

Annual Review / Project Completion Report - Summary Sheet

This Summary Sheet captures the headlines on programme performance, agreed actions and learning over the previous quarter.

Title: Increasing the Capacity of the Boards of Lawyers in Turkmenistan in the field of Ensuring Human Rights		
Project Purpose The project aims to increase the capacity of six Societies of Lawyers in Turkmenistan in providing legal aid in compliance with international standards such as Basic principles on the role of lawyers, adopted by the Eighth UN Congress on Crime Prevention and the Treatment with Offenders (Havana, 08/27/09/07/1990)); and Standards of independence of the legal community, adopted by the International Bar Association (New York, 09/07/1999, etc.). The ultimate goal of the project is to assist in the establishment of a National Bar Association in Turkmenistan as stated in Article 46 of the Law of Turkmenistan on Bar Association, and support to launch of the work of the Association in compliance with international standards.		
Project Implementor:	United Nations Development Program, Turkmenistan	Project Code: 01002763 (in Quantum System)
Project Duration:	Start: 08/07/2024	End: 31/03/2025
Programme Value: \$66,000		Reporting Period: 01/09/2024-31/03/2025
Forecast Spend This Quarter: \$66,000	Actual Spend This Quarter: \$66,000	Forecast for Next Quarter: We plan to submit a proposal for the next phase of the project, which will build on the achievements and lessons learned from the current phase.

This section is designed to provide a brief overview of the project activities in the quarter. You should focus on the detail, progress against objectives etc in Section A.

1. **Summary of progress this quarter:**
Activity 1.1. Development of gender-sensitive analysis of the legislation of Turkmenistan on advocacy, and preparation of recommendations for its improvement in accordance with international standards. Conducting a two-day Workshop for the target group (members of the Board of Lawyers, judges, prosecutors, and representatives of the Ministry of Justice (Adalat) in Ashgabat c. and regions) to review the amendments proposed to the legislation of Turkmenistan in compliance with international standards on legal aid in criminal justice systems and principles relating to the role of lawyers. (COMPLETED)
Activity 1.2. Development of a Roadmap for the establishment of the first national Bar Association in Turkmenistan. (COMPLETED)
Activity 2.1: Together with the Presidium of the Ashgabat Bar Association, a competition to determine in one of the city’s legal consultations a pilot structure of lawyers to provide free legal assistance to women, disabled people, and people in difficult life situations. (COMPLETED)
Activity 2.2: Conducting a three-day training to a pilot structure of the Bar Association to provide effective legal assistance with a gender-centered approach to vulnerable groups of the population, including women, the disabled, and people in difficult life situations. (COMPLETED)
Activity 3: Assistance in the digitalization of the activities of the Bar Association to create a database, exchange experiences, best practices, and legal information, and ensure access to legal remedies for the population, especially women and representatives of vulnerable groups. (In progress, to be completed by the end of May 2025).

2. Summary of key lessons/learning:

- Enhanced Coordination & Engagement: Collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, and the Boards of Lawyers, reinforced the importance of a structured and institutionalized approach to legal aid reform.
- Capacity-Building Impact: Training workshops on international legal standards significantly improved the knowledge and practical skills of lawyers and justice sector professionals, highlighting the need for continuous professional development.
- Public Awareness & Accessibility: The outreach efforts, including media coverage and social media engagement, demonstrated the importance of clear communication in raising awareness of legal aid services among the population.
- Sustainability Challenges: While initial progress was made in strengthening the legal aid system, further efforts are needed to ensure long-term sustainability, including policy adjustments and institutional support.
- Digitalization & Innovation: Discussions on modernizing legal aid services revealed a growing demand for digital tools, such as online legal consultations and a centralized case management system.
- Feedback from Participants: Direct feedback from training participants emphasized the need for more practical case studies, peer-to-peer learning, and hands-on exercises in future capacity-building programs.

3. Summary of actions / activities for next quarter:

It is planned to submit a proposal for the next phase of the project, which will build on the achievements and momentum of the current phase of "Increasing the Capacity of the Boards of Lawyers in Turkmenistan in the Field of Ensuring Human Rights." The next phase will aim to further institutionalize reforms and expand access to quality legal aid across the country.

