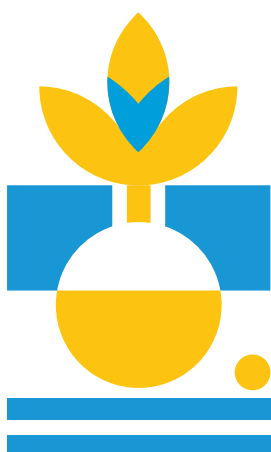


ANNUAL REPORT

UNITED NATIONS IN TURKMENISTAN 2024



Credits

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

Report: UN Country Team

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[Foreword by the UN Resident Coordinator](#)
[UN Country Team](#)
[Key Development Partners of the UN Development System in the Country](#)

CHAPTER 1
[Key Developments in the Country and Regional Context](#)

CHAPTER 2
[UN Development System Support to the National Development Priorities through the Cooperation Framework](#)

[2.1. Overview of the Cooperation Framework Results](#)
[2.2. Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes, and Outputs](#)
[2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda](#)
[2.4. Results of the UN Working More and Better Together: UN Coherence, Effectiveness and Efficiency](#)
[2.5. Evaluations and Lessons Learned](#)
[2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization](#)

CHAPTER 3
[UN Key Focus for the Next Year](#)



Throughout 2024, the UN system in Turkmenistan diligently pursued the goals outlined in the **Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025**, fostering collaborative relationships with the government, civil society, development partners, and the private sector. This collaboration aimed to create inclusive policies and laws, ensuring that support reached the most marginalized populations, adhering to the "leave no one behind" principle.

In partnership with the government, the UN focused on enhancing climate change, youth, human rights, promoting inclusion, and protecting vulnerable groups. This involved **legislative reforms, aligning national laws with international standards, building human rights capacity, and broadening access to social protection, especially for individuals with disabilities and children**. Notably, the release of the **2022 Census disaggregated data** and **expansion of statistics** on national SDG database **marked significant milestones**.

The UN also contributed to Turkmenistan's **economic advancement** by facilitating **digitalization** across banking, business, and public services, and by promoting **green initiatives in energy efficiency**. Furthermore, the UN supported the development of legal frameworks for sustainable development, **enhanced civil servant skills, advanced SDG financing, and created employment opportunities for people with disabilities**. The UN further supported Turkmenistan's **WTO accession through capacity building**.

In the **health, education, and social support sectors**, the UN provided technical assistance to **improve national systems**. This included support for **NCDs control, vaccination campaigns, and the provision of essential health supplies**. UN initiatives also targeted maternal and child health, disease management, mental health, and emergency preparedness. Additionally, the UN assisted in developing **social protection regulations**, establishing **social work programs** in universities, and **strengthening educational capacities** to address climate change and disaster risks in schools.

Moving forward, the UN system will maintain its **collaborative efforts with government institutions, the private sector, civil society, and development partners** to assist the people of Turkmenistan in achieving their development goals and progressing towards the SDGs, by securing additional human and financial resources, expertise, and adherence to international standards.



Dmitry Shlapachenko
UN Resident Coordinator in
Turkmenistan



UN Country Team in Turkmenistan



The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Turkmenistan consists of 19 UN specialized agencies, funds, and programs. Together, they support the country in achieving its national development priorities outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF/CF). The UNCT serves as a platform for collaboration among these agencies, facilitating joint policy formulation and decision-making. It offers strategic guidance and oversight to ensure that UN agencies provide cohesive, effective, and efficient assistance. Despite being signatories to the UNSDCF, two UN entities (UNOPS and UNDRR) closed their offices in the country due to the completion of their projects in 2022 and the lack of funding for further programming. In 2024, these two and UN-Habitat actively explored opportunities to establish in-country presence through consultations with and offers to the government.



Key Development Partners of the UN Development System in the Country

In 2024, the government of Turkmenistan remained a key development partner of the UNDS. UN agencies and government entities discussed national development priorities and potential UN support, as well as key areas for cooperation during the **new CF cycle in 2026-2030**. Key platforms for bilateral and multilateral dialogue and strategic decision making were the CF Results Groups and joint UN-Government of Turkmenistan Steering Committee, as well as recently established **UN-Government Strategic Advisory Board**^[1].

The country’s progress in **SDG implementation** was the focus of a series of national consultations and prioritization exercises facilitated by the UN under the **new CF 2026-2030 Roadmap**. Among key priorities and SDG acceleration means, the issues of SDG financing and implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, including the progress in implementation of Integrated National Financing Frameworks in Turkmenistan, were discussed within the Joint UN-Government Experts Group on SDG Financing (JEG)^[2]. In 2024, JEG focused on **analyzing the investment mechanisms**^[3], **insurance services, SDG financing gaps**^[4], **transparency in financial statistics, and the concept of the UN Joint Programme for public-financial management reforms in Turkmenistan**.

During the year, three meetings of the **UN-Government Strategic Advisory Board (SAB)** were held^[5]. The discussions at the SAB platform were focused on the formulation of new CF for 2026-2030, reviewing and prioritizing the package of the UN Joint Programme proposals, planning and coordination of joint activities during 2025 – the International Year of Peace and Trust^[6], preparations for the visit of the UN Secretary General to Turkmenistan, implementation of the Roadmap for SDG reporting, government’s initiative for establishment of the Regional Centre for Climate Technology in Central Asia, and other.

The **Development Partners Coordination Group (DPCG)** chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator remained the primary platform for UNCT engagement with development partners in the country. Under the leadership of the US Embassy and UNDP, development partners in Turkmenistan held the first meeting of the newly established **DPCG Working Group on Sustainable Economy and Finance**^[7]. Partners launched a multilateral country-level dialogue on key economic and financial issues, including **alignment of country programmes and projects with the National Socio-Economic Development Programme for 2022-2052 and the Presidential Programme of Social-Economic Development of the country for 2022-2028**; joint efforts to avoid duplication and parallel action; synergies and efficiencies among partners; joint advocacy on key development challenges; country’s **WTO accession process**; SDG financing, and new UN Funding Compact. DPCG working groups on Climate Action co-chaired by UNDP and UK Embassy, and Human Rights and Governance co-chaired by UNFPA and EU Delegation convened several meetings with development partners to discuss issues related to **climate change mitigation and adaptation, preparations to COP, human rights, gender-based violence, and women empowerment**.

The partnership between the UN and the Government of Turkmenistan expanded with **UN-Habitat** signing a **Memorandum of Understanding with the government and launching the expansion of its operations in the country**, which started from the Programme Development Mission to Turkmenistan in two phases in early 2025.

Youth participation in UN activities in Turkmenistan was elevated to a new level. In the lead-up to the **Conference of Youth (COY19)** and the **29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 29) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change**, a series of Conferences of Youth on Climate Change was held in Turkmenistan regions. Consultations with youth held in Turkmenabad^[8], Balkanabat^[9], Dashoguz^[10], Mary^[11], Bezmeir^[12] and Ashgabat. UNCT hosted number of youth-led events, such as #YouthLead for the Future Watch Parties, which allowed the young people to actively participate in the Youth Action Days and related side events^[13], **The World Day Against Transnational Organized Crime (TOC)**, for the first time in Turkmenistan’s history, served as the launchpad for a large-scale forum, vividly demonstrating the younger generation’s commitment to building a safe and prosperous future^[14].

Major partners that the UN partnered with in the implementation, funding, and financing of the CF in 2024

32 National Partners

- Mejlis (Parliament)
 - Supreme Court
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - Ministry of Health and Medical Industry
 - Ministry of Finance and Economy
 - Ministry of Education
 - Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population
 - Ministry of Agriculture
 - Ministry of Environment Protection
 - Ministry of Energy
 - Ministry of Construction and Architecture
 - Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations
 - Ministry of Adalat
 - Ministry of Defence
 - Ministry of Internal Affairs
 - General Prosecutor Office
- Transport and Communications Agency under the Cabinet of Ministers
 - Hakimliks of velayats, and cities of Ashgabat and Arkadag
 - State Migration Service
 - State Statistics Committee
 - State Customs Service
 - State Committee for Water Management
 - State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports
 - Central Bank
 - “Turkmengas” State Concern
 - “Turkmennebit” State Concern
 - “Turkmenstandartlary” State Main Service
 - Office of Ombudsperson
 - Institute of State, Law, and Democracy
 - Institute for the Caspian Sea
 - State Service Academy
 - State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs

23 NGOs and CSOs

- “Eco Durmush”
 - “Taze zaman”
 - Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs
 - National Red Crescent Society
 - Women’s Union
 - Youth Organisation named after Magtymguly
 - “Center for Support of people with disabilities”
- “Ynanch Vepa”
 - “Mashgala”
 - “Dap Dessur”
 - “Beyik Eyyam”
 - “Yashyl Shohle”
 - Society of Environment Protection of Turkmenistan
 - “Keyik Okara”
- Society of Blind and Deaf of Turkmenistan
 - "Yenme"
 - “Ynam”
 - “Central Physical Sport Club for people with disabilities”
 - “Yash Tebigatchy”
 - Turkmenistan Women Economic Society
- Society of Economics and Accountants of Turkmenistan
 - Society of Accountants of Turkmenistan
 - “Ynamly Egindesh”

12 Governments and Embassies

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

16 International Organizations

- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
 - USAID
 - OSCE
 - JICA
 - GIZ
 - ADB
 - EBRD
 - World Bank
- IMF
 - IsDB
 - Eurasia Foundation
 - Winrock International
 - Russian Academy of Sciences
 - Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission
 - International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training
 - Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

16 Funds

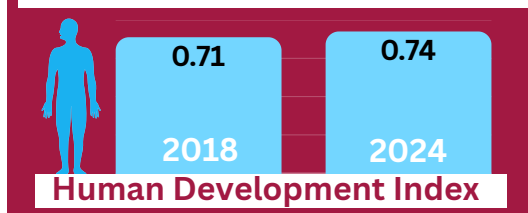
- Green Climate Fund (GCF)
 - Global Environment Facility (GEF)
 - The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (The Global Fund)
 - Adaptation Fund
 - Joint SDG Fund
 - South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund
 - IOM Development Fund
 - The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and malaria
- United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security
 - Spotlight Initiative Fund
 - Multilateral Fund for Implementation of Montreal Protocol
 - Conflict, Stability and Security Fund
 - Bloomberg Philanthropies
 - United Nations Development Account
 - German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) Fund
 - UNFPA Strategic Investment Facility

[1] <https://turkmenistan.un.org/en/267878-un-government-raise-policy-dialogues-higher-level>
[2] <https://turkmenistan.un.org/en/277057-turkmenistan-and-un-focus-advancing-sdg-financing-initiatives>
[3] <https://turkmenistan.un.org/en/282896-un-support-turkmenistan%E2%80%99s-national-commitments-sustainable-development-goals-transformation>
[4] <https://turkmenistan.un.org/en/274196-un-and-turkmenistan-joint-expert-group-convenes-advance-sdg-financing>
[5] <https://turkmenistan.un.org/en/274386-turkmenistan-and-un-strengthen-partnership-second-strategic-advisory-board-meeting>
[6] [GA Resolution A/RES/78/266 proclaiming 2025 – the International Year of Peace and Trust](https://www.un.org/press/en/2024/01/20240101-2025-international-year-of-peace-and-trust)
[7] <https://turkmenistan.un.org/en/270224-undp-and-us-embassy-turkmenistan-convene-first-coordination-meeting-development-partners>
[8] <https://turkmenistan.un.org/en/278460-youth-conference-turkmenabat-contribution-youth-climate-change-issues>
[9] <https://turkmenistan.un.org/en/278200-youth-balkanabat-unite-discuss-climate-change-issues>
[10] <https://turkmenistan.un.org/en/277986-youth-dashoguz-people-dashoguz-forefront-climate-change-initiatives>
[11] <https://turkmenistan.un.org/en/278279-youth-conference-mary-innovative-solutions-climate-change>
[12] <https://turkmenistan.un.org/en/278836-eco-initiatives-bezmeir-youth-sustainable-future>
[13] <https://turkmenistan.un.org/en/280034-turkmenistan-youth-engage-youthlead-future-watch-parties>
[14] <https://turkmenistan.un.org/en/283950-turkmenistan-youth-%E2%80%93-defenders-secure-future>

