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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

An overview of development support to Turkmenistan



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FOREWORD



Dear Readers,

It gives me great pleasure to present this brochure outlining UNDP support to Turkmenistan in recent years. Working as a trusted and experienced international partner, UNDP has done a lot to promote the national development agenda for the benefit of women, men and children of Turkmenistan.

UNDP partners with the Government of Turkmenistan and other development organisations on a broad spectrum of issues relating to democratic governance, the environment, climate change and energy, gender equality, the empowerment of women, human rights, HIV and tuberculosis prevention. In all these areas, we provide high quality policy advice, help strengthen national capacity and pilot innovative solutions.

With UNDP support the Government of Turkmenistan was able to successfully implement many development initiatives and realise a number of national development strategies and plans. Perhaps the most significant achievements heralded by UNDP cooperation have been: the strengthening the National Programme on Control of Tuberculosis, the development of Turkmenistan's new pension system, the adoption by Turkmenistan of the National Climate Change Strategy, as well as the implementation of many UN human rights conventions in national legislation, and the opening of the first ever Human Rights Resource Center, funded by the European Union, at the National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights in Ashgabat.

Changing and improving the standards of living of a nation takes a long time. UNDP has demonstrated its willingness and ability to provide high level technical support over time, at national and sub-national levels that can impact on the lives of many in Turkmenistan. I hope this brochure highlights some of these examples.

These improvements could not have been achieved without the generous and loyal support (technically and financially) from our development partners, and I am truly grateful for their dedicated work in promoting the development agenda of Turkmenistan.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jacinta Barrins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jacinta" being more prominent than the last name "Barrins".

Jacinta Barrins
UN Resident Coordinator
UNDP Resident Representative in Turkmenistan

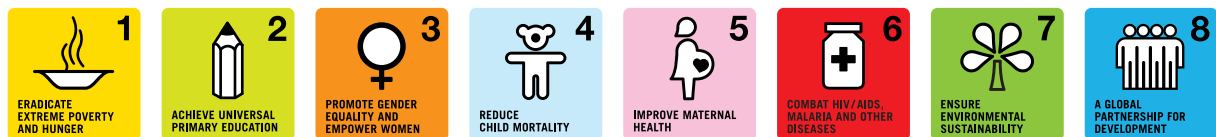
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Since 1966, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been partnering with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in 177 countries and territories, UNDP offers global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

UNDP delivers results at the country level in four core focus areas:

- *Poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)*
 - *Democratic governance*
 - *Crisis prevention and recovery*
 - *Environment and sustainable development*
-

UNDP works in these main areas because for people to bring about national-level progress, all must be addressed together.



THE MDGS: Eight development goals agreed upon by world leaders

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Human Development is a development paradigm that is about much more than the rise or fall of national incomes. It is about creating an environment in which people can develop their full potential and lead productive, creative lives in accord with their needs and interests. People are the real wealth of nations. Development is thus about expanding the choices people have to lead lives that they value. And it is thus about much more than economic growth, which is only a means — if a very important one — of enlarging people's choices.

Fundamental to enlarging these choices is building human capabilities — the range of things that people can do or be in life. The most basic capabilities for human development are *to lead long and healthy lives, to be knowledgeable, to have access to the resources needed for a decent standard of living and to be able to participate in the life of the community*. Without these, many choices are simply not available, and many opportunities in life remain inaccessible.

The Human Development Report, commissioned by UNDP, focuses the global debate on key development issues, providing new measurement tools, innovative analysis and often controversial policy proposals. The global Report's analytical framework and inclusive approach carry over into regional, national and local Human Development Reports, also supported by UNDP.

The Human Development Report is an independent report. It is the product of a selected team of leading scholars, development practitioners and members of the Human Development Report Office of UNDP. The Report is translated into more than a dozen languages and launched in more than 100 countries annually.







UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) IN TURKMENISTAN

UNDP has been working in Turkmenistan since 1995 on the basis of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement signed with the Government of Turkmenistan. Being one of the main international partners of Turkmenistan, UNDP provides high quality policy advice to the Government and facilitates access to the best international practices, knowledge, skills and resources in support of development of national policies and strategies.

Capacity building is a cornerstone of UNDP's support to Turkmenistan. Over a span of 17 years, UNDP helped strengthen the capacity of a wide range of national institutions, organizations and local communities, including Members of Parliament, representatives of executive and judicial branches of power, law-enforcement agencies, local governments and mass media, small business and public organizations as well as rural women, people with disabilities, teachers, students and schoolchildren.

In 2010-2015, UNDP's work in Turkmenistan is structured around the areas of cooperation identified in the new Country Programme Document and the Country Programme Action Plan signed by UNDP and the Government of Turkmenistan. These two documents are aligned with the national development priorities and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Turkmenistan for the aforementioned period.

The main areas of UNDP's work in Turkmenistan are:

-  *Democratic Governance and Inclusive Growth*
-  *Environment, Climate Change and Energy*

Gender and human rights related initiatives are also included in the Country Programme Action Plan and mainstreamed across all programme components.



