

## Country Programme Performance Summary

### A. Country Information

**Country name: Turkmenistan**

The fourth UNFPA Country Programme in Turkmenistan for 2016-2020 was implemented in close partnership with the Government of Turkmenistan. The country programme covered four thematic areas: (i) reproductive health and rights; (ii) adolescents and youth; (iii) gender equality; and (iv) population and development. The country programme was formulated to achieve the strategic results stipulated in UNFPA Strategic Plan 2014-2017 (then realigned to Strategic Plan 2018-2021), UN Partnership Framework for Development for Turkmenistan (2016-2020), and key national development programmes.

Programme sustainability and performance were facilitated by a combination of government leadership and availability of successful replicable models adaptable to the national context. UNFPA's ability to bring effective operational models and approaches appropriate for national context was highly valued by the national government institutions and contributed to national ownership. UNFPA financial contribution was crucial to ensure continuous operation of the country programme. At the same time, partnership with the government significantly increased the effect and scale of UNFPA financial and technical inputs.

UNFPA took a proactive role in the planning and implementation of joint UN activities (including the successful development of joint funding proposals such as the SDG Fund, the assessment of the National Mother Newborn Child and Adolescent Health Strategy, MICS, HMIS) and UN Thematic Groups (Advocacy and Communication; Human Rights, Gender and Youth; UN Health Thematic Group) to coordinate agency efforts.

Within the framework of the Country Programme, UNFPA was able to advance the partnership with the government to a more strategic level and reinforced its commitments in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ICPD25 following the "leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first" principles.

<b>Category per decision 2013/31:</b> <b>Pink</b>	<b>Current programme period:</b> <b>2016-2020</b>	<b>Cycle of assistance:</b> <b>Fourth</b>
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### B. Country Programme Outputs Achievement *(please complete for all your CP outputs)*

**Output 1: Strengthened policy and institutional mechanisms to deliver integrated reproductive health services, including in humanitarian settings**

Indicators	Baseline	Target	End-line data
Percentage of primary health care facilities providing integrated reproductive health services (family planning, cervical cancer screening, HIV and youth-friendly health services), including in humanitarian situations	20	70	93
Percentage of service delivery points introduced national standards for health care workers for delivery of high-quality reproductive health services for adolescents and youth	18	80	82

**Key Achievements**

The Government has in place strong institutional mechanisms to deliver integrated reproductive health services. With UNFPA support, the government strengthened its health commodity security system (procurement and

provision of family planning and maternal health commodities), completed the introduction of a nationwide cervical cancer screening and established a national male reproductive health system.

The Ministry of Health issued an “order” in 2017 that supported integrated reproductive health services for all women. **Contraceptive use** by vulnerable women increased from 21% in 2013 to 71.4% in 2018. In 2017 the government fully assumed the responsibility to procure contraceptives for women at risk of complications during pregnancy. This resulted in the provision of free contraceptives to women at risk and was accompanied by monitoring and quality assurance mechanisms.

In 2017 the regulations “On the improvement of the child and **adolescent reproductive health** services” provided more opportunities for early detection and treatment of dysfunctions within the reproductive system of boys and girls. In 2018 the Ministry of Health adopted new statistical forms to monitor adolescent reproductive health. In 2018 adolescent girls were included in the list of groups eligible for contraceptives uptake free of charge. Adolescents fertility rate dropped from 28 in 2016 to 22 in 2019 (MICS).

**Male reproductive health** service provision was strengthened within the framework of the current country programme. In 2017 with support from UNFPA, the Ministry of Health adopted normative regulations on reproductive health services for boys and a set of corresponding clinical protocols in order to address infertility issues in an integrated manner.

Within the framework of the country programme **cervical cancer screening** was initiated through a Ministry of Health order and rolled out nationwide. With UNFPA support the government completed the introduction of nationwide cervical cancer screening.

Humanitarian preparedness was strengthened through assessment of readiness to implement the minimum initial service package based on which a plan of action was developed to improve humanitarian preparedness including a Law on Humanitarian Preparedness and Response.