People



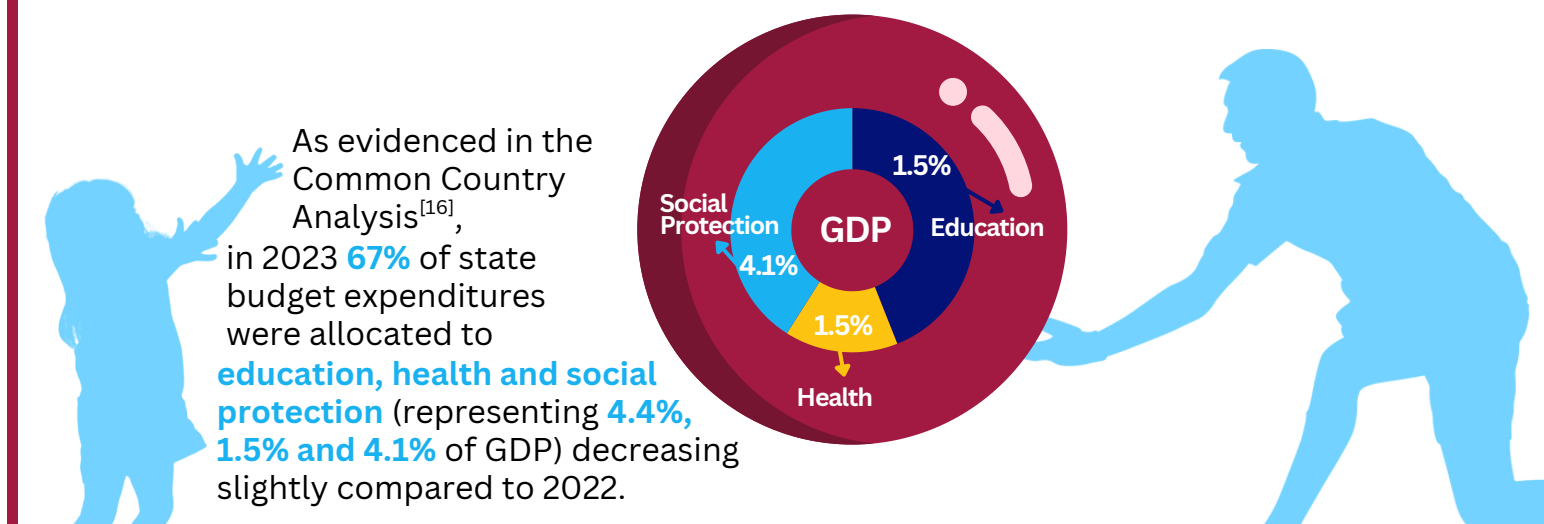
As of December 2022, Turkmenistan's population reached **7,057,841 people**, with **47.1% urban** and **52.9% rural** residents.



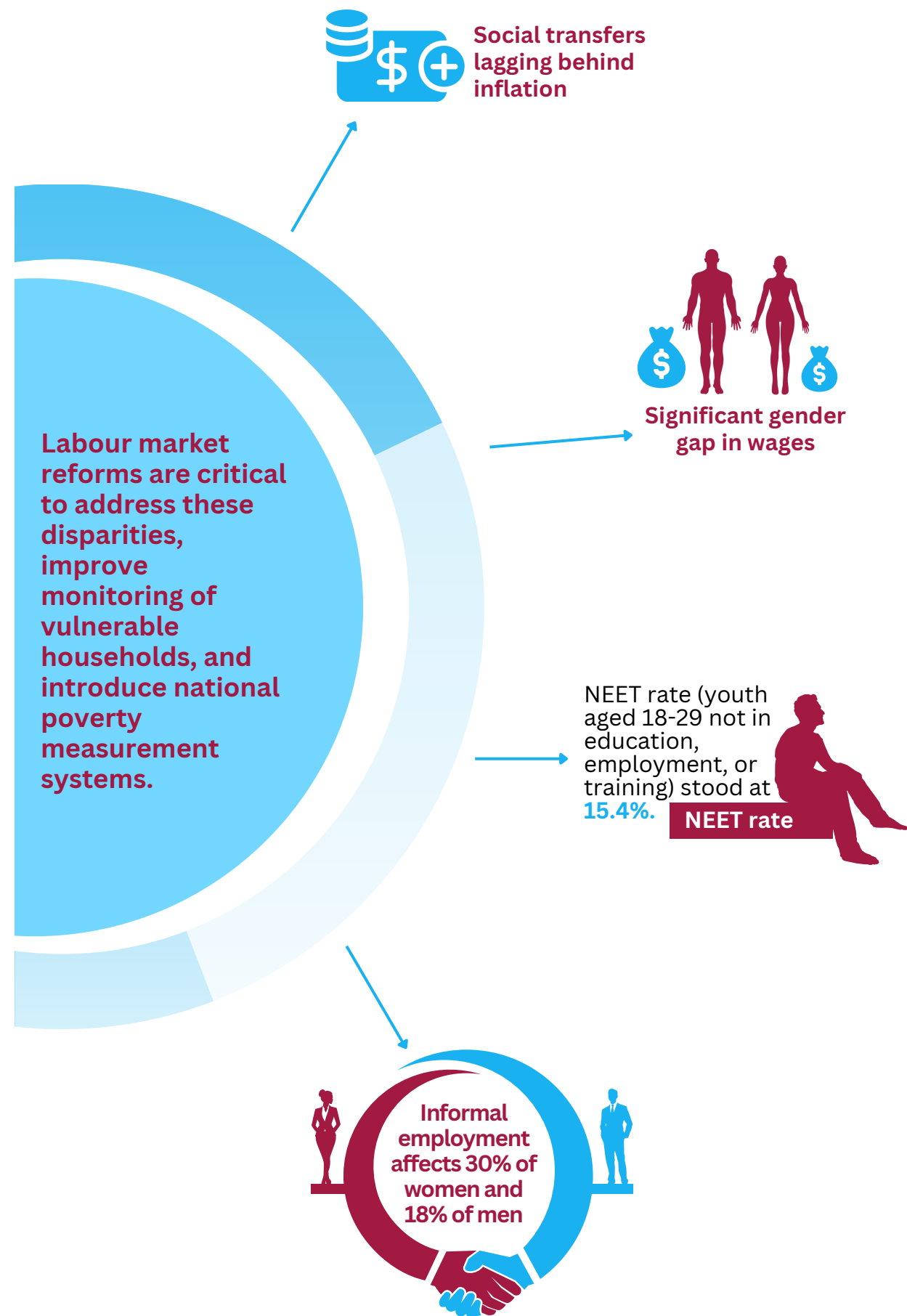
The country's Human Development Index has improved from **0.71** (108th globally) in 2018 to **0.74** (94th) in 2024^[15].



The "**Leaving No One Behind**" (LNOB) principle was central to Turkmenistan's National Commitments to SDG Transformation^[17], and prioritized in UN joint programming proposals, including to support the National Social Services Development Plan.



Labour Market Challenges



[15] <https://hdr.undp.org/content/human-development-report-2023-24>
[16] <https://turkmenistan.un.org/en/289766-common-country-analysis-2024-update>
[17] <https://sdgs.un.org/national-commitments-sdg-transformation/22302>



Key Developments in the Country and Regional Context

Prosperity



GDP Growth Estimates

In 2023, GDP growth was officially reported at **6.3%**, though the IMF estimated it at **2.5%**, with a forecast of **2.1%** for 2024.

Enhancing Economic Resilience

- High global energy prices supported a current account surplus of **7%** of GDP, but the **economy remains vulnerable** due to commodity dependence and export market concentration (**80% of gas exports go to China**). Efforts to diversify export markets include exploring opportunities in the EU, Turkey, Iran, and Iraq.



GAS
Exports
68%

The Economic Landscape of Turkmenistan: Reliance on Hydrocarbons

Turkmenistan is a landlocked upper-middle-income country, heavily reliant on hydrocarbons, which dominate exports and generate significant revenues (**89%** in 2023, of them **68% from natural gas**).

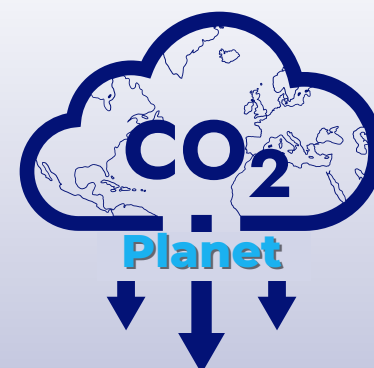
Navigating Economic Diversification: Strategies for Turkmenistan's Sustainable Growth

Economic diversification remains a priority to reduce dependence on gas exports and mitigate risks from the global shift toward greener energy sources.

Without diversification, Turkmenistan risks being anchored to a low-growth trajectory. Structural reforms, industrial policies, and investments in **green energy** transition are essential to sustain prosperity. The credit-to-GDP ratio has grown to **65%**, but **70%** of loans are directed to the public sector, limiting private sector growth and job creation. The share of SMEs in industry is decreasing (**12.3%** in 2021, **9.4%** in 2023). To avoid the middle-income trap, Turkmenistan must implement policies aligned with its comparative advantages, attract investments, and promote inclusive economic growth.

The PPSED for 2022-2028 indicates an expected decline in the agriculture sector – to **9.4%** of GDP by 2028. To retain productivity the sector should reduce employment, mainly informal, by almost **20%** and reallocate to other sectors around **192,000** workers.

Inclusive diversification, economic restructuring and private sector development are key economic policy priorities, calling for a highly skilled workforce, accelerated structural reforms and transition towards the inclusive and diversified market economy.



Turkmenistan's hydrocarbon resources are estimated at over **71 billion tons of oil equivalent**, including **50 trillion cubic meters of natural gas**.

However, Turkmenistan ranks **6th** in global energy-related methane emissions (**5 million metric tons emitted in accounting for 4.1% of the world and 58% of Central Asian emissions in 2023**). The IEA estimates that **75%** of these emissions can be reduced, with over half at zero net cost.

The World Bank placed Turkmenistan in the top 10 countries facing the greatest risk of “brown lock-ins” given climate change impact pressure on trade potential of “brown products”.

After joining the Global Methane Pledge at COP28 the Government signed an MoU with UNEP which among others aims to establish a **Center for Climate Change Technologies for Central Asia in Ashgabat**.

After conducting a dedicated Hard Talk^[18] the UN Country Team submitted for government co-financing two UN Joint Programme proposals on supporting a reduction of methane emissions and a just green energy transition for achieving net-zero by 2052.