Specifically, the future phase to be proposed will focus on:

- **Implementation of the Roadmap** developed for the establishment of the first national Bar Association in Turkmenistan, including technical and legal support to formalize its structure and governance framework in line with international standards.
- **Strengthening the pilot model of legal aid provision** established under the Ashgabat Bar Association, with the goal of replicating this model in other velayats. This will include targeted capacity-building activities and monitoring of service quality for lawyers providing free legal aid to vulnerable groups such as women, people with disabilities, and individuals in difficult life circumstances.
- **Follow-up legal reform support**, including in-depth legislative review and consultations to refine the national legal framework on advocacy, with an emphasis on ensuring compliance with the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers and other relevant international instruments.
- **Advanced trainings for legal professionals**, including specialized modules on gender-sensitive legal aid, representation of vulnerable populations, and the protection of human rights in the criminal justice system.
- **Full-scale digitalization support to expand and operationalize a centralized**, user-friendly legal information database, enabling the Bar Associations and legal consultations to share case law, good practices, and referral systems to better serve clients nationwide.
- **Public outreach and awareness-raising campaigns to inform the population**, particularly marginalized groups, about their right to legal aid and the availability of free legal services.

This proposed next phase will ensure the sustainability and scalability of the project's outcomes, contributing to long-term improvements in access to justice and the protection of human rights in Turkmenistan.

A: PROGRAMME DELIVERY

4. Overview of Progress this Year:

Activity Progress:

Capacity Building Workshops: .

Ashgabat, 31 January 2025 – This quarter, progress was achieved in strengthening the legal profession and improving access to legal aid services in Turkmenistan. A key milestone was the successful completion of a four-day training workshop, “Establishing a National Professional Association of Attorneys and Lawyers: Draft Roadmap Discussion with Regional and International Best Practices,” held from January 27-30, 2025. As well as the roundtable discussion of the Draft of the Roadmap for establishing the National Association of Lawyers in Turkmenistan. The event brought together attorneys, legal professionals, judiciary representatives, law enforcement agencies, and the Ombudsperson’s Office to enhance their capacity in delivering justice aligned with international standards.

Workshop Highlights: The training sessions focused on critical areas, including: Institutional frameworks and governance structures for legal professions. The role of professional associations in setting standards, ethics, and training. Sustainable financing models for free legal aid. Legislative reforms to enhance legal aid accessibility and digitalization. The workshop was led by UNDP international experts Ms. Tatyana Zinovich and Mr. Nick Stanage, facilitating knowledge-sharing and discussions on regional and international best practices. These activities contributed to strengthening legal institutions, promoting professional development, and advancing legislative improvements to enhance access to justice in Turkmenistan. Further efforts will continue in the next quarter to build on this progress.

Strengthening Legal Aid Systems: UNDP, alongside key stakeholders such as the Ombudsperson’s Office, the Ministry of Justice, and the Bar Association, initiated comprehensive efforts to bolster the legal aid framework in Turkmenistan. This included assessing current systems and identifying areas for improvement to ensure equitable access to justice for all citizens.

Public Awareness Campaigns: Leveraging platforms like Instagram and Facebook, UNDP Turkmenistan disseminated information about ongoing initiatives, workshops, and the significance of legal aid. This strategy aimed to engage the public and raise awareness about the available legal support services.

Ashgabat, November 25-26, 2024 – This quarter saw significant progress in strengthening Turkmenistan’s legal aid system and advancing legal profession reforms. A key milestone was the successful completion of a two-day training workshop, “International Standards of the Rule of Law, Advocacy, and Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems”, held at the Ministry of Adalat. Organized by UNDP and co-funded by the British Embassy in Ashgabat, the workshop brought together legal professionals, judiciary representatives, and law enforcement agencies to enhance their capacity in delivering justice in line with international standards.

The workshop marked the launch of the new UNDP project, “Increasing the Capacity of Boards of Lawyers in Turkmenistan in the Field of Ensuring Human Rights”. This initiative aims to improve legal aid services for vulnerable groups, strengthen legislative frameworks for legal professions, and advance the digitalization of legal aid systems to enhance transparency and accessibility.

