

FINAL PROJECT REVIEW REPORT

[2018-2021]

United Nations Development Programme Turkmenistan

Project title "Partnering for SDG acceleration"

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This project was aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan as a responsible authority for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The project will also assist the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan as the lead agency in the provision of statistical reporting on the SDGs.

The project will include the following components: 1) improving coordination mechanisms and supporting SDG reporting; 2) capacity development for SDGs mainstreaming into the national development programs and financial plans; 3) setting up SDGs database and boosting national statistical capacity.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The joint project between UNDP and the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan “Partnering for SDG acceleration”, which was launched in 2018, is a joint platform for coordinating the work of the relevant ministries and departments of Turkmenistan and UN agencies in the implementation of the SDGs.

The main objective of the project was to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan as a responsible authority for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and assisting the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan as the lead agency in the provision of statistical reporting on the SDGs. The project was relevant to grow needs and priorities guided by the Sustainable Development Goals and the National Strategic objectives outlined in the National program of socio-economic development of Turkmenistan for 2011-2030, strategies, plans and sectoral programs for the implementation of the SDGs in Turkmenistan.

I. CONTEXT

Turkmenistan is committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Turkmenistan actively continues its activities to implement the SDGs and formulate a national strategy with a focus on ensuring sustainable balanced economic growth and improving the well-being of the population. Having assumed the obligations to achieve all 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, in 2016, Turkmenistan began the process of nationalizing SDG targets and indicators, adapting global goals to the conditions of Turkmenistan and integrating them into the state policy of the country, thereby defining the key areas of economic and social and environmental development of the country until 2030.

Turkmenistan plans to further integrate sustainable development goals and objectives into national, sectoral and regional programs, development strategies and plans, as well as financial plans of the country. In this regard, by the Decree of the President of Turkmenistan dated November 17, 2017, a national coordination mechanism was created in the form of a Working Group consisting of deputy heads of ministries, departments, public organizations, educational and scientific institutions, which oversees the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and their monitoring. The coordinating body is the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan.

The project included the following components:

Component 1: Improving coordination mechanisms and supporting SDG reporting; and includes the following components:

Component 2: Capacity development for SDGs mainstreaming into the national development programs and financial plans;

Component 3: Setting up SDGs database and boosting national statistical capacity.

During the reporting period, the expected results of the project were pursued in line with the national goals and national strategic objectives, outlined in the National program of socio-economic development of Turkmenistan for 2011-2030, strategies, plans and sectoral

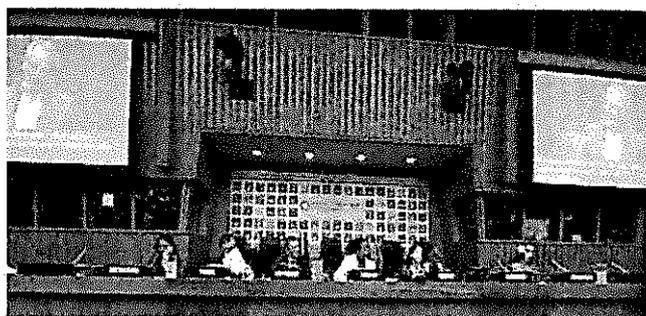
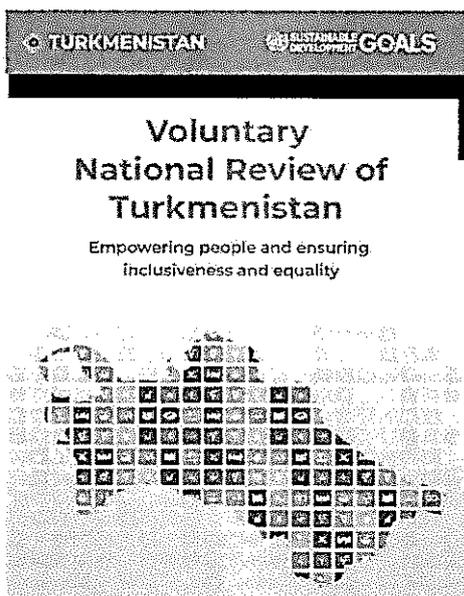
programs for the implementation of the SDGs in Turkmenistan and the country's SDG framework. This is demonstrated by progress towards the following intended (project) outputs.

II. PROJECT RESULTS SUMMARY

The project produced all expected outputs

Project Output 1: National coordination system improved and the national SDG progress report prepared.