Water scarcity remains a critical environmental challenge, alongside inefficient irrigation infrastructure and soil contamination from chemical fertilizers. Turkmenistan's renewable energy potential, particularly in solar and wind, offers opportunities for a just energy transition and sustainable economic growth.



Turkmenistan plays a vital role in promoting **regional stability and multilateralism** in Central Asia. The country is a **critical supplier of electricity to Afghanistan**, with bilateral agreements significantly boosting Afghanistan's energy security.

The TAPI pipeline as a major infrastructure project was reactivated in 2024 allowing to **diversify gas supply routes and contribute to energy-peace nexus**.

Turkmenistan also hosted regional dialogues on food security, climate change, and water resource management, supported by the UN.

In 2024, Turkmenistan continued advancing the **WTO accession process** drafting a **Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime**. The UN is a key partner in supporting trade facilitation and reducing barriers.

The World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) illustrate improvement in the “Rule of Law” dimension, while stagnating in other five dimensions.

The President endorsed the Action Plan for the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Programme for 2025-2029.

The UN estimated an **SDG financing gap for 2026-2030 to meet national SDG targets at 2.8% of GDP annually in 2026-2030^[19]**.

Public finance management reforms, supported by the UN and IFIs, are critical for SDG financing. Innovative mechanisms such as **blended finance and carbon markets** are needed to address financing gaps and support the transition to a sustainable, inclusive economy.



[18] See: <https://www.mfa.gov.tm/en/news/4355>

[19] See: <https://turkmenistan.un.org/en/262684-un-agencies-host-side-event-integrated-national-financing-frameworks-financing-sustainable>

2.1. Overview of the Cooperation Framework Results

The UN has played a **pivotal role** in Turkmenistan's pursuit of its **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** by actively supporting the formulation and execution of crucial national policies and frameworks.



For example, in the **healthcare sector**, the UN's assistance has been vital in bolstering the Ministry of Health's ability to address public health challenges, **providing essential medical supplies, and training healthcare professionals**, thus contributing to a stronger, more sustainable health system (SDG 3).



Furthermore, the UNSDCF demonstrated flexibility and responsiveness, particularly in its **adaptation to emerging challenges during and after the COVID-19** pandemic. The UNCT's ability to rapidly mobilise resources and align its efforts with national response plans exemplified its operational agility. This adaptability was crucial in mitigating the pandemic's impact on the country's socio-economic landscape, particularly for vulnerable populations.

Similarly, the UN's advocacy and technical support were instrumental in the **development of the Law on Social Services**, which establishes community-based **support for vulnerable groups**, aligning with SDGs 1 and 10.



In **trade and economic development**, the UN collaborated with the government to create the **WTO Accession roadmap**, including initiatives like the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade, furthering SDGs 8 and 17. The UN-Government Joint Expert Group also worked to **strengthen public financial management and national financing frameworks**.



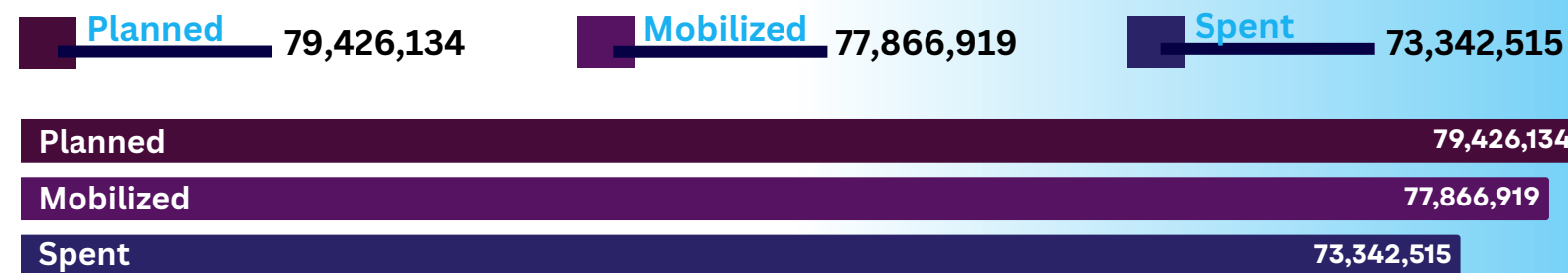
UN supported Turkmenistan in its environmental efforts by backing the development of strategies for **renewable energy and climate action** (SDGs 7 and 13), as well as a **child-centered disaster risk reduction plan** (SDG 11).



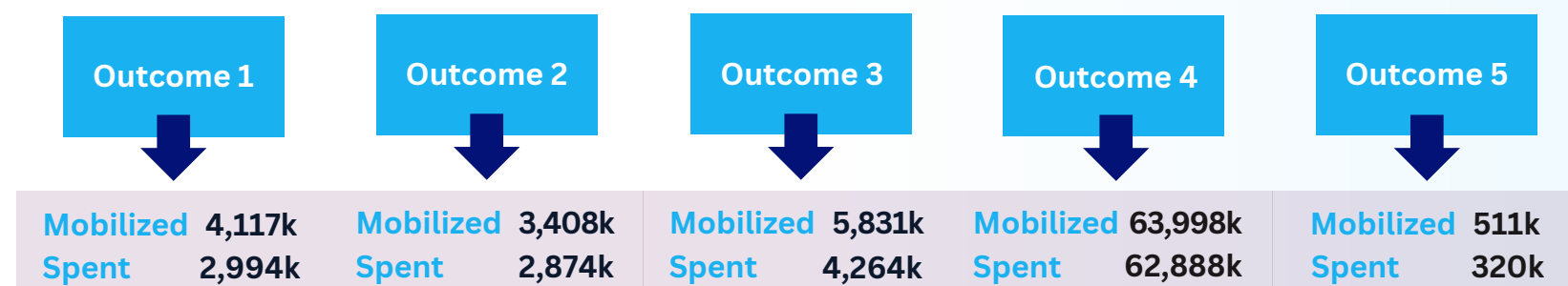
Since the launch of the SDG database in 2023 and release of disaggregated Census results in 2024, there was an **improvement with limited data availability**. The **Roadmap on SDGs** indicators approved in 2024 is seen as **crucial tool for addressing** the remaining data gaps.

Overall, the UNSDCF in Turkmenistan is deemed relevant and aligned with national priorities but faced shortcomings in gender and disability inclusion. Coordination improved through the UN RCO, though parallel programs and reporting challenges persisted. The UNSDCF contributed to reforms in key sectors, but progress was uneven due to external factors and funding disparities. Resource mobilization was successful overall, but funding gaps remained in some areas.

UNSDCF 2024 Delivery at a Glance

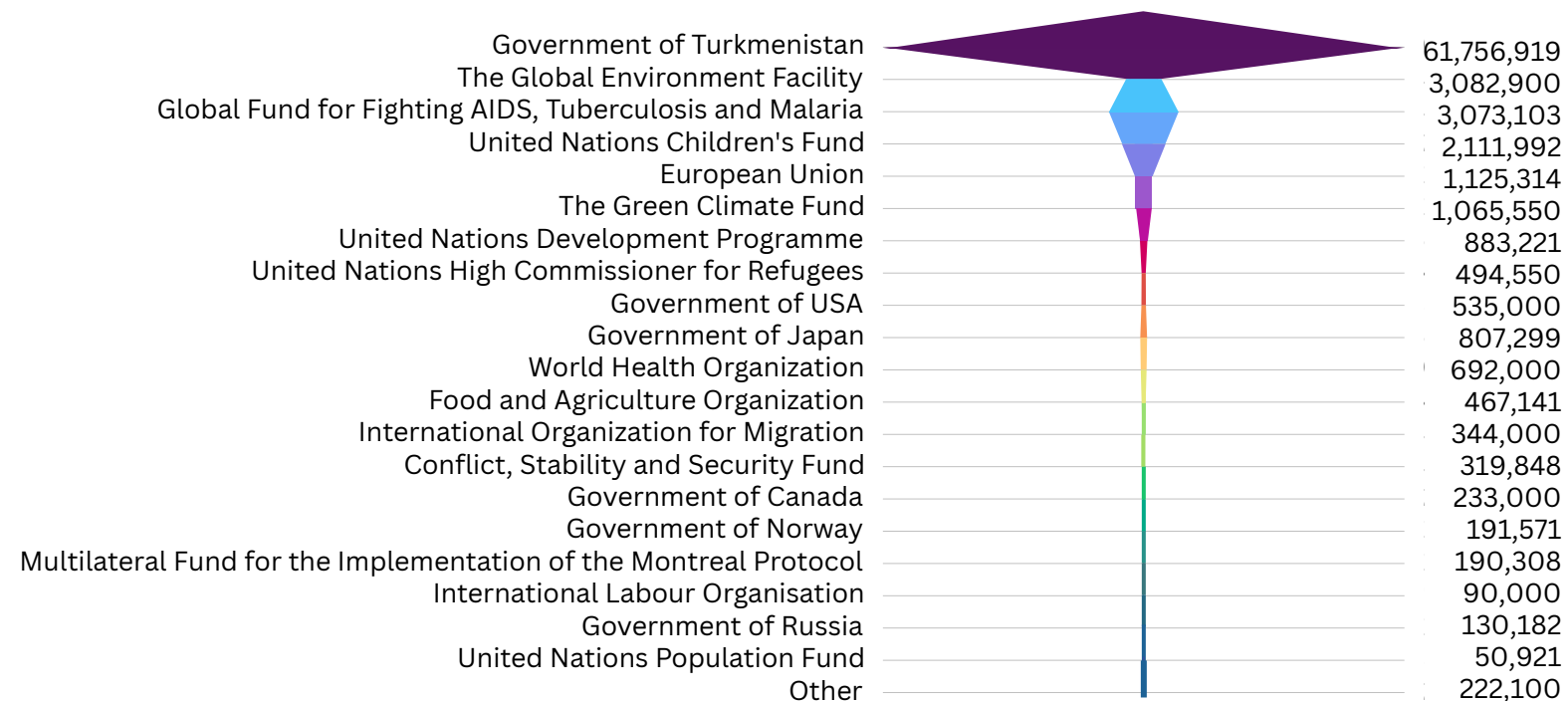


UNSDCF Annual Funding by Outcomes Allocated Budget in 2024 (USD)



UNSDCF Contributing Partners Allocated Budget in 2024 (USD)

As per the given graph, the Government of Turkmenistan remained a major funding partner for the UNDS in Turkmenistan with a lion's share of contributions at the level of 80% from the available funding.



Total Mobilized: 77,866,919

Outcome 1. Enhanced Governance and Rule of Law

By 2025, people have access to more effective, innovative, and transparent public administration based upon the rule of law, human rights, gender equality, labour rights, and quality data.


Agencies: ILO, IOM, UNDP, UN ESCAP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, OHCHR, WHO


Planned: USD 5,165,291

Mobilized: USD 4,117,791


Spent: USD 2,994,964

Throughout 2024, the UN maintained its cooperation with Turkmenistan, focusing on the priority area of human rights and the reinforcement of national human rights mechanisms. UN Agencies worked diligently to enhance the institutional and human capabilities of local partners at both central and community levels. The accomplishments in 2024 encompass a variety of achievements:

 The Ombudsman's Office of Turkmenistan secured Status B accreditation with GANHRI and opened two new departments for the Protection of Children's and Women's Rights and for the Protection of Human Rights in the Private Sector.