*UNDP Administrator Helen Clark visits the village of Bokurdak, in the Karakum desert, where UNDP together with partners helped the local community to improve pasture management practices and apply sand dune fixation techniques to protect the village from moving sand dunes.
May 2011*



DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

UNDP contributes to strengthening the democratic principles in Turkmenistan by providing support to development of responsive national institutions, human capacity and fostering inclusive participation. In this area of cooperation, the Government partners with UNDP to improve the national capacity to report to the UN treaty bodies, enhance the national electoral system and parliamentary processes, and modernize public administration in Turkmenistan. Equally important is UNDP support to advancing social inclusion and integration of persons with disabilities. In partnership with the European Union UNDP has also made an important contribution to introducing integrated border management methods by enhancing the capacity of relevant authorities of Turkmenistan.

Among the major results of UNDP-Turkmenistan cooperation in the area of Democratic Governance and Inclusive Growth has been the modernization of Turkmenistan's pension system with UNDP support. As part of this work, UNDP helped to develop an Action Plan on Notional Defined Contribution Pension System, through which the Government has made all necessary arrangements to introduce the new pension system in Turkmenistan, starting from 2012. Likewise, UNDP played an important role, in partnership with USAID, in introducing the international financial reporting standards (IFRS) in all the banks of Turkmenistan, starting from January 2012.

Through its cooperation with UNDP and the World Health Organization, the Government has also managed to considerably strengthen its National TB Programme by building capacities of Turkmen doctors in TB management and expanding laboratory services in the regions of Turkmenistan for better TB prevention and treatment. This result contributes to strengthening the national efforts in public health sector and supporting the achievement by Turkmenistan of the Millennium Development Goal 6 "Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases."

Another important achievement in this area has been the opening of the first ever Human Rights Resource Centre in Ashgabat, funded by the European Union. The opening of this center has been preceded by UNDP's large-scale ground work, supported by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the European Union, to raise awareness of national authorities of the importance of building their capacities to report to the UN treaty bodies and monitoring the implementation of the UN Conventions that Turkmenistan acceded to.





Support to Social Protection System Development

Social reforms in Turkmenistan created conditions for transition to the Notional Defined Contribution (NDC) pension system and establishment of the Pension Fund in 2012. UNDP partnered with the Government of Turkmenistan in this area under the project “*Support to Social Protection System Development*.” This project aims to support the Government of Turkmenistan in developing a more efficient and effective social protection system and strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of Turkmenistan as a responsible body for administration of the new pension scheme.

The project has demonstrated how governance reform and implementation of changes in public administration system can impact the wellbeing of vulnerable groups.

Through this project UNDP supported the *development and implementation of an Action Plan on Notional Defined Contribution Pension System*, helping the Government to make all necessary arrangements to introduce the new pension system in Turkmenistan starting from 2012, including the establishment of the Pension Fund;

Legislative initiatives implemented with UNDP support in the area of social protection have resulted in introducing relevant clauses to the Social Security Code of Turkmenistan, which eventually allowed *up to 60% increase in the amount of social benefit payments to vulnerable groups, including women with children*;

UNDP supported the establishment of *a Training Centre* at the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population and *printing over 100 books* on relevant topics. These activities helped to strengthen the capacity of government officials through access to information and knowledge on pension reforms and good practices;

As part of the project, the Ministry procured new equipment to facilitate the automation of servicing individual pension accounts at the central level and in more than 69 districts of Turkmenistan. This has contributed to abolishing duplications and inefficiencies in pension insurance administration and monitoring.



Gregory McTaggart, international consultant, holds training for employees of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of Turkmenistan

UNDP will continue work on strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of Turkmenistan, as well as the Pension Fund of Turkmenistan through trainings on NDC. UNDP will provide support to an information campaign to raise awareness of the population on the new pension system. Owing to the enlargement of the Ministry's mandate to labor issues, the project will provide support to the Ministry in developing a Plan of Action on employment, labour relations, occupational health and safety. UNDP will also provide support for improving the legal framework of Turkmenistan in this area.

Period of the project – 2005-2012
Funded by UNDP, the Ministry of Labour and
Social Protection of Population of Turkmenistan



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Purposeful Strengthening and Expanding of Qualified Services on TB Diagnostics and Treatment in Turkmenistan

UNDP is one of the main partners of Turkmenistan in ensuring comprehensive social and economic integration of vulnerable groups, including women, people with disabilities and key populations at risk to tuberculosis infection. Beginning in 2010, UNDP has been supporting Turkmenistan in implementing the National Programme on Control of Tuberculosis as part of the project *"Purposeful Strengthening and Expanding of Qualified Services on TB Diagnostics and Treatment in Turkmenistan."* This project is funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and implemented by UNDP together with the World Health Organization in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan.

The project contributes to reducing the burden of tuberculosis in Turkmenistan by consolidating and expanding DOTS framework (short-course treatment of tuberculosis under the direct supervision of medical staff). This is being achieved through the introduction and scaling up of management of drug-resistant tuberculosis and strengthening of the health system performance for effective control of tuberculosis.