Within the framework of the implemented joint project, the national coordination mechanism was created in the form of a Working Group consisting of deputy heads of ministries, departments, public organizations, educational and scientific institutions, which oversees the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and their monitoring. The coordinating body was the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan. UNDP provided support to the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan in coordinating the work of all sectoral ministries and departments to monitor progress towards achieving the SDGs. The project assisted in developing of agendas for the meetings of the Working Group to conduct effective and efficient discussions on the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. Together with the State Committee on Statistics, a schedule and plan for the development of the national report was prepared, including the timeline for the introduction of statistical data into the common SDG database. Initial reports were provided, and the final national SDG report was developed. Methodological recommendations and formats for the preparation of preliminary reports by sectoral ministries and departments of Turkmenistan have been developed. The project involved international and national experts who assisted the Ministry of Finance and Economy in providing training to staff of participating on data processing and analysis methods to ensure quality reports.



The system for collecting, processing, analyzing preliminary reports was improved to prepare a comprehensive review of the progress in achieving the SDGs at the national and regional levels. The project also provided the necessary technical expertise to prepare a thematic report for presentation at the high-level political forum. The report has been prepared in accordance with the recommendations and format

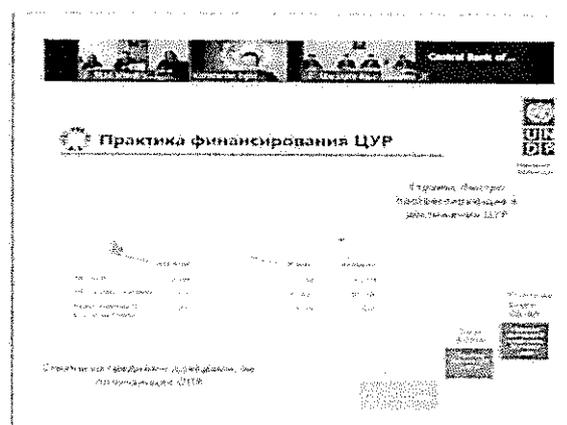
developed by the Economic and Social Council. It contained such components as the methodology and process for preparing the review; regulatory framework and creating an enabling environment, including engaging in the SDG process, incorporating the SDGs into the national regulatory framework, integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development, progress and progress towards achieving the SDGs, a thematic analysis of the high-level political forum that year, institutional arrangements; means of implementation; next steps; statistical application; and summary / conclusions.

The first Voluntary National Review of Turkmenistan was prepared and successfully presented at the High-Level Political Forum in New York on July 18, 2019. One of the main messages of the VNR identified the need to strengthen state policy in the economic sphere in the context of the country's transition to market relations, as well as in the area of creating a mechanism for sustainable financing of the SDGs. This is especially important in the current situation with the unfavorable socio-economic impact of the global pandemic, when the fiscal space is narrowing, and many aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals are taking a regressive trend. According to the Voluntary National Review, one of the key components in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is securing financing for development. In this direction, Turkmenistan continues to work to improve the public finance system, including through fiscal regulation in order to mobilize internal resources. At the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Turkmenistan reaffirmed its commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including financing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and accelerating the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development, improving an effective multilateral trading system, multilateral cooperation in the transport sector, and the continuation of multilateral dialogue on climate change, environmental protection, rational use of natural resources and environmental safety.

In order to monitor the implementation of the SDGs, the project assists the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan in the preparation of annual national reports on the progress of the SDGs in Turkmenistan. During the project implementation period, two national reports were prepared for 2015-2019 and 2015-2020, including an analysis of SDG indicators.

Project Output 2: National capacity for SDGs mainstreaming into the national development programmes and financial plans enhanced.

Within the framework of the project, recommendations were provided on improving the regulatory and legal framework in the field of strategic planning in accordance with international best practices, as well as increasing the capacity of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan and sectoral ministries and departments of Turkmenistan to nationalize the SDG targets, as well as implementation of the SDGs in the budgeting process.





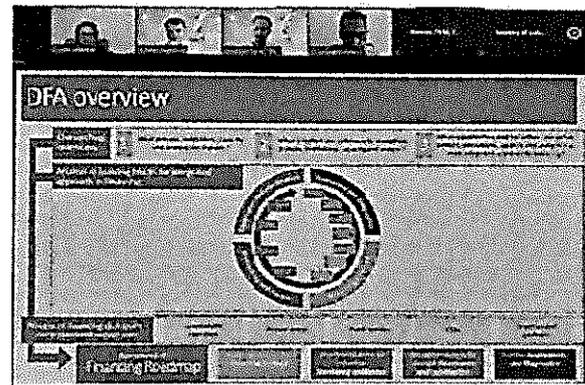
The project helped raise awareness and fulfill the commitments of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) and provided guidance on innovative financial instruments to finance the SDGs, digitalizing the economy, as well as various international development finance funds. With the participation of a national expert, an SDG page was created on the website of the Ministry of Finance and Economy and

profiles on the SDGs were prepared. Recommendations were presented on possible areas of cooperation of Turkmenistan with global, international and regional funds, including international financial organizations, in order to attract investment resources to finance the SDGs.

