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Country programme document

Turkmenistan

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Turkmenistan is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of $4,530,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $3,200,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2026 to 2030.

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Programme rationale

1. An upper-middle-income country since 2012 and consistently pursuing the course of neutrality, Turkmenistan is strongly committed to the rights and prosperity agenda for children and young people, who account (in the 0–24 years age group) for 3.2 million people, or 45 per cent, of the country's population of 7 million.[1] The National Programme for Socio-Economic Development of Turkmenistan for 2022–2052 and the Presidential Programme for Socio-Economic Development of Turkmenistan for 2022–2028 guide the national effort towards the Sustainable Development Goals and beyond, dedicating no less than two thirds of public expenditure to social sectors.[2]

2. To expedite progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Turkmenistan has formally adhered to accelerated action in eight priority transformation areas, with national targets established in relation to food systems, health, education, jobs and social protection, energy, climate change, digital connectivity, and peace and security. Conceptually aligned with the 2030 Agenda are the pillars of the two consecutive National Action Plans for Realization of Children's Rights (NAPC) in Turkmenistan for 2018–2022 and 2023–2028 that offered a key reference for child-related provisions in sectoral policies and planning frameworks.

3. The concluding observations on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2024) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (2023), as well as the universal periodic review recommendations (2024) and the latest national report on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (submitted in 2022), while acknowledging progress, emphasize the urgency of further efforts to ensure that appropriate governance mechanisms, adequate financing and equity-sensitive social policies are in place and translate into services that effectively reach and support the most vulnerable children, women and families.

4. Rich in carbon fuel resources, Turkmenistan is challenged by its harsh climate. Annually, 52 per cent of children are exposed to at least four heatwaves; more than 60 per cent of agricultural lands are affected by significant salinization, while water reserves are limited.[3] The likelihood of earthquakes and wildfires is high.[4] The Aral Sea desertification crisis continues to disrupt weather patterns and impact local economies.

5. The "Healthy Mother – Healthy Child – Healthy Future" national strategy for 2021–2025 has prioritized investments in healthcare infrastructure and human resources. In 2024, 100 per cent of births were attended by qualified personnel in a medical facility, and more than 90 per cent of women, in both urban and rural areas, had at least four check-up visits during pregnancy.[5] However, the under-5 mortality rate (U5MR), at 40 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022,[6] is still high in comparison with the relevant Sustainable Development Goal target. This requires critical

[1] State Committee on Statistics, Turkmenistan, 'Results of the complete population and housing census of Turkmenistan 2022', https://stat.gov.tm/en/population-census, accessed on 8 January 2025.
[2] United Nations Development Programme, Voluntary National Review of Turkmenistan, Ashgabat, 2023.
[3] UNICEF, *Situation Analysis of Women and Children in Turkmenistan*, UNICEF, New York, 2024.
[4] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, *Country Disaster Risk Profile of the Republic of Turkmenistan*, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva, 2023.
[5] State Committee on Statistics, Turkmenistan, and UNICEF, Turkmenistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 2024.
[6] Data on Turkmenistan from UNICEF database, https://data.unicef.org/country/tkm/, accessed on 12 February 2025.

attention, specifically focusing on neonatal mortality rates, which remain the primary contributor to the U5MR.[7] Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) has been launched in 2025 and is expected to be consistently applied within the primary healthcare (PHC) system. Overall, the PHC service delivery requires a comprehensive up-to-date assessment (planned for 2025).

6. Although 85 per cent of newborns are put to the breast within the first hour after birth, only 35 per cent remain exclusively breastfed during the first six months of their life. Despite the existence of national legislation on breastfeeding promotion, insufficiently regulated marketing of breast milk substitutes, combined with the attitudes and practices of mothers, are the likely causes behind the exclusive breastfeeding rate dropping to 15 per cent in households from the highest income quintile.

7. On track regarding the relevant Sustainable Development Goal target, the National Programme for Expanded Immunization protects 98 per cent of children from 14 vaccine-preventable diseases (including the vaccination of girls and boys against the human papillomavirus at the age of 9).[8] Sustainable funding and necessary supplies of quality vaccines, materials and equipment are ensured by the Government, with UNICEF support for procurement. Efforts by partners will be aimed at maintaining high rates of immunization and ensuring the timeliness of vaccination.