 Government approved the National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons for 2025-2029 which was developed with UN support.


 An assessment of the country's legal framework in the field of combating trafficking in persons was conducted.


 A Roadmap for the implementation of the CEDAW Concluding Recommendations was developed.

 A review of progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was conducted.

 Awareness on the 4th cycle Universal Periodic Review recommendations was raised among stakeholders.

 Modelling of measures to remove minors from the formal justice system in the Kopetdag etrap of Ashgabat to introduce restorative justice launched.

 A roadmap for ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against torture (OPCAT) was developed.

 Technical assistance was provided for realization of the National Action Plan on Children's Rights for 2023-2028 and effective monitoring of commitments under the 2024 CRC Concluding Observations, which included 104 recommendations.

An analysis of the Criminal Procedure Code of Turkmenistan was conducted for its compliance with the UN Principles and Guidelines



Recommendations for the draft Law "On the Unified State Register of Voters" were developed.



Government Resolutions were adopted (i) banning cotton picking for children under 18 years of age, (ii) increasing in wages for cotton pickers from 60 tenge to 1 manat per kilo of cotton and (iii) increasing in purchasing price for cotton from farmers.



Memorandum of Understanding and Roadmap for Cooperation between the ILO and the Government of Turkmenistan for 2024-2025 was approved greenlighting the review of working conditions during the cotton harvest in 2024.



Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the National Red Crescent Society launching Family Support Services across five regions and Ashgabat to aid domestic violence survivors through hotlines, psychosocial counselling and case management.



The UN's advocacy with the government resulted in finalized draft regulations that strengthen Turkmenistan's child protection framework, aligning it with international standards and enhancing coordination between social and justice sectors.



Outcome 1. Enhanced governance and rule of law

By 2025, people have access to more effective, innovative, and transparent public administration based upon the rule of law, human rights, gender equality, labour rights, and quality data.

Agencies: ILO, IOM, UNDP, UN ESCAP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, OHCHR, WHO

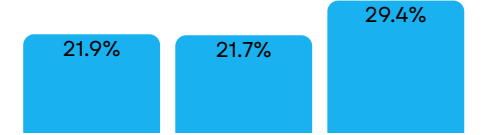
Updates on Outcome and Output Indicators

Presumably nearly **1,000 farms** specializing in cotton production benefitted from Government decisions to improve labor practices in the cotton sector by banning child labor in cotton picking, amending the Labour Code to address ILO concerns on forced and child labor, and increasing wages and purchasing prices for cotton pickers and farmers (OI 2.2).

Proportion of seats held by women in



(a) national parliaments



(b) local governments, % (SDG 5.5.2)

1,000 people from 20 etraps in three velayats (Ahal, Dashoguz and Mary) benefitted from awareness raising activities on issues of citizens' labour rights and relevant international norms and rules concerning the prevention of forced and child labour (OI 8.4).



1,502 People

1,502 people from local communities benefited from integrated and targeted interventions and improved their knowledge in support of gender equality and respect for the rights of migrants (OI 10.3).

Human rights were promoted through the following interventions leading to (OI 16.3):

1. Approval of the National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons for 2025-2029.
2. Establishment of new units in the Ombudsman's Office for protection of (i) children's and women's rights and (ii) human rights in the private sector.
3. Amendment of the Labour Code banning child labour in cotton picking.



Turkmenistan granted citizenship to **1,146 stateless people** (OI 16.5)

Disaggregated data of a Population and housing Census 2022 released in 2024 (SDG 17.19.2)

The UN prioritized capacity building and sharing of best practices with national experts in various areas including human rights, gender equality, mainstreaming and violence prevention, youth development, child-friendly crime approaches, electoral processes, children's rights, complaint resolution, forced and child labour and economic and social rights, disability issues, torture prevention, migration, asylum and statelessness, combating trafficking in

persons, smuggling of migrants, trafficking of new psychoactive substances, detecting security threats related to terrorism, digital transformation, population data management, health data standardization, digital health systems, interoperability standards, and ICD-11.



Capacity Building

In 2024, efforts to enhance qualitative data included the release of disaggregated 2022 Census results, completion of Situation Analysis on Adolescents and Youth, and Situation Analysis of Women and Children. Data collection for the MICS7 survey, featuring a new Violence Against Women module, was completed. Progress was made in strengthening national accounts, foreign trade, and transport statistics. The UN continued its engagement on centralizing administrative data on children in alternative care. UNICEF's TransMonEE database was updated with data on children and youth. Independent observance of the 2024 cotton harvest took place to build an information baseline for the development of responsive measures to address child and forced labour in the cotton harvest. A demo version of the e-government portal was developed highlighting the enhanced data exchange and interoperability benefits of the X-Road platform. The UN supported comprehensive health data analysis, enhanced specialist capacity through international trainings, regional networking and knowledge exchange initiatives.

Enhancing Data

UN applauds Turkmenistan for Resolving Statelessness



In 2024, Turkmenistan achieved a significant global milestone by resolving all known cases of statelessness, becoming the first country party to both Statelessness Conventions to do so. This accomplishment, supported by the UN and partners, involved legal reforms, a national action plan, and a statelessness determination procedure, granting citizenship to over 15,000 formerly stateless individuals between 2014 and 2024. Furthermore, Turkmenistan hosted a regional conference in November 2024, leading to the Ashgabat Declaration on Ending Statelessness in Central Asia, where five nations outlined strategies to reduce and prevent statelessness. This success positions Central Asia as a leader in resolving statelessness globally, and Turkmenistan has continued its commitment by joining the new Global Alliance to End Statelessness.

Outcome 2. Sustainable economic diversification

By 2025, conditions for sustainable and inclusive economic diversification are strengthened with competitive private and financial sectors, enhanced trade and investment promotion, and the adoption of new and digital technologies.

Agencies: UNDP, FAO, UNECE, UNCTAD, ITC

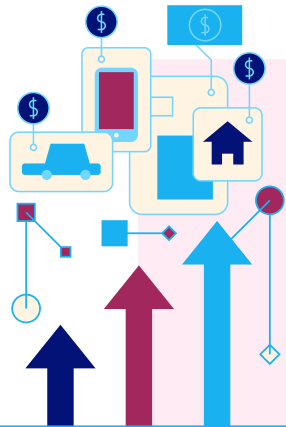


Planned: USD 3,408,310

Mobilized: USD 3,408,310

Spent: USD 2,874,726

In 2024, the UN actively promoted **sustainable economic diversification** in Turkmenistan. Key achievements included the **launch of the 'E-statistical reporting' system and 'Business Register' platform**, streamlining online statistical reporting and business registration.



Continuous support was provided for Turkmenistan's WTO accession process, including (i) **analysis and formulation of draft amendments to ten national laws to put them in line with WTO standards particularly the provisions of the General Agreement on Trade in Services**, (ii) **capacity-building seminars for nearly 500 beneficiaries covering topics of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, e-commerce, digital trade and investment facilitation**, and (iii) **development of WTO accession brochure for the private sector in three languages**. Besides, nearly **100 SMEs in the textile and agribusiness sectors across the country were surveyed** to assess their export capabilities and business improvement needs.

To foster a favourable investment climate, needs assessments were initiated for investment facilitation and e-commerce development. Institutional and regulatory support for financial market development involved comparative analyses, legal document preparation, and digital banking solutions for State Bank of Foreign Economic Affairs. International best practices in financial account systems were shared with government officials. Additionally, training was conducted for feed manufacturers and fish nutritionists. Digital land cadastre development was advanced through a strategy roadmap and a new open coordinate system, and digital solutions for sustainable pasture management were developed in the Dashoguz region.



Updates on Outcome and Output Indicators



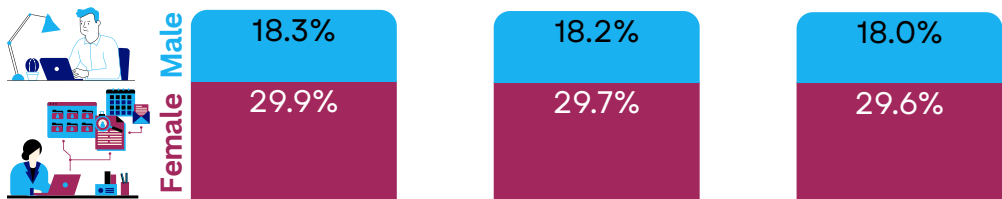
Nearly **750 people** benefitted from the **skills building events and lifelong learning programmes** with UN support in 2024 (OI 4.3).



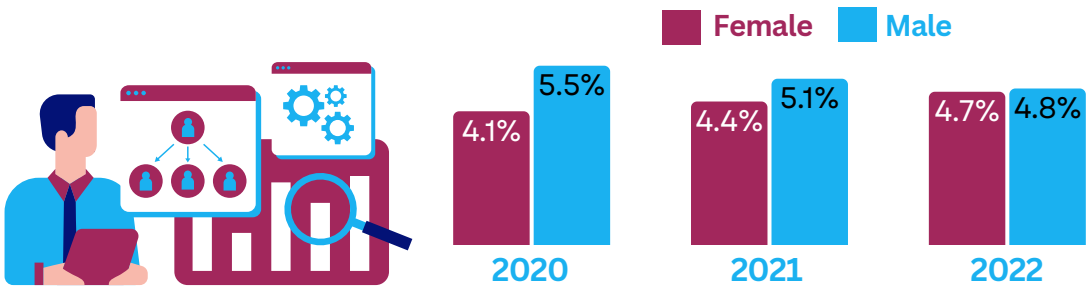
Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person (% ,SDG 8.2.1)



Proportion of informal employment in total employment (% ,SDG 8.3.1)



Unemployment rate (% ,SDG 8.5.2)



2 Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes, and Outputs

10

Outcome 3. Strengthened environmental management and climate resilience

By 2025, there is effective design and implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation and mitigation measures, enabling a more rational use of resources, increased resilience, and a 'green' economy transition.

Agencies: IOM, FAO, UNEP, UNESCO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNIDO, WHO

Planned: USD 5,881,204

Mobilized: USD 5,831,204

Spent: USD 4,264,051



In 2024 the UN continued to serve as the key strategic partner in **strengthening national legal and regulatory frameworks for sustainable and green development**, focusing on energy efficiency, renewables, emissions reduction, and disaster risk reduction. The UN's climate resilience efforts resulted in the adoption of the Law on Energy Savings and Energy Efficiency and endorsement of several relevant bylaws. Major documents were prepared and submitted for government review including roadmap for the **National Adaptation Plan and recommendations for inclusion of people mobility issues** into this plan, Climate risk and vulnerability assessments for Ashgabat and Dashoguz and the First Biennial Update Report under the UNFCCC. An **NDC Implementation Roadmap and Climate Financing Concept** were developed with government participation in numerous international forums, trainings and a national NDC stocktaking.

Environmental legislation was enhanced through drafting a **Law on Soils, amending the Forestry Code, and updating the National Action Program to Combat Desertification**. Cross-border locust surveys, trainings and workshops on integrated forest fire management and remote sensing strengthened national capacity. Sustainable agriculture, forestry and energy saving practices included (i) construction of seedling nurseries, wells, and greenhouses, and planting of fruit trees, (ii) conduct of 11 additional express energy audits in hotels with the highest occupancy rate, (iii) installation of 62 new 35 kV transformers in Ashgabat within the 2022-2024. Scenarios and roadmap for a regionally interconnected energy system are being developed to **scale and integrate additional renewable energy capacity into the current energy systems effectively to improve the overall resiliency of the energy systems**.