The international consultant, through a webinar, familiarized national partners with the Review and Guidelines on Global, International and Regional Funds for Financing the SDGs in Turkmenistan, which presented guidelines for international and regional funds operating under the auspices of the United Nations, international best practices for financing and mobilization investments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of fulfilling the commitments of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Seminars and trainings were organized to strengthen institutional and staff capacity of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan and sectoral ministries and departments in the area of SDG financing, digitalizing the economy. More than 50 specialists were trained during these workshops.





Within the framework of a webinar, the staff of the UNDP regional office familiarized national partners with the topic related to the SDG financing mechanisms, including the services and financing instruments of the United Nations Development Program. During the webinar, further goals, approaches and mechanisms of the SDGs in Turkmenistan were discussed.

Profiles were prepared for each of the 17 SDGs, including charts, graphs, infographics, and presented to the Ministry of Finance and Economy for posting on the Ministry's website.

The project facilitated the engagement of a national IT company that redesigned the website and created the SDG website for the Ministry of Finance and Economy.

Project Output 3: National statistical capacity of the State Statistics Committee enhanced.

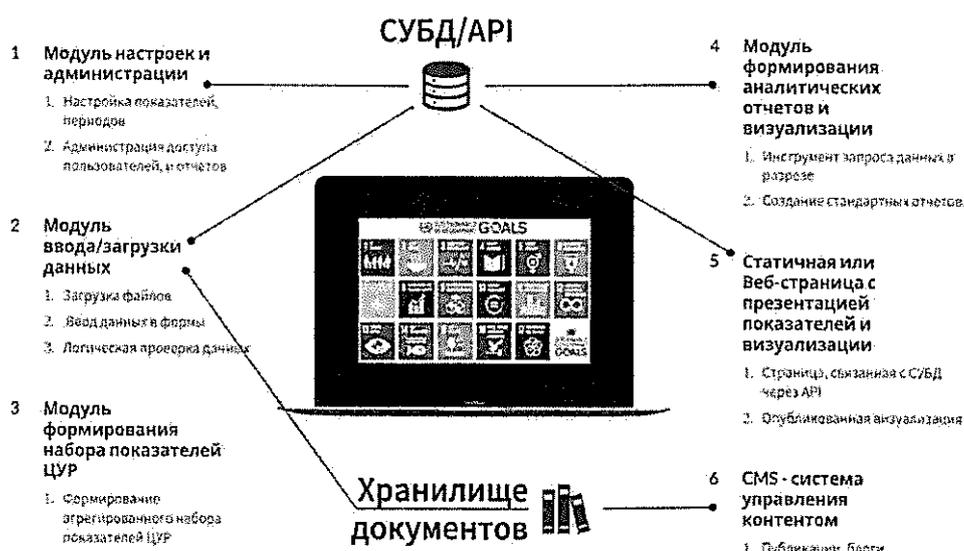
The project provided assistance to the State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics for the collection and processing of data, the creation and maintenance of the SDG database, as well as the coordination of the collection of administrative data and departmental statistics, including support in the development of appropriate methodologies. More detailed assessment of the availability of baseline data was carried out, the relevant methodologies, data sources, the degree of disaggregation and the frequency of reporting were presented. The project assisted in translating metadata into Turkmen and Russian.

The project assisted the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan in improving / updating regulatory legal acts in accordance with the requirements of the Law of Turkmenistan "On combating legalization of proceeds from crime, financing of terrorism and financing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (new edition)" for reporting on the SDGs, in particular on task 16.4 and on indicator 16.4.1.



The project submitted methodological guidelines and guidelines for data collection and processing by line ministries and departments to the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan and conducted training on the use of statistical tools and software, as well as the creation of software - the national SDG database platform. This will provide an opportunity to present and update country data in the databases of international organizations in order to improve the country's index on the implementation of the SDGs.





To monitor the implementation of the SDGs, the project assisted in the preparation of instructions for the exchange of data between ministries and departments in the national and global SDG databases, such as: Guidelines for the provision of SDG data on the official website of Turkmenistan and the websites of other ministries and departments responsible for the SDGs. These are the following project documents: Guidelines for the management and coordination of information flows between the State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics and suppliers of initial data in the field of creating a database on SDGs taking into account international standards, Procedure for providing information on SDG indicators to global SDG databases, Agreement on information interaction and interdepartmental data exchange between Goskomstat and the Data Provider.

