

Quarterly / 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: 30/10/2024-28/02/2025
Forecast Spend This Quarter: \$38,000	Actual Spend This Quarter: \$38,567.84	Forecast for Next Quarter: \$20,918.00

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, 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 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)

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.
- Gender-Sensitive Approach: The sessions highlighted the necessity of integrating gender-sensitive perspectives into legal aid services to ensure inclusivity and equal access to justice.
- Future Collaboration Needs: Strengthened partnerships with international organizations and donors will be essential to sustaining progress and expanding support for legal aid reforms in Turkmenistan.

3. Summary of actions / activities for next quarter:

Activity 1.2. Development of a Roadmap for the establishment of the first national Bar Association in Turkmenistan. [\(planned to be completed at the end of March 2025\)](#)

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. [\(planned to be completed at the end of March 2025\)](#)

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. [\(planned to be completed at the end of March 2025\)](#).

A: PROGRAMME DELIVERY

4. Overview of Progress this Quarter:

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.

Key Achievements this Quarter:

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 expert Ms. 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 28.02.2025 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	In Progress
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	In Progress

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
2.1. 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 task to be completed by the end of March, 2025

6. **Summary of issues encountered this quarter:** The project encountered the challenges of re

B: FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND VfM (½ page)

7. Financial Position

Forecast for this Quarter: 38,000 USD	Forecast for whole of FY 2024-2025:
Actual Spend this Quarter: 38,567.84 USD	Actual Spend this FY: 45,081.39 USD
Variance: N/A	Forecast for next Quarter: 20.918 USD

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

Contract of the international expert, Mr. Nick Stanage – 10,080.00 USD
Contract of the international expert, Mrs. Tatyana Zinovich - 9,540.00 USD
VIL fee for the expert – 10 USD
Catering for participants of the workshops – 2,514 USD
Printing of certificates – 137 USD
DSA of representatives of Boards of Lawyers from 5 velayats – 12,207 USD
GMS – 2,759.84 USD
Salary – 1,320 USD

Total – 38,567.84 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: Development of the website of the Boards of Lawyers in Turkmenistan.

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 will work 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: The project manager will continue working closely with the Chairperson of the Presidium of the Boards of Lawyers of Ashgabat city to successfully implement the ongoing Activity 3.

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 be progressed.

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 quarter, 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), 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.
- Experts, including Ms. Tatyana Zinovich and Mr. Nick Stanage, facilitated discussions on international and regional legal standards, reinforcing evidence-based learning and comparative analysis.

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 refining and implementing the roadmap for the National Association of Lawyers, ensuring alignment with global best practices.

- Sustainable Impact: Future activities will incorporate findings from this quarter's evaluations 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](#)

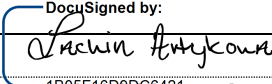
[A two-day training workshop, "International... - UNDP Turkmenistan | Facebook](#)

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:	March 11, 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:	

Project Quarterly Report – Guidance for Teams

The report is designed for implementing partners / FCDO posts to provide a narrative on their activities in the quarter and their impact.

Human Rights expect high-quality project reporting but encourage proportionality depending on the value / duration of the project. However, we do need to demonstrate the impact / benefit the project is having.

Please delete the red text – it is there as a guide on the content you may want to include.

If sections are not relevant, you do not need to complete them.

The Summary Section should be short concise update of the activities in the quarter past, lessons learnt and activities in the next quarter. It should take the form of short sentences or bullet points with the aim that it can provide an overview within a few minutes.

Section A gives the chance to provide more detail. It should avoid being a list of activities and be a narrative for the activities that have been carried out in the quarter, the impact / benefits and how success has been measured and how it contributes to the overall goal of the project.

Section B (Financial) is designed to get implementing partners and project teams to think about financial performance. Is the project achieving value for money, are there risks of underspend / fraud etc.

Section C (Risk) is to highlight any new risks arising in the quarter but also ensure risk is a live conversation throughout the project between implementing partners and FCDO.

Section D (Political Economy Analysis) is to ensure horizon scanning throughout the project and factor in wider political / contextual events that may impact the ability to deliver.

Section E (Monitoring & Evaluation) is for the implementing partner to demonstrate successes for their project e.g. *“the training received positive feedback from 60 participants who said the training improved their understanding of the subject matter and will benefit them in their roles”* or *“as a result of our work the participants reports a 30% increase in articles uptake”*.

You might want to include any direct / indirect feedback or behaviour changes that you have noticed.

Section F (Communications) is a section for implementing partners to showcase articles, social media posts, publications etc that then contribute towards evidence on the effectiveness / impact of the project. It also gives the opportunity to alert to potential negative press.

Quarterly reports should be received within 2-3 weeks of the end of the previous quarter and be shared with Human Rights Programme Team as soon as possible. Annual Reports may take longer.