

United Nations Development Programme



PROJECT LESSONS-LEARNED REPORT

Project Title:	Development of the National Social Services Development Plan 2023-2030 with M&E framework, financing strategy and information management system to ensure sustainability of the inclusive quality community based social services reform in Turkmenistan in times of crisis
Country:	Turkmenistan
Related CPAP Outcome	Outcome 4, Output 4.3: Social protection system and outreach strengthened for vulnerable groups.
Project Description and Key Lessons-Learned	
Brief description of context	Under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, UNICEF and UNDP joined efforts to support the Government in the development of the National Social Services Development Plan (NSSDP) with a results framework and financing strategy to ensure the sustainability of the ongoing social protection reform, which aims to support the government in the establishment of inclusive quality community-based social services in every district of the country via a multisectoral approach. Within previous UN-Turkmenistan Joint Programme (JP) on community-based social services, UNDP piloted 3 social services through local CSOs and trained 45 social workers and about 400 social service practitioners on theory and practice of social work by developing a complex package of training materials consisting of 7 modules. Within current project, UNDP planned to implement the assessment of the government's current spending and opportunities to attract funding to complement NSSDP funding for the gradual scale up and strengthening of the new model of social services, including through the social contracting mechanism, was successfully piloted during the JP.
Brief description of project	UNDP part in the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NSSDP strengthened by identifying untapped sources of financing and investments for social protection
Key project successes	<p>Assessment of current government spending and opportunities for attracting additional financing to complement NSSDP funding</p> <p>The "Analysis of fiscal space and broader financial flows targeted towards social services and social protection as part of INFF operationalization in the country" was finalized and the report was shared with national partners.</p> <p>a) An international expert conducted an analysis of fiscal space and broader financial flows targeted towards social services and social protection with support of national consultants.</p> <p>b) Two national consultants provided support with data collection and organized consultations and validation meetings with national partners, including local CSOs. A round table with national partners was conducted on March 15 2023, to make a presentation of the outcomes of the report on "<i>Assessment of the financial landscape in the implementation of the National Plan for the Development of Social Services of Turkmenistan for 2022-2030</i>".</p> <p>The report was implemented to analyse the fiscal space and broader financial flows targeted towards social services and social protection as part of INFF operationalization in the country and final comments/inputs of national partners were received through consultations.</p>
Project shortcomings and solutions	The main challenges of this project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Data collection from relevant ministries for conducting analysis of fiscal space and broader financial flows targeted towards social services and social protection as

	<p>part of INFF operationalization in the country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Solution: Conducting round tables and hiring national consultants to support an international consultant. ○ UNDP struggled to contract national consultants due to issues related to the launch of the new platform, Quantum, which significantly affected all procurement processes and project management. ○ Project results were attained
Lessons learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Although the programme started in July 2022, the formal government endorsement for the programme's implementation was only received in November 2022, which significantly constrained the collaboration with the national partners and programme implementation both operationally and programmatically. Additionally, it coincided with the 2023 budget finalization period and end of year reporting for the national partners, which subsequently delayed important decision-making processes. In order to kick off the programme activities immediately, UNICEF and UNDP used the existing international technical consultancies and amended contracts in order to avoid separate lengthy recruitment/tendering processes. - UNDP struggled to contract two national consultants due to issues related to the launch of the new platform, <i>Quantum</i>, which significantly affected all procurement processes and project management. Therefore, there was a delay with data collection that affected the work of the international consultant. However, UNDP managed to complete all consultative processes with national partners, including consultations with UNICEF and UN RC.
Follow-up Actions	<p>The NSSDP and its results framework and financing strategy, will create a solid foundation to achieve the objectives set forth in the new long-term Strategic National Socio-Economic Development Programme for 2022-2052.</p> <p>As the next steps, the PUNOs will concentrate on the following priority areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. social protection system strengthening at all levels from central to local: 2. invest in evidence generation for better decision making: 3. social protection capacity building, including strengthening the new social work profession with the national structures: 4. Conduct the Shock responsive social protection system Readiness assessment to document the existing legal and normative framework of the country.

Project Information	
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Partners:	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of Turkmenistan
Project resources:	UNDP Turkmenistan (@undp_turkmenistan) • Instagram photos and videos ПРООН провела анализ фискального пространства... - UNDP Turkmenistan Facebook
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