

Annual Project Progress Report

Project title: Strengthening institutional, statistical and information – technical capacity of the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan

Output ID: 00123312

Project ID: 00129739

Implementing partner: State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan

Period covered in this report: January -December 2021

Date of last Annual Report: N/A

Date of the last Project Board meeting: 20.01.2021

Date of last Quality Assurance and rating 01.12.2020, Highly satisfactory

1. Project Performance

Please state the expected Output of the Project, set indicators and corresponding CP Outcome (as per project document/AWP):

Project Result 1: The Information and technical capacity of the State Statistics of Turkmenistan (TurkmenStat) aimed at improving the quality of statistical data is strengthened

Indicators:

1.1. The software for the statistical business register has been launched and allows processing data by 80%

Target: 60%

a) Were the indicators and output achieved? Yes No Partially

b) If no or partially, please explain why?

Relevant actions to launch the tender process were done.

1.2. Proportion of specialists who can use the statistical business register software

Target: 80%

a) Were the indicators and output achieved? Yes No Partially

b) If no or partially, please explain why?

Under the projects on Strengthening institutional and statistical capacity on national accounts and on Strengthening institutional, statistical and information-technical capacity of the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan, we have encountered certain issues in delivering three tenders to develop a Statistical Business Registry. As all the three announced during the last and this reporting period tenders failed due unforeseen circumstances, a decision was taken to revisit our approach towards completing this activity to develop a Business Registry, including the revision of the technical and advisory arrangements to support the implementation of this activity as well as our contractual arrangements with the expert. The ToR for the software for SBR was

ammended by TurkmenStat. The contract with the international expert was terminated. Now all preparation work to readvertise the tender is under the process.

Project Result 2: Methodological, informational and human resources of the national accounts of Turkmenistan are strengthened

Indicators:

2.1 Share of indicators for which methodologies have been developed and tested

Targets: 20%

2

a) Were the indicators and output achieved? Yes No Partially

b) If no or partially, please explain why?

The Road Map to elaborate the financial account was developed and all relevant work to conduct the survey on SUT in next year are under the process. Within this project it is planned to implement follow up activities on elaboration of a financial account, for instance the establishment of Interministerial working group on financial account. It is also planned to conduct survey on SUT in 2022 and all preparatory works are under the process.

Project Result 3: The capacity of the State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics to prepare statistical reports to measure progress on the SDGs is increased

Indicators:

3.2. Number of specialists who own statistical tools for processing and analyzing data on SDG indicators

Output targets: 12

a) Were the indicators and output achieved? Yes No Partially

b) If no or partially, please explain why?

The training agenda was prepared. The training was postponed for the next year due to unforeseen circumstances.

The SDG database, which includes information on the country's achievements, metadata, charts, graphs and disaggregated data within SDG indicators was developed at TurkmenStat. In order to build the capacity of TurkmenStat's employees to monitor the SDG database, the training was scheduled for December 2021, but due to family circumstances of the international expert, it was postponed. It is planned to organize the training in January 2022

2. Progress Reporting

Please summarize the main achievements during the project cycle:

Project Result 1:

At the end of the last year, it was decided to allocate the savings from other activities of the project „Strengthening institutional and statistical capacity on national accounts“ to the development of statistical business register. Thus, the RFQ was developed and announced. As a result of the tender process, the proposals of the campaigns meeting the tender criteria exceeded USD 150,000. According to the UNDP rules and procedures, in this case, the tender documents must be coordinated with the regional office and a different type of tender document must be applied.

In this connection, during the Project Board Meeting it was agreed that the existing funds could be insufficient to cover all expenses related to the development of the software and it was decided to foresee some additional funds in the next project.

After signing and launching this project and receiving additional funds, the RFP for services to develop the statistical business register was developed, coordinated with the Procurement Specialist from the UNDP Regional Office and IT specialist from UNDP in Copenhagen and advertised in May 2021. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the tender process was failed. The tender was reannounced in August, but due to non-compliance of the documents, submitted by Bidders with RFP's criteria, and proposals were declared not responsive.