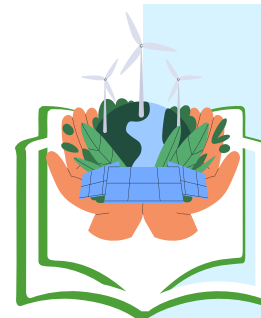


In the DRR area the UN **enhanced the country's seismic monitoring and land management capabilities** in 2024. This involved procuring and installing radon and geomagnetic monitoring stations, assessing building seismic resistance, publishing educational materials, developing seismic vulnerability reduction guidelines, sharing international best practices with nearly 50 national experts, improving the seismic event monitoring system, establishing a centralized data center, drafting a law on "Ensuring Seismic Safety", and procuring GNSS equipment for nationwide land cadastre improvement.

In 2024, the UN advanced the country's capabilities in effectively **implementing and monitoring of Montreal Protocol obligations** particularly HCFC phase-out efforts with the aim to achieve a **67.5% reduction in consumption** by the end of 2025 and Kigali Implementation Plan in meeting the **10% reduction target** from its HFC baseline consumption by the end of 2028 through awareness workshops for refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) technicians, strengthened public-private partnerships, policy and regulatory identification, inter-agency coordination, policy development for technical specialist certification, and improved data collection and reporting on controlled substances.



The UN together with its national partners significantly advanced **environmental and climate change issues in education** with update of the "Climate Box" book, **promotion of the Green School program, strengthening school safety, and disaster risk reduction skills among CSO**, education professionals and students from 18 target schools nationwide. This included upscaling interactive teaching methods, integrating climate and DRR manuals into the curriculum of 1,860 schools, and conducting school-based emergency simulations engaging over 3,400 students, teachers and local authorities.



Updates on Outcome and Output Indicators



Cumulative of **6.13 TJ energy savings** achieved across all sectors, with UN support in 2024 (OI 7.1)



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



2021	98.7%
2022	99.0%
2023	97.0%



Over **3,000 people** directly benefitted from the **UN capacity building initiatives to protect nature and promote sustainable use of resources** in 2024 (OI 12.3)



Cumulative GHG emission **reductions of 960,439 tons of CO2 eq.** achieved, with UN support (OI 13.2)



In December 2023, United Nations and other development partners' efforts resulted in Turkmenistan joining the Global Methane Pledge at COP-28. In 2024 UNEP, UNOPS and ESCAP in coordination with RCO continued working on a joint programme with the Government of Turkmenistan to launch a pilot project with concrete steps to reduce methane emissions.

Outcome 4. Quality, inclusive health and social protection

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

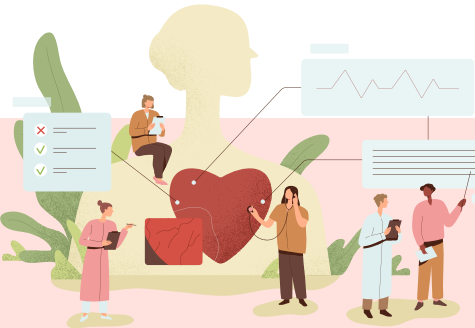
Agencies: IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO



Planned: USD 64,459,758

Mobilized: USD 63,998,043

Spent: USD 62,888,774



In 2024, the UN provided comprehensive support to Turkmenistan's healthcare system, covering non-communicable disease (NCD) control, maternal and child health, nutrition improvement, tuberculosis control, immunization, pandemic preparedness, health information system development, services for women and children in border areas and

procuring a wide range of medical equipment including digital X-Ray machines, blood gas analyzers, anesthesia system, minivans fully equipped for medical operations, laboratory equipment (biosafety boxes, Bactec, Selectra devices, ventilation systems) as well as medications for treatment of tuberculosis, viral Hepatitis C, dermatovenereology, NCDs (oncology, neurology, endocrinology, cardio-vascular and respiratory diseases), safe blood transfusion and HIV prevention.



For maternal and child health, the UN collaborated with stakeholders to adapt and translate a Primary healthcare pocketbook for children and adolescents.

Additionally, the UN provided 60 multifunctional obstetric beds, 30 ultrasound scanners and five oxygen plants to hospitals and trained over 50 clinicians and technicians on diagnostics, oxygen therapy and equipment maintenance, enhancing critical care for mothers, newborns and children.

Additionally, 12 new clinical protocols on childhood illnesses were developed and approved. Piloting of ECD services in 18 health facilities, capacity building of over a thousand health professionals from over 20 clinics country-wide and Medical University students on breastfeeding, child development monitoring, infectious diseases laboratory screening, control and maternal health, a cervical cancer screening audit and reproductive rights awareness continued to support realisation of the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) program, Early Childhood Development Strategy 2020-2025 and National Law on fostering breastfeeding. The UN delivered qualified gastroenterological, paediatric, gynaecological, and therapeutic services to 4,010 people, including over 3,438 women and children from the Afghan migrant and local communities in Akhal and Lebap provinces, utilizing a mobile team of doctors. The quality of medical services for these communities was enhanced through case management, knowledge exchange between visiting specialists and local medical staff to build their skills, and the renovation and re-equipping of a medical facility in Parahatchylyk village of Akhal province, securing the provision of long-term, high-quality medical care for local populations and Afghan migrants in the region.



Turkmenistan's 2024 immunization efforts were marked by the approval of a new National Program 2024-2028, supply of vaccines and safe injection equipment to protect all children of Turkmenistan against 14 vaccine-preventable diseases and maintain immunization coverage rates above 95%, continued high COVID-19 vaccination coverage with training of over 180 health workers on vaccine deployment, and significant upgrades to the routine immunization data management system, including the "Vacbase" electronic system with specialized training for 75 district specialists. The "Immune Patrol" educational platform was also introduced in Turkmen schools to boost student understanding of immunization.



Support in realization of the National Nutrition Program continued through various interventions including trainings of over 160 health workers throughout the country on nutrition and dietary diversity, procurement and delivery of Premix for flour fortification, and monitoring of the salt iodization and flour fortification. The finalized Micronutrient Survey provides recommendations after assessing deficiencies and risk factors in women and children across 2,672 households of all regions of the country. Results of the Survey were presented to nearly 250 specialists from different sectors to comprehensively interpret the results and strengthen health interventions to improve the nutritional status of mothers, children, and adolescents.

In tuberculosis control, a National Strategic Plan 2021-2025 was reviewed, national policy, protocols and algorithms for diagnosis and treatment were updated, a laboratory service optimization plan was developed, and an operational study on multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) or rifampicin-resistant TB (RR-TB) and hepatitis C virus (HCV) was initiated. In 2024, the National TB Programme conducted the first Assessment of Community participation, Gender and Human Rights barriers for TB services. To ensure continuous TB and hepatitis co-infection diagnostic and treatment services, essential testing cartridges, laboratory reagents, medical devices, personal protective equipment, and medications were procured, visiting over 6.2 thousand patients most in need, supporting around 14.5 thousand Xpert ULTRA tests and over 3 thousand Xpert XDR tests, and hundreds of treatments while maintaining free access to TB services nationwide. Around 1,000 patients with MDR-TB received support for treatment adherence.



The situation assessment of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) among 315 health care facilities in Turkmenistan was conducted to develop recommendations for strengthening national capacities and feed into the national reporting at the regional level under the Protocol on Water and Health, as well as at the global level monitoring of the SDGs. Besides, national capacities to detect and respond to public health risks and acute events were assessed through the annual Self-Assessment Reporting on the International Health Regulations (SPAR) and Joint Assessment and Detection of Events (JADE) simulation exercises.

Outcome 4. Quality, inclusive health and social protection

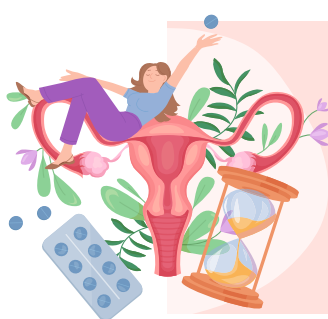
By 2025, the population of Turkmenistan enjoys higher quality and inclusive health and social protection services.

Agencies: IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO



Since 2024, the **One Health Approach**, aimed at addressing health threats at the **human-animal-environment** interface, is being successfully implemented in Turkmenistan, evidenced by the **establishment of an intersectoral coordination committee**. Furthermore, over **600 specialists** from national, regional, and peripheral levels were **trained in laboratory techniques**, significantly strengthening national diagnostic capabilities for various diseases.

Support in **pandemic preparedness and effective diagnostics** was continued to ensure uninterrupted laboratory operations through **supply of equipment, reagents and consumables to 114 clinical laboratories across the country, updating the SOPs, enhancing capabilities for over 600 laboratory specialists in pathogen handling, biosafety, and disease surveillance, chromatography and quality management**. Regarding immunization, a **National Immunoprophylaxis Program** for 2024-2028 was approved, **medical staff capacity was strengthened, a digital education module for school in Turkmen language was presented, and a hepatitis B treatment protocol was developed**. Furthermore, national capacity to rapidly respond to both seasonal influenza outbreaks and potential future pandemics was strengthened through introduction of the **"Strategy for Genomic Surveillance for Pathogens with Epidemic and Pandemic Potential in Turkmenistan"** and the testing and adoption of influenza virus genome sequencing methodology by the National Influenza Center.



In 2024, capacity-building efforts focused on **improving the handling of sexual violence cases and protecting women's reproductive rights** in Turkmenistan. Obstetricians and law enforcement personnel received **training on rape case management and investigation**, leading to the development of a protocol and service delivery guidelines. Additionally, key national specialists were trained on **addressing stigma, discrimination, and reproductive rights violations for women with disabilities**.

Regarding **NCD control, assessments, screenings for diabetic retinopathy, and psoriasis protocol developments were conducted**. National criteria for tobacco free country were developed, and needs assessment was conducted for the implementation of the **protocol to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products**.



In 2024, the UN focused on strengthening Turkmenistan's **social protection system**, covering structural changes, expansion of **local social services, crisis resilience and capacity building** for nearly 250 national stakeholders including proposals to the government decision makers to increase university quotas, develop a professional development policy, track staff turnover, train trainers, funding new social worker positions, creating psychosocial support positions, and implementing changes to the national regulations.

The UN continued to support the **Social Work Bachelor's degree program** in two local universities by providing mentorship to faculty members, revising syllabi, designing content, and conducting competency-based training, resulting in **60 students enrolled and 10 faculty members trained** in 2024. The UN facilitated the establishment of a National Task Force and a Cash in Emergency subgroup to develop a **National Action Plan for Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP)** in Turkmenistan. This involved conducting hands-on exercises on contingency planning for natural disasters, discussing crisis financing, sharing best practices on adaptive social protection, testing social protection protocols, conducting a comprehensive social protection system analysis, and assessing child well-being.