Through its cooperation with UNDP, the Government has managed to considerably strengthen its National TB Programme. Specific achievements in this area include:

- *Revision of key documents regulating TB control in the country in accordance with the international standards;*
- *Expanding laboratory services for TB case detection;*
- *Strengthening involvement of primary health care into control of TB;*
- *30 National Tuberculosis Programme managers, 51 laboratory specialists, 181 TB specialists, 237 TB nurses, 379 family doctors and 371 family nurses enhanced their skills in TB management;*
- *The first drug-resistance survey is on-going country-wide;*
- *The first-ever survey of the population's knowledge, attitude and practice related to TB;*
- *3,038 TB patients received treatment under DOTS. Of them, 2,964 TB patients received motivation (monthly food parcels) to adhere to treatment regime.*



Laboratory equipment for detection of tuberculosis with luminescent microscopy procured by the project



Exhibition of works by students of the Ashgabat Special Art School for the World TB Day, 24 March 2012

Turkmenistan is currently preparing to expand its TB control services to control drug-resistant tuberculosis. This will be supported by newly procured molecular diagnostics equipment that will allow detecting drug-resistance within 2 hours, and quality treatment will be available for the drug-resistant TB cases.

Overall, this project will significantly strengthen national efforts to prevent TB and accelerate the achievement by Turkmenistan of the Millennium Development Goal number six "Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases."

Period of the project – 2010-2015
Funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria



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Support to Accounting System Modernization

UNDP is supporting Turkmenistan's efforts to achieve sustained economic and social development and ensure high standards of living in accordance with national development plans and priorities. In this area, UNDP contributed to laying the foundation for a complete **transition of the banking sector of Turkmenistan to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)**, starting from 2012. This result has been achieved through strengthening the capacity of the Central Bank of Turkmenistan under the project *“Support to Accounting System Modernization”* implemented in partnership with USAID and the Central Bank of Turkmenistan.

In this partnership UNDP:

- *Provided support to the Central Bank of Turkmenistan in **developing and implementing a national accounting system** that complies with international accounting standards, as well as providing trainings for bank employees;*
- *Implemented activities that paved the way for **the adoption of the Law of Turkmenistan on “Accounting and Financial Reporting”** in 2010, which provided a legal framework to ensure that the banking and economic sectors of Turkmenistan are fully compliant with international financial reporting standards in preparing their financial reports and conducting audits;*
- *Supported strengthening the capacity of the government's audit and financial control.*

The transition of national accounting standards to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) has been a difficult process in which UNDP played a key role. Through this project, the real changes occurred in the accounting system of Turkmenistan. The introduction of best international practices and experiences, consultations on development of national plans and strategies, capacity development activities for the bank employees, as well as technical assistance provided by UNDP have led to the changes in legislation and increased knowledge and awareness of employees of the banking sector in the field of International Financial Reporting Standards.



Audit training for Turkmenistan's bank employees

Period of the project – 2007-2011
Funded by UNDP,
USAID (in-kind contribution 2007-2009),
the Government of Turkmenistan



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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Strengthening the National Capacity of Turkmenistan to Promote and Protect Human Rights

UNDP supports Turkmenistan's efforts in strengthening the institutional and professional bases with the aim to enhance human rights promotion and protection mechanisms. In partnership with the European Union (EU) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR), UNDP provides support, among others, to the Interdepartmental Commission on Ensuring Turkmenistan's Compliance with its International Obligations on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law for Co-ordination of Turkmenistan's Reporting to the United Nations Treaty Bodies. This work is conducted under the joint project *"Strengthening the National Capacity of Turkmenistan to Promote and Protect Human Rights"* funded by the European Union. The project aims to raise awareness of international standards and mechanisms in Turkmenistan and strengthening the national capacity to promote and protect human rights in accordance with these standards.

Together with partners UNDP has supported:

- *Enhancing the capacity of more than 1000 Turkmen officials and other stakeholders (of which women account for 47%) in the area of human rights standards and mechanisms;*
- *Improving the Government's capacity to report to the UN Treaty Bodies. To this effect, the Government completed and submitted its initial report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;*
- *Enhancing knowledge on the Convention against Torture and the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as Civil and Political Rights of the government delegations representing Turkmenistan before the respective committees monitoring implementation of these international treaties. Trainings on benchmarks and indicators were also held, which will contribute to better reporting to the Treaty Bodies;*
- *The opening of the first-ever Human Rights Resource Centre at the National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights under the President of Turkmenistan;*



Workshop on UN Human Rights System



Seminar on the rights of people with different forms of disability for Turkmen students at the Human Rights Resource Centre in Ashgabat

Building capacity of national experts from educational establishments of Turkmenistan on the design and delivery of human rights trainings. Teaching materials on human rights were developed and piloted by national experts in regular training activities for the students of higher educational institutions of Turkmenistan.

In the remaining period, the project will be supporting the opening of resource centers on human rights in the velayats (provinces) of Turkmenistan; distribution of information materials on human rights amongst libraries and exhibitions; familiarization of Turkmenistan stakeholders with international experience and practice in human rights promotion and protection. The project will also facilitate workshops on follow up to recommendations from the UN human rights mechanisms, as well as on development of the National Human Rights Action Plan.

