turkmenistan applies a new law on Civil Status Acts to ensure registration of all children born in the country, including those with undocumented parents.

In 2021, Turkmenistan hold a Central Asia regional conference on statelessness eradication to exchange good models and develop strategies to address remaining gaps towards accession to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions. That year 2,657 stateless persons in Turkmenistan were granted citizenship.

In 2022, Turkmenistan citizenship was granted to 1,530 stateless people (including 2 refugees), comprised of 26 ethnicities, of them 57% of women.

Protecting refugees and asylum-seekers

- On 10 June, UN conducted a working-level meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss activities of the Joint Workplan with the Government of Turkmenistan for 2022. The meeting enabled discussion on the latest developments, tracking of the implementation stage of the workplan and planning of future activities.
- On 29 August, UN delivered an online lecture as part of a full day training for the third cohort of SDG Youth Ambassadors in Turkmenistan, raising awareness of the situations of refugees,

role of UN in ensuring international protection of people forced to flee, the legal foundation of international refugee protection as well as the cooperation mechanisms to find sustainable solutions.

- In July, UN provided three mandate refugee households (3 females and 1 male) with multi-purpose cash-based assistance to support them to cover their basic needs.

#IBELONG CAMPAIGN TO END STATELESSNESS



Launched in 2014, the global **#IBelong Campaign** aims to end statelessness within 10 years

The campaign is directly linked to target 9 of **Sustainable Development Goal 16**: to provide legal identity for all, including birth registration, by 2030.



Ending statelessness

Within the framework of the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement project – «Support for data collection on statelessness through national population censuses in Central Asia» – UN supported the Government of Turkmenistan to convene a seminar on «Organization, methodology and main provisions of the population and housing census of Turkmenistan in 2022» on 9 and 10 August. The seminar aimed to familiarize around 100 representatives of the department of the State Statistics Committee with the main areas of work of local authorized regional statistical bodies and the methodological provisions for conducting a population and housing census. UN delivered a session on the national census and statelessness identification to provide enumerators with a better understanding of statelessness and discuss situations they may face while interviewing stateless people.

Responding to emergencies

Turkmenistan is part of the 2022 Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) which, under the overall leadership of UN, supports host governments to meet the needs of Afghans of varying statuses, including refugees, asylum-seekers and undocumented people, as well as host communities and potential new arrivals. There has been no mass influx of new arrivals from Afghanistan in Turkmenistan. UN and partners are focusing on emergency preparedness activities while advocating for the government to enable safe and unhindered access to territory and prevent non-refoulement.

Within the Joint Workplan with the Government of Turkmenistan for 2022, on 31 August UN conducted an online lecture on emergency preparedness and response in accordance with international standards for representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Labour, Internal Affairs and the State Migration Service, State Border Service, as well as representatives of local executive bodies and other State officials who would be involved in the event of an influx of refugees.



4

Recommendations

Protecting and securing solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers

Supporting long-lasting solutions that empower refugees to rebuild their lives and strengthening the national ownership of and investment in quality asylum systems, fulfilling international obligations as well as pledges made to the Global Compact on Refugees.

Collaborating on the Almaty Process on Refugee Protection and International Migration where cross-border movements include refugees, victims of trafficking, and migrants.

Developing technical capacity of partners

Developing technical capacity of the Government partners, academia and the judiciary involved in the asylum system, and implementing projects through civil society partners that assist and guide people seeking protection.

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Reducing and preventing statelessness

Through community outreach, legal counselling, and assistance to confirm or acquire nationality, supporting the Government in identifying and protecting people without a nationality, and preventing and reducing statelessness in line with the global #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness.

Responding to emergencies

Supporting government and other humanitarian partners to plan and prepare responses to forced internal displacement and refugee emergencies.

Providing to UN and partners safe and efficient access to asylum and non-refoulement.

Implementing the 2022 Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan to support the needs of Afghans of varying statuses, including refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as host communities, and potential new arrivals in Turkmenistan.

UPDATE 2022



**UNITED NATIONS
TURKMENISTAN**



**COMMON
COUNTRY
ANALYSIS**



TURKMENISTAN