Updates on Outcome and Output Indicators

A new by-law, developed with UN support, **regulating the norms on workload of social work specialist** was approved by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population (OI 1.1)

Maternal mortality ratio per 100 000 live births (SDG 3.1.1)



The UN supported development of **15 national policies** on health covering immunization, communicable diseases, tobacco control and childhood illnesses (OI 3.1)

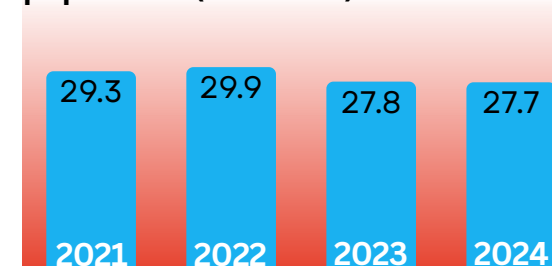


Over **632 thousand people** benefited from UN supported health services including (OI 3.3):

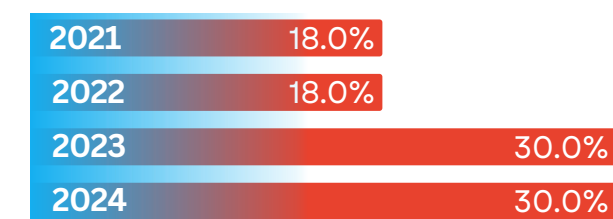


- a) **1,244** in communicable diseases;
- b) **38,816** in non-communicable diseases (NCD);
- c) **592,790** in sexual and reproductive health;

TB case notification rate per 100,000 population (SDG 3.3.2):



Share of etrapas providing early intervention services to under 5 children (%):



Over **32,163 people** including health workers, school children and youth benefited from health education articles, online sources, healthy lifestyle and effective nutrition educational sessions conducted with UN support (OI 4.3).



2 Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes, and Outputs

13

Outcome 5. Quality education and skilling

By 2025, the education and skilling system offers all people the skills and knowledge for employment success and enhanced social integration and resilience in a diversifying economy.

Agencies: IOM, UNICEF

Planned: USD 511,571

Mobilized: USD 511,571

Spent: USD 320,000



Through ongoing collaboration, the UN and the government advanced national education and skilling, particularly by supporting the inter-ministerial Working Group for the **2020-2025 Early Childhood Development Strategy and strengthening early learning**, particularly pre-primary preparation (one year before the official primary entry age), to contribute to SDG 4.2.

The UN led initiatives facilitated the **creation of a robotics club** in Arkadag secondary school, accompanied by **STEAM-focused training materials and a competency-based education framework**. This club serves as a pilot for the Ministry of Education to evaluate broader implementation of competency-based learning. Complementing this, an **ICT skills training program was delivered to orphanage graduates** in Ashgabat and Balkanabat, equipping them with essential life skills, ultimately fostering their personal empowerment and social inclusion.

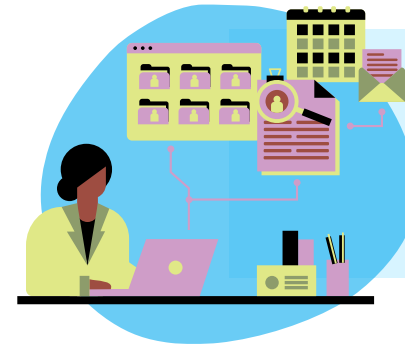


The UN collaboration with the Ministry of Education resulted in **digitization of climate change adaptation and DRR materials as well as the five Methodological Manuals**. **Three gender-responsive education manuals for teachers, parents and students were published** for further planning and capacity development. Drafting of pre-school curriculum is ongoing for future digitalization after official approval.

Piloting of inclusive education principles was initiated in 4 mainstream education facilities in Ashgabat city (2 kindergartens and 2 secondary schools) to focus on building capacity of teachers and multi-disciplinary professionals for inclusive teaching, developing comprehensive Action plan for piloting of inclusive education, teaching and supporting the students with disabilities and including them into EMIS, providing assistive devices for the target children, improving physical infrastructure for accessibility as well as promoting a welcoming and supportive environment for children with disabilities and their families.



Regarding the skilling system, a **three-month sewing program** in Mary province empowered **50 women and girls from Afghan and local communities with sustainable livelihood skills, leading to 17 establishing small businesses**. Additionally, **rehabilitation support aided 48 migrants (41 women, 7 men) in socio-economic integration**, with 30 women gaining vocational skills and 8 achieving financial independence through small business ventures. Furthermore, **25 government officials improved their migration governance capacity** through international training.

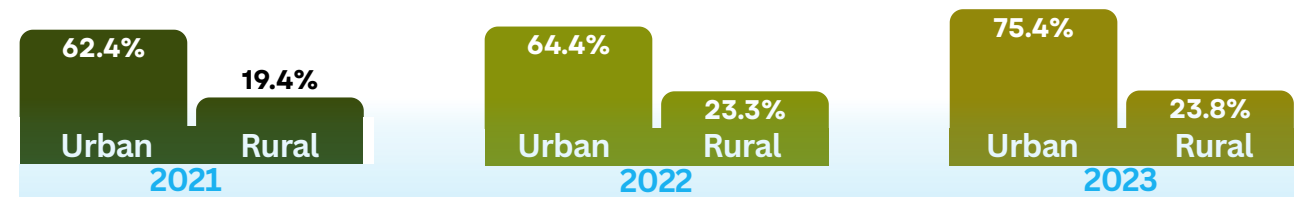


The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, with UN support, established **six new education-information centers** at local Employment Departments and **launched the Coursera online learning platform** through the FutureSkills4All Initiative, enabling over **1,000** young people to gain professional certificates and technical skills.

Updates on Outcome and Output indicators



Internet for pedagogical purposes (% ,SDG 4.a.1)



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



50 women and girls from the Afghan and local communities of Mary province have got better **access to sustainable livelihoods** by successfully completing a three-month vocational **training program in sewing**. **17** of them were able to **establish their own small businesses**. A total of **15 victims of human trafficking and migrants** in vulnerable situation **received relevant vocational skills for sustainable livelihoods. (OI 10.3)**.



2.3 Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

The **partnership with private businesses** in Turkmenistan formalized through the establishment of the UN-Private Sector Partnerships Platform in Turkmenistan serving as a common forum for the UN, private businesses, and other stakeholders such as the Government of Turkmenistan, international organizations, IFIs, CSOs, etc., to discuss the role and engagement of private business in supporting and contributing to the implementation of national development priorities, the Agenda 2030 and SDGs^[20]. In 2024, UNCT and the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan organized several visits for development partners to **private companies promoting and implementing sustainable practices in their operations**.








UNCT and partners visited production facilities of the modern paper plant in the Ashgabat outskirts, **NowaEco**, where the **key principles of circular economy are being implemented in practice**. Having introduced the environmentally friendly technology for **recycling and processing agricultural and textile waste**, it has now become possible to **produce 230K tonnes of value-added products such as corrugated cartons, paper bags and cardboard, notebooks, and A4 office paper from 290K tonnes of agricultural waste**. The project has unlocked more than 500 jobs for the Ahal region residents, substantively reduced the carbon footprint of two major sectors of the economy in Turkmenistan, the agriculture and textile industry, introduced circular economy principles at the

enterprise and local levels, and contributed to the implementation of SDGs 1, 8, 9, 12, 13, and 15^[21].

Another example of a successful business implementing sustainable practices in its operations is the complex of production and agriculture facilities of Batly Gadam enterprise. Located in the western part of the country, the company's sock factory, with an area of 75,200 m2 in the city of Balkanabat provides jobs for hundreds of individuals from the nearby cities and villages, primarily women^[22]. Another project of the company is a several-hundred-hectare **greenhouse using modern water-saving and energy efficient technologies, as well as high-tech telemetric technology for precise land measurements and minimized use of fertilizers**. The company's business model focused on the contribution to the implementation of SDGs 2, 5, 8, 9, 12, and 13 in Turkmenistan.



UNCT, in consultation with the GoT ministries, prepared a set of **10 Concepts for potential Joint Programmes covering key development challenges to be addressed and SDG transition pathways** to be ensured in the coming years. At its first meeting, SAB reviewed and approved the further development of JP proposal documents for five of them. Namely:

-  JPs on Youth, Peace and Security;
-  Digital governance and demographic policy;
-  Establishment of Regional Center for Climate Technologies in Central Asia;
-  Supporting NDCs and transition to just green energy;
-  Reduction of methane emissions.

The total estimated cost of the five proposed **JPs reached \$24+ million**. Currently, the first drafts of these JP Concepts and programme documents are being reviewed by the line ministries, and sources of funding are being discussed by relevant leading UN agencies and their counterparts in the government.



The first steps in the implementation of the above agreements on UN JPs were made by UNCT and Turkmenistan's government with the involvement of oil and gas sector companies, committed to **reducing methane emissions** in the country. Beyond the ongoing expert- and high-level dialogues, including in the Hard Talk format, UNCT mobilized a **seed funding of \$250K from the Joint SDG Fund to launch the UN Joint Programme on Green Energy Transition in Turkmenistan**. Further support from the GoT to co-finance the roll-out of the main JP is expected as per the SAB approval. Among the key strategic discussions held at the SAB meetings in 2024 was the topic of the establishment of the common funding mechanism for UN programmes at the country level to ensure diversified resource mobilization and sustainable financing of national development priorities. SAB instructed national ministries to develop such a mechanism in consultation with the UN agencies.

To inform the CF 2026–2030 development, UNCT prepared two analytical products uncovering country-level **SDG investment needs and potential sources for financing national development priorities and SDGs**. These are SDG Gap Analysis, identifying funding needs in key SDG transition areas (**2.8% of GDP** annually by 2030), as well as Financing Landscape Analysis, reviewing domestic and international, public and private financing flows in the country (annual flows exceed **70% of GDP**, excluding State Reserve Fund).



^[20] <https://turkmenistan.un.org/en/261498-turkmenistan-takes-stride-towards-sustainable-development-launch-un-private-sector>
^[21] <https://turkmenistan.un.org/en/267972-un-and-development-partners-explore-private-sector-potential-sustainable-development>
^[22] <https://batly-gadam.com.tm/about.html>

2.3 Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

The UN–Government Joint Expert Group on SDG financing (JEG on SDG financing) continued its work in 2024 under the following topics:



Expert-level review and discussion of the IATF Report on Financing Sustainable Development



INFF implementation and bottlenecks



Review of the new draft of JP on PFM reforms



Key UN JPs for resource mobilization



Child-responsive INFF for SDGs by UNICEF



New sources of funding for investments in Turkmenistan



The country's insurance sector and services available



UNCT Country Analysis and its financial component



SDG costing and financing gaps by UNCTAD



"SDG Push" and scenario modelling by UNDP



Government approach to SDG financing



Public Finance Management in the context of Green Financing by UNDP



Financing and Investments in Food Security by FAO



Development of the Policy Brief on SDG Financing in Turkmenistan

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



In 2024 the UN Resident Coordinator's office in Turkmenistan, alongside UN agencies and partners, spearheaded a series of impactful events designed to elevate the voices of marginalized communities. These initiatives spanned a wide range of critical issues, including **youth engagement in global dialogues** like the Summit of the Future, **climate change awareness and solution development, the promotion of gender equality and disability rights, and the fight against gender-based violence**. Through dialogues, conferences, festivals, and media engagements, the UN facilitated platforms for diverse groups—youth, women, and people with disabilities—to share their experiences and contribute to national and international discussions. These events aimed to empower these communities, foster inclusivity, and drive progress towards a more equitable society, aligning with the UN's **"leave no one behind" principle**.



Key outcomes of these events included the development of youth-driven recommendations for global policy frameworks, increased national awareness of climate change and its impact, strengthened partnerships to combat gender-based violence, and enhanced understanding of disability rights and inclusivity.