Period of the project – 2009-2013
Funded by EU, UNDP, UN OHCHR



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Advancement of Social Inclusion and Integration of Persons with Disabilities

Protection of the rights of persons with disabilities has been the cornerstone of UNDP support to Turkmenistan's efforts to promote and protect human rights. In 2004-2009, UNDP implemented a joint project with the Deaf and Blind Society of Turkmenistan (DBST), demonstrating alternative approaches to rehabilitation and socio-economic integration of visually and hearing impaired persons. This project helped raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities and lay ground work for Turkmenistan's accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in September 2008 and ratification of its Optional Protocol in 2010.

Recognizing the urgency of taking all appropriate measures to promote the physical, cognitive and psychological recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration of persons with disabilities, the Deaf and Blind Society of Turkmenistan and UNDP have joined efforts once again and initiated the project *"Advancement of Social Inclusion and Integration of Persons with Disabilities"* with financial support of the Government of Finland.

The project will focus on addressing the main challenges faced by persons with disabilities towards their integration into the society. This will be done through:

- *Raising the capacity of DBST to address the needs of visually and hearing impaired persons;*
- *Revision of national legislation for compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and formulation of National Action Plan on persons with disabilities;*
- *Promoting employment opportunities of persons with disabilities;*
- *Increasing public and media's awareness on the importance of social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities.*



Elementary rehabilitation course for visually impaired people at the DBST



Regional conference on the rights of persons with disabilities in Ashgabat, June 2011

"More and more countries are committing to protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. However, many challenges remain. Persons with disabilities experience higher rates of poverty and deprivation and are twice as likely to lack health care. Employment rates of persons with disabilities in some countries are as low as one-third of that of the overall population. In developing countries, the gap in primary school attendance rates between children with disabilities and others ranges from 10 per cent to 60 per cent."

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

Period of the project – 2012-2013
Funded by Government of Finland, UNDP



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Enhancing Electoral System and Processes in Turkmenistan

UNDP supports Turkmenistan's efforts to improve and harmonize electoral legislation and processes, as well as enhance the capacity of members of the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda (CEC) and regional election commissions of Turkmenistan. This work is carried out through the project *“Enhancing Electoral System and Processes in Turkmenistan”* implemented in partnership with USAID, the National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights and the CEC of Turkmenistan.

As a result of UNDP support, national electoral stakeholders, including members of the Mejlis, central and regional election commissions, national electoral observers and mass media have deepened their knowledge of international electoral standards and processes. Following the numerous capacity building trainings at the central and regional level as well as exposure of national stakeholders to the best international practices, the Mejlis of Turkmenistan initiated the process of codification of electoral legislation with the view to develop a unified Electoral Code. UNDP supported the development of the first draft Electoral Code, which was shared with national electoral stakeholders and electoral practitioners for further discussion. Following the comprehensive review of international experience in the field of electoral systems, facilitated by UNDP, the Mejlis made amendments in the national electoral legislation.

As part of the joint work on enhancing the capacity of national electoral stakeholders:

Some **250 chairpersons and executive secretaries of district election commissions** enhanced knowledge of election administration. They subsequently held information sessions and presentations for all members of precinct election commissions;

Some **230 national observers** enhanced knowledge of the key aspects of international standards for election observation;

Some **70 mass media representatives** enhanced knowledge of the role and functions of the media during election campaigns;

Some **80 members of district election commissions** from all the provinces of Turkmenistan enhanced the election administration capacity in a series of BRIDGE (Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections) trainings;



Members of election commissions of Turkmenistan review international electoral experience at a workshop in Ashgabat

Some 160 members of district election commissions (including 44 women) enhanced knowledge of major issues of electoral administration and national electoral legislation in a series of training workshops;

National electoral stakeholders from relevant national institutions were exposed to Hungarian and Turkish election administration experience through study visits to these countries.

UNDP plays a key role in strengthening democratic governance around the world. UNDP supports an election somewhere in the world on an average of every two weeks. UNDP is working to strengthen one out of every three national parliaments; and UNDP is assisting dozens of countries in making the law work for everyone.

Period of the project – 2008-2012
Funded by USAID (2010-2012),
the Government of Norway (2009-2010), UNDP



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Parliamentary Development Support Programme

UNDP, as a long-standing partner of Turkmenistan, renders support to strengthening the parliamentary processes and procedures to improve quality of legislation and the capacity of members and professional staff of the Mejlis to effectively perform their law-making and representative functions. This work is carried out through the project *“Parliamentary Development Support Programme”* implemented jointly with the Parliament of Turkmenistan.

In this project, UNDP supports Turkmenistan in improving the legislative function of the Mejlis. Accordingly, UNDP facilitates the exposure of members of Mejlis to the best international practices and provides support for the systematization and enhancing of the existing legislative practices.