As we have encountered certain issues in delivering three tenders to develop a Statistical Business Registry and all the three tenders failed, a decision was taken to revisit our approach towards completing this activity to develop a Business Registry, including the revision of the technical and advisory arrangements to support the implementation of this activity as well as our contractual arrangements with the expert.

As a result, the ToR for the software for SBR was amended by TurkmenStat. The contract with the international expert was terminated. Now all preparation work to re-advertise the tender is under the process.

Project Output 2:

In accordance with the Project Document, it was planned to conduct the assessment of current situation on implementation of the SNA 2008. In this regard the international expert to evaluate the current status on introduction the SNA 2008 and provide recommendations for further transition to the SNA 2008 was hired. The fee of the expert was covered other fund, mainly "Russian Experts on Demand" Program financed by Russian Federation. According to the expert's recommendations, it was decided to continue the work on building Supply and Use tables (SUT) and symmetric Input-Output tables. The most complex issue when constructing SUT tables is obtaining information on the structure of costs for production and sales of products, as well as on the structure of gross fixed capital formation and capital in the context of a detailed range of products (goods and services). To obtain these data, it is necessary to conduct a selective statistical survey of the costs of production and (or) sale of goods (works, services), as well as the composition of machines, equipment, vehicles, and inventory put into operation.

Based on this, it is necessary to conduct training for the responsible employees in the institutions that will fill out the survey forms. This training should be carried out first to the staff of the central office of Turkmenstat and to regional offices. In turn, the regional divisions will have to conduct explanatory work and training among the accountants of the surveyed institutions. The objects of selective observation will be the following categories of economic entities:

- entrepreneurial legal entities;
- non-entrepreneurial legal entities;
- budgetary institutions.

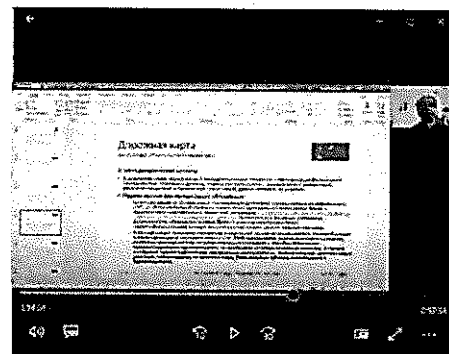
In this regard, under the second component of the project, the UNDP hired the international and national experts to support the State Statistics Committee in the implementation of the 2008 SNA by providing expertise to conduct a survey on Supply and Use Tables.

Taking into account that the survey on SUT is scheduled for the year 2022 according to the project work plan, all preparatory works to conduct the survey are under the process.

As this project is a logical continuation of the previous joint project, implemented by UNDP and TurkmenStat, it was decided to continue the work on elaboration of financial account under the developed Road Map.

In this regard, the online meeting for the representatives of the line ministries and entities of Turkmenistan, including the Ministry of Finance and Economy, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population, State Statistics Committee, Central Bank, State Insurance Organization and the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan was held in November 2021. The meeting aimed at presenting and discussing the developed roadmap on the elaboration of a financial account as well as establishment of the Interdepartmental Coordination Council on financial account, proposed by the Road Map. It is assumed that activities of the Council would be supported by the working groups established in each agency, involved in the creation of the financial account.

During the meeting the participants discussed the further steps for compilation of financial account (data sources, estimations, procedures) in accordance with the Methodical guidance on the development of a financial account and balance of financial assets and liabilities in Turkmenistan. It is expected that the elaboration of the financial account would improve the system of monitoring and analyzing economic and financial developments, aligning it with the international standards and could be instrumental in supporting the economic recovery efforts.