The UN also focused on building national capacity through information sessions on sexual exploitation and abuse, commemorating significant historical events like Holocaust Remembrance Day, and facilitating high-level diplomatic visits to strengthen international cooperation.

Furthermore, the celebration of International Women's Day highlighted the vital role of women in leadership and peacebuilding, inspiring future generations. Overall, these initiatives have significantly amplified the voices of marginalized communities, promoted policy changes, and fostered a more inclusive and equitable society in Turkmenistan.

2.5. Evaluations and Lessons Learned

The final evaluation of the Turkmenistan UNSDCF 2021–2025 conducted in 2024 concluded that the CF was relevant and aligned with national priorities, **demonstrating adaptability during crises like COVID-19, but faced challenges in gender and disability inclusion**. While coherence and coordination improved through the UN RCO and collaborative mechanisms, parallel programs and reporting burdens persisted. The **UNSDCF contributed to institutional reforms, though progress was uneven, influenced by external factors and funding disparities**. Efficiency was enhanced by the "Delivering as One" approach, yet funding gaps and coordination issues remained. The framework laid the groundwork for long-term impacts, but measuring UN contributions and ensuring sustainability required stronger government commitment and monitoring. Key lessons emphasized the **importance of adaptive management, significance of coordinated approaches for ensuring ownership and alignment with national needs, and effectiveness of stakeholder engagement and sustainability rely on innovative communication tools, robust capacity-building initiatives, and data-driven decision-making**.

The UNSDCF 2021–2025 Final Evaluation Management Response outlines seven key recommendations for improvement, each with specific actions:



Recommendation 1: Strengthen planning and implementation structures by updating Terms of Reference for Results Groups and the Steering Committee and initiating joint planning for at least one joint initiative per Outcome.



Recommendation 2: Improve the results framework, including monitoring, evaluation, and data collection, by aligning programming results, updating the Monitoring and Evaluation (MEL) Group's Terms of Reference, developing a comprehensive MEL plan, and collaboratively implementing the SDG indicators roadmap.



Recommendation 3: Diversify funding and enhance financial sustainability by developing a comprehensive Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Strategy.



Recommendation 4: Promote the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle, particularly gender equality and disability inclusion, by ensuring participatory processes, addressing barriers, establishing LNOB-focused targets, and providing capacity-building for UN staff.



Recommendation 5: Strengthen support for institutional development and governance reforms by aligning efforts with national development frameworks.



Recommendation 6: Increase stakeholder engagement and foster inclusive development by establishing a Partnerships platform for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and reinforcing stakeholder roles in Results Groups.



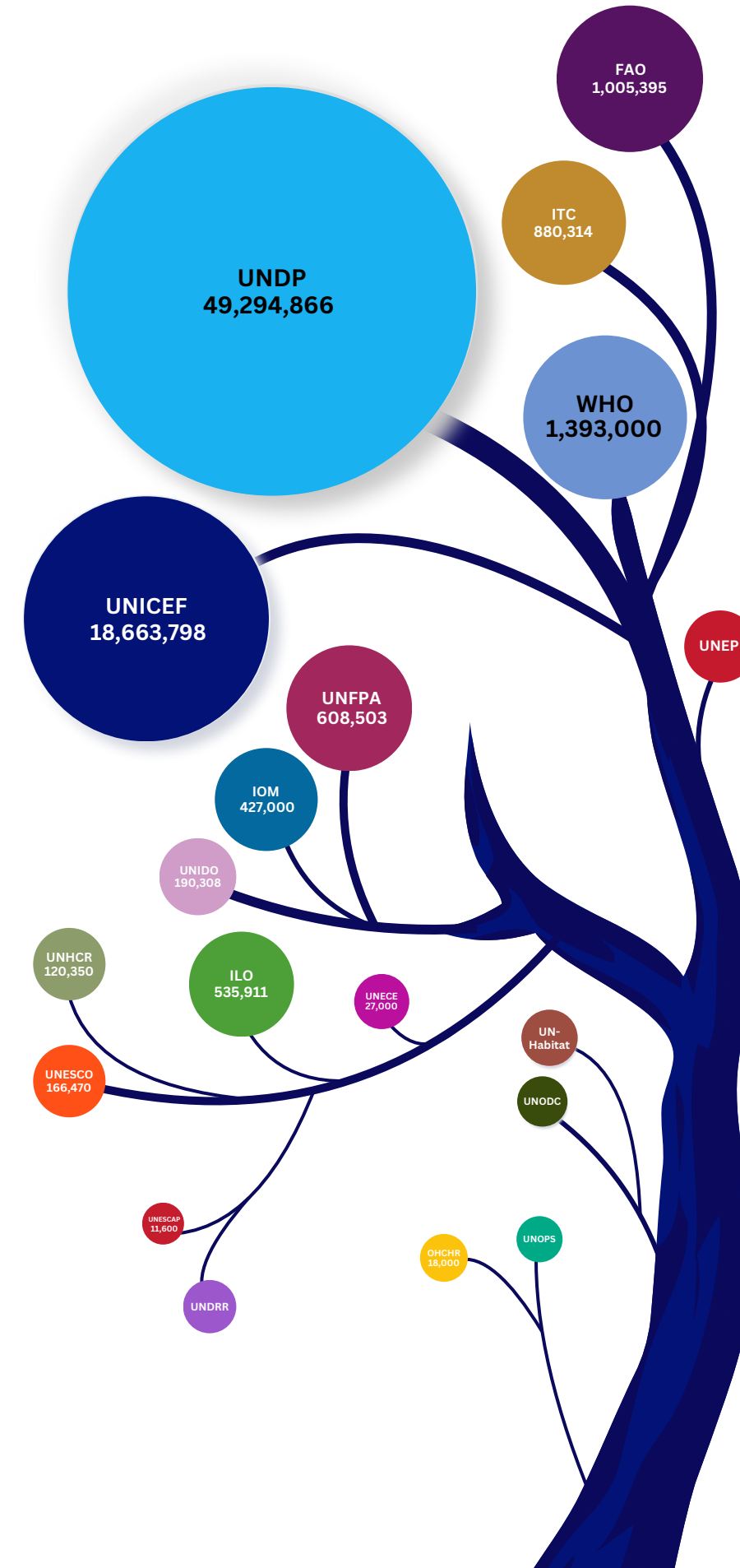
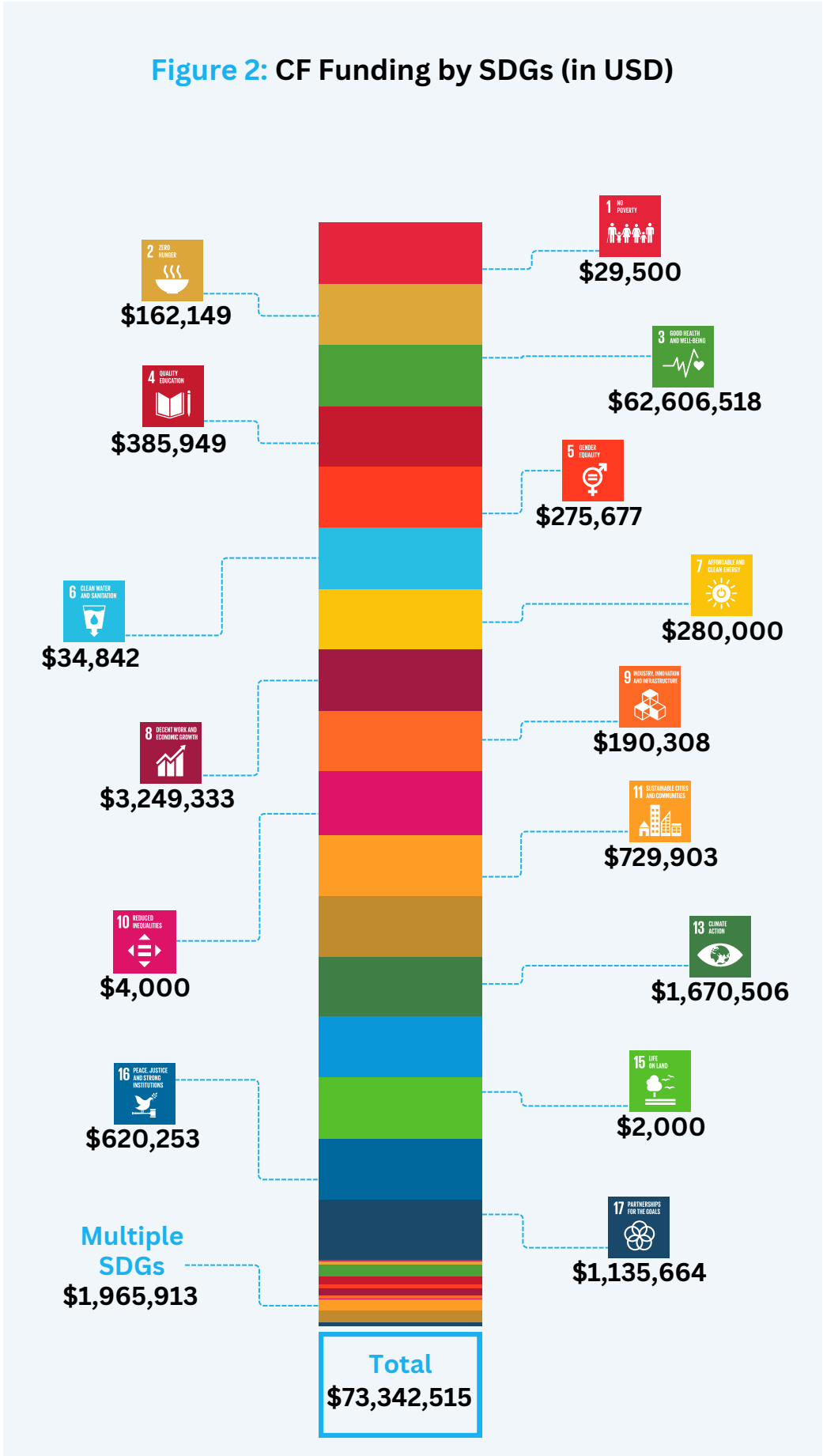
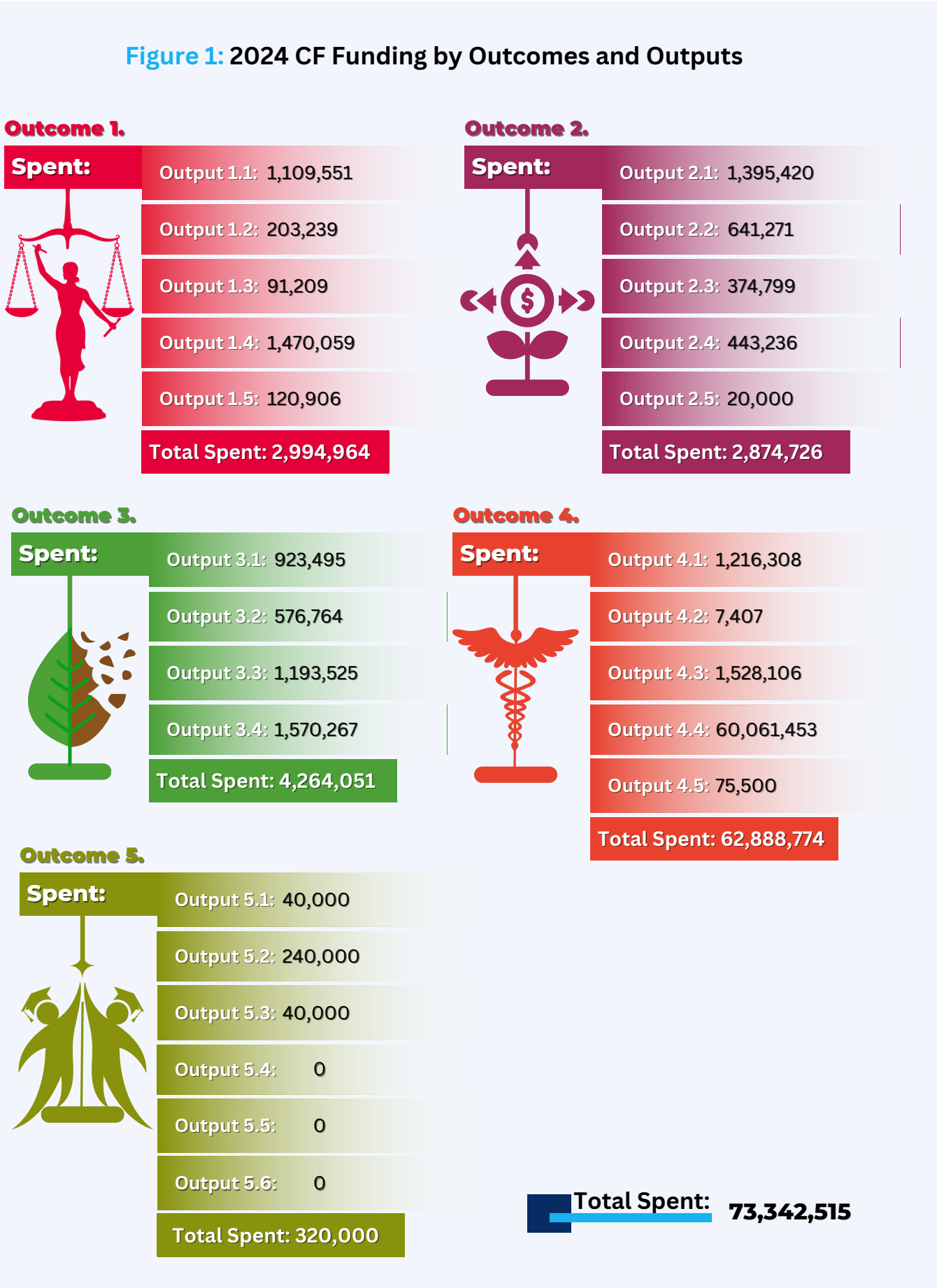
Recommendation 7: Improve the focus on impact and long-term sustainability by developing clear exit strategies and discussing piloted initiatives within Results Groups.