In order to increase national capacity in the field of statistical accounting, reporting and creating a database of SDGs, international experts of the UN-Statistical Committee held a seminar on the topic "Review of national platforms for the presentation and dissemination of data on the SDGs: principles, recommendations and best practices" for employees of ministries and departments responsible for reporting on the SDGs. Training was provided on SDG metadata, SDMX program, statistical and geospatial data integration for dissemination with the participation of ministry officials to create a national statistical database on SDGs with the participation of UN Statistics Division staff and Esri IT company - Recommendations of international experts of the UN Statistical Department on the creation of a database of SDGs in Turkmenistan were presented.

To develop the national platform, the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan was offered the use of a ready-made SDG database platform developed by Esri. Throughout 2020, the technical aspects of installing the finished platform were discussed and correspondence and consultations with Esri were conducted, and possible solutions were discussed. Later, it was decided to create a national platform with the participation of local developers using the Open-SDG open platform.

In order to increase digitalization for conducting online seminars in the limited conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Project purchased equipment for the Ministry of Finance and Economy - a TV with a wider format and functions and a stand.

III. PERFORMANCE REVIEW

(i) Overall progress towards the CPAP outcome and output(s)

The project contributes towards implementation of Partnership Framework for Development for the period 2016-2020 (PFD) and the Country Programme Action Plan between the Government of Turkmenistan and the United Nations Development Programme 2016-2020 (CPAP) aimed at improving the quality statistical data. In particular, the project contributes to the achievement of Result 1: Quality disaggregated data, aligned with international standards, is available to policy makers, legislators, and the interested public to monitor the major goals of national programmes, the post-2015 SDGs and the PFD, and to formulate new national strategies and programmes. The project was also intended to support the implementation of PFD Output 1.1: National strategies and plans of selected line ministries / institutes include new LRCs adapted to national conditions.

The main project achievements contributed toward the implementation of PFD Outcome 1: Quality data, aligned with international standards, is available to policy makers, legislators, and the interested public to monitor the major goals of National Programmes, the post-2015 SDGs through creating a national SDG reporting database to exchange data with the international reporting system. The presence and operation of the SDG indicators database will contribute to updating the SDG data for Turkmenistan in the databases of international organizations in order to improve the country's index on the implementation of the SDGs.

Project output	Project output indicator	Achievements against indicators
Output 1:	1.1 Draft national report prepared	yes
	1.2. Thematic national report prepared and presented at the Global Policy Forum	yes
	1.3. The percentage of decisions taken on the issues discussed in the agenda of the Working Group meetings	80%
Output 2:	2.1. The share of adopted recommendations on improving the regulatory framework for the implementation of SDGs	70%
	2.2. Number of specialists trained in innovative methods of planning and financing SDGs	30
	2.3 Number of professionals with knowledge of international commitments in the area of financing of the global Agenda 2030	150
Output 3:	3.1. Number of indicators with baseline data and methodologies	90%

	3.2. Availability of a functional database of SDGs indicators	yes
	3.3. Number of specialists in sectoral ministries and authorities that own statistical tools for data processing and analysis	200

(ii) Capacity Development

Capacity development was noted to be a priority for the Ministry of Finance and Economy, State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics and it was stated at the onset of the project. The project supported the preparation of the Voluntary National Profile of Turkmenistan, which was presented at the ECOSOC Political Forum in July 2019, provided recommendations for SDGs mainstreaming into the national development programmes and financial plans, conducted seminars / trainings on international commitments in the field of SDGs financing (including the Addis Ababa Program of Action) and innovative methods and mechanisms for financing the SDGs, supported the creation of a functional SDG database and a national database platform for submission to the international SDG reporting system. A training seminar was held on the topic "Systems Thinking and Integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into National Planning", which was organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and UNDP in support of the preparation of the Voluntary National Report (VNR) of Turkmenistan. During training were made presentations on the use of innovate methodologies in developing sustainable strategies for analyzing and processing information on achieving the SDG. The main topics of the seminar - familiarity with the interrelated nature of the SDG, systems thinking, difficulties and interrelations in understanding, the use of systems thinking in developing sustainable strategies, the integration of the SDG into national policies and implementation.

(iii) Gender Mainstreaming

The project activities were somehow related to the gender related issues. The project benefited for women and men equally. It did not envisage any gender specific activities.