As a result of the activities conducted, a gender-sensitive analysis of Turkmenistan’s legislation on advocacy was completed, along with recommendations for its alignment with international standards. A Roadmap for establishing the first national Bar Association in Turkmenistan was also developed. Both the analysis and the Roadmap have been submitted to the Boards of Lawyers, and the recommendations are expected to be forwarded to the Ministry of Justice by the end of May 2025.

Indicator 2.1 was successfully achieved, as each Board of Lawyers in the velayats and the city of Ashgabat continues to provide free legal assistance to women, persons with disabilities, and individuals facing difficult life circumstances.

The recruitment of an IT consultant is currently underway to support the development of a dedicated website for the Boards of Lawyers. The website will host a database, facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices, and provide access to legal information and remedies—particularly for women and vulnerable populations.

Key Achievements :

Capacity Building for Legal Professionals: The training workshop featured interactive sessions on the principles of the rule of law, access to justice, ethical standards, and the role of legal professionals in ensuring fair and inclusive legal aid, with a strong focus on gender-sensitive approaches and support for vulnerable groups.

Expert-Led Knowledge Exchange: Led by international experts Mr. Nick Stanage and Mrs. Tatyana Zinovich, the training facilitated discussions on best practices in legal aid delivery and collaboration between legal professionals and law enforcement agencies. Participants developed recommendations for legislative reforms to align Turkmenistan’s legal framework with international standards.

Strengthening International Partnerships: The event underscored the strong collaboration between UNDP, the British Embassy, and the Government of Turkmenistan in promoting human rights, sustainable development, and justice sector improvements.

Commitment to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The workshop reinforced Turkmenistan’s dedication to achieving SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) and implementing its National Human Rights Action Plan (2021-2025).

Benefits of Activities:

- Enhanced Professional Competence: The workshops equipped legal professionals with updated knowledge on international standards, improving their capacity to handle cases effectively and justly.
- Improved Legal Aid Framework: By collaborating with national entities, the project facilitated the development of a more robust and accessible legal aid system, ensuring that vulnerable populations receive necessary legal assistance.
- Increased Public Engagement: The use of social media and other communication channels heightened public awareness about legal rights and the availability of legal aid services, empowering citizens to seek assistance when needed.

These outcomes will inform subsequent initiatives, focusing on the development of the legal aid system in Turkmenistan.

5. Progress Against Output Indicators from the period 01.09.2024 - 31.03.2025 log frame:

Output Title	Improving legislation on legal aid to improve access to justice for vulnerable groups		
Output number per LF	1	Output Score	
Risk:	R/A/G	Impact weighting (%):	
Risk revised since last report?	N/A	Impact weighting % revised since last AR?	

Indicator(s)	Milestone / Target	Progress
1.1.1.Delivery of gender-sensitive analysis of legislation against international standards and draft recommendations	31 March 2025	Completed
1.1.2. Roundtable to agree on recommendations/amendments to legislation to increase compliance with international standards on legal aid in criminal justice systems and principles relating to the role of lawyers conducted.	31 March 2025	Completed
1.2.1. Agreed Roadmap for the establishment of the first national Bar Association in Turkmenistan developed.	31 March 2025	Completed
1.2.2. Presentation of the Roadmap conducted with building capacities of 25 members of the target group to discuss the implementation of the Roadmap.	31 March 2025	Completed

Output Title	Improving access to legal remedies for vulnerable groups of the population through development of a legal aid system and capacity building of legal expertise		
Output number per LF	2	Output Score	
Risk:	R/A/G	Impact weighting (%):	
Risk revised since last report?	N/A	Impact weighting % revised since last AR?	

Indicator(s)	Milestone / Target	Progress
2.2. Training to representatives of Boards of Lawyers in all velayats to provide effective legal assistance with a gender-centered approach to vulnerable groups of the population, including women, the disabled, and people in difficult life situations conducted for 15 members of the working group considering gender parity in participation.	31 March 2025	Completed

Output Title	Launching the digitalized structure of the Bar Association as an effective human rights institution.		
Output number per LF	3	Output Score	
Risk:	R/A/G	Impact weighting (%):	
Risk revised since last report?	N/A	Impact weighting % revised since last AR?	