8. In accordance with the National Programme on Healthy Nutrition of the Population for 2020–2025, flour fortification with iron and folic acid micronutrients is implemented at national scale, fully funded by the Government and relying on UNICEF procurement. The programme has been effective in reducing the rates of anaemia among women (aged 15–49 years) from 57 per cent to 36 per cent and among children (6–59 months old) from 44 per cent to 31 per cent between 2011 and 2024.[9] Although close to meeting the Sustainable Development Goal targets, the stunting, wasting and overweight prevalence among children aged 0–4 years (at 9, 3 and 5 per cent, respectively, in 2024) has been stagnating, with pronounced regional and income-related variations.[10]

9. The health, learning and psychosocial well-being status of 87 per cent of girls and boys (aged 2–4 years) corresponds with the established early childhood development (ECD) benchmarks.[11] In line with the National ECD Strategy for 2020–2025, public investments in organized early learning and care boosted the enrolment of young children (aged 3–4 years) in kindergartens to 71 per cent in urban areas; on the contrary, in rural areas, 76 per cent of this age cohort remain at home. The share of children from the top income households attending kindergarten is 4.5 times higher than that of children from the lowest income households. In families, 94 per cent of children (aged 2–4 years) receive stimulating and responsive care from an adult family member; however, only 21 per cent of young children benefit from such interaction with their fathers.[12]

10. To ensure a more equal level of school preparedness, the Programme for Improving the Activities of Pre-primary Institutions in ECD and Improving the Preparation of Children for School in Turkmenistan was introduced for 2020–2025,

[7] Ibid.
[8] Cross-sector indicators for Turkmenistan, 2023, from UNICEF Data Warehouse, https://data.unicef.org/resources/data_explorer/unicef_f/?ag=UNICEF&df=GLOBAL_DATAFLOW&ver=1.0&dq=TKM.IM_DTP3.&startPeriod=1970&endPeriod=2025, accessed on 12 February 2025.
[9] Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, Turkmenistan, National Micronutrient Survey Among Women and Children in Turkmenistan, Ashgabat, 2024.
[10] MICS 2024.
[11] MICS 2024.
[12] MICS 2024.

reaching 44 per cent of children of the appropriate age nationwide. Regional disparities in programme coverage are yet to be overcome, as less than 30 per cent of children in Dashoguz and Mary velayats benefit from the pre-primary preparation programme, compared with 84 per cent in Ashgabat city. The divide between the least and most wealthy households is similar, with 21 per cent versus 85 per cent, respectively.[13] To achieve universal access by 2030, parental sociobehavioural factors leading to low uptake of services must also be better researched and addressed, in addition to the expansion of affordable, high-quality and inclusive ECD and pre-primary education options.

11. Despite the emergence of inclusive policy elements, children with disabilities continue to face the risk of segregation, during their early age, childhood and adolescence. The very determination of disability follows a medicalized approach. Due to the scarcity of locally available services for children with special developmental needs, parents often opt for placing such children in public care institutions, where they constitute 87 per cent of approximately 6,000 residents.[14] Access to education for all other children with disabilities (including intellectual impairments) raises concerns, and their situation requires additional data and analysis.[15]

12. The protective power of the family has been traditionally strong in Turkmenistan and would only gain from wider application of positive child-rearing methods, to curb practices of physical punishment and psychological aggression, which affect 42 and 62 per cent of children (aged 1–14 years), respectively.[16] Similarly, refocusing of the existing local inspectorates for minors' affairs from only handling "law offender" portfolios to broader prevention, non-judicial response and social rehabilitation will help build the system for protecting children from violence, abuse, neglect and other vulnerability factors.

13. The country's cash-based social protection measures for children include the childbirth allowance, the universal child benefit until the age of 3 (with 97 per cent coverage), the child disability allowance and the "loss of breadwinner" pension for orphans. However, without a nationally defined poverty line and material deprivation profile, the effectiveness of these instruments is difficult to gauge. The service-based component of the social protection system is being introduced, with the first 45 professional social worker positions established at the community level by the Government, with support from United Nations agencies.