**Output 2 Strengthened policy and institutional mechanisms to enable provision of comprehensive maternal health services, with focus on midwifery education**

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>End-line data</b>
Number of midwifery and neonatal nurses workforce policies based on the International Confederation of Midwives and World Health Organization standards implemented <input type="checkbox"/>	2	5	4
Percentage of maternity facilities certified in quality improvement and assurance practice in comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care <input type="checkbox"/>	20	60	74

**Key Achievements**

During the program cycle UNFPA contributed to **strengthening the institutional framework of maternal and perinatal health care systems** by supporting the development of 16 clinical protocols in the area of newborn health and 18 in the area of obstetrics.

A system of mentors was established to ensure dissemination of knowledge from perinatal centers to all maternities in the system and was supplemented by a ‘peer’ exchange of experiences among provinces.

UNFPA also supported the introduction of the Near miss cases review and perinatal audit, which were enacted through Government orders in 2017. These analytical tools have proven extremely valuable for health personnel as their use is helping to learn, improve the quality as well as avoid repeating the same mistakes. All Interventions outlined above have contributed to a significant drop of the maternal mortality ratio which was estimated by UN agencies as 7 per 100,000 live births in 2019. <https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/maternal-mortality-2000-2017/en/>

The midwifery education curriculum was updated with materials on methodology on competencies, practical skills and clinical procedures in line with recommendations of UNFPA and International Confederation of Midwives recommendations.

**CP Output 3: Strengthened institutional mechanisms to incorporate the rights of adolescents and youth in national laws, strategies and gender-sensitive reproductive health education programmes**

Indicators	Baseline	Target	End-line data
Percentage of secondary school teachers of the Basics of Life Skills subject certified in teaching methodology of comprehensive age appropriate SRH education	42	95	85 (2019)
Percentage of the actions implemented in the National Action Plan on the State Youth Policy	25	95	tbc (analysis is planned in 2020)

**Key Achievements**

The Country Programme made significant progress towards strengthening the institutional mechanisms for the provision of age-appropriate reproductive health education in secondary schools, including launching a pre-service training for teachers on the Basics of Life skills mandatory subject, which includes topics on reproductive health and gender equality. It also supported updating the curriculum and developing methodological materials. UNFPA also provided technical support to promote participatory teaching approaches and creating instruments to improve the quality of teaching of the reproductive health component of the mandatory subject Basics of Life Skills.

More than 130,000 young people were reached through the youth online platform Yashlyk.info dedicated to sexual and reproductive health issues in Turkmen language.

A peer-to-peer education model promoted by the UNFPA country office jointly with the Youth Organization of Turkmenistan effectively complemented the teaching of reproductive health and gender topics at secondary schools level.

UNFPA also piloted an innovative youth platform, a countrywide Innovation Lab. This facilitated a youth-adult policy dialogue to promote participation and incorporate the rights of adolescents and youth into the youth policy.

**CP Output 4: Strengthened national legislation, policies, and institutional mechanisms for implementing and monitoring the National Action Plan on Gender equality.**

Indicators	Baseline	Target	End-line data
Number of gender equality national action plans that integrate reproductive rights with specific targets and national public budget allocations exist	1	2	1 (2019). A new Plan is to be developed in

			2020.
A functioning tracking and reporting system to follow up on the implementation of reproductive rights recommendations and obligations	No	Yes	National Action Plan on Gender Equality is a key gender equality tracking and reporting system

### **Key Achievements**

UNFPA helped in building the capacity of national stakeholders to report on the national obligations under CEDAW and in implementing the recommendations of the CEDAW Committee. This also helped Turkmenistan to develop its fifth CEDAW Report in 2016 and implement the relevant Concluding Observations. With the technical support of UNFPA, the country developed and is currently implementing its first National Action Plan on Gender Equality (NAPGE) for 2015-2020. Upon intensive advocacy of UNFPA, Turkmenistan decided to hold its first-ever national survey on domestic violence which is being carried out during 2020. A National Working Group was set up to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the survey.