Indicator(s)	Milestone / Target	Progress
3.1.1. Development of the Bar Association website to improve access to legal remedies for the population, especially women and representatives of vulnerable groups, developed.	31 March 2025	In progress, the update of the website will be finalized at the end of May, 2025

6. **Summary of issues encountered this quarter:** N/A

B: FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND VfM (½ page)

7. **Financial Position**

Forecast for the next quarter: 60,000 USD	Forecast for whole of FY 2024-2025:
Actual Spend this Quarter:	Actual Spend this FY: 66,000 USD
Variance: N/A	Forecast for next Quarter: 60,000 USD

8. **Summary of performance and key costs and this quarter:**

Contracts of the international experts – 28, 912.53 USD
Catering for participants of the workshops – 7,542.86 USD
DSA of representatives of Boards of Lawyers from 5 velayats – 12,207 USD
Contract of the National IT Consultant – 8,740.20
Salary – 1,734.59 USD
Translation – 1083.14 USD
Training expenses – 5,779.68 USD

Total – 66,000 USD

*Value for money was demonstrated through internal procedures such as market research, etc.

9. **Reports of fraud/corruption/misuse of FCDO funds?** N/A

10. **Actions for Next Quarter:** Proposal of the next phase is described above.

C: RISK (½ page)

11. **Overall risk rating:** *Determined by FCDO*

12. **Programme risks:** (highlight any changes to previous risk table)

No changes.

13. Summary of actual actions taken this quarter to manage risk:

The project manager worked closely with the Chairperson of the Presidium of the Board of Lawyers of Ashgabat city and other velayats to ensure the effective implementation of the project.

In addition, the stakeholders of the project are the representatives of the Ministry of Justice, law enforcement agencies, and courts of Ashgabat city and the 5 regions of Turkmenistan.

14. Actions for Next Quarter: To advocate the proposal for the phase of the project.

D: POLITICAL ECONOMY ANALYSIS and CONDITIONALITY (½ page)

15. Summary of any political changes which have / may impact the project: N/A

16. Update on any changes that have / may impact partnerships or delivery: it is expected that after the official receipt of NVs by the Ministry of Justice, the establishment of the Association of Boards of Lawyers in Turkmenistan will progress.

17. If any changes, do you consider the project is still viable and why: The project is viable. The deliveries of the project to be sent with the Note Verbal to MFA after the completion of the project by the end of March, 2025. The development of the website of the Boards of Lawyers is in progress.

E: MONITORING & EVALUATION (½ page)**18. Summary of progress on evidence, learning and evaluation:**

During this reporting period, UNDP Turkmenistan made strides in strengthening the legal profession, improving access to legal aid services, and fostering institutional reforms through capacity-building workshops, legal aid system enhancements, and public awareness initiatives. These efforts were guided by evidence-based approaches, knowledge-sharing, and continuous evaluation to ensure sustainable impact.

Key Evidence and Learning Insights:

1. **Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening:**
 - The four-day training workshop “Establishing a National Professional Association of Attorneys and Lawyers: Draft Roadmap Discussion with Regional and International Best Practices” (January 27-30, 2025), thereafter a roundtable with working group of the Boards of Lawyers of Ashgabat city and velayats on discussion of the draft of the Roadmap on establishment of the National Association of Lawyers in Turkmenistan, and the two-day workshop “International Standards of the Rule of Law, Advocacy, and Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems” (November 25-26, 2024) provided structured learning opportunities for legal professionals, judiciary representatives, and law enforcement agencies.
 - These trainings emphasized best practices in governance structures, professional ethics, sustainable legal aid financing, and legislative reforms, equipping participants with practical knowledge to enhance justice sector operations.
 - International experts, such as Ms. Tatyana Zinovich and Mr. Nick Stanage, facilitated discussions on international and regional legal standards, reinforcing evidence-based learning and comparative analysis with the working group containing members of the Boards of Lawyers of velayats and Ashgabat city.
2. **Legislative and Policy Impact:**
 - An outcome of these capacity-building efforts was the development of a Draft Roadmap for the establishment of a National Association of Lawyers in Turkmenistan (1); and the Analysis and Recommendations on the Development of the Legal Aid System in Turkmenistan (2); as well as the

Assessments of the existing legal aid framework to identify gaps and propose evidence-based solutions (3).