14. Adequacy and patterns of public investments in health, education, and social and child protection must be better understood in the context of the country's complex multi-tier budgeting mechanism and assessed in clearer connection to persistent gaps between velayats against a number of statistical indicators that illustrate the situation of children in Turkmenistan.[17]

[13] MICS 2024.

[14] UNIECF, 'Number of children (0-17 years) in formal residential care at the end of the year', https://www.transmonee.org/database-explorer?&dq=.PT_CHLD_INRESIDENTIAL....&startPeriod=2015&endPeriod=2025, accessed on 5 June 2025; UNICEF, 'Number of children with disabilities (0-17 years) in formal residential care at the end of the year', https://www.transmonee.org/database-explorer?&dq=TKM.PT_CHLD_DISAB_INRESIDENTIAL....&startPeriod=2015&endPeriod=2025, accessed on 5 June 2025.

[15] State Committee on Statistics, Turkmenistan, and UNICEF, *Situation of Children and Adults with Disabilities in Turkmenistan 2021: Survey Findings Report*, TurkmenStat and UNICEF, Ashgabat, 2022.

[16] MICS 2024.

[17] MICS 2024.

15. Committed to implementing the recommendations of the Global Assessment of the National Statistical System (2022), Turkmenistan has been improving the accessibility of statistical information, including publication of the Health and Status of a Woman in the Family survey,[18] the online release of the Population and Housing Census results and the recent launch of the Sustainable Development Goals online database.[19] Nevertheless, the absence of data on approximately half of the 45 child-related indicators poses a significant barrier to assessing the country's performance along the 2030 Agenda trajectory.[20] Routine administrative data systems remain fragmented, not fully digitalized and largely disconnected from sectoral policy analysis and planning processes.

16. The most significant barriers to achieving equitable results for all children cut across themes and sectors, being associated with: incomplete or weak systems to assure the quality of services; a deficit of public finance resources; uneven capacities of the workforce; weak engagement with parents, families and caregivers; and insufficient data availability and use.

17. The evaluations of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), 2021–2025, the country programme document (CPD) 2021–2025 and the NAPC 2018–2022 offered a "triangulated" perspective on cooperation between the Government of Turkmenistan and UNICEF. Complemented by the Gender Equality Programme Review and formal consultations[21] with key government partners, civil society organizations, and young people and children (including adolescent girls), the evaluative exercises recommended:

(a) Developing phased road maps to urgently scale up successfully tested services and approaches, based on solid institutional and sustainable financing solutions;

(b) Widening the scope of social and behaviour change (SBC) initiatives to boost the demand for available services and encourage more healthy/optimal behavioural practices;

(c) Systematically integrating the principles of "leaving no one behind", gender equality, child disability inclusion and climate change adaptation as cross-cutting programming dimensions.

Programme priorities and partnerships

18. The programme of cooperation reflects the focus of the UNICEF Strategic Plan on impactful results for children, to be achieved and sustained at scale, through a mix of differentiated strategies that best reflect the national and local contexts. The programme is derived from the UNSDCF, 2026–2030 contributing to all three strategic priority areas: (a) Good Governance and Inclusive and Diversified Economic Growth; (b) Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation; and (c) Equitable Social Development and Well-being. It supports all pillars of the NAPC 2023–2028 which, in turn, defines child- and family-focused priority actions in health, education, and child and social protection.

19. Key partners to be supported by UNICEF in delivering the cooperation programme include the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population; Ministry of

[18] United Nations Population Fund, *Health and Status of a Woman in the Family in Turkmenistan*, UNFPA, New York, 2022.
[19] See https://www.stat.gov.tm/en.
[20] UNICEF Data, 'Child-Related SDG Progress Assessment for Turkmenistan', https://data.unicef.org/sdgs/country/tkm/ accessed on 8 January 2025.
[21] Conducted in 2024.