As a result of project activities:

The Mejlis is currently working on strengthening its institutional capacity, enhancing legislative processes and representative functions of MPs as well as outreach activities through better use of Information-Communication Technologies (ICT). In this effort, the Mejlis aims to develop its website and introduce an electronic document management system;

The Mejlis strengthened the capacity and knowledge of its members and staff on the main provisions of national laws;

The members of the Mejlis have been exposed to the best international practices and deepened their knowledge of international parliamentary processes, following the capacity building activities facilitated by international experts. The members of the Mejlis also benefited from learning the experience of French and Lithuanian parliaments through study visits to these countries and establishing effective working relations with these parliaments.



Delegation of the Mejlis on a study visit to Lithuanian Parliament

UNDP works with more than 60 parliaments throughout the world. Among diverse activities, UNDP fosters strategic development plans aimed at strengthening the capacity of elected bodies to function as democratic, transparent and accountable institutions.

Period of the project – 2010-2012
Funded by UNDP



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Enhancing the System of Civil Service in Turkmenistan

UNDP has partnered with the Academy of Civil Service of Turkmenistan to strengthen the capacity of the Academy to introduce new courses on Human Development and E-governance and integrate them in its curriculum. This cooperation between UNDP and the Academy of Civil Service successfully developed within the framework of the project *“Enhancing the System of Civil Service in Turkmenistan.”*



Lecture on the functions of Parliament for students of the Academy of Civil Service

Through this project UNDP supported:

- *Strengthening the institutional capacity of the Academy of Civil Service to prepare qualified mid-level civil servants;*
- *Establishing the Academy's networking with relevant institutions and agencies in Europe and the CIS, as well as experience sharing in the sphere of enhancing skills of civil servants of Turkmenistan. To this effect, Turkmenistan's Civil Service Academy established relations with Russian and Belarusian public administration academies;*
- *Strengthening the capacity of the Academy through **development of E-governance and Human Development courses** as part of the wider effort to improve public administration practices. These courses have been introduced into the Academy's newly developed public administration curriculum.*



International consultant Ivanna Ibragimova and academic staff of the Civil Service Academy discuss a roadmap for the Academy's institutional development

Period of the project – 2010-2011
Funded by UNDP



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Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA)

UNDP works in Turkmenistan to promote peace and security and sustainable cross-border trade. In this area, UNDP is assisting Turkmenistan in ensuring effective and integrated border management by providing support to the national authorities in introducing more efficient procedures to facilitate legitimate cross-border trade. This work is carried out within the framework of the European Union's *Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA)* implemented by UNDP since 2004.

BOMCA is an integrated, multifaceted intervention with a developmental and institution building approach. The main component of BOMCA is capacity development for Integrated Border Management (IBM) through training and exposure to European best practices of IBM for all agencies involved in border management.

Over the period of BOMCA support to Turkmenistan:

- *A Training Center was renovated for the State Border Service of Turkmenistan in Yanbash, including refurbishment and equipping of classrooms and teachers' rooms, a conference hall, a library, administrative offices, a dining room and barracks. Two classrooms and a conference hall were refurbished at the Training Centre in Ashgabat (as a part of the Training Centre in Yanbash);*
- *A Veterinary Unit was built for the State Border Service Dog Training Centre, including provision of specialised veterinary equipment, furniture and computers;*
- *A Dog Station (classrooms, dormitory and kitchen) was built at the Dog Training Center of the State Border Service in the city of Mary and handed over to the Border Service of Turkmenistan;*
- *Specialized and support equipment was provided for the use by the Dog Handlers' Unit of the State Border Service of Turkmenistan;*

Annual professional trainings have been provided for representatives of the State Border Service, Veterinary Service of the Turkmenmallery Association and the Plant Quarantine Inspection of the Ministry of Agriculture of Turkmenistan.



Computer class at the Training Center of the State Border Service of Turkmenistan renovated with project support

The current phase of BOMCA in Turkmenistan covers the period of 2011-2014
Funded by the European Union



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ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

Guided by the national environmental priorities, UNDP provides policy advice, project implementation and knowledge management services to support the development of Turkmenistan's capacity for low emission and establishment of climate resilient communities, economies and ecosystems.

In this area, UNDP promotes investment in low-carbon technologies, energy efficiency strategies and the use of alternative energy. UNDP also works with the Government to improve ecosystem resilience to climatic risks, ensure sustainable biodiversity conservation and land use in the context of socio-economic development of Turkmenistan. Reduction of disaster and climate risks, adaptation of water management practices to climate change and support to overall institutional capacity building for effective environmental governance are also UNDP priorities.

One of the major results in the area of Environment, Climate Change and Energy has been the adoption by the Government of Turkmenistan of the National Strategy on Climate Change until 2030, which was developed with UNDP support. This strategy envisages not only environmental but also socio-economic aspects of Turkmenistan's development, aiming to make the economy of Turkmenistan as "green" as possible.

Turkmenistan's initiative for development of an Energy Policy Framework is another important result of cooperation. Under this initiative, UNDP is facilitating the Action Plan for Low Emission Development, which will serve as the basis for stimulating an energy efficient economy capable of responding to the existing and emerging climate challenges.