- Participants contributed recommendations for legislative reforms aimed at aligning Turkmenistan's legal framework with international human rights and rule-of-law standards.

3. **Public Engagement and Awareness:**

- UNDP leveraged social media platforms, including Instagram and Facebook, to disseminate information on legal aid services, ongoing reforms, and training initiatives.
- This outreach contributed to increased public awareness of legal rights and available support mechanisms, as evidenced by engagement metrics and feedback from stakeholders.

Evaluation and Next Steps:

- Continuous Monitoring and Assessment: The effectiveness of training workshops is being measured through participant feedback, follow-up assessments, and practical applications of learned concepts in the legal sector.
- Roadmap Implementation: Further efforts will focus on implementing the roadmap for the National Association of Lawyers, ensuring alignment with global best practices.
- Sustainable Impact: Future activities will incorporate findings from this project's results to refine strategies for legal aid system improvements, professional training programs, and legislative advocacy.

By integrating evidence-based learning and continuous evaluation, UNDP Turkmenistan is strengthening the legal profession and justice system, contributing to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) and the National Human Rights Action Plan (2021-2025).

19. **Summary of beneficiary feedback collected/received this period:**

The beneficiaries commented on the analysis of the legislation related to the legal aid system in Turkmenistan and the Roadmap for the establishment of the first national Bar Association in Turkmenistan.

F: COMMUNICATIONS (½ page)

20. **Overview of any newsworthy activities/ successes:** Below is the media coverage of the activities delivered:

[UNDP and Partners Strengthen the Legal Aid System in Turkmenistan - News Central Asia \(nCa\)](#)

[UNDP and Partners Strengthen the Legal Aid System in Turkmenistan | United Nations Development Programme](#)

[UNDP Turkmenistan \(@undp_turkmenistan\) · Instagram photos and videos](#)

[С 27 по 30 января 2025 года состоялся... - UNDP Turkmenistan | Facebook](#)

[Семинар по международным стандартам в правосудии прошел в Туркменистане | Общество](#)

[UNDP Supports Training on International Legal Standards for Lawyers and Justice Sector Professionals in Turkmenistan - News Central Asia \(nCa\)](#)

[UNDP Supports Training on International Legal Standards for Lawyers and Justice Sector Professionals in Turkmenistan | United Nations Development Programme](#)

[UNDP Turkmenistan \(@undp_turkmenistan\) · Instagram photos and videos](#)

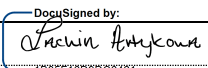
[A two-day training workshop, "International... - UNDP Turkmenistan | Facebook](#)

21. **Any potential for negative press coverage?:** N/A

22. **Any future good news stories/results next quarter that FCDO could publish?:** After the website of the Boards of Lawyers is ready, it will be duly branded and marked for the promotion of FCDO.

23. **Actions / Issues for Next Quarter:** The development of the website of Boards of Lawyers according to TOR.

G: IMPLEMENTER SIGN OFF

Signature:	
Name:	Mrs. Lachin Artykova
Position:	Human Rights Cluster Projects Manager
Date:	May 7, 2025

H: FCDO ASSESSMENT AND SIGN OFF

24. **Summary of checks / assessment you have carried out during this reporting period:**

Are you satisfied this is a fair and accurate reflection of progress during this reporting period? Yes / No

Do you consider the Project to still be viable? Yes / No

Do you consider the next quarter activities realistic and appropriate? Yes / No

25. **If the answer to any of those above are No, please provide further details:**

26. **Are there any points / issues or risks that you would like to flag to the International Programme Team.**

Signature:	
Name:	
Position:	
Post:	
Date:	