Internal Affairs; Ministry of Adalat; Ministry of Finance and Economy; Institute of State, Law and Democracy; Office of the Ombudsperson; State Committee on Statistics; General Prosecutor's Office; Mejlis; State Committee for Television, Radio Broadcasting and Cinematography; and Women's Union.

20. The country programme will seek transformative results for children around three flagship areas:

(a) Early years – aiming to lay the critical groundwork in early childhood for lifelong health, learning and well-being;

(b) Disability inclusion and care – aiming to champion equitable opportunities for children with disabilities in education, care and community participation;

(c) Climate action and youth – aiming to strengthen climate resilience through education and youth engagement as agents of change.

Early years

21. Within the early years flagship area, the programme of cooperation aims to provide young children in Turkmenistan with the best start in life by contributing to reduced mortality among children under 5 years of age, their improved nutrition, and their consistent and holistic positive progress across developmental domains, as well as universal access to the pre-primary preparation programme for children aged 5–6 years, as defined by the country's commitment to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and reflected in national socioeconomic development frameworks, including the NAPC 2023–2028.

22. To keep all young children healthy, well nourished and developmentally on track, the PHC system's quality and capacity to effectively support families must be enhanced. Technical assistance from UNICEF will be instrumental in rolling out the IMCI standards and PHC guidelines on child and adolescent health; upgrading pre- and in-service training programmes on maternal and newborn care; developing new tools for home visiting practice; emphasizing the importance of service providers' counselling skills; improving supervision and quality assurance mechanisms; and incorporating emergency preparedness and crisis response components in the PHC protocols and mechanisms. In recognition of the holistic nature of ECD, the programme will seek more systemic integration and coordination of ECD provisions across health, education, social and child protection policies, normative frameworks, programmes and services to ensure that young children and their families are supported to thrive.

23. The content of early childhood education and care and pre-primary preparation programmes (for the age cohorts of 1–5 and 5–6 years, respectively) will be enriched, focusing on play- and inquiry-based, child-centred teaching techniques and specifics of communication with young children (including those with disabilities or developmental delays). It will also be essential to reach families and communities with messages and SBC interventions empowering mothers and fathers in their primary roles of nurturing care providers, encouraging positive child-rearing practices and non-violent discipline, and boosting the uptake of early childhood services, especially in rural areas. Fostering multi-partner alliances, including with civil society and private businesses, will facilitate communication of relevant information to parents and caregivers.

Disability inclusion and care

24. Within the disability inclusion and care flagship area, the programme of cooperation will contribute to decreased numbers of children in residential care,

driven by the expansion of inclusive environments in mainstream education facilities and enhanced support to families of children with disabilities and developmental delays, as envisaged by the NAPC 2023–2028 and in line with international standards, recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other human rights treaty bodies.

25. As a matter of priority, UNICEF will amplify strategic advocacy with health, education, and child and social protection partners to reform the approach to determining disability, shifting to an inclusive model embracing the path of rehabilitation and social adaptation, in an environment accessible for persons with special needs. Additionally, programme advice from UNICEF will inform gradual transformation of existing residential care facilities into early intervention and inclusive rehabilitation resource centres, while prioritizing family-based forms of alternative care. Mapping out human capacities, assistive technology, infrastructural adaptation and other organizational adjustment needs will pave the way for ensuring that kindergartens and schools are adequately resourced to accommodate girls and boys with disabilities. In target locations, inclusive education will be modelled (based on appropriate teacher skills, adapted environment, assistive technology and predictable financing) with a view to gradually refocusing resources to support inclusive pathways within the mainstream education system. The role of inclusive schools as platforms for specialized multidisciplinary services will be scaled up.

26. The corps of professional social workers will be strengthened and expanded, and, in alliance with other front-line specialists carrying out social work functions (including justice professionals), will be the backbone of a system tailored to protect children from family separation and placement in institutions, violence, abuse, neglect, repercussions of entering into contact with the law and other risks to their well-being. Strategic sharing of programme knowledge, contextualized “success stories” and SBC interventions will inspire children, parents, teachers, social service professionals, policymakers and communities at large in transitioning towards more inclusive, non-violent, tolerant, empathic, child-sensitive and gender-equal social norms and behaviours. Forging partnerships across sectors, between levels of governance, with civil society, businesses, local authorities, and formal and informal actors will be key in identifying new resources and capacities to implement child-centred care, protection and inclusion policies.