(iv) Impact on direct and indirect beneficiaries

The most important event of the project was the preparation of the Voluntary National Review of Turkmenistan, which was presented by the Government of the country at the High-Level Political Forum in 2019, The Voluntary National Review (VNR) presents the achievements of Turkmenistan since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. In each section, an analysis of the relationship between the objectives of the Goals under consideration with the objectives of other Sustainable Development Goals was added, and leverage with a high level of impact was identified for more effective implementation of the SDGs in Turkmenistan. The impact on the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the project is considered significant, given that the creation of a national database platform and software, as well as updating the national SDG data in the databases of international organizations will improve the country's index on the implementation of the SDGs. However, availability of results-based monitoring and reporting systems in targeted line ministries/institutions to measure progress in the

implementation of national line ministries' strategies and programmes, including relevant SDGs, in line with the international standards.

(v) Communication and publicity

Articles on effective project implementation are published on the UNDP Turkmenistan website. During the entire project implementation period, a number of training seminars were organized to ensure the exchange of information and discussion of the recommendations provided by international experts with the relevant national ministries and agencies responsible for the implementation of the SDGs.

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- <https://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/ru/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/UNDP-and-partners-discussed-building-database-to-achieve-the-SDGs.html>
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- <https://ashgabat.in/2021/06/04/uslugi-i-instrumenty-proon-po-finansirovaniyu-cur/>
- <https://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/ru/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/undp-promotes-the-creation-of-a-national-sdg-platform-in-turkmenistan.html>
- <https://turkmenportal.com/blog/41471/v-turkmenistane-razrabotana-nacionalnaya-platforma-cur>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY REVIEW

(i) Sustainability

The national partners were fully engaged in the project implementation and decisions making process. All issues related to the implementation of the project activities were properly discussed during the project board meetings.

Successful implementation of project activities ensured quality disaggregate data, aligned with international standards, that is available to policy makers, legislators, and the interested public to monitor the major goals of national programmes, the post-2015 SDGs and the PFD, and to formulate new national strategies and programmes. It also ensures availability of results-based monitoring and reporting systems in targeted line ministries/institutions to measure progress in the implementation of national line ministries' strategies and programmes, including relevant SDGs, in line with international standards. As part of the continuation of the implementation of new directions from 1 September 2021, the second stage of the project "Partnering for SDG acceleration, phase II". The purpose of the second phase of this project is to increase the capacity of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan as a responsible body for coordinating activities to implement the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations Member States in Turkmenistan.

(i) Participatory/consultative processes

To achieve these results, highly qualified international experts were involved in the project. The consultants had significant experience in creating a statistical database for SDG reporting, research and practical activities on financing mechanisms for SDGs, digitalization of economic sectors, as well as the preparation of regulatory documents.

Within the framework of the project, local consultants were hired to implement activities for the preparation of the national report of Turkmenistan on the achievement of the SDGs.

The project has proven to be very successful in terms of engaging key government and international organizations and enhancing stakeholder engagement. The project established good working relations with the relevant department of the Ministry of Finance and Economy responsible for the SDGs, as well as with the ministries and agencies involved in the implementation of the SDGs and ensured their participation in project management at all levels. The national project consultants maintain constant contact with the national project coordinator as well as the international consultant to ensure that all documents developed in accordance with the country's priorities are of high quality and reflect the needs and recent policy developments in the country.

(ii) National Ownership

Head of the Department for Sustainable Development of the Ministry of Finance and Economy was assigned as the National Coordinator and actively participated in the project implementation. All activities were designed and planned jointly with the Ministry which reinforced the ownership of the project results by the Ministry. All decision-making was done jointly with the Ministry, including planning of activities, the selection of international consultants, organizing trainings.

Project Board meetings were held each year and were chaired by the National Coordinator and UNDP management.

MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW

(i) Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular internal monitoring was done by the project staff, UNDP portfolio management as well as Ministry of Finance and Economy and the Government of Turkmenistan. The project's monitoring and Evaluation activities have been implemented generally in line with the plan outlined in the project document. Project Board meetings provided for evaluation and reporting to UNDP and MFE management level. The project results and overall progress achieved by implementation of the project activities was assessed positively by the national partner of the project.

(i) Timely delivery of outputs

The first two components delivered the outputs in a timely manner and in full by the end of the project.

The third component needed more time and effort for the completion and by the decision of the UNDP management and MFE, project extended until the 31 August of 2021.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES AND RISKS

This section is a concise analysis of the main implementation issues that are generic to the project and not related to a specific output or activity; and adjustments performed to address these issues. This section can draw from previous risks and issues logs.