Climate Risk Management

Turkmenistan is determined to improve the country's economy preparedness for climate change. 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. These efforts are complemented by the UNDP regional project *"Climate Risk Management"*.

In this work, UNDP aims to enhance the capacity of Turkmenistan to mitigate climate risks by strengthening the institutional, legal and technical capacities of key institutions of Turkmenistan in order to achieve a better understanding and awareness of climatic risks.

UNDP is focusing on improving the provision of climate risk management (CRM) information in three climatic zones of Turkmenistan - Nohur, Yerbent and Mary. It is expected that with UNDP support a national CRM network will be established, national information materials will be developed, and best practices will be disseminated at the national and local level.

According to the National Climate Change Strategy of Turkmenistan, predicted climate change impacts include:

- *An increase in temperature from 2-3°C to 6-7°C by 2100, which will increase the number of extremely hot days (i.e. days over 40°C);*
- *A 8-17% reduction in rainfalls by 2100;*
- *An increase in the frequency and intensity of droughts and mud flows;*
- *A 10-15% reduction in flow rates for Amu Darya river by 2050;*
- *A 5-8% decrease in the annual flow rates for Tedzhen, Murghab and Atrek rivers by 2030.*



Discussion of the elements of the National Climate Change Strategy at the 3rd inter-departmental dialogue in Ashgabat

Turkmenistan's economy is highly exposed to weather and climatic risk. Climate change and climate-related disasters (such as drought and water shortages) pose serious threats to the environmental and socio-economic systems in Turkmenistan. A large number of climate-related impacts are regularly witnessed in the country. These include high and low air temperatures, drought, frost, strong wind, dust storms, snowdrifts on roads, mudflows, dense fogs and etc.

Period of the project – 2011-2014
Funded by UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery



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Improving Energy Efficiency in the Residential Buildings Sector of Turkmenistan

Given Turkmenistan's agenda to promote low carbon emission initiatives, UNDP supports national efforts to improve energy efficiency in residential buildings. Work in this area started with the UNDP/GEF project *"Improving Energy Efficiency in the Residential Buildings Sector of Turkmenistan"* implemented jointly with the State Corporation "Turkmengaz".

The project will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions through improving energy management and reducing energy consumption in the residential buildings sector of Turkmenistan. The project will seek to strengthen incentives and capacity to build highly energy-efficient buildings.

The project will support:

- *Strengthening Turkmenistan's incentives and capacity to build highly energy-efficient buildings;*
- *Developing capacity of State Corporation "Turkmengaz" to identify opportunities for energy savings in the housing stock and make investments to reduce energy consumption;*
- *Introducing energy efficient measures to major housing designers and developers;*
- *Mainstreaming energy efficient measures into state construction and housing policies and programmes for replication of these measures in prototype buildings.*

Energy savings in reconstructed residential buildings can reach 38-44%, and in the new buildings this number can reach 25%.



*Project inception
workshop in Ashgabat*

Severe climate conditions in Turkmenistan make effective heating and cooling in buildings essential to well-being of the population. According to estimates by international experts, scenarios developed for long-term climate change in Turkmenistan have indicated that if CO₂ concentrations double by the middle of this century from a base year of 1990, average annual temperature is expected to increase from 4.6 to 6.1 degrees Celsius. For this reason, buildings that emphasize comfort and efficient use of resource in relatively extreme temperatures should also be seen as an adaptation measure to climate change in Turkmenistan.

Period of the project – 2012-2015
Funded by State Concern “Turkmengas”,
the Administration of Ashgabat city,
the Ministry of Construction of Turkmenistan,
the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP



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Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Globally Significant Biological Diversity in the Hazar Nature Reserve on the Caspian Sea Coast

UNDP is supporting national efforts to enhance sustainability of ecosystems, preserve and strengthen the enabling environment, as part of the work to empower local communities to adapt to climate change. In this work, UNDP aims to ensure better livelihood, access to food, water and health services for the population, reduce vulnerability and risks of disasters, carbon storage and its emissions following the application of the efficient practices of land and forest use.

In this regard, UNDP has succeeded in demonstrating the alternative means of income generation in the settlements located near the Hazar Nature Reserve, whose population depended on the use of biological resources of the region. This work was carried out under the UNDP/GEF project *“Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Globally Significant Biological Diversity in the Hazar Nature Reserve on the Caspian Sea Coast”* implemented jointly with the Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan.

Through the project's Small Grants Programme UNDP helped local communities to organize small businesses on production of hand craft souvenirs made of felt, small farming, duck breeding, wood products, eco-tourism that continue to generate stable alternative income, diverting local communities from over-exploitation of marine resources.