Climate action and youth

27. Within the climate action and youth flagship area, the programme of cooperation will contribute to the significant increase in the number of children and youth equipped with climate adaptation/disaster risk reduction knowledge and skills, and practising “green” behaviours, in full alignment with the country’s 2030 Agenda commitments, the National Climate Change Strategy, provisions of the NAPC 2023–2028 and the Comprehensive Safe Schools Framework 2022–2030 in Central Asia.

28. With support extended to the national “Green School” initiative, technical expertise will be further invested by UNICEF in the climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction themes, integrating these into education standards, curricula and teaching methods, both in the classroom and in extracurricular activities, at all levels of formal education, in offline and digital formats. Keeping a priority focus on regions with higher climate and disaster risks, new partnerships with government entities, civil society, communities and schools will be actively fostered, to design and implement activities that promote local development, greening policies, infrastructural safety, environmental sustainability and social cohesion. The active role of Turkmenistan in the regional climate change and adaptation agenda is

perceived as a powerful driver for initiatives prioritizing the health and well-being of the country's young generation confronting environmental challenges.

Programme structure and cross-cutting issues

29. The country programme contributions to the flagship results for children will be operationalized through the following five interlinked and mutually reinforcing programme components that accommodate sector-specific as well as cross-cutting objectives and interventions, provide a frame for budget allocations and define indicators to measure progress:

(a) Mother and child health, nutrition and ECD;

(b) Inclusive education for sustainable development;

(c) Child protection;

(d) Social protection and child rights monitoring;

(e) Programme effectiveness.

30. To achieve scale and sustainability, including in predominantly rural areas, within each sectoral component, the emphasis in UNICEF programme advice will be on strengthening governance and management systems at the central, subnational and local levels – either to fill the remaining structural gaps (as in the case of dedicated social protection departments yet to be established in all etraps) or to update and streamline the functional role of existing entities (as in the case of rather archaic justice for children and child protection statutory referral bodies). UNICEF advocacy and technical assistance for establishing intersectoral coordination mechanisms will be expanded, to facilitate the concerted action of health, education, and child and social protection specialists, and services for individual "cases" of children and families in need of intervention and support.

31. UNICEF will assist in building partners' capacities at the national and subnational levels to assess the adequacy, effectiveness and efficiency of budget spending, in comparison with statistical indicators illustrating the situation of children at both the national and regional levels. Feeding into a broader national effort to transition to result-based planning and budgeting, service models tested by UNICEF and its partners in flagship areas (such as early childhood education and care, early identification of disabilities, family support to prevent institutionalization, pre-primary school preparation, inclusive education modelling, and school-based climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction) will be documented, costed and advocated for as priority investment cases, accompanied by the appropriate financing scenarios. The latter will be rooted in a comprehensive fiscal space analysis undertaken jointly with the Ministry of Finance and Economy and other development partners (including international financial institutions) in the health, education, justice, and child and social protection sectors. Partnership with the Ministry of Finance and Economy is also critical to ensure that the cash-based instruments (or cash-equated social protection guarantees) – such as the basic health benefit package, child disability benefits and humanitarian cash transfers – are adequate for the actual needs and reduce the pressure on household budgets, including in times of crises and/or shocks.

32. The well-established combination of government financing with UNICEF procurement services in implementation of the national immunization and food fortification programmes will be promoted as a "good practice" example of effective and efficient collaborative effort. In the same vein, possible parameters of a long-term partnership between the Government and UNICEF for assistive technology procurement will be assessed, aiming to leverage additional public finance resources

for disability inclusion. Increasingly, the potential of private businesses to raise resources for children will be explored.

