



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN TURKMENISTAN A Trusted Development Partner





CONTENTS



4 FOREWORD



5 ABOUT TURKMENISTAN

6 UNDP IN TURKMENISTAN



8 TURKMENISTAN AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



10 RESILIENCE, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY



24 GOVERNANCE, ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH





FOREWORD

Turkmenistan is a rapidly developing country that is oriented towards growth, peace and stability. The economy has expanded impressively over the past decade and is now classified as 'upper middle-income'. In foreign policy, Turkmenistan has enhanced regional and global cooperation and created a safe and stable environment for economic and social development.

Over the past 20 years, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Turkmenistan has become a trusted strategic development partner of the Government. We have supported the country to address complex development issues across sectors and accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Under the new Country Programme for 2016-2020, UNDP in Turkmenistan is well equipped to offer analytical, advisory and implementation services in the areas of sustainable energy, climate change and resilience, economic diversification, access to justice and the rule of law and quality data. UNDP is committed to all aspects of the global development agenda—the economic, social and

environmental dimensions of sustainable development—as well as the pledge to leave no one behind and reach those who are farthest behind first. The aim is to continue the rapid development of the past few years and facilitate an even healthier and more prosperous future for the Turkmen people.

In the years ahead, we at UNDP will continue to support the country as it embarks on the next stages of reform. This means taking a more focused approach to our partnership with the Government, with greater mutual accountability, joint financing and clear commitments to data and results.

I am pleased to present the brochure 'UNDP: A Trusted Development Partner', which highlights some of the achievements of the people of Turkmenistan, in partnership with UNDP, as well as the organization's efforts to support the process of building a nation that can drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves everyone's quality of life.

Elena Panova
UNDP Resident Representative

ABOUT TURKMENISTAN

Turkmenistan is the second largest country by area in Central Asia. It borders Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, as well as the Caspian Sea.

The country covers 488,100 square kilometres—of which approximately 80% is desert—and is rich in oil and natural gas. Cotton is the major agricultural product.¹

Though Turkmenistan has a history dating back centuries, the modern nation is relatively new. The country declared independence in October 1991 and became a Member State of the United Nations in March 1992. On 12 December 1995, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on the status of permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan, which has become the guiding principle of national and foreign policy.²

Development context

Turkmenistan is an upper middle-income country and has experienced robust economic growth in recent years. Strong investment in infrastructure and the expansion of the non-hydrocarbon sectors have generated strong gross domestic product gains in recent years.³ Forecasts suggest that the economy of Turkmenistan will continue to grow over the medium term.⁴

Located in a disaster-prone region, Turkmenistan is vulnerable to earthquakes, droughts, flash floods as well as the effects of climate change. Most of Turkmenistan's water is transboundary and used for irrigation agriculture, which makes water resource management of key importance. The country is among the top four gas producers in the world; natural gas contributed to more than 90% of Turkmenistan's national exports in 2011 and gas is the country's main source of energy.⁵

Turkmenistan is party to 14 core human rights treaties and protocols,⁶ which require continued work on implementing international human rights obligations, strengthening democracy, improving the rule of law, enhancing social service delivery, promoting gender equality and increasing civil society participation.





UNDP IN TURKMENISTAN

UNDP is a long-term, well-known and fully-trusted partner of the Government of Turkmenistan.

Since 1995, we have supported the national development agenda with cutting-edge technology, global best practices and innovative solutions. Over the past 20 years, in close cooperation with the Government, UNDP has facilitated environmental actions to prevent climate change, supported programmes fostering human development and inclusive society, and promoted democracy and economic opportunities for all.

The new UNDP-Turkmenistan Country Programme 2016-2020 signifies a new type of relationship between the Government and UNDP. It represents a move away from the donor-recipient relationship towards a partnership aimed at continuing the economic growth of recent years and fostering sustainable development for a healthier and more prosperous society.

Our programme uses coherent and sustainable approaches to addressing the following priority areas, in line with the SDGs:

- a) resilience, climate change and energy;**
- b) economic diversification;**
- c) governance, rule of law and access to health services; and**
- d) quality of statistics for the implementation of the global development agenda.**



The new UNDP-Turkmenistan Country Programme 2016-2020 signifies a new type of relationship between the Government and UNDP.

In the country since

 1995

Number of staff

74 

Programme budget

2010–2015

US\$ 34 million

2016–2020

estimated

US\$ 45 million



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Key funding partners



- > Adaptation Fund
- > Global Environment Facility
- > Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- > Government of Turkmenistan
- > Embassy of the United Kingdom
- > Embassy of Germany



TURKMENISTAN AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Soon after the universal adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015, Turkmenistan actively embarked on a process of nationalizing the SDGs and associated targets and indicators.

The process provided a unique opportunity for the United Nations system and national stakeholders to consider the relevance and importance of the 2030 Agenda for the country, the prospects for implementation, potential challenges and possible impacts.

In March 2016, the Government of Turkmenistan and the United Nations Country Team dedicated 17 days—one day per goal—to discussing what SDGs, targets and indicators the country should adopt to implement over the next 15 years. Each goal group was co-led by a government ministry with a United Nations agency. On average, 10 national ministries and departments were represented at each meeting, with 20–25 people attending the discussions. In September 2016, the Government of Turkmenistan formally adopted the 17 SDGs, 148 targets and 188 indicators to be implemented over the next 15 years.

What was UNDP's role?

In Turkmenistan, UNDP served as the lead United Nations agency together with relevant ministries in the national adoption process. Having an integrated approach to supporting progress towards the multiple goals is crucial to achieving the SDGs and UNDP is uniquely placed to support that process.