Content:

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mngt response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
1	Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, workshops and some events were held online	March 2020	Other	2	Agreed with the national partner and carried out	Project coordinator	Project coordinator	Aug 2021	Resolved
2	The delay in the creation of the SDG database platform due to the lack of a decision on the selection of the proposed company was the reason for the extension of the project.	November 2020	Operational	3	Project was extended till June 2021	Project coordinator	Project coordinator	June 2021	Resolved

V. LESSONS LEARNED

PROJECT LESSONS-LEARNED REPORT

Total length of report: 2-3 pages.

Please refer to the [Deliverable Description](#) for more information on the purpose and use of this report

Project Title:	Partnering for SDG acceleration
Country:	Turkmenistan
Related CPAP Outcome	Contributing Outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD or GPD): Quality disaggregate data, aligned with international standards, is available to policy makers, legislators, and the interested public to monitor the major goals of National Programmes, the post-2015 SDGs, and the PFD, and to formulate new national strategies and programmes
Project Description and Key Lessons-Learned	
Brief description	On September 25, 2015, all member states of the United Nations

<p>of context</p>	<p>approved a new global Agenda for Sustainable Development for the period between now and 2030 in the form of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), consisting of 17 goals and 169 targets. In October 2015, Turkmenistan immediately began to adapt the SDGs at the national level, holding the first consultations between UN agencies and representatives of the ministries and authorities of Turkmenistan. During 2016, the interaction between the Government of Turkmenistan and UN agencies was continued on a systematic and regular basis, as a result of which, on September 20, 2016, Turkmenistan adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 148 targets and 197 indicators at the governmental level with a view to achieve implementation in the forthcoming 15 years.</p> <p>On 17 November 2017, the President of Turkmenistan adopted a decree and approved the Institutional Structure of the SDGs Monitoring System in Turkmenistan, including the establishment of the SDGs Working Group, which includes the heads and representatives of ministries and authorities, municipalities of provinces and the city of Ashgabat, research institutes and higher education establishments. At the same time, the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan was designated as the Secretariat of the Working Group. This document also defines the functions and tasks of key ministries and government agencies of Turkmenistan, including the Ministry of Finance and Economy, the State Statistics Committee and the sectoral ministries and departments of Turkmenistan.</p> <p>According to the Decree of the President of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan is entrusted with additional functions and tasks related to coordinating activities for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Turkmenistan, including: 1) preparing and providing the government agencies with methodological notes, guidelines and consultations for preparing SDG reports jointly with the UN agencies in Turkmenistan; 2) compiling reports on the implementation of SDGs in Turkmenistan prepared by government agencies; and 3) preparing a National Report on the implementation of the SDGs in Turkmenistan, preparing it for the approval by the SDGs Working Group and submitting for consideration to the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan. The State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan responsible for the development of methodology, collection and processing of state statistics; creation and maintenance of the SDG database; coordination of the collection of administrative data and departmental statistics, including support for the development of appropriate methodologies.</p> <p>In this regard, this project is aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan as a responsible authority for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and assist the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan as the lead agency in the provision of statistical reporting on the SDGs.</p> <p>The project between UNDP and the Ministry of Finance and</p>
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	<p>Economy of Turkmenistan served as a platform for integration the efforts of all UN agencies and ministries and other partners in Turkmenistan to achieve the Agenda-2030 and Sustainable Development Goals nationalized by Turkmenistan in September 2016.</p> <p>The project was linked to the Theory of Change applied to UNDP projects, in particular regarding effectiveness, learning and partnership.</p>
<p>Brief description of project</p>	<p>This project is aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan as a responsible authority for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The project will also assist the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan as the lead agency in the provision of statistical reporting on the SDGs.</p> <p>The project included the following components: 1) improving coordination mechanisms and supporting SDG reporting; 2) capacity development for SDGs mainstreaming into the national development programs and financial plans; 3) setting up SDGs database and boosting national statistical capacity.</p>
<p>Key project successes</p>	<p>As a result of the project the following achievements were gained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The first Voluntary National Review of Turkmenistan was prepared and successfully presented at the High-Level Political Forum in New York on July 18, 2019. The Voluntary National Review (VNR) presents the achievements of Turkmenistan since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. The focus is on SDG 3, as well as this year's cluster SDGs (SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17). In each section, an analysis of the relationship between the objectives of the Goals under consideration with the objectives of other Sustainable Development Goals was added, and leverage with a high level of impact was identified for more effective implementation of the SDGs in Turkmenistan. A distinctive characteristic of the National Voluntary Review of Turkmenistan lies in the application of innovative approach reflected in the analysis of interrelation of global tasks and indicators; - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized a permanent meeting with the participation of international SDG experts to develop an SDG platform for Turkmenistan. A report on the Assessment of Resources and Needs was presented, and proposals were made for the development of an SDG platform in Turkmenistan; - The staff of the UN Statistical Department conducted a three-day training on the creation of a national statistical database on the SDGs