### **CP Output 5: Strengthened national policies through increased use of gender disaggregated data and integration of evidence-based analysis on population dynamics, reproductive health and reproductive rights, adolescents and youth and gender equality**

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>End-line data</b>
Number of government institutions with up-to-date expertise in data analysis and dissemination	1	4	4
National statistical authorities have institutional capacity to analyse and use disaggregated data on a) adolescents and youth and b) gender-based violence	No	Yes	Yes (2020)
Number of in-depth reviews conducted using the general population and housing census and the demographic and health survey	0	1	1

### **Key Achievements** *(input also from the last CP evaluation)*

The Country Programme contributed towards strengthening the national population data management system in such areas as collection of medical and population statistics, monitoring of SDGs indicators and preparation to the 2022 census. The national population data management system responsible for collecting and processing of the population data is established but still needs strengthening to meet international standards and use modern technologies.

A baseline assessment of ICPD-related SDG indicators was undertaken to identify needs in data collection approaches and to ensure the alignment of national and international data collection and processing methodologies. UNFPA also technically supported the Government in the development of the Health Information Management Strategy.

UNFPA also supported a number of South-South Cooperation activities, by exposing Turkmenistan to best international practices and helping to establish partnerships in the area of population data with the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Belarus.

A course on demography was included in the curriculum of the Academy of State Service for the benefit of mid-level decision makers

<b>C. National Progress on Strategic Plan Outcomes<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Start value</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>End value</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Outcome 1: Increased availability and use of integrated sexual and reproductive health services (including family planning, maternal health and HIV) that are gender-responsive and meet human rights standards for quality of care and equity in access</b>					
Percentage in which at least 95% of service delivery points in the country have seven life-saving maternal/reproductive health medicines from the WHO priority list	78	2015	85	2020	
Contraceptive prevalence rate (total)	47.1	2016	47.3	2019	MICS
Proportion of demand for contraception satisfied (total)	80.5	2016	83.7	2019	MICS
Percentage in which at least 60% of service delivery points in the country have no stock-out of contraceptives in the last six months	98	2015	99	2020	
Percentage in which at least 80% of live births in the country are attended by skilled health personnel	99	2015	99	2020	
Number of adapted and implemented protocols for family planning services in the country that meet human rights standards including freedom from discrimination, coercion and violence	1	2015	8	2020	
Has the country increased the national budget for sexual and reproductive health by at least 5 per cent?	by 4.5%	2015	by 6.2%	2019	Financial dep-t of the MoH
<b><u>Summary of National Progress</u></b>					
<p>The Government of Turkmenistan made a commitment to take full ownership in terms of contraceptives supplies to the country following its classification as an upper middle income country. The Ministry of Health has since been able to fund the procurement of contraceptives through UNFPA on a regular basis and distributed them free of charge to women at risk and other vulnerable groups. The Government has likewise placed a high political priority to maternal health, which has led to an increase in capital investments to maternities in rural areas. At the 2019 Nairobi Summit the Government committed to further decrease preventable maternal mortality in the country and reduce the unmet needs for family planning especially among the vulnerable population.</p>					
<b><u>UNFPA's Contributions</u></b>					
<p>With the government taking over the funding of contraceptives, UNFPA advocated for the adoption and implementation of a total market approach (TMA) and continues to provide an advisory role while the Government leads the TMA coordination committee.</p>					
<p>The introduction of key learning analytical tools by UNFPA (maternal near miss cases and perinatal audit), the standardization of clinical practice based on evidence (clinical protocols and guidelines), as well as the technical support on the restructuring of the system of maternal health services (system of regionalisation) leveraged the</p>					

<sup>1</sup> The format is aligned to the UNFPA Strategic Plan outcomes, 2014-2017.

effect of Government's capital investments and greatly contributed to a significant reduction in the maternal mortality ratio. Cervical cancer mortality rate was also reduced by 21% since 2016. UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health in introducing efficient screening methods through South to South cooperation with India.