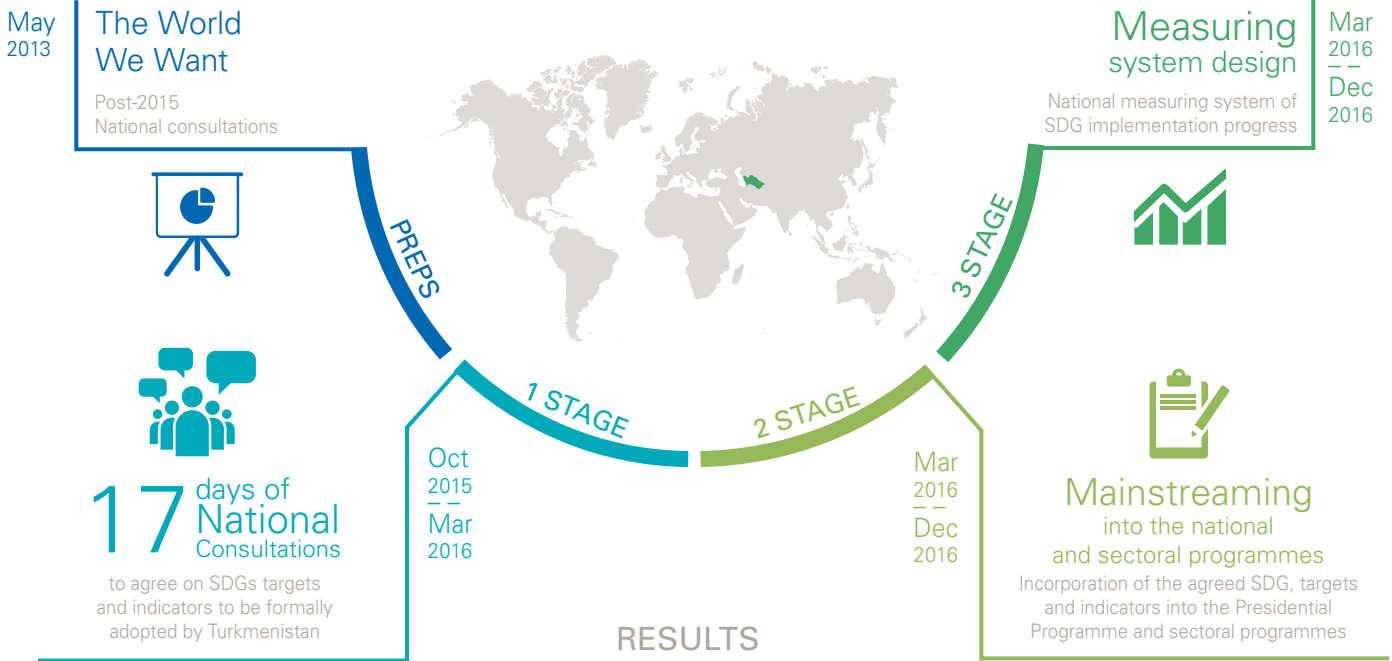
UNDP has therefore supported national agencies to determine priority areas designed to jump start the implementation of the SDGs and foster sustainable growth. UNDP is also working with national ministries to identify innovative and alternative sources of funding for SDG implementation, which is estimated to cost billions of dollars annually.

In 2017, UNDP supported the MAPS mission to Turkmenistan to help the Government identify potential areas which would accelerate the overall growth of the country and implementation of the SDGs.



193 UN Member States
17 adopted **SDGs**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 25 Sept. 2015



17 Goals
148 Targets
187 Indicators
Adopted by Turkmenistan

The Government Working Group of 47 deputy ministers established to coordinate SDGs

Ministry of Economy and Development assigned to monitor progress in SDGs

SDG Training and Methodological Centre launched on the basis of the Institute of Foreign Affairs of MFA

Most recently, UNDP has led the process of creating an SDG measurement system. This included the development of statistical mechanisms for monitoring SDG implementation and enhancing the abilities of line ministries and agencies to assess and report on the SDG implementation process.

The UNDP-Turkmenistan Country Programme 2016–2020 is closely aligned with the SDGs and the targets and indicators adopted in 2016. UNDP’s strategic support to the Government strategies and socio-economic programmes is focused around several areas: climate and disaster resilience, economic diversification, governance and inclusive societies, and quality statistics.

In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Country Programme reinforces the links between managing natural resources, economic development and human development. It specifically targets the socially excluded and vulnerable groups such as women in rural areas (including female-headed households), persons with disabilities and the unemployed.



TENTATIVE BUDGET 2016–2020 US\$ 30 million

ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE 

- ☞ US\$ 2,700,000
- 1 Nohur pilot area in Ahal region
↑ 4,000 farmers and cattle breeders
- 2 Sakarchaga pilot area in Mary region
↑ 20,000 farmers
- 3 Karakum pilot area in Ahal region
↑ 8,000 cattle breeders

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS 

- 4 Ashgabat project sites
☞ US\$ 2,800,000

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN WATER MANAGEMENT 

- ☞ US\$ 6,285,000
- 5 Kahka project site in Ahal region
↑ 35,000 people
- 6 Geokdepe research project site in Ahal region

CLIMATE RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS 

- ☞ US\$ 3,100,000
- 7 Gorogly district of Dashoguz region
↑ 8,000 people
- 8 Galkynysh district of Lebap region
↑ 15,000 people

SUSTAINABLE CITIES IN TURKMENISTAN 

- ☞ US\$ 6,100,000
- 9 Integrated Green Urban Development in Ashgabat and Awaza



RESILIENCE, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

In Turkmenistan, UNDP works to strengthen national policy and laws and provide expertise to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable practices on energy efficiency, the use of renewables, urban development and household waste management.

This involves working closely with the Government to pilot and scale up specific initiatives and technologies aimed at improving resilience to climate change-related risks, ensuring biodiversity conservation, sustainable land use and water management, and facilitating better preparedness for natural disasters.



PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Climate resilient development

- Supported implementation of the International Convention on Biological Diversity and creation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- Developed the National Climate Change Strategy, and drafted the Adaptation and Mitigation Programme
- Addressing climate change risks to farming: Some 40,000 people have benefited from adaptation measures; water user groups have been established; and the new water code was adopted
- The revised Water Code was approved by the Government of Turkmenistan, improving ownership over water resources through the establishment of independent water users' groups
- Piloted and strengthened eight water users' groups

Lowering carbon emissions

- Increasing energy efficiency in buildings: four revised building codes adopted; three energy efficiency buildings constructed; three retrofits completed; 22 energy audits conducted; and energy efficiency modules introduced into university curricula, with one energy efficiency lab opened
- Increasing energy efficiency in the water sector: research and innovation activities launched on irrigation techniques and prevention of water wasting.
- Promoting 'Green Cities': planning energy-efficient solutions to lighting, transportation and recycling, among other areas

Facilitating regional climate risk management

- Supported the regional ministerial conference of Central Asian states on prevention and response to emergencies and natural disasters held in Turkmenistan and the resulting Ashgabat declaration committing to cooperation among Central Asian states on disaster risk reduction
- Supported the preparation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy

THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Biodiversity is critical to the economy of Turkmenistan. The fisheries, tourism, forestry and agricultural industries all depend on the sustainable use of ecological resources. Yet the rapid pace of economic and industrial development in Turkmenistan have placed enormous strain on the country's natural resources. Biodiversity is declining and environmental degradation is on the rise.

UNDP is helping Turkmenistan fulfil its obligations under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and tackle key environmental protection issues in the context of climate change. In 2016, UNDP supported the development of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which addresses the value of biodiversity, ecosystem services and protected areas, includes provisions for strengthening resilience to climate change and integrates new aspects of the Convention on Biological Diversity.





“Good pastoral land with enough grass and water is rare in Turkmenistan,” explains UNDP’s Rovshen Nurmuhamedov. “Farmers increasingly tend to stay in one place for several consecutive seasons, with the result that their small cattle eat all of the grass and the land doesn’t have enough time to recover. Facilitated by the dry climate, this kind of intensive farming is ultimately unsustainable because it reduces the pastures to desert.”

Placing a value on nature: Evaluating biodiversity in Turkmenistan⁷

As the population and income levels have continued to grow in Turkmenistan, so has demand for meat products. The result has been more intensive use of land and water for livestock breeding and farming and the rapid depletion of these resources.

The problem is largely due to lack of awareness, which is why UNDP has worked closely with the Committee for Nature Protection and Land Resources of Turkmenistan for more than a decade to increase the knowledge of decision makers and the local population on the economic value of Turkmenistan’s biodiversity. As a first step, UNDP provided extensive training for national stakeholders—including from the Government, academia and civil society—on

integrating ecosystem needs into policy and decision making and communicating the value of biodiversity to others.