33. Strategic partnerships with the Mejlis, the Office of the Ombudsperson and the Institute of State, Law and Democracy will be essential for upholding the child rights agenda and ensuring the implementation of recommendations by international human rights treaty bodies. UNICEF will further support the Government in using statistical survey instruments, including the next Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) round in 2029, to accompany and measure the accelerated action of Turkmenistan towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

34. Production of disaggregated information remains fundamental in capturing inequity aspects caused by gender, disability status, income level, geographical location and other factors. The impact of climate change and disaster hazards on children, women and families will be assessed more systematically, across all areas of programme engagement. Also, child standard of living/material deprivation benchmarks are planned to be defined by the first ever national well-being survey. Quantification, monitoring and evaluation of the NAPC 2023–2028 targets will cover the Plan's lifespan, and measurable child-specific indicators will be incrementally integrated into new sectoral planning documents.

35. In line with the national digital transformation priority and jointly with other development partners, UNICEF will contribute to digitalization and upgrade of management information systems as central repositories for routine administrative data in health, education, justice and social protection sectors, with gradually increasing cross-sectoral interoperability and expanding use of real-time monitoring instruments.

36. The country programme's design and implementation will follow UNICEF quality programming and effectiveness standards in achieving results for children. Appropriate guidance, tools and resources will be provided to partners and UNICEF staff for coordinated mainstreaming of equity, gender, disability inclusion, climate action and disaster risk reduction dimensions. A reinforced emphasis on knowledge management will support the effectiveness of the programme's external relations, enrich strategic advocacy and communication, and help to foster new alliances and partnerships.

37. UNICEF will make efforts to mobilize and leverage resources, assets and expertise from the local and regional private sector to support UNICEF programmes in Turkmenistan. Recognizing the mandate and legal status of UNICEF as an international organization, Turkmenistan will take all necessary regulatory measures to facilitate and promote UNICEF programmes and fundraising operations.

Summary budget table

Programme component	*(In thousands of United States dollars)*		
	Regular resources	*Other resources*	*Total*
Mother and child health, nutrition and ECD	1 100	900	2 000
Inclusive education for sustainable development	1 000	900	1 900
Child protection	900	600	1 500
Social protection and child rights monitoring	1 000	600	1 600
Programme effectiveness	530	200	730
Total	**4 530**	**3 200**	**7 730**

Programme and risk management

38. The CPD outlines UNICEF contributions to national results, is aligned with the UNSDCF, and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. Accountabilities of UNICEF managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures.

39. The UNSDCF Steering Committee and Results Groups, UNICEF Country Management Team and other managerial mechanisms will continue to drive the process of risk-informed programming, by enhancing collection of data on and analysis of country-specific (especially climate-related) risk factors; more systematically incorporating risk preparedness and response into health, education and social protection policies; prioritizing long-term institutional capacity-strengthening; avoiding fragmentation of investments; and exploring innovative programme financing schemes.

40. Adaptive programming will incorporate the renewed focus on organizational global and regional priorities, as defined by the UNICEF Strategic Plan. In line with the business operations strategy, UNICEF will use the harmonized approach to cash transfers; strengthen accountability to programme beneficiaries; further child safeguarding; take preventive measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse; and promote greater environmental sustainability in the management of facilities and operations.

Monitoring, learning and evaluation

41. The UNICEF global dashboard and two published in-depth assessments of child-related Sustainable Development Goals in Turkmenistan [22] provide already tested instruments and formats to monitor the 2030 Agenda results for children. These will be continuously used to cross-check the figures against the detailed recommendations issued by the international human rights treaty bodies.

[22] Published in 2018 and 2020.

42. Standard corporate indicators and online reporting systems will be used to monitor progress of country programme outputs, reflecting institutional and sociobehavioural changes. Regular programme reviews with partners, joint field visits, and various technical and analytical materials will generate information to guide necessary adjustments. The CPD contribution to UNSDCF programmatic advancements will be reflected in the UN INFO, a digital platform used by United Nations country teams to boost transparency and accountability for development coordination.[23]

43. Jointly with UNSDCF partners, UNICEF will contribute to capacities of the State Committee on Statistics to process, publicize and actively disseminate collected data, in digital and printed formats, including the development of statistical services to public institutions in charge of policy planning and monitoring. Real-time monitoring techniques will be actively promoted, to capture, in a timely manner, the effect of policy changes, SBC interventions and target audience feedback.