**Outcome 2: Increased priority on adolescents, especially on very young adolescent girls, in national development policies and programmes, particularly increased availability of comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health**

Percentage of young women and men aged 15-24 who correctly identify ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV and who reject major misconceptions about HIV transmission (female/male)	a) 38 b) 25,4 (young women only)	a) 2013 b) 2016	a) n/a b) 19.5 (young women only)	a) n/a b) 2019	a) HBSC b) MICS
Does the country have laws and policies that allow adolescents (regardless of marital status) access to sexual and reproductive health services?	No	2016	Yes	2018	Adolescent girls aged 15-19 added to the list of the most at risk women in the medical statistics system and are eligible to receive free contraception at the reproductive health rooms countrywide

**Summary of National Progress**

Since 2007 by Presidential decree the secondary schools of the country introduced a mandatory subject *Basics of Life Skills* with a curriculum of 34 hours per academic year for grades 1 to 10. The school program aims to promote knowledge, skills and attitudes, with topics related to reproductive health and gender equality taught within the subject from grades 7 to 10.

The Government revised the Law on State Youth Policy (2013), which reflects, promotes and guarantees youth participation, access of adolescents and youth to youth-friendly reproductive health services, HIV and AIDS prevention and volunteerism. The State Programme on implementation of the Law on State Youth Policy for 2015-2020 will be assessed in 2020 and a new State Programme developed with support from UN Agencies led by UNFPA.

**UNFPA's Contributions**

UNFPA provided technical support to the Ministry of Education in strengthening the institutional mechanisms and creating instruments for teaching the reproductive health and gender equality component of the Basics of Life Skills mandatory subject, in line with UNESCO and WHO comprehensive SRH education standards.

UNFPA is the lead agency of the joint UN Task Force to support the government in the youth policy. The government established a Working Group on the assessment of the State Programme on the implementation of the Law on State Youth Policy for 2015-2020 and the development of the new one. UNFPA advocated for the establishment of the Youth Reference Group, which was approved and will support the Working Group in youth policy analysis, development and monitoring. The UN Task Force is currently advocating for the development of a costed State Programme with a monitoring and evaluation Framework.

**Outcome 3: Advanced gender equality, women’s and girls’ empowerment, and reproductive rights, including for the most vulnerable and marginalized women, adolescents and youth**

Does the country have the gender equality national action plans that integrate reproductive rights with specific targets and national public budget allocations?	Yes	2015	Yes	2020	The national action plan does not include budget allocations and this will be targeted for the new plan
Proportion of taken actions by the country on all of the Universal Periodical Review (UPR) accepted recommendations on reproductive rights from the previous reporting cycle	60	2016	100	2020	
Percentage of women aged 15–49 who think that a husband/partner is justified in hitting or beating his wife/partner under certain circumstances	35	2016	58.4	2019	MICS, 2019

**Summary of National Progress**

Turkmenistan is party to ten core human rights treaties and their Optional Protocols, including CEDAW. The new Constitution adopted in 2016 established gender equality as a core legal principle. In 2015 as a follow-up to the CEDAW Committee recommendations made in 2012, Turkmenistan developed its first National Action Plan on Gender Equality for 2015-2020 (NAPGE). Among fourteen priority areas and some 60 actions, the NAPGE foresees the holding of the first-ever national survey on the health and status of women (domestic violence survey), promoting women’s rights, ensuring access to reproductive health services and gender analysis and targeting gender stereotypes. The country nationalized the SDGs, including SDG 5 on gender equality. One of the key Nairobi commitments of Turkmenistan is about promoting gender equality and taking action to prevent gender-based violence.

**UNFPA’s Contributions**

UNFPA successfully led the multi-stakeholder Working Group of the Interagency Commission on international obligations of Turkmenistan promoting implementation of international human rights commitments of the Government in the area of gender equality the ICPD, CEDAW, UPR and Beijing Platform of Action. The Country Programme supported the implementation of CEDAW recommendations set in the National Action Plan. As such, the Interagency Commission on international obligations of Turkmenistan started working on the issues of gender-based violence and completed preparatory work and data collection for the first-ever in Turkmenistan gender-based violence survey. UNFPA also provided inputs and recommendations on the national legislative framework with an aim to making it more gender-sensitive. Advocacy for evidence-based and cooperative reporting to CEDAW resulted in a constructive and informative dialogue with the CEDAW Committee in 2018 where Turkmenistan reaffirmed its commitment to hold the domestic violence survey and improvements in legislation and policy frameworks. Some steps towards the establishment of a multi-sectoral response to gender-based violence were also

initiated, including the adaptation of Standard Operating Procedures for key governmental sectors. A course on Gender Equality was included in the State Service Academy curriculum for students and mid-level decision makers.