As a direct outcome of this training, experts in Turkmenistan could place economic value on local natural resources. The participants of the working group produced a national study entitled ‘Nature and Economics: The results of an economic valuation of ecosystem services in Turkmenistan’. The findings have since fed into the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and given policy makers the information they need to promote environmentally-friendly farming practices and more sustainable development.

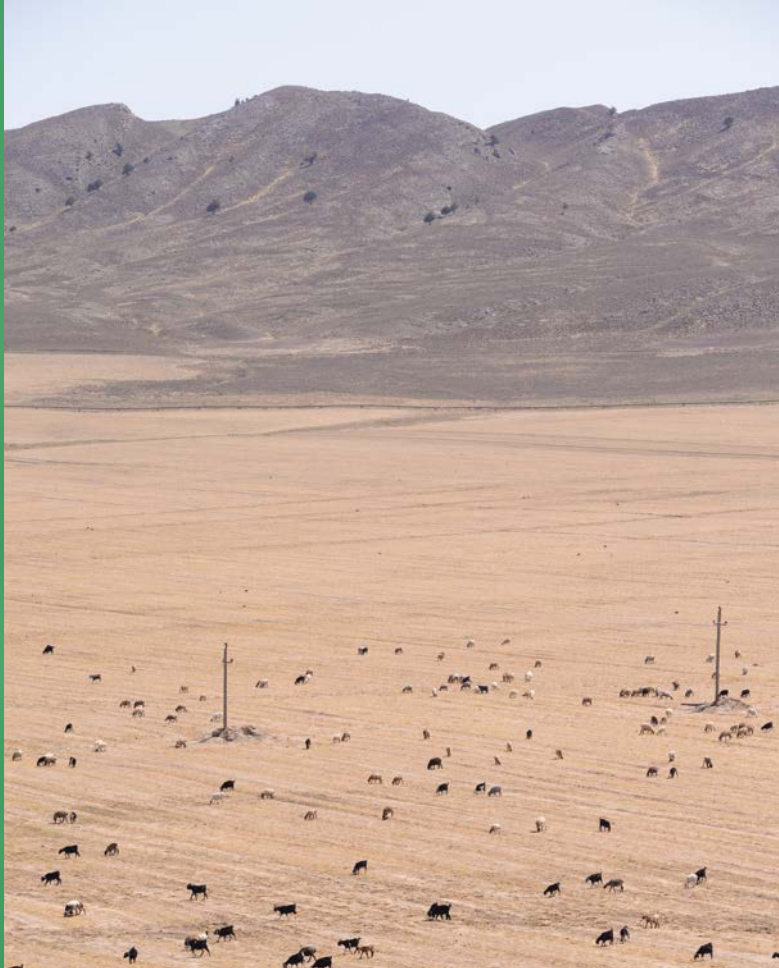


CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION PLANNING

The National Climate Change Strategy of Turkmenistan acknowledges the importance of early action to reduce the impact of climate change and minimize threats to ecosystems, human health, economic development and infrastructure. UNDP is working to strengthen the abilities of key institutions to implement the Climate Change Strategy, including through the National Climate Change, Adaptation and Mitigation Plan 2016–2020, which includes steps for moving to a low carbon economy and more effectively managing water resources and protecting the environment.

“We now have more houses in the villages, and a bigger settlement of 6,000 people, compared with 3,000 before”, says Murat Ovezov, the head of Farm II of the Union of Farmers of Darvaza Region, where sand fixing protected the villages from moving sand. “People can have their families in the same place, not scattered around Karakum.”





Sustainable living in the heart of the desert⁸

The desert does not stay still in Turkmenistan. The dunes of the Karakum Desert are expanding by 1–1.5 meters every year, overtaking arable land, making roads impassable and forcing residents to move their homes.

A changing climate is partly to blame, but so are unsustainable land use practices. Many residents earn their living as shepherds, and given the region's limited water resources, grazing is concentrated around wells. The resulting overgrazing strips the land of important plants and nutrients and makes it susceptible to desertification.

In 2012, UNDP, the Ministry of Nature Protection and the communities launched an initiative to address the manmade factors contributing to desertification and help communities adapt to the changing climate.

In large part, this new initiative relied on a traditional technology—sand fixation—which involves planting reeds and saxaul (a type of shrub) in the sand to fix the sand in place. Saxaul was planted on 10 hectares of community land, and its success was soon evident. The village roads were kept clear of the encroaching desert and residents were no longer forced to move.

In 2012, UNDP, the Ministry of Nature Protection and the communities launched an initiative to address the manmade factors contributing to desertification and help communities adapt to the changing climate.

UNDP is working to better understand the problems that farmers, entrepreneurs and local people face because of climate change. We design approaches to increasing the income of those suffering from water scarcity. At pilot farms in Dashoguz and Lebap velayats, UNDP is contributing innovative adaptation techniques such as water filters and irrigation technology. The hope is that farmers will be able to use these approaches well beyond the life of the project.



ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED RISKS TO FARMING

Climate change is expected to have a significant impact on water resources in Turkmenistan, where elevated temperatures, climate aridification and water competition are all likely to contribute to water shortages. Recognizing the potentially devastating impacts of water scarcity on farming systems in Turkmenistan, UNDP is supporting the Government to strengthen water management practices at national and local levels. As a result of these efforts, key policies on land and water use have been revised and adopted, including the Law on Pastures and the Water Code of Turkmenistan. Farmers have already experienced tangible results:

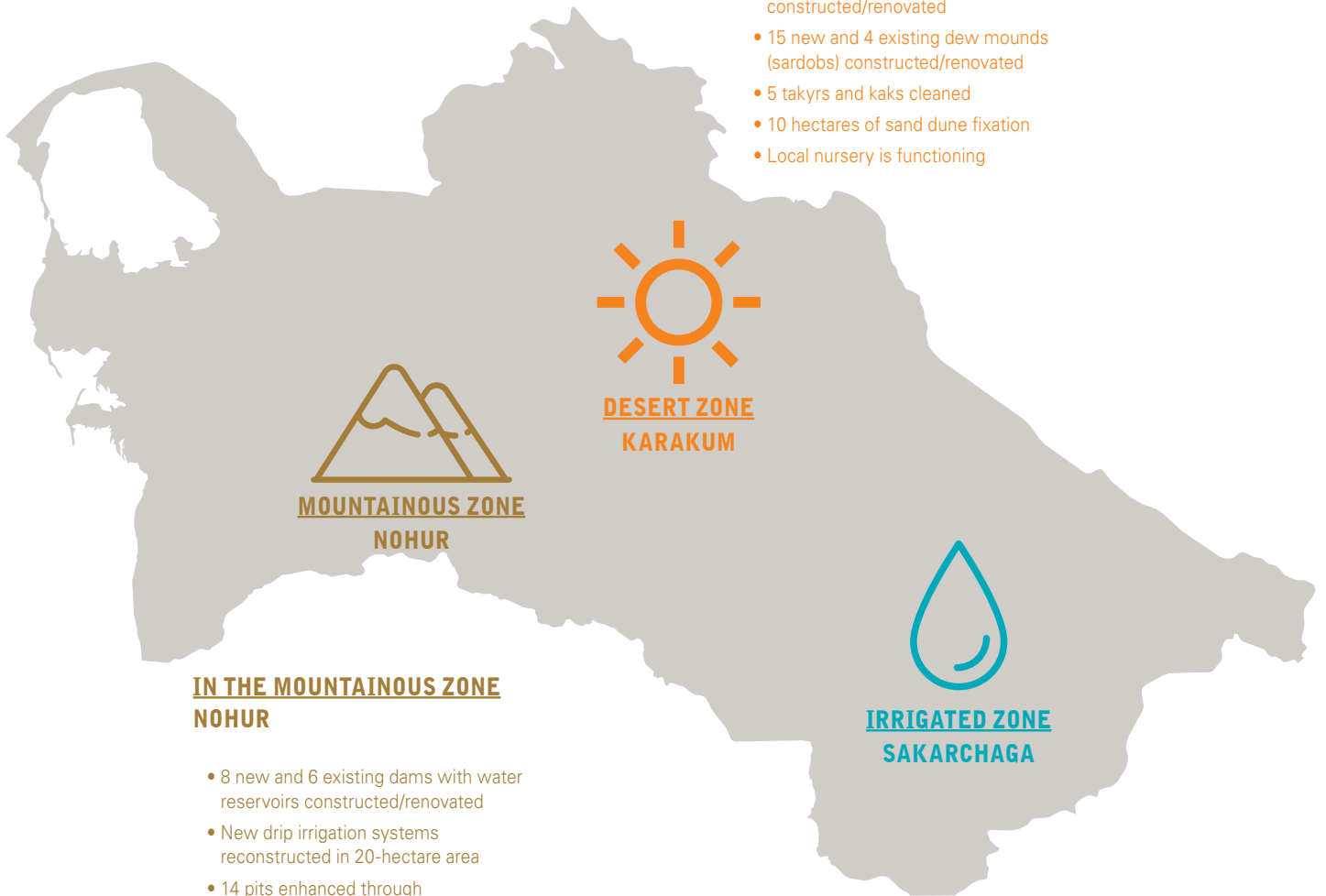
- To improve soil moisture levels, more than 4,000 agri-pastoralists in the Nohur mountainous region have developed and implemented water harvesting and saving techniques such as slope terracing, small rainwater collection dams, contour and stone bunds, planting pits, tillage and mulching.
- More than 8,000 farmers have implemented community-based well and watering point management measures, including sand fixation and introduction of drought resistant traditional grain varieties in the Karakum desert region.
- More than 20,000 farmers in the Sakarchaga area are benefiting from improved irrigation services through the introduction of canal level, localized management practices.
- At least 40% of farmers and pastoralists nationwide have benefited from stronger mandates and institutional functions of local associations that are making local water services more resilient to increasing water stress.



RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

IN THE DESERT ZONE KARAKUM

- 15 new and 13 existing wells constructed/renovated
- 15 new and 4 existing dew mounds (sardobs) constructed/renovated
- 5 takyrs and kaks cleaned
- 10 hectares of sand dune fixation
- Local nursery is functioning




MOUNTAINOUS ZONE
NOHUR


DESERT ZONE
KARAKUM


IRRIGATED ZONE
SAKARCHAGA

IN THE MOUNTAINOUS ZONE NOHUR

- 8 new and 6 existing dams with water reservoirs constructed/renovated
- New drip irrigation systems reconstructed in 20-hectare area
- 14 pits enhanced through the introduction of production technology and use of vermicomposting (biogumus)
- Four springs benefited from repair work
- 384-cubic-metre and 96-cubic-metre concrete water storage basins constructed
- Local nursery is functioning



IN THE IRRIGATED ZONE SAKARCHAGA

- 31.5 kilometres of the existing on-farm drainage system cleaned
- 5 kilometres of new drainage system constructed
- 16 new and 2 existing water regulation and water control devices constructed/renovated
- 20 hectares of previously used land (but now wasteland) reclaimed
- 20 hectares of irrigated land levelled using laser equipment
- Local nursery is functioning





“We support local people in drought prone zones. These are people who are afraid of increasing drought, of the increasing aridity of the climate, of increasing salinization and decreasing rains. Our project helps them—not only to increase their income but also to prepare for future consequences of climate change. We’re preparing them to adapt to the changes that are coming.” —Amangul Ovezberdyeva, Project Manager, Climate Resilient Livelihoods Project

Climate Resilient Livelihoods Project

The Climate Resilient Livelihoods Project aims to strengthen the ability of 40,000-50,000 persons—about half of them women—in the Lebap and Dashoguz regions to adapt income generation practices to climate change.

The Project helps beneficiaries improve the productivity of farm operations, better prepare for increasing water scarcity and access alternative income sources. Ultimately, climate resilient technologies will benefit approximately 20,000 hectares of agricultural and 500,000 hectares of pastoral lands, resulting in income increases of at least 15% for participating households and 20% for female-headed households. Specific project measures aim to:

- 1) Develop human capital by increasing knowledge and skills through training, seminars and field visits
- 2) Improve social capital by uniting people around common interests
- 3) Introduce technology and innovation to facilitate assessment of water usage and methodologies that do not hurt the soil
- 4) Disseminate information on the proper use of water and land resources.





A 100-year-old reservoir gets new life⁹

In the Konegummez village of the Ahal region in Turkmenistan lies Ata-Eke, a historical 100-year-old reservoir, which collects water from the mountain spring and distributes it to the local farming fields.

The farmers in Konegummez grow fruit and vegetables such as apples, pears, tomatoes, pumpkins and cucumbers, but their main source of income is cattle breeding. A consistent source of water is therefore essential to their livelihoods. In recent years, however, the reservoirs have been badly polluted by weeds, leading to significant water loss. By July 2015, the reservoir was nearly dry and residents were struggling to find alternative sources for irrigation.

To address their situation, the residents of Konegummez formed a water users group called Cheshme. "Lately, its condition was very bad, and our farming areas shrank," explained Annageldi Halymbierdiev, Cheshme's leader.

"Once we organized the water users' group, we submitted a project proposal requesting assistance in reconstructing the reservoir and installing water dripping irrigation systems."

In 2016, with material and technical assistance from UNDP, the residents rehabilitated two water reservoirs, Ata Eke 1 and Ata Eke 2, which together provide a volume of 384 cubic meters of water. Members of the local farming association provided necessary machinery to dig the pool and delivered construction equipment, while members of the water users' group installed a drip irrigation system in the farming areas at their own expense. With the current water accumulation speed of 4 cubic metres per hour, the reservoir was filled within two days, benefiting 300 village residents.



PROMOTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDINGS THROUGH INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Severe climate conditions in Turkmenistan make efficient heating and cooling essential to the well-being of the country's inhabitants. Temperatures range from an average of -6C in north-eastern Turkmenistan in January to 48-50C in central and south-east Karakum in the summer. Meanwhile, the residential sector ranks as the third largest source of emissions in Turkmenistan.