and presented recommendations for its implementation in Turkmenistan; - A selective assessment of national, regional and sectoral programs was carried out according to the UNDP methodology. Recommendations for improving legislation and introducing the SDGs into national strategies, programs and plans are presented;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Profiles were prepared for 17 goals, including SDG indicators, an SDG page was created on the website of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan; - The seminar was held on the methodology for collecting data on SDG 16 indicators with the participation of an international expert for ministries and departments responsible for reporting on the SDG; - National partners were able to get acquainted with the best practices of digital technologies and their development trends, business models of the digital economy in key socially significant industries, international regulation and international interaction in the digital environment, as well as big data analytics and key approaches for making effective decisions. The analytical report "Change management in the digital economy: problems and approaches to their solution" was presented; - On awareness of development finance issues, a webinar was held where national partners gained knowledge of international best practices in financing and attracting investments to achieve the SDGs. A complex of measures provided by international financial institutions to mitigate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 was presented. Recommendations are presented on possible areas of cooperation between Turkmenistan and global, international and regional funds, including international financial organizations, in order to attract investment resources to finance the SDGs; - UNDP organized a webinar for representatives of ministries and departments on innovative financing mechanisms, including public-private partnership mechanisms, and presented an analytical review on the possibilities of using PPP mechanisms to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals; - The United Nations Development Programme organized, a webinar for representatives of ministries and departments was held on innovative financing mechanisms, including public-private partnership mechanisms, and an analytical review was presented on the possibilities of using PPP mechanisms to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. - UNDP conducted a webinar for representatives of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan and ministries and departments responsible for the implementation of the SDGs "Financing the SDGs: services and financing instruments of the United Nations Development Program". An overview of the international experience of financing for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, enshrined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the mechanisms and approaches proposed by UNDP for the implementation of financing is presented; - In order to coordinate the collection of administrative data and departmental statistics, as well as create a regulatory framework and maintain reporting on the SDGs, the project assisted in the preparation of instructions for the exchange of data between ministries and departments in the national and global SDG databases, such as: the official website of Turkmenistan and the websites of other ministries and
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	<p>departments responsible for the SDGs. These are the following project documents: Guidelines for the management and coordination of information flows between the State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics and suppliers of initial data in the field of creating a database on SDGs taking into account international standards, Procedure for providing information on SDG indicators to global SDG databases, Agreement on information interaction and interdepartmental data exchange between Goskomstat and the Data Provider.</p> <p>- The project assisted the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan in improving / updating regulatory legal acts in accordance with the requirements of the Law of Turkmenistan "On combating legalization of proceeds from crime, financing of terrorism and financing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (new edition)" for reporting on the SDGs, in particular on task 16.4 and on indicator 16.4.1.</p>
<p>Project shortcomings and solutions</p>	<p>The delay in the creation of the SDG database platform due to the lack of a decision on the selection of the proposed company was the reason for the extension of the project. Despite of this, all project activities have been implemented in timely manner and all planned results were achieved.</p>
<p>Lessons learned</p>	<p>The national partner's support was important for the success of the project implementation, including organization of the international events. The partnership and cooperation with the United Nations Statistics Division, and UNECE allows to mobilize the resources for the experts, which resulted in some savings.</p> <p>The partnership with other international organizations was very useful and gave opportunity to engage professional experts to conduct the workshops and trainings within the project.</p> <p>The project aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan as the state body responsible for the national socio-economic policy and the state budget of the country as well as monitoring of progress towards the SDG, as well as providing assistance to the State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics in improving statistical reporting to measure the progress of SDGs and coordinate the provision of data on relevant indicators with the sectoral ministries and government agencies of Turkmenistan.</p> <p>It was expected the interventions under the project enabled the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan and the State Statistics Committee to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coordinate the work of all sectoral ministries and departments to monitor the progress of the SDGs, improve the system for collecting preliminary reports, as well as in processing, analyzing and preparing a comprehensive review of the progress of SDGs at the national and regional levels; • develop the knowledge on innovative methods of planning and

financing SDGs of international commitments and in the financing of the global Agenda 2030;

- benefit from better availability of a functional database of SDGs indicators.

Within the framework of joint work in the field of coordinating the efforts of the Government of Turkmenistan, UNDP and other UN agencies in achieving the Sustainable Development Agenda, some progress has been achieved and the main activities of the project have been implemented, and in this regard, it is necessary to continue work on further presentation of the analysis of the country's achievements, challenges and success factors in achieving the nationalized SDGs, as well as related recommendations to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs in the country.