**Outcome 4: Strengthened national policies and international development agendas through integration of evidence-based analysis on population dynamics and their links to sustainable development, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, HIV and gender equality**

Has the country had at least one census of good quality that was processed, analyzed and disseminated following internationally agreed recommendations (during the last 10 years)?	Yes	2012	Yes	2012	The 2012 Census was validated as compliant with internationally agreed recommendations. However, despite all advocacy efforts of the UN, the results were not released.
Has the country collected, analyzed and disseminated a national household survey that allows for the estimation of key population and reproductive health indicators (in the last 5 years)?	Yes	2016	Yes	2019	MICS 2016, 2019
Has the country completed evaluations on strategic interventions around sexual and reproductive health and adolescent and youth?	Yes	2016	Yes	2019	Youth Situation Analysis (2019), Assessment of the National Strategy on RMNAC Health (2019), SRH Education review (2018).
Proportion of new national development plans that address population dynamics by accounting for population trends and projections in setting development targets	60	2016	100	2020	National plans on (i) rural development 2008-2020; (ii) on socio-economic development 2011-2030; (iii) Presidential programme 2019-2025

**Summary of National Progress**



The national statistical system is established and functional but requires strengthening in the quality and reliability of the gender-disaggregated data and data on young people to better inform public policymaking and planning. The Government has made progress towards the integration of evidence-based analysis on population dynamics and their links to national policies, international development agendas such as sustainable development, Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights and gender equality. Policy-makers and planners were exposed to capacity development opportunities for use of data in planning and policy development. The country will hold the next population and housing census in 2022 and is expected to apply a digital data collection method. Turkmenistan adopted and implements a Health Information Management Strategy for 2019-2025 to strengthen the use of evidence, information and research for policy-making,

### **UNFPA's Contribution**

Within the population and development programme area UNFPA supported institutional capacity development of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance and Economy and State Statistics Committee to produce and use credible evidence for policy making. UNFPA took the lead alongside UNICEF and WHO in supporting the Ministry of Health with the development of a Health Information Management Strategy for 2019-2025. UNFPA facilitated the establishment of partnerships and knowledge sharing between Turkmenistan and peer countries through South-South cooperation. The Country Programme contributed towards building national capacity in the area of demographic forecasting as an instrument for generating evidence on population trends to inform strategic planning. The programme focused on two aspects of capacity building - direct investments of government specialists and development of training materials and a curriculum for demographic data use and projections. UNFPA initiated a Baseline Assessment of ICPD-related SDG indicators to facilitate effective national data collection, monitoring of progress towards prioritised targets and implementation of the relevant commitments.

<b>D. Country Programme Resources</b>						
<b>SP Outcome</b> <b>Choose only those relevant to your CP</b>	<b>Regular Resource (Planned and Final Expenditure)</b>		<b>Others (Planned and Final Expenditure)</b>		<b>Total (Planned and Final Expenditure)</b>	
Increased availability and use of integrated sexual and reproductive health services	\$800,000	\$845,000	\$420,000	\$466,000	\$1,220,000	\$1,311,000
Youth policies and programmes, and increased availability of comprehensive sexuality education	\$400,000	\$410,000	\$210,000	\$236,083	\$610,000	\$646,083
Advanced gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment, and reproductive rights	\$600,000	\$160,000	\$160,650	\$320,900	\$800,000	\$320,650
Strengthened national policies and international development agendas through integration of evidence-based analysis on population dynamics	\$600,000	\$730,000	\$209,350	\$196,980	\$800,000	\$926,980

Programme coordination and assistance	\$400,000	\$335,909	\$0	\$0	\$400,000	\$335,909
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,800,000</b>	<b>\$2,480,909*</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$1,219,963*</b>	<b>\$3,800,000</b>	<b>3,540,622*</b>

\* As the implementation of the activities planned for 2020 is still ongoing, final expenditures under Regular and Other Resources (Final Expenditure, 2nd columns) are based on 2020 estimated implementation rates. The amount under *Other-Final Expenditure* is higher than planned due to additional mobilized funds by CO.