UNDP is working with the Government of Turkmenistan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by improving energy management and reducing energy consumption in the residential sector in Turkmenistan. As part of this effort, UNDP has supported the Government to revise building codes and construct modern buildings with energy efficient technologies, such as low emission windows, heat meters and added insulation. Preliminary calculations estimate that revised building codes can yield heat savings of 28-47% and save 14-17% of electricity usage.

UNDP is working with the Government of Turkmenistan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by improving energy management and reducing energy consumption in the residential sector in Turkmenistan.





RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Building codes

- Four building codes have been revised and approved—roof and roofing; residential buildings; building climatology; building thermal engineering—and the former three are already in use
- Building code manuals for roofs and roofing, residential buildings and building thermal engineering have been developed and the manuals for roofs and roofing and residential buildings have been approved
- Recommendations for revising the building code on heating, ventilation and conditioning developed
- Catalogue of solutions to prevent heat loss through thermal bridges in the design of building envelopes developed

Energy management

- Designed software for the certification of energy efficiency of residential buildings
- 22 energy audits have been conducted in nine cities
- Energy specialists in five velayats received training on energy audits and energy management
- The Energy Audit Implementation Manual has been developed

- Pilot energy management system designed and implemented at the pilot site in Koshi, Ashgabat
- Automated heat supply control device designed and five pilot pieces assembled and installed in five buildings in the Koshi area

Building construction and retrofitting

- Three pilot buildings jointly retrofitted with the Ministry of Communal Services
- Three new buildings jointly constructed with the Turkmen Oil and Gas Corporation and Municipality of Ashgabat
- Energy consumption monitoring conducted in all pilot buildings

Energy savings capacity development

- Laboratory for energy savings created in the Turkmen State Architecture-Construction Institute
- Student's curricula revised to include new modules on energy savings in use at the Turkmen State Architecture-Construction Institute



UNDP works with the Water Design Institute to develop the most up-to-date water technology for farmers. The Project is being piloted in two provinces in Turkmenistan.



In February 2017, a farmer plants potatoes and cabbage on his 0.5 hectares of land. In June, his harvest will yield 30-35 tons of produce, which will be sold on the wholesale market. The water for his crops come from the Karakum channel, which originates in Amu Darya. The channel feeds all agricultural fields in Turkmenistan. UNDP conducts research and pilots irrigation techniques to determine the most efficient way to manage water resources and ensure a high volume of crops.

Sustainable Cities in Turkmenistan: Integrated Green Urban Development in Ashgabat and Awaza

Population growth and economic development have led to rapid expansion of cities in Turkmenistan over the past two decades, most notably in the capital city of Ashgabat and the resort zone of Awaza on the Caspian Sea. This growth has had an increasing negative environmental impact – resource consumption, waste, local air and water pollution, and emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG). Ashgabat and Awaza have already embraced some measures to manage this impact, but there remains much untapped technical potential to improve further.

The goal of the project is to reduce the negative impacts of urban growth in Turkmenistan while also advancing social and economic development goals.

To achieve its objectives, the project will:

- a. Promote sustainable urban development in Ashgabat
- b. Support development of sustainable Tourism Infrastructure and Management Practices in Awaza
- c. Assist in reforming of the municipal and national policy on sustainable development

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT IN TURKMENISTAN

Water management is a defining aspect of the economy and the environment in the hot, arid conditions of Turkmenistan. Irrigated agriculture accounts for 90% of total water consumption, supplied by aging, energy-intensive infrastructure. About 50% of water is lost between withdrawal and ultimate delivery.¹⁰ Water management also plays a role as both a cause of and a potential remedy for land degradation. UNDP is therefore working to facilitate a sufficient and environmentally sustainable water supply in Turkmenistan to support social conditions and economic livelihoods; reduce greenhouse emissions; and prevent and remediate land salinization.



Farmers showcase the latest in water management technology—such as drip irrigation techniques, circulating sprinklers and pivoting sprinklers—at the 145-hectare research demonstration site in Geokdepe, which is run by UNDP in partnership with the Turkmen Water Institute.



GEOKDEPE

- Field camp constructed
- Geological and geodesist research for drainage systems conducted
- Agrochemical analysis of soil samples conducted in 17 places at 0-30 centimetres, 30-100 centimetres in depth
- Work plan for construction of the irrigation systems and exploitation of the collector systems created
- Project for water intake with pumping station created
- Project for horizontal water desilting tank for water saving irrigation systems created
- Existing drainage collection system cleaned
- Report of the international expert on new technology in irrigated farming produced
- Joint planning conducted with the Water Design Institute on sowing
- 2 kilometres of old irrigation canals removed and the new back-up 450-metre canal has been constructed



A water desilting tank designed to filter water from the channel before it reaches the field for irrigation at the UNDP-supported research demonstration site in Geokdepe.

KAHKA

- Water intake and distribution from Layin-suw river monitored for Kahka, Hivaabad and Tahirov and 21.5 kilometres of water loss identified in the canal
- Water needs in Kahka, Hivaabad and Tahirov assessed
- Average monthly water intake in the past 10 years and average yearly intake during 1928–1978 estimated
- Sustainable water provision measured
- Chemical analysis conducted of water quality in the region for irrigation and drinking
- New 15-kilometre route for water canal selected and authorized by local authorities and two methods of water flow suggested
- Water measuring devices installed
- Eneka, a company from Belarus, hired for quality control



Today, more than 70% of the land in Turkmenistan is at risk of salinization due to climate-related reasons and farming practices. When the land goes unused, salty water filters up into the soil. The water evaporates but the salt stays and the land degrades. If fertilizers are misused by farmers, salinization can happen more rapidly. UNDP helps prevent salinization by introducing efficient farming techniques and providing training on worlds' best agricultural practices.



TENTATIVE BUDGET 2016–2020 US\$ 16.76 million

1 PROCUREMENT OF TB DRUGS AND LABORATORY REAGENTS FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH



US\$ 1,024,714

2 FACILITATING THE PROCUREMENT OF HIV TEST-KITS



US\$ 618,298

3 UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF DR-TB



US\$ 5,283,989

4 LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT POLICY PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION



US\$ 610,684

5 IMPROVING ACCOUNT SYSTEM



US\$ 155,000

6 IMPROVING CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM



US\$ 399,651

7 FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS



US\$ 258,000

8 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN RIGHTS (2016-2020) IN THE AREA OF RULE OF LAW AND THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE



US\$ 778,527

9 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



US\$ 143,446



GOVERNANCE, ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

UNDP in Turkmenistan is supporting national efforts to achieve sustainable socioeconomic development and high living standards in line with national development plans and priorities, including the SDGs.

UNDP contributes to improving economic performance and strengthening democratic principles in Turkmenistan by supporting the development of responsive national institutions, strengthening human potential and fostering inclusive participation. This includes improving national capacity to report to United Nations treaty bodies, increasing participation in the regional and global economic and trade processes, enhancing national employment and labour capacities and modernizing public administration.





PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Economic diversification and quality data

- Launched a joint initiative with the Ministry of Finance to improve the national accounting system
- Supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population to strengthen capacities for better labour and employment policy-making
- Promoted the concept of human development in partnership with line ministries
- Supported the State Statistics Committee to align its foreign trade statistics with international standards

Human rights and access to justice

- Supported the design of the five-year National Human Rights Action Plan which was approved and under implementation in 2016
- Strengthened the Civil Service Academy with the definition of its vision and development strategy
- Provided technical support to the Parliament to improve its law-making processes
- Trained 125 judges and 54 lawyers in international human rights protection mechanisms
- Supported the drafting of the Law on Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman's Law) in Turkmenistan

Healthy and inclusive society

- Between 2013 and 2016, enrolled more than 600 confirmed MDR-TB cases in treatment
- Renovated three reference laboratories (in Mary, Lebap and Dashoguz) and introduced the full spectrum of investigations, contributing to diagnostic and treatment success. MDR-TB diagnosis and treatment is available in all regions of Turkmenistan
- MDR-TB patients are now receiving social support and psychological counselling for treatment adherence through the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan
- Since 2016, the Government has procured first- and second-line TB drugs from WHO-prequalified manufacturers through UNDP procurement mechanisms
- Enhanced the leadership skills of more than 50 women with disabilities
- Supported more than 100 people with disabilities to become computer literate
- Supported revision of the teaching methods and provided interactive teaching technology to the Textile College to enrol the first mixed group of students, which includes 10 hearing impaired girls, tuition-free

UNDP programme trained 125 judges and 54 lawyers in international human rights protection mechanisms.



The number of privately owned enterprises and individual entrepreneurs in Turkmenistan has increased significantly in recent years.

Supporting efforts to improve the accounting system in Turkmenistan

The number of privately owned enterprises and individual entrepreneurs in Turkmenistan has increased significantly in recent years. Recent government policies, including the provision of subsidized credits, loans and tax incentives to businesses, have led to an increase in the number of legal entities registered in Turkmenistan, particularly in construction and manufacturing.

Given private sector growth rates and the need for economic reforms, the goal of this project is to support the Ministry of Finance of Turkmenistan to improve the national accounting system in line with international standards. Specifically, it aims to improve the abilities of private and state-owned commercial enterprises to implement the new National Financial Reporting Standards, as well as the quality of financial reports that meet international standards for main users such as the Ministry of

Finance, the State Statistics Committee and the Tax Service of Turkmenistan. The project will also help attract foreign investment in Turkmenistan's business sector. To achieve its objectives, the project will:

- a. Prepare methodologies for the implementation of the new National Financial Reporting Standards, including:
 - Double-entry accounting guidelines;
 - Guidelines for the preparation financial statements according to the National Financial Reporting Standards for commercial enterprises;
 - Tax verification guidelines to link tax accounting and financial reporting.
- b. Provide recommendations for establishing the National Accountants Certification System





HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The Human Development Report Office is a special department of UNDP that works globally on data collection, analysis and reporting to promote innovative new ideas, advocate for practical policy changes and constructively challenge policies and approaches to advance human well-being.

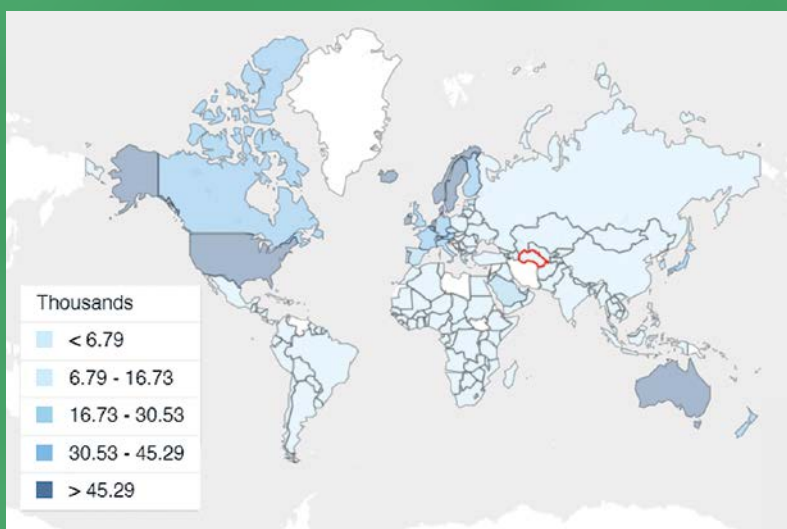
In Turkmenistan, UNDP has developed a tradition of presenting newly released Human Development Reports with the relevant national agency to raise awareness and spark action. These launch events serve as a platform for national agencies to showcase their achievements in a particular field and highlight prospects for development. To popularize the participation of Turkmenistan's line ministries in the information gathering, UNDP senior advisors engaged with national counterparts to promote the human development concept, develop human development statistics and jointly produce policy documents.

Human development is the criteria for economic, social and political and any other development. It is also an indicator for measuring the success of SDG implementation. This is why it is so important for academia to be involved given its connection with the future generation.” —Ben Slay, UNDP Senior Advisor.





GDP per capita (current US\$)



The project builds on the findings of the assessment of the current foreign trade statistics of Turkmenistan and the status of implementation of international merchandise trade statistics methodology and standards

Improving foreign trade statistics in Turkmenistan

UNDP works to improve national foreign trade statistics in Turkmenistan, including by upgrading data management systems, training staff in software management and international recommendations and standards for trade statistics, and establishing and piloting methodologies for the evaluation of imported and exported goods.

The project builds on the findings of the assessment of the current foreign trade statistics of Turkmenistan and the status of implementation of international merchandise trade statistics methodology and standards, as well as recommendations on how to improve the quality of data on foreign trade statistics in Turkmenistan. To achieve its objectives, the project will:

- a. Strengthen capacity of the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan to produce quality data on foreign trade statistics
- b. Enhance institutional capacity and cooperation for compilation of high quality foreign trade statistics in line with international standards
- c. Establish and pilot methodology for estimating unrecorded imports of consumer goods

THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION PLAN OF TURKMENISTAN 2016-2020

Turkmenistan is now party to 14 core human rights treaties and protocols and has increased its engagement in human rights at the international level, including on issues related to refugees and stateless persons. Various international treaty bodies recommend, however, that Turkmenistan continue to strengthen implementation of its international human rights obligations.

In partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and with funding from the European Union, UNDP supported Turkmenistan to strengthen the institutional and professional bases for enhancing human rights promotion and protection mechanisms, raising awareness of international standards and mechanisms and strengthening national capacity to promote and protect human rights in line with these standards. This includes supporting the Government to implement the National Human Rights Action Plan 2016-2020 in response to the recommendations provided in the Universal Periodic Reviews. The Action Plan aims to improve mechanisms for promoting and protecting human rights in line with international, regional and national human rights standards.

National Human Rights Action Plan

The objective of the National Human Rights Action Plan is to protect, promote and ensure human rights by defining these rights in the context of public policy, developing programmes aimed at achieving human rights goals, strengthening the involvement of relevant government bodies and civil society, and allocating sufficient resources for the implementation of related programming.