As a result of the meeting, the Project Team sent the proposal on the establishment of the Interdepartmental Coordination Council on financial account for the consideration of relevant authorities. For more information please see the below links:

<https://turkmenportal.com/blog/41330/sostoyalas-onlainvstrecha-po-razrabotke-finansovogo-scheta-v-turkmenistane>

<https://ashgabat.in/2021/11/10/v-turkmenistane-proshlo-soveshhanie-po-sostavleniyu-finansovogo-scheta/>

<https://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/undp-and-partners-support-elaboration-of-financial-account-in-turkmenistan.html>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CWFu4G2sisD/>

<https://twitter.com/UNDPTM/status/1458359702094483462>

Project Output 3:

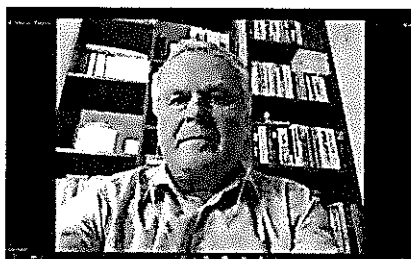
The project corresponds to the goals and objectives outlined in Partnership Framework Programme between Turkmenistan and the United Nations for the period 2016-2020 (PFD) and the Country Programme Action Plan between the Government of Turkmenistan and the United Nations Development Program for 2016-2020 (CPAP) aimed at improving the quality of statistical data. Additionally, the third component of the project aimed to strengthen the information –

technical capacity of TurkmenStat. TurkmenStat planned to start the process of modernization of its software tools, including the software tools for data collection/processing/analysis of statistical forms for the sectoral departments. Moreover, the modernization of software tools for data collection/processing and analysis will serve as a part of implementation of the Concept for Development of the Digital Economy for 2019-2025 in Turkmenistan. Taking into account the above-mentioned and as per request of TurkmenStat, during the reporting period the Project Team hired the international expert to:

- Conduct detailed assessment of IT infrastructure that is currently used by Turkmenstat for data collection/processing/analysis of statistical forms as well as dissemination of statistics data, including hardware and software, staff capacity and identify training, IT and capacity building needs.

- Based on the above, prepare comprehensive review of the existing IT infrastructure of Turkmenstat, including software tools for data collection/processing and analysis of statistical forms, including institutional structure, legal framework, roles and responsibilities of each department. Develop recommendations for integration of software tools, developed in line with GSBPM approach and used by statistics agencies of the EU and other developed countries, including step by step action plan for improvement of software tools, strengthening capacity of staff in order to implement the Concept for Development of the Digital Economy for 2019-2025 in Turkmenistan.

- Based on above, develop recommendations on technical provisions of tender documentation, including scope of work, on development or/and adapt existed software tools for data collection/processing and analysis of statistical forms and reports, including technical specifications and requirements, to be used in a Request for Quotation (RFQ) in line with the UNDP requirements for procurement, which is the key to a successful tender and to ensure competitive, relevant and strong applications. This software tool will allow organizations to submit statistical report on-line improve software tools for data collection/processing and analysis of statistical forms for the sectoral departments of TurkmenStat.



The expert's fee was covered from additional fund, mainly "Russian Experts on Demand" Program, financed by Russian Federation.

During the reporting period, a series of meeting with Mr. Sergey Kuzin, the international expert on IT and statistics issues were conducted. As a result of the meetings, the expert developed the report on the current state of the information and technical infrastructure of the State

Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan, including recommendations for improving the software for collecting, processing and analyzing statistical data, and terms of reference for a tender for the development and/or adaptation of existing software tools for collecting, processing data and analyzing statistical forms and reports. The UNDP Project Team submitted all documents developed by the international expert to TurkmenStat. For more information, please see the links: [UNDP promotes IT work efficiency of Turkmenstat | UNDP in Turkmenistan](https://turkmenportal.com/blog/34699/proshli-vstrechi-s-ekspertom-proon-po-usileniyu-it-infrastruktury-goskomstata-turkmenistana), <https://turkmenportal.com/blog/34699/proshli-vstrechi-s-ekspertom-proon-po-usileniyu-it-infrastruktury-goskomstata-turkmenistana>; <https://ashgabat.in/2021/02/25/proon-sposobstvyuet-povysheniyu-effektivnosti-it-raboty-turkmenistana/>.