In this project, UNDP also supported:

- *Establishment of the Phenological Observation Centre of Turkmenistan for research of biodiversity of the Caspian Sea;*
- *Enhancement of professional skills of Turkmenistan's specialists working in protected areas;*

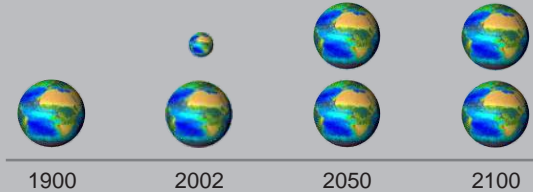


Training session on felt products manufacturing under the project's Small Grants Programme

Two planets needed by 2050

2 GROUND

...If we keep the current patterns of production and consumption



The Earth can support between 1.5 and 18 billion pending on consumption patterns of food, water, energy

Development of software for maintaining and updating a database of hunters registered in the Caspian region. This software is currently used by specialists of the Hazar Nature Reserve, local administrations and security agencies of Turkmenistan;

Strengthening of the capacity of the municipality of the city of Turkmenbashi on integration of principles of coastal zone management in the urban planning in accordance with the priorities of the Hazar Nature Reserve.

Overall, the Hazar Nature Reserve is now practicing more efficient monitoring and supervision of biodiversity conservation of the Caspian Sea through increased support and collaboration from the local communities.

Period of the project – 2006-2011
Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP



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Capacity-Building and On-the-ground Investments for Sustainable Land Management

UNDP supports Turkmenistan's efforts to combat land degradation and desertification. In this area, UNDP has demonstrated new approaches to sustainable land management through investment at the local level in three ecologically different regions of Turkmenistan - Kopet Dag mountain region, the sandy areas of Karakum desert and intensively irrigated agricultural area in Mary province. This work was carried out under the UNDP/GEF project *"Capacity-Building and On-the-ground Investments for Sustainable Land Management"* implemented jointly with the Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ).

Through this project UNDP supported building the capacity and knowledge of local communities in planning for sustainable land use and land management.



In the village of Bokurdak in the region of Karakum desert, socio-economic conditions have been improved through the application of sustainable pasture management practices and sand-dune fixation techniques to protect the village from moving sand dunes. This innovative and effective approach helped to keep local infrastructure and grassland from further desertification;

The local community in the village of Bokurdak managed to better protect their households from moving sands through the application of sand dune fixation techniques in 30 hectares of land



In the village of Nohur in the Central Kopetdag region, local land and forest were restored through planting of juniper trees, landscaping and horticulture, introduction of modern irrigation methods and more balanced livestock breeding. This approach enabled local communities to prevent further degradation of land and preserve it for agricultural use;

The local community of Nohur village replanted 100 hectares of Juniper (Turkmen Archa) woodlands: 80 percent of the new trees took root, and they now prevent erosion on mountain slopes



In Sakarchaga district of Mary province, local capacities were strengthened for sustainable management of water resources and rehabilitation/prevention of land salinity through improving water infrastructure and enhancing water quality monitoring practices. This approach enabled local communities to prevent degradation of agricultural lands.

Zahmet farmers' association in Sakarchaga district rehabilitated approximately 85 hectares of degraded land through construction of a 10-kilometer drainage system and installation of water measuring devices

Period of the project – 2008-2011
Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP and GIZ



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Improving Natural Pasture Management in Turkmenistan

Issues relating to improving the systemic, institutional and individual capacity to mobilize resources to combat land degradation are also addressed in the framework of the Central Asian Countries Regional Project for Land Management *“Improving Natural Pasture Management in Turkmenistan.”* This project is funded by UNDP, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Turkmenistan, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Global Mechanism.

This project supports efforts of Central Asian countries to stop land degradation by enhancing their capacity to implement national programmes. The project also actively promotes exchange of knowledge and experiences among all Central Asian countries.

In Turkmenistan, this regional project has assisted in:

Strengthening the capacity of key national structures for mainstreaming sustainable land management practices into national policy and legislation. In this effort, the project has supported the development of comprehensive recommendations to the content of the new edition of the National Plan to Combat Desertification;

Mobilizing resources to support initiatives to improve land management. In this regard, the final version of the Integrated Financial Strategy in sustainable land management has been developed. This strategy is currently being finalized by the international and national experts;

Improving interaction between government agencies and users of land and pastures through development of human resources. By now, more than 150 farmers from all the regions of Turkmenistan have increased their knowledge and capacity in land management and efficient use of irrigation water for sustainable pasture management, combating salinization of irrigated lands, as well as monitoring and evaluation of degradation of irrigated land;

Informing users of land and pastures on the end result of improvement of land management through dissemination of best practices. With the project support Turkmenistan has developed and adapted 12 best practices on how to combat degradation of lands and natural pastures. These practices have been distributed in printed form among all national stakeholders to further enhance their capacity. Two best practices and one approach of Turkmenistan in the sphere of sustainable land management were for the first time published in the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT).



Representatives of ministries and organizations as well as research institutions of Turkmenistan discuss the scale of degradation of the mountain ecosystems in Geokdere

Between 40 and 60 percent of irrigated croplands in Central Asia are salt-affected or waterlogged. In some regions, the share of waterlogged lands is as high as 92 percent.

51 percent of irrigated lands in Central Asia are characterized by a moderate to high degree of soil compaction and crust formation.

Period of the project – 2010-2012
Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP, GIZ, the Global Mechanism, the Government of Turkmenistan



giz



THE GLOBAL MECHANISM
UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION



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Strengthening Management Effectiveness of the Protected Areas System of Turkmenistan

The globally significant biodiversity of Turkmenistan is partially protected through the system of protected areas covering nearly 4% of its territory. UNDP complements Turkmenistan's efforts in expanding and strengthening the protected areas system management capacity. This work is supported by the UNDP/GEF project *"Strengthening Management Effectiveness of the Protected Areas System of Turkmenistan"* implemented jointly with the Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan.

In particular, UNDP supports the development of a Plan of the Protected Areas System that will set priorities and steps to expand the existing area and identify additional protected areas, including the creation of Turkmenistan's first National Park.

In this project, a number of results have been achieved with UNDP support:

- *Analysis of legislation in the field of protected areas and recommendations for its improvement have been made;*
- *In 2012, the Mejlis passed the law "On Protected Areas" and the Regulation "On the National Parks", which were drafted with UNDP support;*
- *An overview of the current system of protected areas in Turkmenistan is being implemented, including an analysis of expansion of protected areas and creation of new protected areas;*
- *Drafting a 5-year Strategic Management Plan and detailed Annual Management Plan for the planned national park "Sumbar" was initiated;*
- *Preparation of the new edition of the Red Data Book of Turkmenistan (flora and fauna);*
- *Building the capacity of staff of natural reserves in a series of seminars and workshops.*



Schoolchildren from the city of Turkmenbashi participate in the cleaning action on the Caspian Sea coast

By the end of 2008, over 120,000 protected areas had been established around the World, covering 12.2% of the Earth's land area, 5.9% of the territorial seas, but only 0.5% of the extraterritorial seas.

Period of the project – 2009-2012
Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP



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Addressing Climate Change Risks to Farming Systems in Turkmenistan at National and Community Level

UNDP provided support to Turkmenistan in carrying out an inventory of emissions and sinks of greenhouse gases over the period of 1994-2004, assessing the vulnerability and adaptive capacity of socio-economic sectors, as well as exploring the country's capacity to take necessary measures to address global climate change. With UNDP support assessment of the water sector of Turkmenistan has been also made in order to identify ways for more effective management of water resources and agriculture.

As a result of this work, Turkmenistan was the first country in the CIS and Europe to receive a grant worth nearly USD \$ 3 million from the Adaptation Fund for improvement of water resources management, taking into account the local climatic conditions. The grant will be implemented through the UNDP project *“Addressing Climate Change Risks to Farming Systems in Turkmenistan at National and Community Level”* jointly with the Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan.

The main objective of the project is to strengthen water management practices at both local and national levels in response to climate change-induced water scarcity risks that are increasingly affecting farming systems in Turkmenistan. The project will assess and deliver concrete water adaptation measures to local vulnerable communities in three different agro-climatic regions such as Karakum (desert), Nohur (mountains) and Sakarchaga (oasis), while also strengthening the national water legislation and pricing to ensure water availability for local communities.

The project is structured so that the majority of its activities are at a community level to deliver concrete adaptation benefits to the communities in above mentioned regions of Turkmenistan. The project will help these communities to identify and implement effective adaptation measures to improve their resilience to increasing aridity and water scarcity.



*Project inception workshop
in Ashgabat*

According to the Second National Communication of Turkmenistan to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, almost 80 % of the territory of the country lacks a constant source of surface water flow. Turkmenistan is anticipated to be heavily impacted by changes in the glacier systems in the Pamir Altai. It is estimated that 30% of glaciers feeding the waters of Turkmenistan have already been lost during the past century, as a result of global warming.

Period of the project – 2012-2016
Funded by the Adaptation Fund, UNDP,
the Government of Turkmenistan (in-kind contribution)



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Institutional and Human Capacity for Better Environmental Governance

Turkmenistan, like many other countries, has developed a national Action Plan on Environment and established a Centre for its implementation at the State Commission for Implementation of Obligations Arising from the UN conventions and programmes. Implementation of this plan is a complicated process that provides for implementation of six international environmental conventions signed by Turkmenistan and coordination of efforts and activities of various international organizations, agencies and the Government in this direction. To facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan on Environment UNDP is implementing the project *“Institutional and Human Capacity for Better Environmental Governance”* in partnership with the Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan.



National stakeholders discuss priority adaptation measures at a workshop in Ashgabat

With UNDP support the following results have been achieved:

- *A Working Group on improving the national environmental legislation made a number of proposals to amend the national legislation on protection of environment;*
- *Electronic database ECONET was established, supporting regular transfer of information from provincial departments on nature protection, national parks, the Institute of Flora and Fauna, “Caspecocontrol” Service to the Ministry of Nature Protection;*
- *The Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan developed “Methodology for Assessing Environmental Damage owing to Contamination of Water Springs in Turkmenistan”, “Methodology for Assessing Environmental Damage owing to Soil Pollution in Turkmenistan”, “Methodology for Assessing Environmental Damage owing to Air Pollution in Turkmenistan”;*
- *Drafting a National Adaptation Plan will be initiated in 2012.*



Kugitang: the village of Khodzhaipil

Period of the project – 2005-2012
Funded by UNDP



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