The Action Plan also aims to improve and ensure respect for human rights through the implementation of related state programmes and international obligations.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- The implementation of most of the Universal Periodic Review accepted recommendations and the submission of evidence-based reporting by the Government at the third round of the Universal Periodic Review
- Development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for the implementation of interventions identified in the National Human Rights Action Plan
- Strengthened capacity of public organizations and promotion of dialogue between the Government and civil society, with special attention to awareness raising on human rights issues among government agencies and the public.
- Technical assistance provided to the National Institute of Democracy and Human Rights for the preparation of national periodic reports to United Nations human rights treaty bodies such as the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the United Nations Convention Against Torture and the Universal Periodic Review.
- Developed capacities of judges on international humanitarian law and international obligations of Turkmenistan in regards to human rights.





“With the help of our international partners, we aim to develop the programme of preparation of the civil servants, develop the capacities of our staff and introduce innovative technologies into education. We also aim to maintain contact with our alumni and analyse the changing demands and requirements of government agencies to introduce new education courses and programmes.” —Alym Annamuradov, Rector of the Academy of Civil Service under the President of Turkmenistan

Supporting the Academy of Civil Servants of Turkmenistan

Approximately 100 civil servants are admitted to the Academy of Civil Service under the President of Turkmenistan every year to improve their professional qualifications. Activities of the Academy are aimed at strengthening the knowledge and practical skills of civil servants, government apparatuses and employees working in key ministries and departments, as well as local government officials who are responsible for the implementation of national social and economic programmes.

- In 2014, UNDP held an assessment of the institutional development potential of the Academy. Based on the recommendations and results of the assessment, UNDP and the Civil Service Academy developed a joint initiative aiming at: . Develop and implement a strategic vision and plans for the development of the Academy to facilitate a stronger alliance with the Academy’s mission
- Update the Academy’s existing training programmes and develop new programmes to meet the national interests and match global trends in public administration
- Better link the Academy with similar public administration schools and other public service resources to ensure ongoing experience exchange
- Create digital resources and online studying options for students and alumni



COOPERATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION PLAN: RULE OF LAW AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Turkmenistan is one of the first countries in the region to accede to the major international conventions and instruments related to human rights. The country participates in regular dialogues under major international human rights treaty bodies and has accepted a number of international recommendations as a part of the concluding observations of the treaty bodies. Having acceded to these international conventions and adopted national mechanisms for their implementation, Turkmenistan still has the space for improvement in several areas relating to human rights.

UNDP supports the Supreme Court of Turkmenistan to implement its obligations under the Constitution of Turkmenistan, the National Human Rights Action Plan 2016-2020, and SDGs related to the rule of law and access to justice.

“179 lawyers and judges improved their knowledge on protection of human rights mechanisms inscribed in the international law. This will help them further familiarize themselves with international best practices on the use of human rights mechanisms.”

**—Yelena Butova,
Project Manager**

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- In 2016, UNDP supported the drafting of the Law on Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman's Law) in Turkmenistan and embarked on assisting with the establishment of the new Ombudsman office
- 125 judges of the national courts and 54 lawyers of the national bar associations of Turkmenistan were trained on international human rights protection mechanisms
- In 2017, eight trainings took place throughout Turkmenistan under the project's access to justice component



Strengthening capacity in labour and employment policy planning and implementation

In 2015, the Government of Turkmenistan approved its programme on the modernization of employment services and creation of new jobs for 2015–2020. The programme aims to foster favourable conditions for people seeking jobs and promoting employment in all sectors of the economy, underlining that this is the primary responsibility of the State and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of Turkmenistan. The programme supports the Ministry to plan and implement labour and employment policies and strategies through the following three components: 1) improving the legislative basis in the area of labour and employment; 2) modernizing the current labour safety system; and 3) strengthening the national capacity to regulate labour market and employment.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Result 1: Recommendations for improvement of the legislative framework of Turkmenistan in the area of labour and employment

addresses the need to align national legislation in accordance with international legal instruments in the areas of labour and employment.

Result 2: Recommendations for modernization of the current labour safety system addresses the need to create institutional and legislative frameworks for monitoring standards implementation in the area of labour safety in Turkmenistan.

Result 3: Strengthened national capacity to regulate labour market and employment addresses the improvement of labour market regulatory mechanisms, including legislative and institutional mechanisms.

TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROJECT

Turkmenistan is one of the WHO European Region's 18 high priority countries in regards to TB. In 2014, the estimated incidence and prevalence of TB was 64 per 100,000 and 88 per 100,000, respectively.¹¹ MDR-TB remains a key challenge in Turkmenistan, where routine MDR surveillance is not yet available.¹²

With funding from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNDP, WHO, the National Red Crescent Society and the Government of Turkmenistan are working together to reduce the burden of TB and scale up the management of drug resistant strains. With UNDP support, the National Tuberculosis Programme is reaching more people in remote areas with drug resistance testing and the correct treatment. Today, diagnosis of drug-resistant TB is done within two hours in all regions, and treatment of MDR-TB is provided not only in hospitals, but also in outpatient settings.

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Between 2010 and 2016, more than 4,000 health workers were trained in quality TB diagnosis and treatment and nearly 500 community leaders were trained in raising awareness and fighting TB-related stigma.
- Drug-susceptibility testing increased from 27% in 2011 to 44% in 2014, and to approximately 79% in 2016. It is expected to reach 91% by 2018.
- Three out of six TB labs were renovated, and all six received high-tech equipment and now feature rapid molecular detection of MDR-TB (Xpert technology) facilities and high-tech equipment for testing and staff training.
- Between 2013 and 2016, 1,225 MDR-TB patients were enrolled in treatment. The National TB Programme plans to scale up MDR-TB detection and treatment and enrol 760 patients in 2017 and to start treatment of extensively-drug resistant TB.

“We set up a patient support programme that greatly contributes to mitigating MDR-TB cases. Between 2011 and 2015, all TB patients received monthly food parcels to keep their motivation high to adhere to their out-patient treatment course. Since 2011, over 13,000 patients have received such support. In the new grant the patient support will be continued: MDR-TB patients will get comprehensive support including psychological counselling, home visits and TB education.” —Muhabbat Akyyeva, Coordinator of the TB project at the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan.



The Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan Global Fund project team works with UNDP to combat TB-related stigma and encourage treatment adherence. The team includes a qualified psychologist who works with patients who have been shunned by their families, or are struggling to adhere to the lengthy and complicated treatment regimen of close to two years for drug-resistant TB.



Bringing MDR-TB patients back to treatment with psychological help¹³

TB treatment is a long and complicated process. Often, patients with TB are left alone by their community due to lack of understanding of how the disease is transmitted and what the patient is going through. The treatment regimen and dietary guidelines must be followed precisely and the entire process can take between six and eight months. For MDR-TB, treatment can take as long as two years.

“Every year, 6 to 10 million people are diagnosed with TB,” explained Bahar Bayramova, psychologist of the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan, a sub-recipient of the TB grant from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. “Modern medical care allows full cure of TB under the condition that the diagnosis is made and the treatment has started on time. Nevertheless, there is another very important condition—a moral and psychological state of the patient, his will, persistence and optimism.”