Funding for the SDGs is an important factor in achieving the SDGs, including for sustainable recovery from the global pandemic. In this direction, the mechanisms for financing the SDGs and the complexity of their application have not yet been sufficiently formed. There is a need to strengthen the implementation of financing mechanisms using innovative approaches.

Forecasting is the basis of work on defining tasks and targets for each of the goals, and then - strategic planning of activities to achieve them. For a number of SDG indicators adopted by Turkmenistan, targets have not been set until 2030. It is necessary to strengthen the work on forecasting and planning in setting the target indicators of the SDGs.

The exchange of data, as well as the availability of reliable data, is an important element for monitoring and evaluating progress for effective work in the implementation of the SDGs, but there is still weak reporting to the global reporting system. This lowers the country's ranking on the SDG indicators in the global database. The National Reporting Information System contributes to data collection and monitoring activities. Strengthened work is needed to achieve more effective national coordination for the submission and updating of reporting on Turkmenistan to global databases.

One of the founding principles of the 2030 Agenda is the requirement to ensure participation and inclusiveness of processes to raise citizens' awareness of sustainable development. Turkmenistan has achieved positive results in the implementation of the SDGs and significant progress in measures to implement the SDGs has been implemented at the Government level. At the same time, the private sector, public organizations, and civil society are least involved. It is necessary to continue working towards greater stakeholder engagement and strengthening of the relationship of government structures with civil society and the private sector.

The SDG Implementation Platform project was indeed a solid and successful project that achieved good results in strengthening national capacities to integrate and coordinate the work of all UN agencies with the relevant ministries and departments of Turkmenistan to implement

	<p>the SDGs. The Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan is a strong and reliable partner of UNDP, and this cooperation must be continued. In this regard, it was proposed to continue the project and implement the second phase of the project in the implementation of new directions for achieving the SDGs in Turkmenistan to ensure that targeted measures are taken so as not to leave anyone behind.</p>
<p>Follow-up Actions</p>	<p>The analysis of the work carried out by the Project showed that there are achievements and positive trends in the implementation of the SDGs in Turkmenistan. At the same time, most of the activities were implemented at the state level. The private sector, public organizations, and civil society are poorly involved. It is necessary to continue working to strengthen the relationship between government structures and civil society.</p> <p>Within the framework of joint work in the field of coordination of the Government of Turkmenistan, UNDP and other UN agencies in achieving the Sustainable Development Agenda, some progress has been made and the main activities of the project have been implemented, and in this regard, it is proposed to continue work on further presentation of the analysis of the country's achievements, challenges and factors success in achieving the nationalized SDGs, as well as relevant recommendations to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs in the country.</p> <p>In terms of financing the SDGs, comprehensive financing mechanisms for the SDGs have not yet been sufficiently formulated. It is necessary to strengthen the implementation of mechanisms using innovative approaches.</p> <p>For a number of SDG indicators, targets have not been set until 2030. It is necessary to intensify the work on the definition of target indicators for the SDGs.</p> <p>There is low reporting to the global reporting system. This lowers the SDG indicators in the global database. There is a need to accelerate the reporting to global databases.</p> <p>This was indeed a solid successful project that was able to achieve good results. The Ministry of Finance and Economy is a strong reliable partner to UNDP and this cooperation needs to be continued.</p> <p>In this regard, it was proposed to continue the project and implement the second phase of the project.</p>

<p align="center">Project Information</p>	
<p>Award ID:</p>	<p>00102374</p>
<p>CO Focal Points:</p>	<p>Akmyrat Danatarov, Programme Specialist Irina Gukasova, Project Coordinator</p>
<p>Partners:</p>	<p>The State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan</p>

Project resources:	Total project budget - \$ 448 446,56 Government funds - \$ 275 457,56 UNDP TRAC - \$172 989,00
Report prepared by:	Irina Gukasova, Project Coordinator
Date:	15.08.2021

VI. FINANCIAL STATUS AND UTILISATION

Table 1: Financial overview for the whole duration of the project

Budget item	Total approved in 2018-2021 (in USD)	Expenses + commitments	Budget utilization in % to planned
Component 1	113,409.27	126,432.61	111.48%
Component 2	75,965.43	72,498.92	95.44%
Component 3	158,828.86	195,402.10	123.03%
Project management	100,243.00	49,682.78	49.56%
Total delivery in 2018 -2021	<u>448,446.56</u>	<u>444,016.41</u>	99.01%

Report prepared by: Irina Gukasova, Project Coordinator

Date: 28/12/2021



Report approved by: Akmyrat Danatarov, Programme Specialist

Date: 30/12/2021