44. In cooperation with the Institute of State, Law and Democracy, the Office of the Ombudsman, academia and other partners, the programme will actively use available data and engage various audiences in their analysis and internalization. Lessons documented by recent evaluations will be shared with partners to inform new national strategies and plans. UNICEF will continue to update its situation analysis of children and women in Turkmenistan and contribute to the common country assessments by United Nations agencies.

45. During the new programme cycle, partners plan to evaluate the implementation of the NAPC 2023–2028; the progress of the social protection system in Aral Sea crisis-affected areas;[24] and the multidisciplinary early identification, intervention and support services piloted to assist children with disabilities. Selection of these evaluations was driven, respectively, by the considerations of: (a) centrality of the national planning framework for children; (b) relative maturity of the national social services reform and its particular relevance to the region lagging behind in socioeconomic development terms; and (c) complexity of the multidisciplinary approach to disability inclusion requiring particularly in-depth analysis.

[23] United Nations Sustainable Development Group, UN INFO (database), https://uninfo.org/, accessed on 14 May 2025.

[24] After approximately 10 years since the establishment of the national social services.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Turkmenistan – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2026–2030

Convention on the Rights of the Child: Articles 2, 5–6, 9, 12, 17–21, 23–29, 31, 37, 39, 40, 42

National priorities: Sustainable Development Goals 1–17[a]
National Programme for Socio-Economic Development (2022–2052), Presidential Programme for Socio-Economic Development (2022–2028), National Action Plan for Realization of Children's Rights (2023–2028)

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) outcomes involving UNICEF:
Outcome A1: By 2030, the people of Turkmenistan have access to accountable governance system through improved public administration and strengthened fiscal capacity, based on commitments to human rights, rule of law and gender equality to ensure achievement of the SDGs.
Outcome B1: By 2030, Turkmenistan will strengthen natural resource management systems, systematically fulfil its climate change commitments, and the population will become more resilient to climate change and disasters.
Outcome C1: By 2030, all people of Turkmenistan, including vulnerable groups, benefit equitably from quality and inclusive health, education and social protection services and transformative social norms.

Related Impact Results of the UNICEF Strategic Plan: 1–5

UNSDCF outcomes	*UNICEF outcomes*	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
						RR	*OR*	*Total*
Outcomes B1 and C1	1. By 2030, the health and well-being of every newborn, child, adolescent and woman of reproductive age in Turkmenistan, especially the most vulnerable, is strengthened, benefiting from equitable access to quality shock-	U5MR (per 1 000 live births)* B: 40 (2022) T: 25 (2030) Percentage of children who are vaccinated with three doses of DTP/Penta containing vaccine B: 98% (2024) T: > 95% (2030)	United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation Ministry of Health and Medical Industry (MoHMI), World Health Organization/ UNICEF Joint Reporting Form on Immunization	1.1. Strengthened PHC system capacities and coverage 1.2. Concerted multi-partner action for	MoHMI, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population (MoLSPP), Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Finance and Economy (MoFE), Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, State Committee on	1 100	900	2 000

UNSDCF outcomes	*UNICEF outcomes*	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
						RR	*OR*	*Total*
	responsive healthcare services, well-balanced nutrition, supportive social norms and family practices.	Percentage of infants (aged 0–5 months) who are exclusively breastfed B: 35% (2024) T: 50% (2030) Percentage of children (aged 0–4 years) who are stunted B: 9% (2024) T: 6% (2030) Percentage of children (aged 2–4 years) who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being B: 87% (2024) T: 90% (2030)	MICS MICS MICS	healthy nutrition 1.3. Sustainable services and nurturing family care for ECD	Statistics (SCS), Institute of State, Law and Democracy (ISLD), Parliament, State Committee for Television, Radio Broadcasting and Cinematography, Women's Union, other civil society organizations (CSOs), United Nations agencies			
Outcomes B1 and C1	2. By 2030, all boys and girls in Turkmenistan, including those with disabilities and/or affected by climate change and environmental pollution, enjoy quality and inclusive education that starts from early/preschool years, and develop the knowledge and competencies of active citizens and promoters of	Participation rate in organized learning activities one year before the official primary entry age* B (2024): Total – 44% Boys – 45% Girls – 43% T (2030): Total - 90% Boys – 90% Girls – 90% Proportion of schools with access to adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities* B: 0% (2024) T: 20% (2030) Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction	MICS MoE Joint assessment with partners	2.1. Scaled up pre-primary school preparation 2.2. Inclusive education pathways for children with disabilities 2.3. Schools, communities,	MoE, MoHMI, MoLSPP, Ministry of Defense, MoFE, SCS, ISLD, Parliament, Office of the Ombudsman, Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Women's Union, Magtymguly Youth Organization, National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan, Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, other CSOs,	1 000	900	1 900

UNSDCF outcomes	*UNICEF outcomes*	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
						RR	*OR*	*Total*
	sustainable development.	integrated into national curricula in preschool, and primary and secondary education (Score 1–4) B: Score 2 (2025) T: Score 4 (2030) Number of nationally certified safe and green schools across the country* B: 0 (2025) T: 500 (2030)	MoE	children and youth for climate action	United Nations agencies			
Outcome C1	3. By 2030, all girls and boys in Turkmenistan are more effectively protected from risks and vulnerabilities stemming from the variety of adverse life circumstances, benefiting from statutory child protection services and supportive public attitudes.	Percentage of children in family-based care of the total number of children in all forms of formal alternative care B: 66% (2024) T: 70% (2030) Rate of children (aged 0–17 years) in residential care, per 100 000 children B: 242.2 (2023) T: 104 (2030) Percentage of children aged 1–14 years who experienced any violent discipline by caregivers in the past month* B: 67% (2024) T: Reduction by 30% (2030) Existence of specialized justice for children components, such as capacity-building and standard-setting within criminal and civil justice systems	SCS SCS MICS Joint assessment with partners	3.1. Governance systems and capacities for child protection 3.2. Justice for children systems and operational mechanisms	MoE, MoHMI, MoLSPP, local government entities, Supreme Court, General Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Adalat, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Parliament, hakimliks, MoFE, ISLD, SSC, Women's Union, Youth Organization, other CSOs, United Nations agencies	900	600	1 500

UNSDCF outcomes	*UNICEF outcomes*	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)* RR	OR	Total
		B: Medium scale (2024) T: Full scale (2030)						
Outcomes A1, B1 and C1	4. By 2030, all children and families in Turkmenistan benefit from a more comprehensive set of social protection instruments and increased funding of social policies, informed by quality data on the rights of children, especially the most vulnerable.	Proportion of public expenditure on essential services as percentage of gross domestic product* Total B: (2023) 10.6% T: (2030) > 15.0% Education B: (2023) 4.7% T: (2030) 5.0% Healthcare B: (2023) 1.6% T: (2030) 5.0% Social protection B: (2023) 4.3% T: (2030) 5.0% Availability of recent data on child-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators B: (2025) 64% T: (2030) > 75%	SCS UNICEF TransMonEE database	4.1. Instruments and mechanisms for cash- and service-based shock-responsive social protection 4.2. Leveraging of financial resources for children 4.3. Data and knowledge for child rights monitoring and action	MoLSPP, MoHMI, MoE, MoFE, SSC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ISLD, Parliament, Office of the Ombudsman, CSOs, international financial institutions, United Nations agencies	1 000	600	1 600
Outcomes A1, B1 and C1	5. Enhanced programme effectiveness.	Standard key performance indicators	UNICEF Results Assessment Module	5.1. Programme coordination 5.2. External relations 5.3. Planning, monitoring and evaluation 5.4. Cross-sectoral approaches	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	530	200	730
Total resources						**4 530**	**3 200**	**7 730**

[*] Outcome indicator aligned with UNSDCF indicator.

[a]. National targets are monitored on the State Committee on Statistics dashboard. See https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/en/.