In 2013, UNDP Turkmenistan and the National Red Crescent Society began supporting MDR-TB patients to complete the full course of medical treatment, including through home visits and phone consultations. Nurses follow up to inquire as to whether patients have experienced any problems that are preventing them from adhering to treatment and will help find solutions.

The Red Crescent holds educational trainings for patients and relatives at the School of Patients. Beginning in April 2016, the programme also began to provide psychological counselling.

Even when patients have family, friends and colleagues to support them, they can go through periods of depression due to the long treatment process, says Bayramova. Patients can get tired and lose their motivation to get healthy. Others may be lonely and due to conflict in their personal lives, have low motivation to get well. Psychological counselling has therefore become an integral part of the treatment process for all patients.

“I had a patient who regularly complained about depression and fatigue,” recalled Bayramova. “As a result of psychological counselling, her emotional status recovered and she has been continuing her treatment for over a year already.”

Through the individual counselling sessions and thanks to the commitment of TB doctors, nurses and Red Crescent staff, more than 200 MDR-TB patients have completed medical treatment under the programme.



SOCIAL INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Turkmenistan has demonstrated strong commitment to protecting the rights of people with disabilities. In 2008, the Government acceded to the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and in 2010, ratified the Convention's Optional Protocol. In 2012, Turkmenistan issued a new Social Security Code in line with several Convention articles. The new Law of Turkmenistan on Education, issued in May 2013, contains articles that guarantee inclusive education, special educational standards, adaptive programmes and social support for children with disabilities.

In line with these frameworks, UNDP is helping Turkmenistan to improve the inclusion of persons with disabilities in education and the labour force. Until now, persons living with disabilities in most countries in Central Asia study in specialized institutions with separate curricula, encouraging stigma and exclusion. UNDP is therefore working to better integrate students with disabilities into mainstream education, and promoting employment opportunities for people with disabilities through vocational training institutions.

Reaching higher education: Inspiration from women with disabilities¹⁴

Shabbi Osmanova has been blind since birth. But Shabbi breaks stereotypes. In 2015, she became a full-time student at the Belarusian State Pedagogical University and has completed her first semester of schooling. She studies in the Department of Physical Training for people with visual impairments and dreams of teaching children just like her.

Shabbi is a beneficiary of a joint project between UNDP and the Deaf and Blind Society of Turkmenistan aimed at advancing the social inclusion and integration of persons with disabilities. She is one of 55 women who undertook leadership skills training and pursued educational opportunities as a result.

UNDP is currently working with the Deaf and Blind Society of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Textile Industry, the Ministry of Education and the Parliament of Turkmenistan to promote inclusive education among the disabled.

According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Turkmenistan, there are close to 9,000 people with disabilities in the country, 76% of whom are employed.





Wishes come true: Full integration of hearing impaired students

In September 2016, Turkmenistan introduced a new measure to enable hearing impaired students to share classes with non-hearing impaired students. The first of its kind in Central Asia, the objectives were two-fold: to allow hearing impaired students to develop skills at the same speed as others, and to showcase the possibility of zero stigma in academic environments.

The Ministry of Textiles and the Deaf and Blind Society of Turkmenistan, with support from UNDP, were the first to implement the new curriculum at the Textiles College in Ashgabat. In addition to providing scholarships, UNDP has developed a unique curriculum and provided sign interpretation for the young women. The project is the first in Central Asia to offer integrated education in traditional learning settings for students with disabilities.

During the 10-month course, 11 students with hearing impairments were integrated into a classroom with non-hearing impaired students and taught under a single curriculum using improved teaching techniques such as interactive boards, hearing aid tools and/or sign language translation. For many of the hearing impaired students, the programme was their only chance to receive a professional education.

“Hearing impaired students are more attentive in class,” said Natalya Vladimirova, the teacher of the first mixed class. “They are investing more effort because they know that this is a rare chance for them to receive an education.”

UNDP will use the programme as a model for scaling up integrated education for students with disabilities. In a complementary effort, more than 50 women with disabilities participated in a UNDP-supported 20-day training aimed at promoting social inclusion and increasing the engagement of people with disabilities in policy making.

The programmes have met with enormous success, providing a model for nationwide scale up. The training helps students with disabilities build confidence and realize their potential. Integrating students with disabilities within the wider student body has opened the minds and hearts of all students, who have come to realize they are more alike than different.

“It is important to give people with disabilities specific skills. The Deaf and Blind Society has their own production facility in Turkmenistan, but our goal is to enable people with disabilities to be able to work with everyone, in regular working environments.” —Nazik Avlyakulova, UNDP Communications Associate

ENDNOTES

- ¹ UNDP, 'About Turkmenistan', www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/countryinfo/.
- ² Ibid.
- ³ UNDP, 'Country Programme Action Plan between the Government of Turkmenistan and the United Nations Development Programme 2016-2020'.
- ⁴ UNDP, 'About Turkmenistan', www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/countryinfo/.
- ⁵ World Bank, *Diversified Development: Making the Most of Natural Resources in Eurasia*, Washington, D.C., 2014.
- ⁶ OHCHR, 'Reporting status for Turkmenistan', retrieved 23 February 2-15.
- ⁷ UNDP, 'Placing a value on nature—evaluating biodiversity in Turkmenistan', www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/ourwork/environmentandenergy/successstories/Placing_Value_on_Nature_Evaluating_Biodiversity_in_Turkmenistan.html.
- ⁸ UNDP, 'Sustainable living in the heart of the desert', www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/ourwork/environmentandenergy/successstories/sustainable-living-in-the-heart-of-the-desert-.html.
- ⁹ UNDP, 'A 100-year-old Turkmenistan reservoir gets new life', www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/ourwork/climate-and-disaster-resilience/successstories/a-100-year-old-reservoir-gets-new-life.html.
- ¹⁰ UNDP, 'Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for Sustainable Water Management in Turkmenistan', http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/operations/projects/environment_and_energy/Energy-efficiency-and-renewable-energy-for-sustainable-water-management-in-turkmenistan.html.
- ¹¹ WHO, *Global Tuberculosis Report 2015*.
- ¹² UNDP, 'Ensuring universal access to high-quality diagnosis and treatment of drug resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) in Turkmenistan', www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/operations/projects/human_development/universal-access-to-high-quality-diagnosis-and-treatment-of-drug-DR-TB.html.
- ¹³ UNDP, 'Psychological help to bring MDR-TB patients back to treatment', <http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/our-blog/2017/1/31/Psychological-Help-to-Bring-MDR-TB-Patients-back-to-Treatment-.html>.
- ¹⁴ UNDP, 'Reaching higher education: Inspirations from women with disabilities', <http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/ourwork/humandevlopment/successstories/reaching-higher-education.html>.

CREDITS

Coordination: Nazik Avlyakulova, UNDP Communications Associate
Production (editing, layout & design): Julie Pudlowski Consulting
Photography: ©UNDP/Julie Pudlowski, ©UNDP/Nazik Avlyakulova

©UNDP 2017





*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



CONTACTS US

21 Archabil Avenue

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 744 036

Phone: +993 (12) 48 83 25

Line @UNDPTKM Twitter @UNDPTM VK.com/undptm

<http://www.tm.undp.org>