2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

The given graphs, Figure1, Figure 2 and Figure 3 illustrate the total funding needed for UN agencies' programs, projects, and activities in 2024. They break down the data by UNSDCF Outcomes and Outputs, as well as UNCT members. Additionally, the graphics highlight the gap between the required funding and the actual available funds, along with details on expenditures.

Figure 3: 2024 CF Funding by UN agency (in USD)



2.6.2. Resource Mobilization

A small funding gap of 2% of total required funds to fully implement the UN programmes in the country in 2024 suggests UNCTs effective work and success in resource mobilization for the CF. According to UNCT's Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Strategy, UN agencies, funds and programmes continued to advocate for resources to fund UN programming in the country, using a set of approaches, such as bilateral agreements, advocacy campaigns, preparation of joint programme proposals for submission to various vertical and thematic funds, engagements within the development community and with the national partners.

Turkmenistan remained an upper-middle income country, with reducing ODA flows and a narrowing donor base. **Progress in the UN-Government dialogue on expanding the national level resource mobilization** according to commitments made at the SDG Summit in 2023, **resulted in approval by SAB the five out of ten proposed UN JP concepts** for further development of programme documents and full fledged proposals. One of those five, namely JP on **Green Energy Transition, already started implementation in late 2024** with the support from Joint SDG Fund seed **funding of \$250K**. The government committed to implementing the integrated national financing framework (INFF) in Turkmenistan, as a means of implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference for Sustainable Development. **The fiscal target of keeping GoT spending on the social sector of the economy beyond 70% of the State Budget is being implemented, while the UN suggesting more ambitious indicator of increasing social spending related to GDP.**

In addition to its traditional strategic partnerships with the Government, the UNCT sought to collaborate with development partners in the country to tackle developmental challenges and create synergies and efficiencies. The UN RC continued to lead regular meetings of the Development Partners Coordination Group to highlight opportunities within the UN's support for implementing national priorities outlined in the CF 2021-2025 and the National Programme for Socio-Economic Development in 2022-2052, as well as new priorities to be outlined in the upcoming CF 2026-2030. These priorities include governance, rule of law, human rights, gender equality, economic diversification and green economy, environment and climate change, health and social protection, education and skills development. Bilateral meetings to align joint efforts and reduce duplication were held with the EU, USAID, OSCE, ADB, IMF, WB, IsDB, and IFIs.

The UNCT advocated with key stakeholders for the establishment of a country-level SDG pooled fund, with the Government of Turkmenistan as the primary partner and co-founder. This fund was discussed in various forums, including the UNSDCF joint Steering Committee and Results Groups meetings, the National SDG Working Group, Strategic Advisory Board, Joint Experts Group on SDG Financing, bilateral meetings with the government and development partners, as well as thematic meetings and events.

Graph: Leveraging of the UN investments to advance the Sustainable Development Goals

In 2025 the UN will continue supporting the Government of Turkmenistan in achieving its development priorities in line with the UNSDCF 2021-2025 and SDGs. The following key areas will be supported for accelerating SDG transformations:

Outcome 1.

Enhanced governance and rule of law



- Advocacy and technical support for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture
- Introduction of definition violence (GBV, violence against children etc) into the national legislation
- Draft the NAP on gender equality for 2026-2030, including the Concluding Recommendations on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Support in the implementation of the National Action Plan of Turkmenistan to Combat Trafficking in Persons for 2025-2029
- Development of child-friendly justice in Turkmenistan
- Strengthening the legislative framework on the rights of people with disabilities in line with the UN Convention on Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and development of the draft of the National Strategy on persons with disabilities
- Strengthening the child protection system by improving the inter-agency coordination mechanism and provision of comprehensive services to children and families at all levels.
- Development of a Roadmap for the implementation of the UPR 4th cycle recommendations
- Conducting an evaluation of the ongoing NAP on Human Rights 2021-2025
- Support in the development of the NAP on Human Rights for 2026-2030
- Ratification of the 2014 ILO Protocol to the 1930 Forced Labour Convention
- Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)
- Ensure availability and use of disaggregated data for published Populations Census, MISC-7 and MICS + results
- Further develop digital public services and build a competent civil service

Outcome 3.

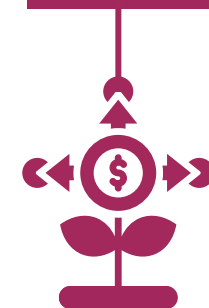
Strengthened environmental management and climate resilience



- Support the government in the establishment of the Regional Center for Climate Change Technologies for Central Asia in Turkmenistan
- Develop and launch the UN Joint Programme on Supporting Just Green Energy Transition in Turkmenistan focused on methane abatement, develop Carbon Neutrality Road Map and enable its financing, including transition finance
- Advance energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy across economic sectors
- Advance green urban practices, planning and smart cities development
- Support actions on DRR, developing seismic contingency plan, resilient cities/rural areas concept
- Improve data collection tools and availability on environment and DRR
- Improve food security, water management and climate action
- Support to mainstreaming migration, environment and climate change nexus into national climate change relating plans and strategies
- Support actions on early response to emergencies, evacuation planning, coordination and management at border crossing points in the event of emergencies or natural disasters and strengthening early detection and emergency response at the community level.
- Sustain engagement of Youth in Climate Change
- Promote topics of green economy: «green city», «green school», «green hospital», «green building»
- Support strengthening children and youth towards climate challenges by integration the climate change and DRR topics into the national education system at all levels
- Support to mainstream the child-sensitive component into the NDC 3.0
- Support DRR and emergency preparedness by introduction of anticipatory actions through improvement of school and community-based early warning systems in vulnerable areas
- Implement Turkmenistan's National Commitments to SDG Transformation
- Development of a National Action Plan on Adaptation to climate change
- Promoting biodiversity conservation, combating desertification and land degradation neutrality (LDN) issues

Outcome 2.

Sustainable economic diversification



- Advance WTO accession process
- Support MSMEs sector, including by strengthening capacities to comply with cross-border trade requirements
- Support agricultural reforms and rural development with focus on efficient resource use and food security
- Identify potential new sectors for diversification of the economy and markets with growing export opportunities
- Enhance digitalization of the economy
- Develop and implement industrial and structural policies and attract investments including climate finances
- Advance Public finance management reform, including through technical assistance on Medium-Term Budget Framework and budget consolidation
- Develop financial markets
- Implement Turkmenistan's National Commitments to SDG Transformation



In 2025 the UN will continue supporting the Government of Turkmenistan in achieving its development priorities in line with the UNSDCF 2021-2025 and SDGs. The following key areas will be supported for accelerating SDG transformations:

Outcome 4.

Quality, inclusive health and social protection



- Move towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and monitoring progress
- Promote Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) strategy to improve the quality of care for children including newborns and children under 5 years old
- Reduce out-of-pocket health expenditures
- Strengthen health system performance and digitalization for health
- Support surveillance, prevention and control of NCDs and NCD risk factors
- Accelerate tobacco control and achieve tobacco free country status
- Integrate the One Health approach to balance and optimize the health of people, animals and the environment
- Advance emergency preparedness for possible pandemics and disasters
- Advance health diplomacy
- Advocate for the development of family and community-based alternative care options for children who cannot stay with their families
- Improve adequacy of social benefits, social protection coverage and access to integrated social services at the district level

Outcome 5.

Spent: Quality education and skilling



- 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
- Support transitioning of youth, especially women, to the labour market
- Fully develop and launch Education Management Information System (EMIS) to monitor, plan and manage education sector more effectively
- Improve employment services system, incl. state services and private recruitment agencies
- Advance labour market regulation system, incl. improved labour market analysis and forecasting to formulate efficient active labour market policies (ALMP) for youth and vulnerable population
- Engage young people more in decision-making processes amplifying their voices at national, regional and global levels



Potential risks and challenges hindering the effective implementation of activities may include the lack of legislation on protecting women from domestic violence, insufficient national capacity for data analysis and usage for policy making, limited internet access, the absence of clear legal terminology regarding violence against women, delays in signing work plans and receiving funds, insufficient inter-agency coordination, limitations in providing childhood and maternity data, slow pace of government decision making and approval of joint programmes/activities, limited donor funding and government cost-sharing, and the need to build the capacity of young specialists in various areas.



Respective risk management strategies will be applied to mitigate the possible risks including capacity building and knowledge sharing events, strengthening collaboration with national ministries specifying their roles and responsibilities, supporting data generation efforts assisting government agencies with methodologies of effective data collection and management. Furthermore, support will be provided to strengthen capacities among government officials in data analysis techniques to ensure data is considered and integrated into the policymaking process. Additionally, alternative funding options such as private sector partnerships or innovative financing mechanisms will be explored to address scarcity in donor funding and government cost-sharing.





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