Within the framework of the joint project between the UNDP and the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan, the SDG database, which includes information on the country's achievements, metadata, charts, graphs and disaggregated data within SDG indicators was developed at TurkmenStat.

In order to build the capacity of TurkmenStat's employees to monitor the SDG database, the UNDP Project Team in cooperation with the UNRC office in Turkmenistan, hired the international consultant to conduct the training for representatives of line ministries, who are responsible for collection and analysis of SDG data. The training was scheduled for December 2021, but due to family circumstances of the international expert, it was postponed. It is planned to organize the training in January 2022.

3. Project Risks and Issues

The project Risk Log is maintained throughout the project implementation to capture potential risks to the project and associated measures to mitigate risk. The Project Manager shall maintain and update the Risk Log and ensure that risks are identified, communicated and managed effectively.

A number of potential risks are listed below.

Description of risk	Type and category	Risk management actions	Current situation
According to the project document, it was planned to receive Government co-sharing funds in full amount as indicated in the ProDoc. Delay in receiving the Government contribution (funds in USD).	Financial	Transfer of the first installment in a full amount is arranged. The full amount of the first instalment was received	Completed
Cancellation of international experts' missions due to global pandemic related to COVID – 19	Operational	Activities were conducted via online platforms	Ongoing
The project team have encountered certain issues in delivering three tenders to develop a Statistical Business Registry and all the three tenders failed	Organizational	A decision was taken to revisit our approach towards completing this activity to develop a Business Registry, including the revision of the technical and advisory arrangements to support the implementation of this activity as well as our contractual arrangements with the expert	Ongoing

4. Lessons learned and follow-up steps (if applicable)

Please provide the lessons learned and further steps after the project's closure.

Within the framework of the project, the RFP for services to develop the statistical business register was developed and advertised twice in May and August 2021. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the tender process was failed.

Taking into account the above mentioned, there is a need to eventuate the risks and allocate more time for such activity as a tender for future project planning.

Moreover, within the project framework due to fruitful cooperation with Russian Experts on Demand program it was possible to hire the international expert to evaluate the current situation on transition to SNA 2008 and provide recommendations for further transition to SNA 2008. In accordance with the expert's report many countries, including CIS countries have made significant progress in implementing the 2008 SNA. However, most countries face significant challenges to obtain more reliable national accounts figures and provide comprehensive macroeconomic analysis based on these data. Most of the changes proposed in the 2008 SNA seem to be acceptable for the CIS countries from a conceptual point of view. However, from the point of view of the possibilities of their implementation by countries, these changes are not homogeneous. There are many practical problems, mainly related to obtaining initial data, which will need to be addressed to implement these proposals into the regular statistical practice of countries.

Thus, each country should determine for itself the priority directions for the implementation of the SNA 2008, and the initial stage, priorities should be given to those issues that affect the estimates of GDP at current and constant prices.

Considering the above-mentioned, it was decided to divide the work on the implementation of the provisions of the 2008 SNA, into activities which should be done first and for medium term perspectives. And at the initial stage, priorities are given to those issues that affect estimates of GDP at current and constant prices.

5. Transfer of Assets or other related matter

Please state on any past or future transfer of assets made within the project cycle (Attach list of equipment, cooperation frameworks with beneficiaries, etc.)

N/A

6. Financial management

Budget item	Total approved in 2021 (in USD)	Expenses + commitments	Budget utilization in % to planned
Component 1	155.853	0	0
Component 2	18,111.00	41,830.00	231
Component 3	2,200.00	0	0

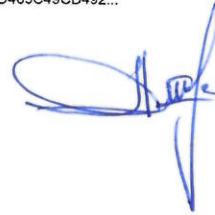
Project Management	37,668.00	15,409.00	41
Total delivery in 2020	213,832.00	57,239.00	27%

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Date: 8.12.2021

Approved by: Akmyrat Danatarov Programme Specialist



Date: