ASSESSMENT OF THE STATUS AND PROGRESS

OF UNFPA AND ICPD PRIORITY SDG INDICATORS IN TURKMENISTAN

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List of abbreviations

Welayat	Region
WHO	World Health Organization
UHC	Universal health coverage
TurkmenStat	State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
MARRIAGE REGISTRY	Civil registration
ISLaDT	Institute of State, Law and Democracy of Turkmenistan
MMR	Maternal mortality rate
DHS	Demographic health survey
MUGOMS	Inter-Agency Group on Maternal Mortality Assessment
ICD	International Classification of Diseases
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
MoHMIT	Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan
MoEP	Ministry of Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan
MICS	Multi-indicator cluster study of the situation of children and mothers
NUP	National urban development programs
NSO	National Statistics Office
NDC	Nationally determined contributions
UN	United Nations
WG	Working group
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNSD	UN Statistics Division
UN DRR	UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
Hyakimlik	Local government in Turkmenistan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council

1. Brief assessment of the status and progress of the priority (basic) SDG indicators adopted by Turkmenistan for UNFPA and ICPD

The Global Indicator Framework for Sustainable Development Goals was developed by the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and agreed upon at the 48th session of the UN Statistical Commission held in March 2017. It was later approved by the UN General Assembly on 6 July 2017 and is reflected in the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on the work of the Statistical Commission relevant to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/71/313, annex). According to the Resolution, the system of indicators will be updated annually and comprehensively reviewed by the Statistical Commission at its fifty-first session in 2020 and at its fifty-sixth session in 2025.

In accordance with the Group's mandate, the IAEG-SDGs proposed 36 major changes to the structure in the form of replacements, revisions, additions and removals as part of the 2020 Comprehensive Review, which were approved by the 51st UN Statistical Commission in March 2020[1]. The global indicator system includes 231 indicators for 169 objectives. It should be kept in mind that the total number of indicators listed in the global system of SDG indicators is 248[2]. However, thirteen indicators are repeated under two or three different target indicators. In particular, the following indicators are repeated in the global indicator system:

- 7.b.1/12.a.1
- 8.4.1/12.2.1
- 8.4.2/12.2.2
- 10.3.1/16.b.1
- 10.6.1/16.8.1
- 13.2.1/13.b.1 (with minor modifications)
- 15.7.1/15.c.1
- 15.a.1/15.b.1
- 1.5.1/11.5.1/13.1.1
- 1.5.2/11.5.2
- 1.5.3/11.b.1/13.1.2
- 1.5.4/11.b.2/13.1.3
- 4.7.1/12.8.1/13.3.1.

According to the list of objectives and indicators adopted by Turkmenistan as of December 14, 2023, the country has approved 17 SDGs, 131 objectives and 175 indicators[3].

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[1] List of amended, excluded and additional SDG indicators according to the Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators, April 2020; Excel file Matrix 24_March 2020. xlsx.
[2] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/
[3] List of objectives and indicators adopted by Turkmenistan as of December 14, 2023 (Matrix – 12/14/2023.Excel).

Diagram 1. SDG targets and indicators adopted by Turkmenistan as of December 14, 2023
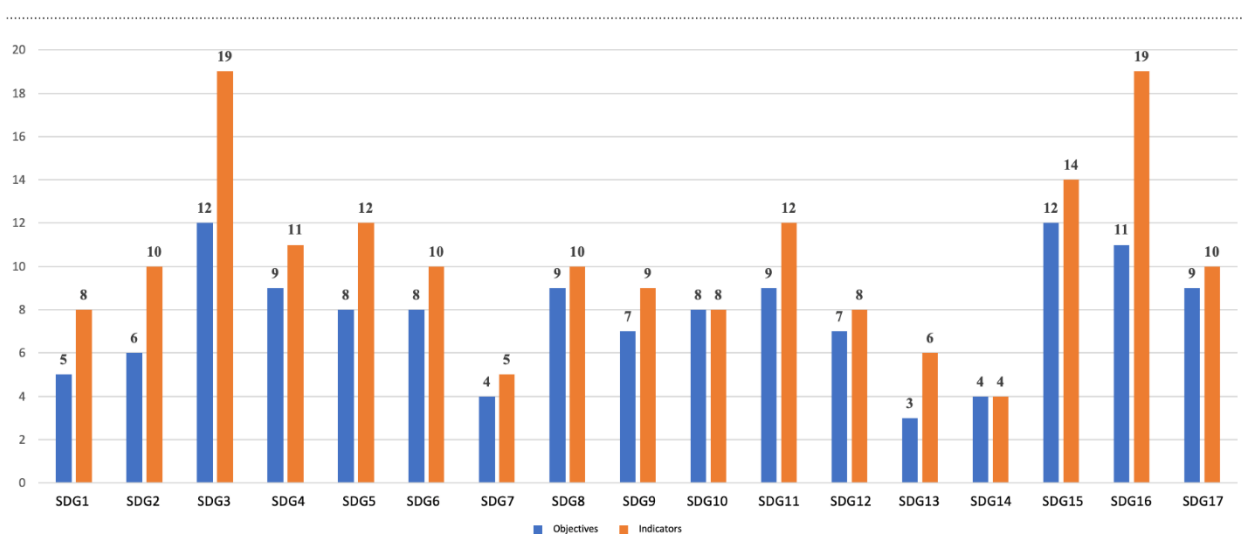
As outlined in the Integrated Guidance for Implementing the 2030 Agenda and the ICPD beyond 2014[4], UNFPA will support countries in: (1) implementing, reporting and using core indicators that are related to its direct mandate; (2) defining and reporting ICPD-related indicators through the ICPD monitoring framework beyond 2014 to fill data gaps and ensure international comparability of national data; (3) providing technical support to harmonize national monitoring frameworks, regional development indicators and the ICPD; (4) supporting the implementation of integrated national data platforms to increase the availability and use of data.

Based on the overall duration of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, UNFPA developed its Strategic Plan for 2018-2021 as the first of three successive strategic plans, which in their entirety are aimed at achieving the SDGs, according to which it defined for itself indicators having paramount (priority) importance, taking into account the International Conference on Population and Development 17 indicators for achieving the SDGs[5]. UNFPA will use the Strategic Plan to mobilize resources and ensure alignment of its corporate strategies with the 2030 Agenda and will provide ongoing oversight throughout its three strategic plans.

In Turkmenistan, UNFPA conducted two assessments of the availability of a list of priority SDG indicators related to the ICPD - in 2018[6] and in 2021[7].

UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022-2025[8] is the second of three sequential UNFPA strategic plans to be implemented between now and 2030. The UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022–2025 is a call to action. It builds on the momentum created by the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) and calls for urgent action to accelerate the implementation of the ICPD Program of Action and achieve three life-transforming outcomes: a) fully meeting the need for family planning; (b) eliminating maternal deaths from preventable causes; (c)

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[4] Integrated Guidance Note Operationalizing the 2030 Agenda and the ICPD beyond 2014. UNFPA, September 2016.
[5] UNFPA Strategic Plan 2018-2021. Second Regular Session, September 5–11, 2017, New York.
[6] Report "Assessment of the baseline indicators adopted by Turkmenistan for SDG indicators related to the International Conference on Population and Development." UNFPA, August 2018
[7] Report "Assessment of basic (priority) SDG indicators for UNFPA and ICPD." UNFP 2021
[8] UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022–2025. Second Regular Session 2021, August 30–September 2, 2021, New York.

eliminating gender-based violence and all harmful practices, including female genital mutilation and child marriage, early and forced marriage. The new Strategic Plan 2022–2025 emphasizes the central role of data in driving evidence-based action to achieve three life-transforming outcomes.

According to the UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022-2025, implementation of commitments is critical to achieving all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, but is directly aimed at ensuring achievement of: Goal 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages); Goal 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls); Goal 10 (reducing inequality within and between countries); Goal 13 (take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), Goal 16 (promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensure access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and participatory institutions at all levels) and Goal 17 (strengthening means of implementation and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development). Ultimately, the Strategic Plan contributes to achieving Goal 1 (to end poverty in all its forms everywhere).

The UNFPA Strategic Plan for 2022–2025 additionally included SDG 13 and two indicators – 13.1.1 and 13.2.1, which strengthened the environmental component. Thus, the total number of priority (basis) global indicators for UNFPA reached 19, including:

3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.3.1, 3.7.1, 3.7.2, 3.8.1, 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.6.1, 5.6.2, 10.3.1, 11.a.1, 13.1.1, 13.2.1, 16.9.1, 17.18.1 и 17.19.2.

In the 2018 UNFPA Assessment of the status of priority SDG indicators related to the ICPD, it was revealed that out of 17 global indicators, Turkmenistan adopted 13[9]. However, in the subsequent period, there were changes in the list of priority SDG indicators for UNFPA adopted by Turkmenistan, in particular, as of March 20, 2020, they included 14 out of 17 global indicators, 3 indicators were not adopted: 3.3.1, 5.3.2 and 17.19.2.

In December 2023, Turkmenistan adopted 17 indicators out of 19 global UNFPA indicators, including: 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.7.1, 3.7.2, 3.8.1, 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.3.1, 5.6.1, 5.6.2, 10.3.1, 11.a.1, 13.1.1, 13.2.1, 16.9.1, 17.18.1, 17.19.2. Two global priority indicators for UNFPA/ICPD were not adopted, namely:

• 3.3.1 – Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected people, by gender, age and membership in key population groups;

• 5.3.2 – Proportion of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age.

The non-acceptance of indicators 3.3.1 and 5.3.2 is explained by the fact that such phenomena do not exist in Turkmenistan (Ministry of Health and Medical Industry).

Diagram 2. Dynamics of priority UNFPA SDG indicators adopted by Turkmenistan

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[9] Assessment of basic (priority) SDG indicators for UNFPA and ICPD. UNFPA, 2021
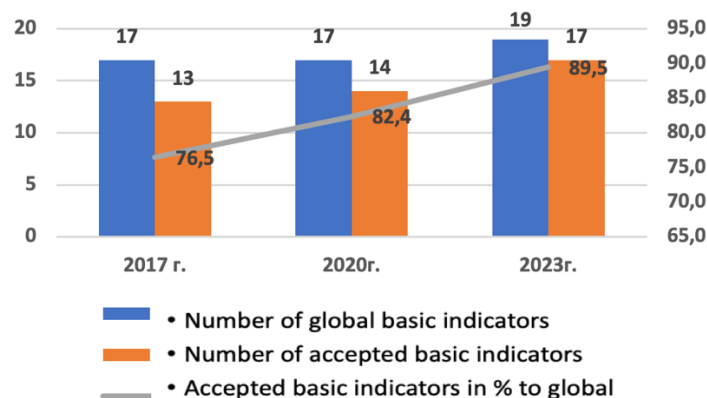
Conclusions

There is progress in the dynamics of the priority UNFPA/ICPD SDG indicators adopted by Turkmenistan: an increase from 76.5% in 2017 and 82.4% in 2020 to 89.5% in 2023.

We will analyze the status and progress of the UNFPA/ICPD prioritized indicators adopted by Turkmenistan for achieving the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

SDG 3 "Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages" has 12 targets and 19 indicators adopted at the national level. The basis ones for UNFPA are the adopted 5 (out of 6 global) indicators: 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.7.1, 3.7.2 and 3.8.1.

Target 3.1 - By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 cases per 100 thousand live births - includes the following indicators.

Indicator 3.1.1 – Maternal mortality rate per 100 thousand live births (classified as Tier I according to the degree of methodological development and accessibility[10]) – Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan is responsible for developing the methodology (taking into account the global one), collecting and processing data, as well as analyzing and preparing the initial report.

There is an established, tested methodology and an accepted international standard[11]. The reliability of the data obtained depends on compliance with uniform rules for the collection, processing of medical and statistical data, their coding, and in cases of death, the selection of the initial cause of death in accordance with the International Classification of Diseases (in particular, ICD-10), which allows taking adequate management decisions to improve the organization of healthcare, adjust the network and staff, as well as implement preventive programs aimed at reducing morbidity and mortality of the population.

At the global level, the responsible agency for this indicator is the World Health Organization. The UN Inter-Agency Group on Maternal Mortality Estimation maintains an input database consisting of maternal mortality data from civil registration, demographic surveys, surveillance systems, censuses, and other specialized studies and surveys. Data on maternal mortality by country can be obtained from the databases of WHO, UN Population Division, UNICEF and the World Bank (MMEIG, which consists

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[10] Tier I is a conceptually well-defined indicator, based on internationally accepted methodology and standards, and data are reported by countries on a regular basis: data are available for at least 50% of countries and 50% of the population in each region to which the indicator applies.

[11] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/

of representatives of WHO, UN Children's Fund/UNICEF, UN Population Fund/UNFPA, World Bank Population Division): http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/monitoring/maternal-mortality-2015/en/ .

Data sources: annual state civil registration; specialized surveys are conducted every 3-5 years and social studies of the population are conducted every 5-7 years; every 10 years – population census.

In Turkmenistan, to measure the IMR, annual reports from the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry are collected (state report form No. 19-health "Report on medical care for pregnant women, women in labor and postnatal women") based on administrative data: civil status records, medical death certificates.

Related indicators – 3.1.2: Proportion of births attended by skilled health workers.

Based on international data sources, in particular the WHO Global Database[12] in Turkmenistan the maternal mortality ratio per 100 thousand live births in 2020 was 5.1 cases; in the second VNR of Turkmenistan "On the progress of implementation of the global Agenda for Sustainable Development" – 2.4[13] cases. In addition, information on indicator 3.1.1 is provided on the TurkmenStat website, on the page "Indicators of goals in sustainable development of Turkmenistan": 2015 - 3.0, 2022 - 1.7 cases per 100 thousand live births[14].

Conclusions and Recommendations

Compared to 2015, the discrepancies between the MMR (10 times) and international data have decreased significantly (2020 – 2.1 times), thanks to the work carried out to harmonize the MoHMIT with the WHO and other international organizations of metadata and quantitative values for this indicator, but the issue remains.

There are several reasons why international organizations' MMR estimates may differ from national statistics. For example, the United Nations Interagency Group on Maternal Mortality Estimates estimates apply an adjustment coefficient to national data to account for incorrect classification due to errors in medical certification to assign causes of death and/or errors in applying the correct code[15]. In this regard, the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry should continue to work with WHO, MUGOMS and other international organizations to agree on the causes of discrepancies in national and international data in order to eliminate them.

In the List of targets and indicators adopted by Turkmenistan, as of December 14, 2023[16], for indicator 3.1.1, it is noted that the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry has the ability to disaggregate the indicator only by region (velayats and Ashgabat city) and age. For some reason, disaggregation based on other criteria is marked as "not applicable." This can be agreed upon regarding disaggregation by gender and economic breakdown. However, taking into account the primary documentation (recording system), it is possible to disaggregate the MMR by ethnicity (and, accordingly, race), territory (urban settlements and rural areas).

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[12] https://data.who.int/indicators
[13] VNR of Turkmenistan "On the progress of implementation of the global Agenda for Sustainable Development", 2023.
[14] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/3-1-1
[15] Measuring maternal mortality: a guide to improving national reporting. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022 (https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/360576).
[16] Matrix – 14.12.2023.Excel

Disaggregation of indicators by wealth (income) is usually difficult in practice because it usually requires sample surveys. To ensure international examination of national data and strengthen their disaggregation, a Demographic Health Study should be periodically conducted. The last DHS was conducted in Turkmenistan in 2000.

Indicator 3.1.2 – Proportion of births attended by skilled medical personnel (Tier I) –Ministry of Health and Medical Industry is responsible for developing the methodology, collecting and processing data, as well as analyzing and preparing the initial report.

There is an established, tested methodology and an accepted international standard. At the global level, the responsible agency is UNICEF, which is working closely with WHO to revise the definition and improve the way this indicator is measured.

Estimates are published annually, in May, in the WHO World Health Statistics report (http://www.who.int/whosis/whostat/en/) and in the UNICEF State of the World's Children report (www.data.unicef.org). UNICEF and WHO maintain joint databases on skilled birth attendants (doctor, nurse or midwife), and both organizations collaborate to ensure consistency of data sources (https://data.unicef.org/topic/maternal-health/delivery-care/#).

Household surveys at the national level are *the main sources for collecting data* on antenatal care indicators. These surveys include Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Multi-Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), Reproductive Health Surveys, and national surveys based on similar methodologies. Surveys are usually carried out every 3-5 years.

Indicator 3.1.2 – Proportion of births attended by skilled medical personnel – is included in the reporting of the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry (annual state reporting No. 19-health "Report on medical care for pregnant women, women in labor and postnatal"), as well as in the MICS survey, which was conducted by TurkmenStat together with UNICEF in 2006, 2012, 2015/2016, and 2019. The State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics conducted field work as part of the seventh round of the Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS-7) from November 2023 to February 2024[17].

For indicator 3.1.2, when data are obtained from household surveys, *disaggregation* is possible by various socio-economic characteristics, including place of residence (urban/rural), household wellbeing (quintiles - 20% of households), education and age of mothers, geographical regions and so on.

In the List of targets and indicators adopted by Turkmenistan, as of December 14, 2023[18], for the indicator 3.1.2, it is noted that the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry has the ability to disaggregate the indicator by region, territory, age (state reporting).

The proportion of births attended by qualified medical personnel made 100% according to the mother and child situation sample survey (MICS-6) conducted by TurkmenStat jointly with UNICEF in 2019[19]. In the WHO Global Database for Turkmenistan, this figure in 2022 was 100%[20]. The second VNR of Turkmenistan (2023) provides a dynamic rows for indicator 3.1.2 for 2015-2022, that is, according to the state reporting of the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, which, in particular, in 2022 made 99.7%[21]. The same data is posted on the TurkmenStat website.[22]

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[17] https://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/index.php/ru/post/75773/turkmenistan-gotovitsya-k-provedeniyu-ocherednogo-raunda-multiindikatornogo-klasternogo-obsledovaniya
[18] Matrix – 14.12.2023. Excel
[19] Turkmenistan: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2019. Report on survey results. State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics, UNICEF, Ashgabat, April 2020.
[20] https://data.who.int/indicators
[21] VNR of Turkmenistan "On the progress of implementation of the global Agenda for Sustainable Development", 2023.
[22] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/3-1-2

Conclusions and recommendations: Turkmenistan has achieved the target value for the indicator 3.1.2. It is necessary to maintain this trend until 2030. There are no discrepancies between national and international data. When data are obtained from administrative sources (reporting), the disaggregation of indicator 3.1.2 is more limited. The focus of future actions should be on improving data quality and expanding data disaggregation.

For global *target 3.7* – By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning services, information and education, and mainstreaming of reproductive health issues in national policies and programmes, *indicator 3.7.1* – Proportion of women of reproductive health age (from 15 to 49 years), whose family planning needs are met by modern methods (Tier I) - the main organization responsible for the development of methodology, collection and processing of data is TurkmenStat, and for the analysis and preparation of the initial report - the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry.

At the global level, the responsible agency is the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the definition of modern methods is given by WHO[23]. DESA's Population Division uses a Bayesian hierarchical model to generate regional and global estimates for each individual reporting year. National estimates generated from this model are used to calculate regional and global averages. DESA's Population Division, together with other partners, is developing a methodology to increase the coverage of Bayesian model-based estimates and projections to include not only women of reproductive age who are married and in civil union, but all women of reproductive age, regardless of marital status.

Internationally countries data is published by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of United Nations Population Division. This indicator is produced at the global level by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with UNFPA:

http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/; www.UnfpaOpendata.org .

Data sources: Contraceptive Prevalence Surveys (CPS), Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Fertility and Family Surveys (FFS), Reproductive Health Surveys (RHS), Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), Monitoring and Accountability Surveys 2020 (PMA), World Fertility Surveys (WFS), other international research programs and national surveys.

The source of national data is the Multiple Indicator Survey of Children and Mothers (MICS), which is periodically conducted in the country by TurkmenStat together with UNICEF.

Recommended disaggregation: age, geographic location, marital status, socioeconomic status, and other categories depending on the data source and number of observations. In the List of targets and indicators adopted by Turkmenistan, as of December 14, 2023, for the indicator 3.7.1 it is noted that TurkmenStat has the ability to disaggregate the indicator by: regions, territory, age, welfare (income).

In 2013-2021, according to the WHO Report "World Health Statistics 2023: Monitoring Health Indicators in Relation to the SDGs," the proportion of women of reproductive age whose family planning needs are met using modern methods in Turkmenistan was 79.6%[24]. According to the results of MICS-6, conducted in Turkmenistan in 2019, this indicator also made 79.6%[25], [26].

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[23] http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs351/en/; http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(12)62204-1/fulltext

[24] World health statistics 2023: monitoring health for the SDGs, sustainable development goals. WHO, 2023.

[25] Turkmenistan: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2019. Report on survey results. State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics, UNICEF, Ashgabat, April 2020.

[26] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/3-7-1

Related indicators: Indicator 3.7.1 is linked with the SDG target 3.8 (Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all) because information provision on family planning and practices for all people who want to prevent pregnancy is an important component of achieving universal health coverage.

This indicator is also linked to the SDG 5.6 (Achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and reproductive rights in line with the ICPD Program of Action, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of their follow-up conferences), as meeting the demand for family planning is facilitated by increasing access to sexual and reproductive health services, and improves sexual and reproductive health and the ability to exercise reproductive rights.

Conclusions and recommendations

There are no discrepancies between international and national data for the indicator 3.7.1 (2019). However, it should be taken into account that before MICS-6 (that is, until 2019), the indicator reflected only part of the necessary components of the indicator 3.7.1, in particular the use of contraceptive methods by women of reproductive age. While, for the indicator 3.7.1, according to the WHO definition, "Family planning is a set of socio-economic, legal, medical measures aimed at the birth of desired, healthy children, the prevention of abortion, the preservation of reproductive health, and the achievement of harmony in marriage"[27], provides a much wider meaning.

Differences in survey design and conducting interviews, as well as differences in questionnaire formulation and administration, may affect the comparability of data[28]. The most common differences relate to the range of contraceptive methods used and the characteristics (age, sex, marriage) of the individuals for whom contraceptive prevalence is estimated (the reference population). The time frame used to estimate contraceptive prevalence may also vary.

There is an unfavorable declining trend in Turkmenistan under the indicator 3.7.1 by 0.9% in 2019 while compared with 2016.

In connection with the above, it is necessary to continue working to improve the methodology for measuring the indicator 3.7.1, improve the quality of data, its comparability and disaggregation.

For the indicator 3.7.2 – Birth rate among adolescents (aged 10-14 years, aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in this age group (level I) – TurkmenStat is identified as the main responsible organization for methodology development, collection and processing data, MoHMIT - for analysis and preparation of the initial report.

There is an established, tested methodology and accepted international standard[29]. At the global level, the responsible agency is the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Methodological work is being carried out to develop annual, comparable, age-specific fertility rates broken down by year and mother's age, as well as to estimate the fertility rate of girls under age 15.

The *preferred data source* is from the civil registration system. Estimates based on civil registration system are provided only when a country reports at least 90% coverage and when there is a reasonable comparison between civil registration estimates and survey estimates. The census and

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[27] http://www.who.int/ru/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/family-planning
[28] https://unstats.un.org/wiki/display/SDGeHandbook/Indicator+3.7.1
[29] Guidelines for collecting data on fertility and mortality. UN publication, sold under No. R. E. 03.17th century. 11 (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesF/SeriesF_92E.pdf);
Indirect methods of demographic assessment. UN publication, sold under No. R. E. 83.XIII.2. (http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/Manual_X/Manual_X.htm).

household survey are alternative sources when reliable civil registration data is not available. Generally, there are no discrepancies between international and national data. However, some published national data may be adjusted by the UN Population Division to improve comparability. In this case, notes are used to indicate when adjustments were made and where the data differs from the standard definitions.

Data on this indicator at the global level are produced by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with UNFPA (http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/; www.UnfpaOpendata.org).

Recommended disaggregation: age, education, number of living children, marital status, socioeconomic status, geographic location, and other categories depending on the data source and number of observations.

In Turkmenistan, the provision of data for the indicator 3.7.2 is based on civil registration system (administrative data from civil registry offices). MoHMIT has introduced the age group of 10-14 for this indicator into internal reporting since 2018.

In the List of targets and indicators adopted by Turkmenistan as of December 14, 2023, the indicator 3.7.2 provides for disaggregation by: regions, territory, age and wealth (income).

Connected indicators[30]: Indicator 3.7.2 is linked to SDG 5.6 (Achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and reproductive rights in line with the ICPD Program of Action, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of their follow-up conferences), as the reduction in adolescent fertility that can be achieved through increased access to sexual and reproductive health services also reflects improvements in sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights themselves. The indicator is also linked to Target 17.19 (By 2030, build on current initiatives, develop other indicators to measure progress towards sustainable development in addition to gross domestic product and promote statistical capacity-building in developing countries), as the teenage birth rate depends partially on birth registration and census data. Strengthening civil status and vital statistics systems in countries that can achieve 100% birth registration coverage, and timely census data are important for assessing progress towards the target 3.7.

According to government statistics (TurkmenStat), published in the second VNR of Turkmenistan, the birth rate among adolescent girls aged 15-19 years decreased from 37.5 per 1000 women in this age group in 2015 to 22.9 in 2022, which is a positive trend[31]. The indicator is disaggregated by territory - urban settlements and rural areas. However, on the TurkmenStat website there is no information on indicator the 3.7.2 at all.

In the WHO Report "World Health Statistics 2023: Monitoring Health Indicators in Relation to the SDGs" in 2013-2021, the birth rate among adolescent girls in Turkmenistan was 27.5 per 1000 women in the age group 15-19 years[32]; in the Human Development Report 2021/2022: in 2015-2020. – 21.8 (15-19 age)[33]. According to the results of MICS-6 (2019), the birth rate among adolescent girls age 15-19 was 22% (ppm[34]).

Conclusions and recommendations

There is no information in global databases and national sources for Turkmenistan on indicator 3.7.2 – the birth rate among adolescent girls age 10-14. TurkmenStat has administrative data (registry

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[30] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/

[31] VNR of Turkmenistan "On the progress of implementation of the global Agenda for Sustainable Development", 2023.

[32] World health statistics 2023: monitoring health for the SDGs, sustainable development goals. WHO, 2023.

[33] Human Development Report 2021-2022. Uncertain times, unsettled lives: Our future in a changing world. UNDP, 2022.

[34] Promille (lat. per mille - per thousand) - one thousandth, 1/10 percent; denoted by (‰); used to indicate the number of thousandths of something in its entirety.

offices) on the birth rate among adolescent girls under 15, but they are not accessible. It is necessary to ensure the availability of national data and continue to work on expanding the disaggregation of the indicator.

According to government statistics (TurkmenStat), published in the second VNR of Turkmenistan, the birth rate among adolescent girls age 15-19 decreased from 37.5 per 1000 women in this age group in 2015 to 22.9 in 2022, so there is a positive trend. The indicator is disaggregated by territory - urban settlements and rural areas. However, on the TurkmenStat website there is no information at all on indicator 3.7.2. The list of SDG indicators adopted on December 14, 2023 and information on them should be updated on the TurkmenStat website.

Global *target 3.8* – Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all – includes a UNFPA core *indicator 3.8.1* – Coverage of essential health services (Tier I), defined as the average coverage of essential services for monitored services, which include reproductive health, maternal and child health, treatment of communicable diseases, treatment of non-communicable diseases, and extent and accessibility of services for the general population and for the most disadvantaged groups of the population)[35].

MoHMIT is the main responsible agency for methodology development, data collection and processing, analysis and preparation of the initial report. At the global level, the responsible agency for this indicator is WHO.

Index 3.8.1 currently includes two other SDG indicators – 3.a.1 and 3.d.1. Indicator 3.8.1 should always be interpreted in conjunction with another UHC SDG indicator, in particular 3.8.2, which measures financial protection.

Together with the World Bank, WHO has developed a framework to track progress towards UHC by monitoring the situation in both categories, taking into account the overall level and level of UHC equity, that is, the provision of services and financial protection to all members of the population concerned, in particular the poor and population in remote rural areas. The Service Coverage Index is based on existing, publicly available data and estimates of the indicator's components. These figures have already gone through a consultation process with each country (for example, for immunization coverage) or are taken directly from country data. In 2017 WHO Member States[36] held consultations on the country's baseline indicators for 2015[37]. The first release of UHC coverage index baseline values took place in December 2017. Updates are released every two years. In 2021, the index was assessed for all years from 2000 to 2019 and for all countries.

Indicator 3.8.1 is an index displayed on a unit scale from 0 to 100, which is calculated as the geometric mean of 14 health service coverage indicators. Detailed metadata for each of the 14 components is available on the WHO website: https://data.who.int/ru/indicators/i/9A706FD.

The indicator can be *disaggregated*: by territory (urban settlements and rural areas), regions, other aspects of inequality - household welfare/income, gender, age, etc. It is recommended to replace this approach with complete disaggregation of all 14 indicators as soon as the data is available. As noted

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[35]List of amended, excluded and additional SDG indicators according to the Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators, April 2020; Excel file Matrix 24_March 2020. xlsx.

[36] Turkmenistan became a member of WHO on July 2, 1992 and since then has been consistently expanding cooperation with this international organization.

[37] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/

on the WHO website, "...full disaggregation of the 3.8.1 index is not currently possible because not all trace indicators have data that allows disaggregation."[38].

In the List of targets and indicators adopted by Turkmenistan as of December 14, 2023, according to the indicator 3.8.1, disaggregation is not provided for at all (absent). In addition, the indicator 3.b.3 – Proportion of medical institutions that constantly have a set of basic necessary and accessible medicines – has not been adopted.

Data sources: Many health coverage indicators are measured by household surveys. However, for certain indicators, administrative data, facility data, facility surveys, and sentinel surveillance systems are used.

All UN member states[39] decided that they will strive to achieve universal health coverage by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals and in accordance with the 2019 Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage. The importance of UHC and emergency preparedness increases amid the COVID-19 and other infectious disease pandemics[40].

Each country is unique and may have its own priorities and develop its own ways of measuring progress towards UHC. In this way, the index can be calculated using existing data sources and does not require the initiation of new data collection efforts solely to inform the index. However, there is also value in a global approach, based on the use of internationally recognized standardized indicators that are comparable both between countries and timewise.

Turkmenistan, according to metadata[41], calculates indicator 3.8.1 as the geometric mean of 14 indicator indicators of health service coverage.

The WHO Report "World Health Statistics 2023: Monitoring health indicators in relation to the SDGs" for indicator 3.8.1 for Turkmenistan provides data for 2021 - 75%[42]. In the VNR of Turkmenistan (2023), according to national data (MoHMIT), the coverage of basic health services in 2019 was 88.5%, in 2020 - 88.6%, in 2021. – 87.8%[43]. Similar data is posted on the TurkmenStat website.[44]

Conclusions and recommendations

It is expected (by WHO) that in the future, relevant SDG indicators will be used instead of some components of the indicator 3.8.1. The timing of these changes will depend on when comparable values for these indicators become available for most countries and will follow consultation with all WHO member states.[45]

There are discrepancies between international (WHO) and national (MoHMIT) data on the indicator 3.8.1. In this regard, it is necessary to clarify the MoHMIT and WHO methodology for measuring the indicator 3.8.1, taking into account the available information (including disaggregation) and dynamic rows (history) in order to eliminate discrepancies.

For **SDG 5** – Ensuring gender equality and empowering of all women and girls – Turkmenistan adopted 8 targets and 12 indicators. The priority (basis) indicators for UNFPA are 5 indicators (out of 6 global) – 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.3.1, 5.6.1 and 5.6.2.

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[38] https://data.who.int/ru/indicators/i/9A706FD
[39] Turkmenistan was admitted to membership of the UN on March 2, 1992 at the 82nd plenary meeting of the 46th session of the UN General Assembly.
[40] Policy brief: COVID-19 and universal health coverage. UN, October 2020.
[41] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/3-8-1
[42] World health statistics 2023: monitoring health for the SDGs, sustainable development goals. WHO, 2023.
[43] VNR of Turkmenistan "On the progress of implementation of the global Agenda for Sustainable Development", 2023.
[44] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/3-8-1
[45] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/

For global *target 5.2*: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking in persons and sexual and other forms of exploitation, the *indicator 5.2.1* – Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older who have been subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by type of violence and by age and *5.2.2* – Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and over who experienced sexual violence by non-relative partners, in previous 12 months, by age and place of onset (Tier II[46]) – at the global level, responsible agencies include: UNICEF, UN Women, UN Statistics Division, UNFPA, WHO. There is an established, proven and detailed methodology[47].

The main responsible structure at the national level for the development of indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 is the Working Group for the Survey and IGPiDT.

There are four main types of domestic violence identified in the world: physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence[48]. The main problem with economic (financial) violence is that it is difficult to diagnose. Victims of economic violence often perceive it as part of the family constitution. Symptoms usually do not appear outwardly, and sometimes their awareness comes too late. Women suffer from economic (financial) violence three times more often than men[49].

SDG targets and indicators include three types of violence: physical, sexual and psychological[50]. It should be noted that studies often use different age groups. This is largely due to the fact that relatively few adolescents enter into marriage or other formal union before age 18. There is a standardized and validated measurement tool (Conflict Tactics Scale[51]), widely accepted and used in many countries to measure intimate partner violence.

Population-based surveys that collect information from victims provide the most accurate estimates of the prevalence of intimate partner violence and sexual violence. A 2018 WHO analysis of data on the prevalence of violence against women for 161 countries and areas between 2000 and 2018, commissioned by the UN Inter-Agency Working Group on Violence against Women, found that almost one in three women (or 30% of women) experience physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner, sexual violence from another person, or both in their lifetime[52]. Estimates of the prevalence of intimate partner violence range from 20% in the Western Pacific Region, 22% in high-income countries in the European Region and 25% in the Region of the Americas, to 33% in the African Region, 31% in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and 33% in the South East Asia Region[53].

As global practice has shown, under the conditions of self-isolation and quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic, women have become even more vulnerable to abuse from partners and known risk factors, while services have become less accessible to them. Humanitarian crises and displacement can exacerbate existing problems of violence, including intimate partner violence, as well as sexual violence by others, and give rise to new forms of violence against women.

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[46] Tier II is a conceptually well-defined indicator based on internationally accepted methodology and standards, but data are reported irregularly by countries.

[47] UN Guidelines for the Compilation of Statistics on Violence against Women – Statistical Studies", UN, 2014.

[48] http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm

[49] https://www.the-village.ru/situation/quotes/economic-nasilie

[50] http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm

[51] The Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS), created by Murray A. Straus in 1979, is used in family violence research. There are two versions of CTS: CTS2 (an extended and modified version of the original CTS) and CTSPC (CTS Parent-Child).

[52] https://www.who.int/ru/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women

[53] Violence against women Prevalence Estimates, 2018. Global, regional and national prevalence estimates for intimate partner violence against women and global and regional prevalence estimates for non-partner sexual violence against women. WHO: Geneva, 2021

In 2019, WHO and UN Women, with the support of 12 other UN and bilateral organizations, published the RESPECT women report, a framework for preventing violence against women for policymakers[54].

Recommended disaggregation is by age groups and location of violence. In addition to type of violence and age, the following are suggested as desirable variables for disaggregation for this indicator: income/wealth, education, ethnicity (nationality), disability status, geographic location and frequency of violence. In the List of targets and indicators adopted by Turkmenistan, as of December 14, 2023[55], the indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 provide for disaggregation by region, territory, age and income.

Although administrative data from health, police, courts, justice and social services, among other services used by survivors, can provide information on violence against women and girls (mainly physical and sexual violence), they do not provide data on prevalence, but rather incidence data or number of cases received from these services[56]. Evidence shows that many abused women do not report the abuse and those who do tend to be the most serious cases only. Therefore, administrative data should not be used as a data source for this indicator.

The main *sources of data* on the prevalence of intimate partner violence (indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2) are: (1) specialized national surveys measuring violence against women; (2) international household surveys that include a module on women's experiences of violence, such as the DHS (Demographic and Health Survey).

At the national level, the source of information for indicator 5.2.1 – Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and over who experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by type of violence and by age and 5.2.2 – Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and over who experienced sexual violence by non-relatives in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence – results from the Turkmenistan Women's Health and Status Survey, which includes modules on prevalence, causes and consequences of all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence (physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence). The survey is planned to be conducted periodically by the Institute of State, Law and Democracy of Turkmenistan together with TurkmenStat. So far it is the first survey in Turkmenistan, conducted in 2020-2022 with the support of UNFPA.

Questions on indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 have been included in the MICS-7 survey, the results of which will be available in 2024.

Connected indicators:
with indicator 5.2.1

5.2.2. Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and over who experienced sexual violence by someone other than an intimate partner in the past 12 months, by age and location;

11.7.2. Proportion of people who experienced physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability and location in the past 12 months;

16.1.3. Proportion of the population who experienced physical, psychological or sexual violence in the last 12 months;

16.2.3. Proportion of young women and men aged 18 to 24 who experienced sexual violence before age 18;

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[54] RESPECT women: Preventing violence against women. WHO, UNDP, UNFPA *et al.*
[55] Matrix – 14.12.2023.Excel
[56] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/

with indicator 5.2.2

5.2.1. Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older who experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the past 12 months, by type of violence and age;

11.7.2. Proportion of people who experienced physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability and location in the past 12 months;

16.1.3. Proportion of the population who experienced physical, psychological or sexual violence in the last 12 months;

16.2.3. Proportion of young women and men aged 18 to 24 who experienced sexual violence before age 18.

Methods and recommendations available to countries for compiling data at the national level:

1. UN Women - Global Database on Violence against Women, available at: http://evawglobal-database.unwomen.org/en;

2. UNICEF information portal: http://data.unicef.org/child-protection/violence.html;

3. Portal of the UN Statistics Division on a minimum set of gender indicators: http://genderstats.un.org/beta/index.html#/home;

4. UN Statistics Division - Specialized portal for data and metadata on violence against women: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/vaw/.

Conclusions and recommendations

Data on indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 for Turkmenistan are not available in international sources. Typically, as per international practice, only data published by countries is used. As per Turkmenistan's VNR-2023, in 2021, the indicator 5.2.1 – The proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older who were subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months was 5.4 %, and the indicator 5.2.2 – Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older who were subjected to sexual violence by persons other than close relatives in the previous 12 months – reported 0.3%[57]. The same data is presented on the TurkmenStat website.[58]

In the Survey on Health and Status of a Woman in the Family conducted in 2020-2022, the age of respondents was 18-59 years. The global indicator measures the percentage of women and girls aged 15 years and older. In the future, it is necessary to carry out work to improve the methodology, expand disaggregation, and increase the comparability of data and their accessibility.

For the ***target 5.3:*** Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, *indicator 5.3.1* was adopted - Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before the age of 15 and before the age of 18 (level I) – at the global level, the responsible agency is UNICEF, other interested organizations are WHO, UNFPA, UN Women, UN DESA/Population Division.

The responsible organization for indicator 5.3.1 at the national level for developing the methodology, collecting and processing data, as well as analyzing and preparing the initial report is TurkmenStat.

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[57] Source of information: Sample survey "Health and status of women in the family in Turkmenistan", IGPiDT, UNFPA, 2020/2021.
[58] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/5-2-1 ; https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/5-2-2

There is an established and tested methodology[59]. This indicator should cover both formal (i.e. marriages) and informal unions. Informal unions are generally defined as those in which a couple has lived together for some time, intends to have a long-term relationship, but for which there has been no formal civil or religious ceremony (that is, cohabitation).

Data sources: Household surveys such as DHS and MICS, supported by UNICEF, have collected data on this indicator in low- and middle-income countries since the late 1980s. In some countries, such data is also collected through national censuses or other household surveys. The modules used to collect information on marital status among women and men of reproductive age (15–49 years) in the DHS and MICS have been fully harmonized.

Recommended disaggregation of the indicator 5.3.1 – age, income, place of residence, geographical location, education, ethnicity (for some countries). In the List of targets and indicators adopted by Turkmenistan as of December 14, 2023[60], indicator 5.3.1 provides disaggregation by region, territory, age and level of income.

The UNICEF database is available on the website: http://data.unicef.org/child-protection/child-marriage.html.

The marriage rate for the indicator 5.3.1 – The share of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before 15 years of age and under 18 – is an annual state report of TurkmenStat based on administrative data from the registry offices of the Ministry of Adalat (Justice). However, they only cover official (registered) marriages.

To obtain complete data on marriages and unions, the results of the Multiple Indicator Integrated Survey (MICS) sample should be used with more detailed data disaggregation (official and civil marriages, unions).

In Turkmenistan, according to the results of MICS-6 (2019), child marriage (indicator 5.3.1) – The percentage of women aged 20–24 years who entered into (in)formal marriage for the first time was[61]: (a) before they reach the age of 15 years – 0.2%; (b) before they reach the age of 18 – 6.1%. The UN Global Database provides the same data. The TurkmenStat website provides data on indicator 5.3.1 - Proportion of women aged 20 to 24 years who entered into marriage or union before 15 years of age (2016 - 0%, 2019 - 0.2%) and under 18 (2016 2019 – 5.7%, 2019 – 6.1%).[62] The same data was published in VNR 2023.

The questionnaire for the Survey of the Health and Status of a Woman in the Family in Turkmenistan included questions on the indicator 5.3.1 – The proportion of women aged 20 to 24 years who entered into marriage or union (unregistered relationships) before 15 years of age and before 18 years of age. Possible disaggregation - by place of residence, level of education, level of well-being (income).

Conclusions and recommendations

There is an increase in the number of early marriages (MICS 5-6) in 2019 compared to 2016, that demonstrates the decline for the indicator 5.3.1. There are no discrepancies between international and national data. Looking forward, the focus should be on improving data availability, quality, comparability and disaggregation.

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[59] http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc14/2014-18-GenderStats-E.pdf
[60] Matrix – 14.12.2023.Excel
[61] Turkmenistan: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2019. Report on survey results. State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics, UNICEF, Ashgabat, April 2020.
[62] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/5-3-1

Under the global *target 5.6*: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and the realization of reproductive rights in accordance with the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the conferences to review progress in their implementation, the *indicator 5.6.1* was adopted – Proportion of women aged 15-49 who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health (level II). Globally responsible agencies: UNFPA[63], other interested organizations – UN Women.

To obtain data for the SDG indicator 5.6.1, all three questions must be included in the survey. The three questions in the "Definition" section contain general questions that can be used in country-specific surveys. For the first and second questions, they should include different categories for women making decisions on their own and for women making decisions together with their husband/partner.

TurkmenStat was identified as the main responsible organization for developing the methodology, collecting and processing data at the national level, and MoHMIT for the analysis and preparation of the initial report.

Data Sources: Data may be obtained from nationally representative Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). Data sources increasingly include Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and Generation and Gender Surveys (GGS), as well as other country-specific household surveys. Data are collected in accordance with the methodology used for the relevant national survey[64].

Recommended disaggregation: Based on available household survey data, disaggregation is possible by age, geographic location, place of residence, education, and wealth quintile (by 20% household group). In the List of targets and indicators adopted by Turkmenistan as of December 14, 2023, indicator 5.6.1 provides disaggregation by region, territory, age and income.

Related indicators with indicator 5.6.1:

3.1.1: Maternal mortality rate;

3.1.2: Proportion of births attended by skilled health workers;

3.7.1: Proportion of women of reproductive age (from 15 to 49 years) whose family planning needs are met by modern methods;

3.7.2: Adolescent birth rate (ages 10 to 14 and ages 15 to 19) per 1000 women in a given age group;

5.2.1: Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older who experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the past 12 months, by type of violence and age;

5.6.2: Number of countries with laws and regulations guaranteeing full and equal access to sexual and reproductive health services, information and education for women and men aged 15 years and older.

According to the results of MICS-6, conducted in 2019 by TurkmenStat together with UNICEF, indicator 5.6.1 – Percentage of women aged 15-49 years who are currently in (in)official marriage, who independently make decisions regarding sexual relations, use contraception and health protection –

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[63] https://www.unfpa.org/sdg-5-6
[64] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/

amounted to 42.2%[65], the same figure was published in the VNR-2023 of Turkmenistan[66] and on TurkmenStat website[67]. The UN Global Database for indicator 5.6.1 in Turkmenistan in 2019 shows a figure of 59.3% (Proportion of women who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, use of contraceptives and reproductive health)[68].

Conclusions and recommendations

There are discrepancies between national (TurkmenStat) and international data (UN). Moreover, in both cases the MICS, conducted in Turkmenistan in 2019, is indicated as the source of information. It is necessary for TurkmenStat, together with UNFPA and UNICEF, to clarify the methodology for measuring indicator 5.6.1 and expand its disaggregation.

Indicator 5.6.2 – Number of countries with laws and regulations guaranteeing full and equal access to sexual and reproductive health services, information and education for women and men aged 15 years and older (Tier II) – by responsible entity at the national level, the Mejlis is responsible for the development of the methodology, TurkmenStat and the Mejlis are responsible for collecting and processing data, MoHMIT together with the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan is responsible for the analysis and preparation of the initial report, taking into account the relevant regulations adopted and in force.

The responsible agency at the global level is UNFPA. There is a proposed UNFPA/UN Women methodology[69]. Indicator 5.6.2 measures solely the existence of laws and regulations and barriers to their implementation. It does not measure the implementation of such laws/regulations. Country-by-country assessments are not made internationally.

Data sources: Indicator 5.6.2 is calculated from official government responses collected from the UN Population and Development Survey of Governments. The survey, mandated by the UN General Assembly in its resolution 1838 (XVII) of 18 December 1962, has been carried out by the Secretary-General since 1963. All questions required for indicator 5.6.2 are included in Module II of the Fertility, Family Planning and Reproductive Health Survey. Baseline data collected in 2019 and 2021. Further data collection will be carried out every 4 years[70].

Connected indicators:

3.1.1: Maternal mortality rate;

3.1.2: Proportion of births attended by skilled health workers;

3.3.1: Number of new HIV infections per 1000 uninfected people, by gender, age and membership of key population groups;

3.7.1: Proportion of women of reproductive age (from 15 to 49 years) whose family planning needs are met by modern methods;

3.7.2: Adolescent birth rate (ages 10 to 14 and ages 15 to 19) per 1000 women in a given age group;

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[65] Turkmenistan: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2019. Report on survey results. State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics, UNICEF, Ashgabat, April 2020.
[66] VNR of Turkmenistan "On the progress of implementation of the global Agenda for Sustainable Development", 2023.
[67] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/5-6-1
[68] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database
[69] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/
[70] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/

5.2.1: Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older who experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the past 12 months, by type of violence and age;

5.6.1: Proportion of women aged 15 to 49 years who make informed decisions about sexuality, contraceptive use, and use of reproductive health services.

Recommended disaggregation: Data should be disaggregated by subject area. This will enable countries to identify specific areas of sexual and reproductive health, information and education in which progress is required. In the List of tasks and indicators adopted by Turkmenistan as of December 14, 2023, the disaggregation of indicator 5.6.2 is not provided for at all (it is noted that it is not applicable).

According to the DESA questionnaire completed by Turkmenistan, the rate of 5.6.2 in 2022 was 94%. This figure is given in VNR-2023 and on the TurkmenStat website [71]. The UN Global Database shows the same figure for the same period[72].

Conclusions and recommendations

Data for Turkmenistan in available international and national sources for indicator 5.6.2 (2022, DESA survey) matches.

The relevant institutional structures of Turkmenistan (ministries and departments) should actively participate in UN surveys on SDG indicators (online questionnaires, etc.). It is very important that such studies are carried out in accordance with methodologies (instructions) unified for all participating countries and under the direct supervision of international experts; this ensures the reliability and comparability of data.

Under **SDG 10** – Reducing inequalities within and between countries, ***target 10.3***: Ensure equality of opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcomes, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting the adoption of appropriate legislation, policies and measures in this direction – Turkmenistan has adopted 8 tasks and 8 indicators. The priority (core) *indicator* for UNFPA is *10.3.1* – Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law (number of complaints per 100 thousand population, level II).

The responsible organization at the global level is the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Indicator 10.3.1 in its wording duplicates (is identical) to indicator 16.b.1.

At the national level, the responsible structure for the development of methodology, collection and processing of data, as well as analysis and preparation of the initial report is the Office of the Ombudsman (based on the published annual reports of the Ombudsman - starting from 2017, and also more detailed information from the Office of the Ombudsman).

OHCHR recommends adherence to the principles set out in Human Rights-Based Approaches to Data[73] (HRBAD), which are based on internationally agreed standards in the field of human rights and statistics. The indicator measures the overall prevalence of discrimination and harassment in the

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[71] VNR of Turkmenistan "On the progress of implementation of the global Agenda for Sustainable Development", 2023;https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/5-6-2
[72] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database
[73] https://unsdg.un.org/ru/resources/podkhod-k-sotrudnichestvu-v-oblasti-razvitiya-na-osnove-prav-cheloveka-dostizhenie

population at the national level[74]. The indicator will not necessarily provide information about the prevalence of discrimination in specific population groups. This will depend on the sampling frame.

Data sources: Household surveys such as MICS, victimization[75] surveys and other social surveys.

Disaggregation: For this indicator, disaggregation should be carried out as required for the SDG target 17.18 (income/wealth, gender/sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics appropriate to national circumstances)[76]. According to the List of targets and indicators adopted by Turkmenistan as of December 14, 2023, disaggregation of indicator 10.3.1 will be carried out by: regions, territory, gender and nationality.

Related indicators:

• 5.1.1. Availability of a legal framework for promoting and ensuring equality and non-discrimination on the basis of gender and monitoring the situation in this area;

• 16.1.3. Proportion of the population who experienced physical, psychological or sexual violence in the last 12 months;

• 16.a.1. Availability of independent national human rights institutions operating in accordance with the Paris Principles;

• 16.6.2. Proportion of the population that is satisfied with their recent experience of using government services.

Based on the materials of the Report of the Authorized Representative for Human Rights - Ombudsman on his activities and the situation in the field of human rights in the country in 2022[77] (Chapter IV. Analysis of work with complaints), 523 complaints were registered, of which 356 (or 68.1%) were written complaints and 167 (31.9%) were oral complaints. As in previous years, the majority of written appeals received by the Ombudsman's Office, in particular 147 (or 41.3%) were received from residents of the city of Ashgabat; in second place - 60 (16.9%) in Dashoguz velayat, in third - 55 (15.4%) Balkan velayat, followed by Mary velayat - 32 (9%), Lebap velayat - 22 (7.2%) and Ahal velayat – 27 (7.6%). By gender, more written complaints were received from women (56.5%) than from men (43.5%). By nationality (ethnicity), the largest number of written complaints came from Turkmens (73.2%), then from Russians (12.3%), Kazakhs (9.4%, taking into account repeated collective complaints), Azeris (2.7%) and etc.

By nature, written complaints from citizens of Turkmenistan largely concern issues related to housing law - 31%, dissatisfaction with court decisions - 12.3%, dissatisfaction with unlawful actions of law enforcement officers - 9.9%, labor law - 4.4%, registration issues – 4.1%.

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS-6), conducted in Turkmenistan in 2019 by TurkmenStat together with UNICEF, included a module on victimization (section 9.4). The methodology for this section was based on the Victimization Survey Guidelines of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.[78] *Women aged*

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[74] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/
[75] Victimization (lat. victima - victim) - the process or end result of becoming a victim of a criminal attack by a person or group of persons.
[76] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/
[77] https://ombudsman.gov.tm/reports.html
[78] Guidelines for conducting victimological surveys. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Geneva: UN. https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Crime-statistics/Manual_on_Victimization_surveys_2009_web.pdf.

15-49 years who were victims of robbery or assault in the last three and one year before the survey were surveyed, broken down by various questionnaire characteristics (include indicators SDG-10: 10.3.1, as well as SDG-16: 16.1. 4, 16.3.1, 16.b.1).

According to MICS-6 (2019), the percentage of *women aged 15–49 years* who felt discriminated against or harassed in the past 12 months on grounds prohibited by international human rights law in Turkmenistan was 2.6%[79]. This figure partially reflects indicators 10.3.1 and 16.b.1, which according to the metadata should include the *entire adult population* (including men)[80]. In the UN Global Database for Turkmenistan in 2019, the indicator 10.3.1 is reported 2.7%[81].

Conclusions and recommendations

On the TurkmenStat website for indicator 10.3.1 for 2017-2022, zero values are provided, which raises doubts[82]. Correct data should be provided (even if the values less than one, but greater than zero).

It is not possible to calculate the relative indicator - the number of appeals per 100 thousand population based on the Report of the Ombudsman due to the lack of available official national demographic data. The Report of the Ombudsman of Turkmenistan should provide data on the relevant indicators (10.3.1, 16.a.1, 16.b.1) with the required disaggregation. The main goal is to ensure full compliance of national metadata with global ones according to the indicators adopted by Turkmenistan.

Under **SDG 11** – Ensure inclusive, safe, resilient and environmentally sustainable cities and human settlements, *target 11.a* – Support positive economic, social and environmental connections between urban, suburban and rural areas through improved national and regional development planning – Turkmenistan adopted 9 targets and 12 indicators. The priority (core) *indicator* for UNFPA is *11.a.1* – Number of countries that have adopted national urban development programs or regional development plans that: a) take into account population dynamics; b) provide for balanced territorial development (Tier I).

At the national level, the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan is responsible for adapting the global methodology, collecting and processing data, as well as analyzing and preparing the initial report.

At the global level, the responsible organizations for the methodology are the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) and UNFPA. UN-Habitat has published the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, which are the main global reference in this area[83].

The methodology uses a policy assessment framework that assesses and monitors progress at country level to what extend national urban development programs or regional development plans are being developed or implemented to cover or satisfy the following criteria[84]:

1. take into account population dynamics;
2. provide for balanced regional and territorial development;
3. expand the possibilities of maneuvering budgetary funds.

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[79] Turkmenistan: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2019. Report on survey results. State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics, UNICEF, Ashgabat, April 2020.
[80] Metadata for indicator 10.3.1_16.b.1, https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/
[81] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database
[82] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/10-3-1
[83] Follow-up to the New Urban Agenda and strengthening
United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat). Report of the UN Secretary-General, 7 August 2020.
[84] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/

In countries that have National Urban Programs (NUPs) and regional development plans, NUPs are reviewed to ensure they meet the three criteria above. Whereas countries that do not have a NUP or are currently developing a NUP are marked accordingly and labeled as countries on track to develop a NUP. Such countries are counted with zero points to ensure full coverage of the status of all countries.

UN-Habitat and UNFPA, along with many other partners such as the OECD and the Cities Alliance, are working together to collect updated information from Member States on the three criteria in addition to other issues related to national urban development programs and their implementation process.

Especially designed questionnaires are sent to the relevant coordinators responsible for indicator 11a.1 to report the status of indicator. National-level data are collected through training modules that are widely available in many national urban policy and statistical systems. In addition, a data collection process focused specifically on the three qualifiers of indicator 11.a.1 is conducted for the Global State of NUP, published bi-annually. The actions listed above are based on current results of the survey where 67 out of 194 countries participated, as well as using the 2018 NUP baseline data, which included 79 countries that had not yet responded to the 2020 survey but NUP data was available on thematic areas.

UN-Habitat and partners have already compiled and analyzed the NUP at the global, regional and national levels, which provides a strong evidence base and expertise for monitoring this proposed proxy indicator for 11.a.1. Member States were contacted to complete the 2020 Global Status Survey of National Urban Policies, which included various questions regarding the status of individual countries in relation to NUPs, as well as a question related to the indicator 11.a.1.

UN Habitat collects and presents national urban development programs in the National Urban Policy Platform Database: http://urbanpolicyplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/13092018NUP-database.pdf.

The indicator 11.a.1 is associated with many goals and objectives, in particular: 1.4; 1.5; 2.3; 2.s; 5.2; 5.a; 6.1; 6.2; 7.2; 7.3; 8.3; 8.5; 8.6; 9.1; 9.4; 9.a; 10.4; 12.5; 13.1; 13.b; 15.9; 16.7; 16.a; 16.b; 17.14.

Conclusions and recommendations

There is no information on indicator 11.a.1 in national sources. The TurkmenStat website notes that these data are under development and are not yet available[85]. In the UN Global Database, indicator 11.a.1 for Turkmenistan, in 2020 provides the rating "1"[86]. It looks that the database refers to the fact that the country has National Urban Programs (NUPs).

UN-Habitat collects through questionnaires (surveys) and submits information on national urban development programs to the National Urban Development Program Database. Turkmenistan (Ministry of Finance and Economy) should actively participate in the UN-Habitat surveys.

For the **SDG 13** – Taking urgent action to combat climate change and its consequences – Turkmenistan adopted 3 targets and 6 indicators. UNFPA's priorities are targets 13.1 and 13.2.

For *the target 13.1* – Strengthen resilience and ability to adapt to climate hazards and natural disasters in all countries – the UNFPA prioritized *indicator is 13.1.1*: Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population (Tier I). Indicator 13.1.1 duplicates SDG indicators 1.5.1 and 11.5.1.

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[85] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/11-a-1
[86] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database

The responsible organization at the global level for indicator 13.1.1 is the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is an important component of the monitoring and implementation process of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030).

Official SDG metadata can be found at: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/;

Internationally Agreed Methodology and Guidelines: Technical Guidance on Monitoring and Reporting Progress towards the Global Goals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR, 2017): https://www.preventionweb.net/files/54970_collectionoftechnicalguidancenoteso.pdf

Data sources: The Sendai Framework coordinators are designated as data providers at the national level. In most countries, disaster data are collected by line ministries, and national disaster loss databases are created and managed by special purpose agencies, including national disaster management agencies, civil protection agencies, and meteorological agencies. The Sendai Framework focal points in each country are responsible for reporting data through the Sendai Framework Monitoring System. Member States have been able to report through the Monitoring System since March 2018. Data on SDG indicators will be collected and presented to UNDRR.

The Government of Turkmenistan has appointed the Civil Defense and Rescue Department of the Ministry of Defense responsible for reporting through the online Sendai Framework Monitoring System[87]. The Regional Office of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for Europe and Central Asia, in collaboration with the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, organized a three-day training for senior staff of the Civil Defense and Rescue Department of the Ministry of Defense of Turkmenistan on reporting of national progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction using the online systems (June 2020).

Recommended disaggregation of indicator 13.1.1 by: types of hazard; risk groups (for example, using the IRDR classification[88] natural hazards can be disaggregated as climatological, hydrological, meteorological, geophysical, biological and extraterrestrial); dead/missing; age; semi; place of residence and other characteristics (e.g. disability) in order to align them with SDG requirements to the extent appropriate and possible. According to the List of targets and indicators adopted by Turkmenistan as of December 14, 2023, the indicator will be disaggregated by regions, territory, gender and age.

Related indicators: 1.5; 11.5; 11.b; 13.1; 2.4; 3.6; 3.9; 3.d; 4.a; 6.6; 9.1; 9.a; 11.1; 11.3; 11.c; 13.2; 13.3; 13.a; 13.b; 14.2; 15.1;15.2; 15.3; 15.9.

Regarding Turkmenistan and indicator 13.1.1, the UN Global Database shows data equal to zero in 2019[89]. The VNR-2023 of Turkmenistan and the TurkmenStat website provide a dynamic series for 2015-2022, showing the absence of dead, missing, injured and evacuated in the country as a result of disasters or in connection with them[90].

Conclusions and recommendations

In future, the Ministry of Defense of Turkmenistan (Department of Civil Defense and Rescue Operations) should improve the frequency of reports on the vonitoring of the Sendai Framework in order to fully reflect information from Turkmenistan in the UN Global Database.

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[87] https://turkmenistan.un.org/ru/48777-туркменистан-подготовит-отчёт-о-национальном-прогрессе-используя-онлайн-систему-мониторинга
[88] Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) is an international scientific program sponsored by the International Scientific Council (ISC) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
[89] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database
[90] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/13-1-1

For *the target 13.2* – Integrate climate change responses into policies, strategies and planning at the national level, UNFPA priority *indicator is 13.2.1*: Number of countries reporting that they have established or put in place a comprehensive policy/strategy/plan that improves their ability to adapt to adverse impacts of climate change and promoting their resilience to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas issues in a manner that does not jeopardize food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national public information system, preparation of a biennial update report or other) – Tier II (duplicates indicator 13.b.1).

The international organization responsible for global monitoring of indicator 13.2.1 is the UN Climate Change (UNFCCC secretariat), at the national level – the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan.

The Paris Agreement requires each country to prepare, provide and maintain consistent Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), including mitigation, adaptation and support measures. Beginning in 2023 and every five years thereafter, governments will take stock of the Agreement to assess collective progress towards achieving the objectives of the Agreement and its long-term goals. The results of the global stocktaking will inform subsequent NDCs, enabling increased ambition and climate action to achieve the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals[91].

Data sources: official documents and registers submitted by Parties to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement and published on the website https://unfccc.int/ru. The unit of measurement is the number of submissions received from Parties to the UNFCCC. Data is collected at a global level. The NDC Interim Register is available at: https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/Pages/Home.aspx.

Related indicators: The Paris Agreement is directly linked to the SDG indicators – 1.5.1, 1.5.2, 1.5.3, 1.5.4, 3.9.1, 7.a.1, 11.b.1, 12.4.1, 12.4.2 , 12.8.1, 13.1.1, 13.1.2, 13.1.3, 13.2.1, 13.2.2, 13.3.1, 17.9.1, 17.16.1. and indirectly linked to the SDG targets 3.3 and 3.4.

Data on indicator 13.2.1 for Turkmenistan is not available in the UN Global Database. The VNR-2023 of Turkmenistan states that in 2015-2018, 4 strategies and plans were developed, in 2019-2021 - 5, in 2022 - 6. The same figures are presented on the TurkmenStat website.[92]

Conclusions and recommendations
To reflect information on Turkmenistan in the UN Global Database, the Ministry of Environmental Protection needs to improve its work in this direction.

Under the **SDG 16** – Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensuring access to justice for all and creating effective, accountable and participatory institutions at all levels – Turkmenistan adopted 11 targets and 19 indicators. UNFPA's priority is the *target 16.9* – By 2030, ensure that all people have legal identification, including birth certificates, for which Turkmenistan has adopted baseline *indicator 16.9.1*: Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with civil authorities, by age (Tier I). TurkmenStat is responsible for developing the methodology, collecting and processing data for the indicator 16.9.1 at the national level, and the Ministry of Adalat (Justice) is responsible for the analysis and preparation of the initial report.

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[91] https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs
[92] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/13-2-1

According to the indicator 16.9.1, the international organization responsible for global monitoring is the UN Children's Fund. There is an established, tested methodology.

Official website of metadata on SDG indicators: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/;

For information on the calculation of the indicator and access to the MICS module on birth registration - https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/birth-registration/.

Updated UNICEF databases for countries around the world are published on the Internet at: https://www.data.unicef.org;http://data.unicef.org/child-protection/birth-registration.html

Since 2018, UNICEF has launched a new annual consultation process with national stakeholders on selected global SDG indicators for children to ensure that feedback received is reviewed and processed to meet global indicator reporting deadlines.

Data sources for the indicator 16.9.1: The number of children who have acquired their right to legal identification is primarily determined through the census, civil registry system, and household surveys (MICS and DHS methods). Civil registration systems that function effectively provide vital statistics that are used to compare the estimated total number of births in a country with the absolute number of registered births during a given period. However, systematic birth registration remains a serious problem in many countries. In the absence of reliable administrative data, household surveys have become a key source of data for monitoring the levels and trends in birth registration. In most low- and middle-income countries, such surveys are the only source of this information.

Recommended disaggregation: gender, age, income/wealth, place of residence, geographic location.

The indicator is included in the annual state reporting of TurkmenStat on administrative data (ZAGS). The indicator is disaggregated by region, gender and age. Additionally, the results of MICS surveys should also be used.

If data for a country is not fully available, UNICEF does not publish any estimates for that country.

Related indicators to the SDG 16.9.1 include – 1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.3.1, 8.7.1, 10.1.1, 10.2.1.

According to the results of MICS-6 (2019, TurkmenStat and UNICEF), the percentage of children under 5 years of age whose birth was reported to be registered with an official body was 99.9%. Late registration accounts for a very low proportion of 0.1%[93]. These data are available on the TurkmenStat website[94] and in the UN Global SDG Database.[95] There is no disaggregation of indicator 16.9.1 by age.

Conclusions and recommendations

Further increase the effectiveness of the civil registration system (bringing it to 100%). It is possible to disaggregate the indicator (taking into account the MICS-6 survey) by: age, gender, nationality (and, accordingly, race), regions (velayats and the city of Ashgabat), territory (urban settlements and rural areas), migration status (in terms of citizenship, excluding internal migration), income (welfare). Indicator 16.9.1 needs to be disaggregated according to global metadata.

According to UN estimates, Turkmenistan has one of the lowest open data inventory coverage index rate among all countries in the world (ODIN, 2022 – 1.1). For example, in 2022, in Kyrgyzstan it

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[93] Turkmenistan: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2019. Report on survey results. State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics, UNICEF, Ashgabat, April 2020.
[94] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/16-9-1
[95] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database

was 60.1, in Uzbekistan – 58.8, Kazakhstan – 58.5, Tajikistan – 46.8[96]. TurkmenStat, as well as relevant national ministries and agencies, need to improve the SDG monitoring and reporting system.

For the **SDG 17** – Strengthening the means of implementation and intensifying work within the framework of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development – Turkmenistan adopted 9 targets and 10 indicators. UNFPA prioritized targets are 17.18 and 17.19.

Target 17.18 – By 2020, strengthen the support for capacity-building in developing countries, including least developed countries and small island developing states, to significantly improve the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender and age, race, nationality, migration status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics that are significant given national context. The UNFPA/ICPD priority is the indicator 17.18.1, adopted by the country with the wording: "The share of sustainable development indicators adopted by Turkmenistan for which reporting is provided", that means that the indicator is a "proxy"[97]. The wording of the global indicator 17.18.1 (Tier II) is "Proportion of sustainable development indicators collected at the national level, fully disaggregated by relevant topics according to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics."

Since TurkmenStat is responsible for creating the SDG database in the country[98], the development of the methodology, data collection and processing, as well as the analysis and preparation of the initial report is assigned to TurkmenStat, which must annually calculate this indicator indicating the actual disaggregation of indicators in the current reporting system.

At the global level, the responsible agency for the methodology is the UN Statistics Division, as well as the custodian agencies of the SDG indicators and their governance structures.

Potential for producing a set of official statistics from national databases to support the SDGs: The ODIN Coverage Index indicates the presence of important statistical indicators from 22 categories of social, economic and environmental statistics. Each data category is assessed against five coverage elements, which determine how comprehensive is the data a country offers.

Five elements of coverage:
1. Availability of indicators and disaggregated data;
2. Availability of data for the last five years;
3. Availability of data for the last ten years;
4. Availability of data at the first administrative-territorial level;
5. Availability of data at the second administrative-territorial level.

Information on all elements is collected for each data set assessed in ODIN, with the exception of elements 4 and 5, which are not included for some data categories or for small countries. The ODIN methodology can be used to collect data at the national level: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1q1h0_z0TUGayO-qN9o3ablmo_qVdSGgPgU_Ptq5xrdU.

At the global level, country data is collected every two years. The last data collection period was June–October 2022, and the next data collection will begin in June 2024. Time series: 2016-2018 – annually, every two years – from 2020.

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[96] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database
[97] In statistics, a "proxy" or proxy variable is a variable that is not directly relevant in itself but replaces an unobserved or unmeasured variable.
[98] Decree of the President of Turkmenistan on approval of the institutional structure of the SDG monitoring system in Turkmenistan, November 17, 2017.

Data sources: National Statistics Office website assessment by Open Data Watch assessors and any official government websites or portals linked to the NSO website. That means the assessment will cover the TurkmenStat website/site, as well as other official government sites or portals linked to the TurkmenStat website.

Related indicators to the SDG indicator 17.18.1 – 17.18.2, 17.18.3, 17.19.1, 17.19.2.[99]

The TurkmenStat website provides a dynamic series of indicator 17.18.1 for 2015-2022, which increased from 64.4% to 70.0%[100]. However, according to global metadata, the accessibility of official statistics is expressed through the index the value of which ranges from 0 to 100 (0 indicating no accessibility and 100 indicating complete accessibility). In this case, when calculating the index, a scoring is carried out by data categories according to the ODIN methodology.

The UN Global Database on Turkmenistan for indicator 17.18.1 provides information for the period from 2016 to 2022[101]: Index of efficiency of data sources (component 4 of the effectiveness of statistical indicators) - decreased from 17.1 to 11.7 (meaning decline). The data infrastructure efficiency index (component 5) increased 3 times from 2016 to 2019 (from 5 to 15), but in 2019-2022 it stagnated (at 15); Open Data Inventory Coverage Index (ODIN) – 1.1.

Conclusions and recommendations

There is no metadata on the TurkmenStat website for the indicator 17.18.1. As per available data, TurkmenStat's measurement methodology for indicator 17.18.1 – The share of sustainable development indicators adopted by Turkmenistan for which reporting is provided does not correspond to the global ODIN methodology, and therefore national data will not be recognized by international organizations. Each country's estimates are reviewed for accuracy and consistency using the ODIN methodology. Turkmenistan should adopt the formulation and methodology for measuring global indicator 17.18.1.

According to UN estimates, Turkmenistan has one of the lowest open data inventory coverage index among all countries in the world (ODIN, 2022 – 1.1). For example, in 2022, in Kyrgyzstan it was 60.1, in Uzbekistan – 58.8, Kazakhstan – 58.5, Tajikistan – 46.8. TurkmenStat, as well as relevant national ministries and agencies, need to improve the SDG monitoring and reporting system.

For **target 17.19** – By 2030, building on current initiatives, develop other indicators to measure progress towards sustainable development in addition to gross domestic product and promote statistical capacity-building in developing countries – UNFPA prioritizes the indicator 17.19. 2 – Proportion of countries that: a) conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and b) achieved the birth registration target of 100%. At the national level, TurkmenStat is responsible for developing the methodology, collecting and processing data, as well as analyzing and preparing the initial report on indicator 17.19.2.

The international organization responsible for global monitoring is the UN Statistics Division.

Indicator 17.19.2(a) tracks the proportion of countries that have conducted at least one population and housing census in the past 10 years. It also includes countries that collect disaggregated population and housing statistics from population registers, administrative records, sample surveys or other sources, or in combinations of those sources[102].

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[99] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/
[100] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/17-18-1
[101] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database
[102] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/

Data sources: ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2015/10 for holding the 2020 World Program of Population and Housing Censuses requests the Secretary-General to "monitor and report regularly to the Statistical Commission on the implementation of the Programme." In response to this request, UNSD regularly monitors the progress of population and housing censuses in Member States. UNSD sends out a survey to all countries asking for detailed metadata on census practices at three points (beginning, middle, end) over a 10-year period covering the decade of the census[103]. The 2020 round of the census covers the period 2015–2024. In addition, information is also collected through annual questionnaires sent to countries as part of the UN Demographic Yearbook.

Disaggregation: Indicator 17.19.2(a) can be disaggregated by geographic region[104].

Turkmenistan conducted a population and housing census from December 17 to 27, 2022. International experts from the United Nations Population Fund, who observed the census processes in Turkmenistan, and noted that they are in compliance with international standards[105]. Now, the task is to ensure the availability of data on the population and housing census conducted in Turkmenistan in 2022.

For the *indicator 17.19.2 (b)* – achieved the target of birth registration in 100 percent of cases – The international organizations responsible for global monitoring are the UNSD and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

In accordance with the Principles and Recommendations for Vital Statistics System (Revision 3)[106], complete civil registration is defined as: "The registration in the civil registration system of every vital event occurring to members of the population of a specified country (or within its territory) during a specified period, with the result that each such event has a vital record and the system reached 100% coverage."

Method of data collection: National levels of completeness of birth and death registration are provided by the National Statistical Offices of all countries and territories to the UN Statistics Division as part of the annual data collection for the UN Demographic Yearbook. This information is typically reported as part of the vital statistics questionnaire metadata worksheets. The template for this questionnaire is available at: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/products/dyb/index.cshtml#questionnaires.

Currently, the thresholds used to compile data for indicator 17.19.2(b) are 90 percent for birth registration.

Recommended disaggregation: By definition, the subcomponents of the indicator 17.19.2(b) refer to national levels of birth registration completeness (that is, country). However, identification of the completeness of birth registration in subnational administrative territories, as well as by income, gender, age group, disability status, etc. very important for monitoring and improving the functioning of birth registration systems. In the List of targets and indicators adopted by Turkmenistan as of December 14, 2023[107], for the indicator 17.19.2, disaggregation is not provided.

There is no information on indicator 17.19.2 (b) for Turkmenistan in the UN Global SDG Database. The VNR-2023 of Turkmenistan provides data on the results of MICS 5-6: 2016 - 99.6%, 2019 - 99.9%[108]. The same data is published on the TurkmenStat website [109].

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[103] http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/wphc/default.htm
[104] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/
[105] https://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/ru/post/74129/mezhdunarodnye-eksperty-perepis-naseleniya-turkmenistana-sootvetstvuet-mezhdunarodnym-standartam
[106] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/standmeth/principles/M19Rev3en.pdf
[107] Matrix – 14.12.2023.Excel
[108] VNR of Turkmenistan "On the progress of implementation of the global Agenda for Sustainable Development", 2023.
[109] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/17-19-2

Conclusions and recommendations

Indicator 17.19.2 (a) – The results of the population and housing census conducted by Turkmenistan in December 2022 are planned to be published by TurkmenStat at the end of the second quarter of 2024. It is necessary to ensure the availability of final results.

There is no information on indicator 17.19.2 (b) for Turkmenistan in the Global SDG Database (UN). National data must be made available.

Indicator 17.19.2 (b) consists of two parts: the first relates to birth registrations and the second covers mortality registrations for each individual country or area. Turkmenistan did not accept the second part - "... achieve the goal of registering deaths in 80 percent of cases." As there is a fairly high level of death registration in Turkmenistan (data from civil registry offices), it is advised to accept the second part of the indicator 17.19.2 (b) - regarding mortality.

2. Practice of using sustainable development indicators

The thoughtful use of indicators at all levels is the key to the success of sustainable development policies.

Sustainable development indicators around the world are widely used in practice by various entities [110]:

- *Government bodies* use them to develop strategies and evaluate their effectiveness;
- *Business* applies for ESG[111]–reporting: a special type of reporting on progress in the field of sustainable development, containing non-financial information, including factors related to the environment, society and corporate governance, as well as the impact on the achievement of international and national development goals; planning, benchmarking: benchmark assessment - comparative analysis based on benchmark indicators as a process of identifying, understanding and adapting existing examples of the effective functioning of an enterprise in order to improve its own work;
- *Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)* – for situation analysis and advocacy (a term from the practice of US non-governmental organizations, meaning a campaign aimed at representing and protecting the rights and interests of a certain social group);
- *Citizens* – for a better understanding of sustainable development. Indicators help make informed decisions and coordinate efforts in the field of sustainable development.

To effectively use sustainable development indicators, it is recommended for:

Government agencies to integrate indicators into the processes of strategic planning and performance assessment. Improve data collection methods;

B*usinesses* to use indicators in non-financial reporting and to build a strategy. Participate in the formation of industry indicators;

NGOs to analyze the dynamics of indicators, draw attention to important problems. Participate in public control;

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[110] https://fb.ru/article/510063/2023-indikatoryi-ustoychivogo-razvitiya-vidyi-opisanie-i-printsipyi-rabotyi?ysclid=lty15l37oh628920898
[111] Environmental, social, governance.

Citizens to study indicators to understand sustainable development processes. Participate in data collection and monitoring.

On November 17, 2017, the Resolution of the President of Turkmenistan (No. 438) was adopted to approve the coordinating body - the institutional structure of the SDG monitoring system in Turkmenistan, including the creation of a Working Group on SDGs, which includes representatives of more than 50 national ministries and departments, hyakimliks of velayats and the city of Ashgabat, public organizations (NGOs), research institutes and higher educational institutions for the purpose of practical implementation of the SDGs in the country[112]. The Ministry of Finance and Economy has been appointed as the coordinating body to monitor progress in implementing the SDGs. In accordance with the abovementioned Presidential Decree, TurkmenStat, together with government agencies, khyakimliks of velayats and the city of Ashgabat and other organizations, develops reporting forms, methodological guidelines and explanations for SDG indicators related to their jurisdiction, ensures the creation and maintenance of a database, data collection, analysis of statistical indicators for the implementation of the SDGs.

Turkmenistan is also developing systems of indicators for sustainable development, taking into account national specifics, in particular, taking into account the peculiarities of the structure of the economy, settlement, resource use, etc. In addition, indicators are integrated into key strategic planning documents of Turkmenistan.

3. Level of integration of target SDG indicators for UNFPA/ICPD into national planning documents

To determine the degree of integration of the SDGs into national planning documents, a Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) is used according to the UNDP methodology[113]. In order to identify the relevance of the applicability of the SDGs in Turkmenistan, UNDP conducted three assessments of existing national, regional and sectoral programs: in 2017, 2019 and 2022.

In the RIA conducted in 2017, 16 planning documents were selectively analyzed, in 2019 - 18, in 2022 - 24. Based on the results of the assessments, a fairly high level of integration[114] of SDG objectives adopted by Turkmenistan was identified in existing national program documents: in 2017 – 84%, 2019 – 85% and in 2022 – 85%[115]. Unlike the previous period (mainly the planning period 2015-2020), all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (RIA-2019 - 16 SDGs, there was no SDG-14) are integrated into the national planning documents currently being implemented in Turkmenistan (2021-2025).

Conceptually, the objectives adopted by Turkmenistan are fully integrated (100%)[116] for priority SDGs for UNFPA: 3, 11, 13 and 17. For SDG 5, the level of integration was 75%, SDG 10 – 50% and SDG 16 – 82%.

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[112] Note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan (No. 06-22290n) dated 11.17.2016
[113] Country Readiness to Implement SDG Assessment (RIA), UNDP.
[114] Level of integration – correlation of the goals and objectives of national planning documents and the SDG targets adopted by the country.
[115] Comprehensive selective assessment of the implemented national planning documents of the degree of integration into them of the SDG objectives and indicators adopted by Turkmenistan for the period until 2030. UNDP, 2022.
[116] Officially, as of June 23, 2022, Turkmenistan adopted 17 goals, 136 objectives and 180 SDG indicators.

Diagram 3. Level of integration of the SDG objectives adopted by Turkmenistan into the implemented planning documents on the priority Sustainable Development Goals for UNFPA/ICPD (%, 2022)
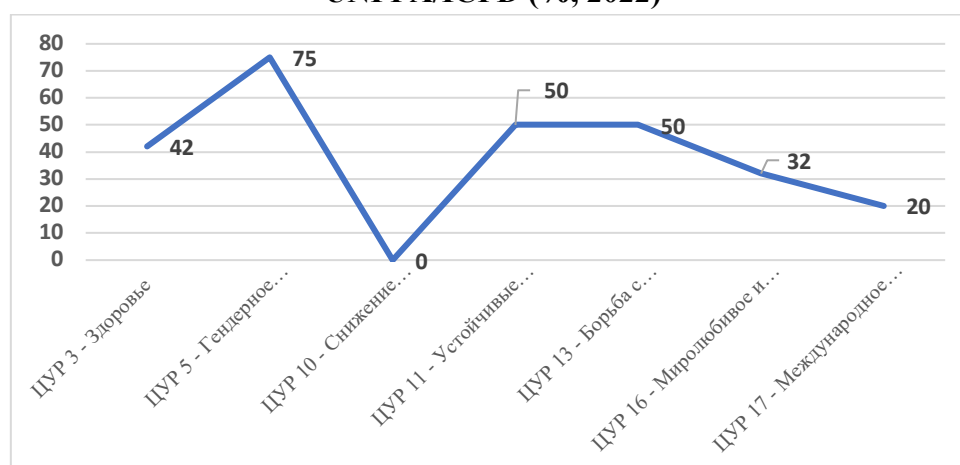

SGD 17; SDG16; SDG13; SDG11; SDG10; SDG5; SDG3

The largest number of SDG objectives are conceptually integrated into the Program of the President of Turkmenistan for the socio-economic development of the country in 2022-2028, second place is taken by the long-term National Program for Socio-Economic Development of Turkmenistan for 2022-2052 and third place - the National Program of Turkmenistan for the Aral Sea for 2021-2025 years. It should be noted that these three programs include all three components of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental.

According to the results of the RIA analysis in 2022, compared to 2019, the level of integration of indicators increased from 29% to 35%. The highest indicator of the level of integration of indicators adopted by Turkmenistan on the priority SDGs for UNFPA/ICPD was identified for Goal 5 - Ensuring gender equality and empowering all women and girls (75%), not a single indicator for the Goal 10 – Reducing inequality within and between countries (0%) – was included in national planning documents.

Diagram 4. Level of integration of SDG indicators adopted by Turkmenistan in implemented planning documents on priority Sustainable Development Goals for UNFPA/ICPD (%, 2022)

SDG3; SDG5; SDG10; SDG11; SDG13; SDG16; SDG17

Of the 63 integrated into the 24 national planning documents reviewed, 10 SDG target indicators have a quantitative assessment (of which 5 are for SDG 3, one is for SDG 5), 14 target indicators do not require quantitative assessment, 22 quantitative planning indicators have an indirect or partial attitude towards SDG indicators. For example, according to indicator 3.8.1, there is a forecast of one of the constituent components - immunization.

The largest number of quantitative SDG target indicators were identified in the implemented National Action Plan for Children's Rights in 2018 – 2022 (6 indicators) and for Goal 3 – Ensuring a healthy lifestyle and promoting well-being for all at any age (5 indicators).

The ten target quantitative planning indicators included those that correspond to the SDG metadata. For example, the National Action Plan for Children's Rights for 2018–2022 envisaged bringing the maternal mortality rate to 3.0 cases per 100 thousand live births by 2022 (SDG indicator 3.1.1), as well as relative target indicators (growth rates or reduction), which allow one to make calculations in relation to the base value to obtain the target result.

Table 1. Number of integrated SDG indicators in planning documents implemented by Turkmenistan, taking into account their qualitative characteristics for the UNFPA/ICPD priority Sustainable Development Goals (units)[117]

SDG	Short SDG name	Presence of SDG target indicator				
		quantitative	with an attribute *	partially or indirectly reflecting the indicator	conceptually connected **	TOTAL
3	Health	5 (**3.1.1**, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.3.2, 3.b.1)	0	2 (**3.8.1** и 3.d.1)	1 (3.c.1)	**8**
5	Gender equality	1 (5.b.1)	2 (5.1.1 и **5.6.2**)	0	6 (**5.2.1, 5.2.2**, 5.4.1, 5.5.1, 5.5.2, **5.6.1**)	**9**
10	Reducing inequality	0	0	0	0	**0**
11	Sustainable cities	0	2 (**11.a.1** и 11.b.1)	4 (11.1.1, 11.2.1, 11.3.1, 11.7.1)	0	**6**
13	Fighting climate change	0	3 (13.1.2, **13.2.1**, 13.3.1)	0	0	**3**
16	Peaceful and open society	0	1 (16.a.1)	0	5 (16.1.3, 16.5.1,	**6**

17	International partnership	0	0	1 (17.11.1)	16.5.2, 16.10.1, 16.b.1)	
					1 (17.18.1)	2

Note: *) Does not require quantitative assessment; **) Absence of quantitative assessment of target SDG indicator.

In the selective national planning documents reviewed in RIA-2022, the target quantitative value is the UNFPA prioritized indicator 3.1.1, 3 indicators do not require quantitative assessment (5.6.2, 11.a.1 and 13.2.1 - filling out questionnaires/surveys), one indicator partially reflects (3.8.1 - one of the components), 4 priority indicators are related only conceptually, without a quantitative target value (5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.6.1 and 17.18.1). Thus, 9 (or 52.9%) of the 17 priority indicators adopted by Turkmenistan for UNFPA/ICPD were integrated to one or several national planning documents; 8 (47.1%) indicators were not reflected at all.

Conclusions and recommendations

According to the results of RIA-2022 (UNDP), a positive trend was identified with the inclusion of target indicators in national planning documents (an increase of 6 percentage points compared to 2019), which is very important for monitoring progress in achieving the SDGs by Turkmenistan.

The situation in the field of planning has improved in terms of ensuring the unifying the availability of Action Plans with responsible implementing agencies assigned to them along with implementation periods. Out of the 24 national planning documents reviewed in 2022, 91.7% had Action Plans indicating implementation deadlines (2019 - 72.2%), 83.3% had identified responsible implementors for each activity (in 2019 – 72.2%).

At the same time, the RIA analysis (UNDP, 2022) showed that Turkmenistan needs further steps to further nationalize the SDGs, in particular: improving the regulatory framework for strategic planning, the system of financing sustainable development; determination of a list of the main priority accelerator indicators for the country (including basic ones for UNFPA/ICPD) for inclusion in planning documents for which statistical data and target indicators are available, for each adopted SDG target clearly defined and adapted by Turkmenistan, in order to conduct monitoring to measure progress implementation of the SDGs in the country and identifying challenges with the subsequent development of solutions.

The need to further strengthen data collection and statistical capacity to implement the SDGs remains valid, as the strategic implementation of the 2030 Agenda depends on the availability of timely and reliable data, and, in their absence, on the development of internationally comparable indicators.

4. Rating of Turkmenistan's progress towards achieving the SDGs

On June 21, 2023, the UN Sustainable Development Goals Report was published[118]. This is the eighth edition of the annual assessment of the progress of all UN Member States towards achieving the

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[118] https://sdgs.un.org/gsdr/gsdr2023

SDGs. The report includes a ranking of countries on the 2023 SDG Index and dashboards assessing progress made by countries[119].

The Report assesses the progress of 166 countries, with 100 points meaning that all SDGs have been achieved. In 2023, the leaders in the ranking were Finland (88.76 points), Sweden (85.98) and Denmark (85.68). According to the report's authors, there is a risk that the gap in SDG achievement between high- and low-income countries in 2030 will be larger than in 2015, when countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To date, on average since 2015, the world has made some progress in improving access to key infrastructure under SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy) and SDG 9 (industry, innovation). However, only limited progress has been made towards achieving goals such as SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate change), SDG 14 (life below water) and SDG 15 (life on land). The report highlights that at the current rate of progress, none of the SDGs will be achieved by 2030. On average, only about one-fifth of the SDG targets are on track to be achieved. At the same time, for the third year in a row, global progress towards achieving the SDGs remains static.

Among the Central Asian countries in the ranking according to the SDG achievement index for 2023, Kyrgyzstan took 45th place, followed by Kazakhstan (66th place), Uzbekistan (69th place), Tajikistan (85th place) and Turkmenistan (91st place)[120]. The experience of the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic in building a system for monitoring and reporting the SDGs was cited in the 2020 UN global report as one of the successful examples of building a national system for monitoring the SDGs among the countries of the world.[121]

For the period from 2015 to 2022, there is a positive trend of growth in the rating of Turkmenistan's progress in achieving the SDGs from 66.8 to 68.5 points.

Diagram 5. Dynamics of the rating of Turkmenistan's progress in achieving the SDGs (points)[122]
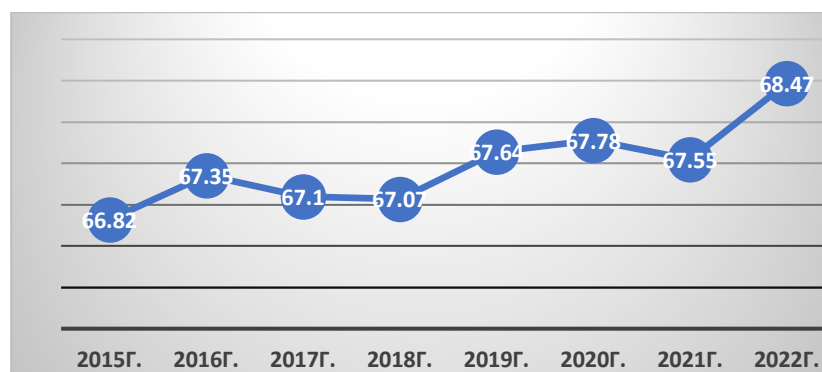
Trends in achieving SDGs by Turkmenistan differ according to priority sustainable development goals for UNFPA/ICPD.

Table 2. Dashboards and achievement trends for priority SDGs for UNFPA/ICPD by Turkmenistan[123]

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[119] The UN non-profit organization SDSN, specializing in analyzing the achievement of the SDGs, presented its eighth report for 2023.
[120] https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/rankings
[121] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/investing-in-data-to-save-lives-and-build-back-better/
[122] https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/turkmenistan/fact-sheet
[123] https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/turkmenistan

SDG 3 *Good health and well-being*	SDG 5 *Gender equality*	SDG 10 *Reducing inequality*	SDG 11 *Sustainable cities and communities*	SDG 13 *Combatting climate change*	SDG 16 *Peace, justice and strong institutions*	SDG 17 *Partnerships to achieve goals*
○ – major problems remain; → – The score stagnates or increases by less than 50% of the required indicator	○ – problems remain; ↗ – The score is improving moderately, not sufficient to achieve the goal	○ – no information available; … – no information available	○ – significant problems remain; → – The score stagnates or increases by less than 50% of the required indicator	○ – significant problems remain; → – The score stagnates or increases by less than 50% of the required indicator	○ – significant problems remain; → – The score stagnates or increases by less than 50% of the required indicator	○ – significant problems remain; → – The score stagnates or increases by less than 50% of the required indicator
3.1.1 – ○ ↑	5.6.1 – ○ ↗	…	…	…	16.9.1 – ○ …	17.18.1 – ○ →
3.1.2 – ○ ↑						
3.7.1 - ○ ↗						
3.8.1 - ○ ↑						

Info panels:

○ – SDG achieved; ○ – problems remain; ○ – significant problems remain;

○ – major problems remain; ○ – information unavailable.

Trends:

↑ – on the way to achieving or maintaining the SDGs; ↗ – moderate improvement;

→ – stagnation[124]; ↓ – decrease; ... – information on trends unavailable.

According to the UN organization SDSN, 28.6% of the SDG trend indicators for Turkmenistan have reached or are on the way to achieving their target values, however, for the same number of indicators (28.6%) there is deterioration in the situation.

Diagram 6. Status of SDG targets for Turkmenistan

(% of trend indicators)[125]

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[124] Stagnation (from Latin stagnatio - immobility, stagnum - standing water) is a widely used term, in any area meaning a slowdown or stoppage of development, stagnation.
[125] https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/turkmenistan
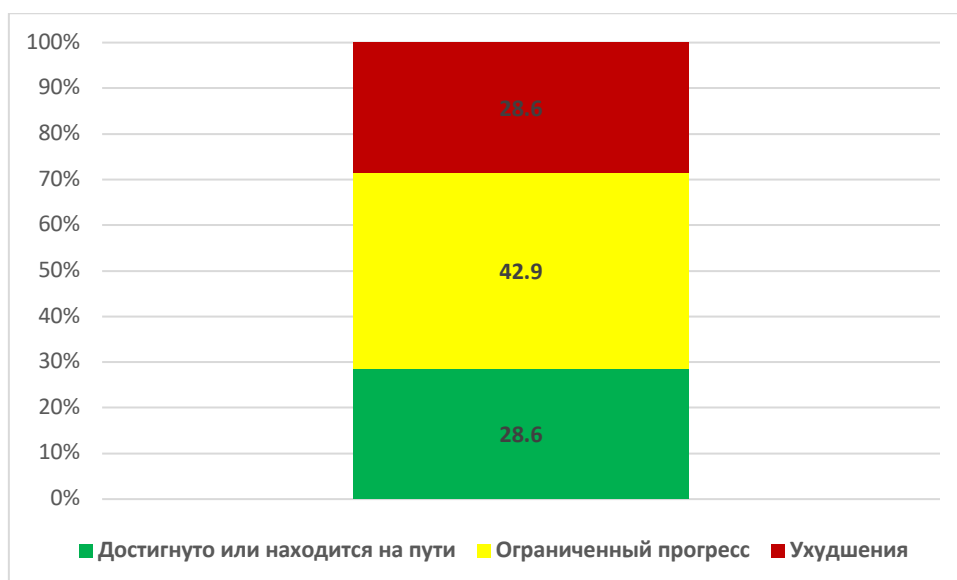
Achieved or on the way/limited progress/deterioration

Despite the growing trend, one of the main reasons for the low value of the SDG progress index, in our opinion, is Turkmenistan's failure to submit many national data to the relevant international organizations (low accessibility), to the UN Global Database and the presence of discrepancies. International organizations, in case of non-submission or irregular submission of data on many indicators, conduct their own assessment of the indicator for the country.

Conclusion

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Turkmenistan, as throughout the world, has faced global challenges, in particular the COVID-19 pandemic. The timely response of the Government of the country contributed to reducing the risks of the spread of infectious diseases, as well as mitigating the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the most vulnerable sectors of the economy[126].

In order to mitigate the negative consequences of the pandemic, Turkmenistan has launched a process of reviewing and updating the national strategy for the implementation of major socio-economic reforms, taking into account the accepted global commitments to achieve the SDGs. The latest revision of the objectives and indicators adopted by Turkmenistan as of December 14, 2023, approved 17 sustainable development goals, 131 objectives and 175 indicators[127].

UNFPA will use the Strategic Plan to mobilize resources and ensure alignment of its corporate strategies with the 2030 Agenda and will provide ongoing oversight throughout its three strategic plans. Currently, the second UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 is being implemented[128], according to which the priority sustainable development goals for UNFPA and ICPD are: 3, 5, 10, 13, 16 and 17. Ultimately, the Strategic Plan contributes to the achievement of SDG 1 - End poverty everywhere in all its forms.

The UNFPA Strategic Plan for 2022–2025 additionally included SDG 13 and two indicators – 13.1.1 and 13.2.1, which strengthened the environmental component. Thus, the total number of priority

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[126] VNR of Turkmenistan "On the progress of implementation of the global Agenda for Sustainable Development", 2023.
[127] List of objectives and indicators adopted by Turkmenistan as of December 14, 2023 (Matrix – 14.12.2023.Excel).
[128] UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022–2025. Second Regular Session 2021, August 30–September 2, 2021, New York.

global indicators for UNFPA makes 19. In accordance with the first UNFPA Strategic Plan for 2018-2021, 17 indicators were basic.

The main objectives of sustainable development indicators are:
• Assessment of the current state of development of a country or region;
• Tracking progress towards achieving sustainable development goals;
• Comparative analysis of different countries and regions;
• Identifying problem areas that require intervention.

Sustainable development indicators have a number of features:
• Adaptation to national conditions during use is necessary;
• Often require modification and expansion;
• Difficulty in obtaining initial data;
• Trade-off between completeness and usability.

These features are associated with the complexity of the sustainable development process itself and the multidimensionality of assessment. However, indicators are a critical tool for assessing current status and charting paths for progress.

In Turkmenistan, UNFPA conducted two assessments of the availability of a list of priority SDG indicators related to the ICPD - in 2018[129] and in 2021[130]. This Report presents the results of the third assessment.

In recent years, Turkmenistan has achieved some progress in implementing sustainable development goals:
1. On July 9, 2023, Turkmenistan, at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, presented the second Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which was highly appreciated by UN member states. The VNR 2023 included priority SDGs for UNFPA/ICPD such as 3, 5, 11, 13 and 17.
2. A national statistical reporting platform on the Sustainable Development Goals was launched. This online platform is a single center for collecting and summarizing up-to-date information on achieving the SDGs and readiness for national reports. SDG data is open to the general public and available on the TurkmenStat website[131]. The purpose of creating such a national platform is to develop a system for monitoring and evaluating data on the achievement of the SDGs in Turkmenistan, maintaining information openness by providing access to a wide range of users to data on the SDGs. The launch of this platform was carried out within the framework of the project "Platform for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals" (phase 2), which is implemented by the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan together with the United Nations Development Program[132]. It is based on the list of SDG indicators adopted by Turkmenistan and contains detailed information, including metadata, charts (graphs) on SDG indicators.

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[129] Report "Assessment of baseline indicators adopted by Turkmenistan for SDG indicators related to the International Conference on Population and Development." UNFPA, August 2018
[130] Report "Assessment of basic (priority) SDG indicators for UNFPA and ICPD." UNFP, 2021.
[131] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/
[132] https://ru.turkishnewsworld.com/туркменистан-создал-национальную-пл/

3. There is a positive upward trend in the rating of Turkmenistan's progress in achieving the SDGs from 66.8 points in 2015, 67.55 in 2021 to 68.5 points in 2022 [133]. According to the UN organization SDSN, 28.6% of trend SDG indicators for Turkmenistan have reached or are on track to achieve their target values.

4. Progress was revealed in the dynamics of the number of priority (basic) SDG indicators adopted by Turkmenistan for UNFPA/ICPD: growth from 76.5% in 2017, 82.4% in 2020 to 89.5% in 2023.

5. Based on the results of the Rapid Comprehensive Assessment[134] (RIA, UNDP) a fairly high level of integration of the SDGs into the national planning documents of Turkmenistan remains: 2022 - 85%. Conceptually, the objectives adopted by Turkmenistan for priority SDGs for UNFPA are fully (100%) integrated: 3, 11, 13 and 17. For SDG 5, the level of integration was 75%, SDG 10 - 50% and SDG 16 - 82%. According to the results of the RIA analysis in 2022, compared to 2019, the level of integration of SDG indicators increased from 29% to 35%. The highest percentage of the level of integration of indicators adopted by Turkmenistan on priority SDGs for UNFPA was identified for Goal 5 - Ensuring gender equality and empowering all women and girls (75%).

However, in the 2023 global ranking of countries in terms of progress in achieving the SDGs, Turkmenistan took only 91st place out of 166 countries[135]. According to SDSN, 42.9% of SDG trend indicators for Turkmenistan had limited progress, and 28.6% showed deterioration. Of the 7 priority sustainable development goals for UNFPA, 5 (or 71.4%; SDGs - 3, 11, 13, 16 and 17) noted that in the trends in achieving the SDGs, "major problems remain" and "the assessment is stagnating, or increases by less than 50% of the required indicator"; for SDG 5 – "problems remain" and "the assessment is improving moderately, but is not sufficient to achieve the goal"; for SDG 10 – "information is not available."

Based on the results of our research, we compiled a Matrix for assessing the status of the basic (priority) SDG indicators adopted by Turkmenistan for UNFPA and ICPD with recommendations for the list of modified, excluded and additional SDG indicators (as of December 14, 2023), which is presented in Annex 1.

In general, it is necessary to further improve the quality of national SDG indicators (better compliance with international methodology), increase their accessibility ("open data") and expand disaggregation. In addition, information on the indicators adopted by Turkmenistan should be regularly updated on the TurkmenStat website. By the Decree of the President of Turkmenistan (dated November 17, 2017, No. 438), TurkmenStat is entrusted with: jointly with government agencies, hyakimliks of velayats and the city of Ashgabat, and other organizations, develop reporting forms, methodological guidelines and explanations for SDG indicators that fall under their jurisdiction; create and maintain a database on SDGs. In this regard, TurkmenStat must monitor the completeness and compliance of metadata with the methodology of global SDG indicators, and for proxy indicators - with the official list of adapted (nationalized) indicators when including them in the Database.

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[133] https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/rankings

[134] Comprehensive selective assessment of the implemented national planning documents of the degree of integration into them of the SDG objectives and indicators adopted by Turkmenistan for the period until 2030. UNDP, 2022.

[135] https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/chapters/part-2-the-sdg-index-and-dashboards

In general, it is required to:

➤ further improve the quality of national SDG indicators, better compliance with international methodology;

➤ increase their availability ("open data") and expand disaggregation;

➤ regularly update information on indicators adopted by Turkmenistan on the TurkmenStat website;

➤ active and timely participation of national ministries and departments in surveys conducted by international organizations;

➤ improve the SDG monitoring and reporting system by TurkmenStat, as well as relevant national ministries and agencies.

Annex 1: Matrix for assessing the status of priority SDG indicators for UNFPA and ICPD in Turkmenistan with recommendations.

Matrix for assessing the status of priority for UNFPA and ICPD SDG indicators in Turkmenistan with recommendations

(List of changed, excluded and added SDG indicators as of December 14, 2023)

Goal, objective, indicator	Main entity, responsible for:			Linked indicators	Availability of information/data in international sources (Reviews, Reports, databases)	Progress	Gaps	Recommendations
	Development of methodology	Data collection and processing	Analysis and preparation of the initial Report					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
The total number of UNFPA/ICPD priority SDG indicators adopted by Turkmenistan is 17 (out of 19 global agreed ones)[136]								
SDG – 3								
Objective 3.1:								
Indicator 3.1.1 - Maternal mortality rate per 100 thousand live births	MoHMIT	MoHMIT	MoHMIT	3.1.2	WHO global database: 2020 – 5.15 cases per 100 thousand live births	According to UN estimates published in 2019, the maternal mortality rate during childbirth in Turkmenistan is one of the lowest for this indicator in the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia.[137]	Discrepancies between national and international data persist: 2020 WHO – 5.1 cases; MoHMIT - 2.4 (2022 - 1.7)[140]. The Turkmen-Stat website provides MoHMIT data.[141]	MoHMIT should continue to work with WHO and other organizations to agree on the causes of discrepancies between national and international data with a view to eliminating them. To ensure international peer review of national

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[136] List of objectives and indicators adopted by Turkmenistan as of December 14, 2023 (Matrix - December 14, 2023).
[137] https://centralasia.news/6932-turkmenistan-priznan-odnim-iz-luchshih-v-mire-v-oblasti-ohrany-materinstva.html
[140] VNR of Turkmenistan "On the progress of implementation of the global Agenda for Sustainable Development", 2023.
[141] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/3-1-1

						According to WHO data, the indicator has improved compared to 1985[138] The TurkmenStat website provides data from the Ministry of Health[139]		data, a DHS survey should be conducted. Expanded data disaggregation is needed.
3.1.2 - Proportion of births attended by qualified medical personnel	MoHMIT	MoHMIT	MoHMIT	3.1.1	WHO Global Database: 2022 – 100%.	VNR of Turkmenistan (2023) in 2022 – 99.7%. The same data is posted on the TurkmenStat website.[142] According to WHO – improvement is in place since 2000 (+2.8). There are practically no discrepancies between national and international data.		Turkmenistan achieved the target value for the indicator 3.1.2. It is necessary to maintain this trend until 2030. The main attention in the future should be paid to improving the quality of data and expanding its disaggregation.
Objective 3.7:								
Indicator 3.7.1 - Proportion of women of reproductive age (from 15 to 49 years) whose needs for family planning are satisfied by modern methods	Turkmen Stat	Turkmen Stat	MoHMIT	3.8, 5.6	WHO report "World Health Statistics 2023: Monitoring health indicators in relation to the SDGs"[143] - 79,6% (2019).	MICS-6 (2019 – UNICEF and TurkmenStat) - 79.6%[144]. There are no discrepancies between international and national data for indicator 3.7.1 (2019).	Before MICS-6 (until 2019), the indicator reflected only part of the necessary components, in particular the use of contraceptive methods by women of reproductive age. There is an unfavorable downward trend by	Continue the work to improve the methodology application for measuring the indicator, improving the quality of data, its comparability and disaggregation.

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[138] https://data.who.int/ru/indicators/i/AC597B1
[139] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/3-1-1
[142] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/3-1-2
[143] World health statistics – 2023: monitoring health for the SDGs, sustainable development goals. WHO, 2023.
[144] Turkmenistan: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2019. Report on survey results. State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics, UNI-CEF, Ashgabat, April 2020.

							0.9%. under the indicator 3.7.1 in 2019, compared to 2016	
Indicator 3.7.2 - Birth rate among adolescents (aged 10-14 years and aged 15-19 years) per 1000 women in this age group	Turkmen Stat	Turkmen Stat	MoHMIT	5.6, 17.19	WHO report "World Health Statistics 2023: monitoring health indicators in relation to the SDGs" in 2013-2021 - 27.5 ‰ (age 15-19). Report "On Human Development 2021-2022"[145]: in 2015-2020 – 21,8‰ (age 15-19).	MICS-6 (2019 – UNICEF and TurkmenStat) - 22‰ (age 15-19). MoHMIT has introduced the age group of 10-14 age for this indicator into inter-agency reporting since 2018.	On the TurkmenStat website, indicator 3.7.2 is completely absent. TurkmenStat has administrative data (registry offices) on the birth rate among adolescents aged 10-14 years, but they are not acessible.	Update the list of documents, SDG indicators and information on them adopted on December 14, 2023 on the TurkmenStat website. Continue working to expand the disaggregation of the indicator.
Objective 3.8								
Indicator 3.8.1 - Coverage of basic health services	MoHMIT	MoHMIT	TurkmenStat	3.1.2, 3.b.1, 3.c.1, 6.2.1 3.4.1, 3.7.1, 3.a.1, 3.b.3, 3.d.1, 3.8.2	WHO report "World health statistics 2023: monitoring health indicators in relation to the SDGs" 2021. – 75%.	VNR of Turkmenistan (2023): in 2021 – 87.8%. TurkmenStat website: 2019 – 88.5%, 2020 – 88.6%, 2021 – 87.8%.[146]	Turkmenistan has not adopted indicator 3.b.3 – Proportion of medical institutions that constantly have a set of basic necessary and accessible medicines. There are discrepancies between international (WHO) and national (MoHMIT) data on indicator 3.8.1.	It is necessary to clarify the methodology for measuring indicator 3.8.1 between MoHMIT and WHO, taking into account the available information (including disaggregation) in order to eliminate discrepancies.
SDG - 5								

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[145] Human Development Report 2021-2022. Uncertain times, unsettled lives: Our future in a changing world. UNDP, 2022.
[146] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/3-8-1

Objective 5.2:								
Indicator 5.2.1 - Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older who have experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by type of violence and by age	ISLDoT	MoHMIT	ISLDoT, Women's Union	5.2.2, 11.7.2, 16.1.3, 16.2.3	There is no data on indicator 5.2.1 for Turkmenistan in international sources. Typically, in international practice, only data published by countries is used.	With the support of UNFPA, the first sample Survey of the Health and Status of Women in Turkmenistan was conducted in 2020-2022, including modules on the prevalence, causes and consequences of all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence. In the VNR 2023 of Turkmenistan in 2021 indicator 5.2.1 – Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older who have been subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in previous 12 months – is 5.4%[147]. The same data is on the TurkmenStat website.[148]	The global indicator measures the percentage of women and girls aged 15 years and older. In a survey conducted in Turkmenistan, the age of respondents was 18-59 years. There is no disaggregation by ethnicity (nationality) and disability status among respondents/women.	In the future, it is necessary to carry out work to improve the methodology, expand disaggregation, increase the comparability of indicators/data, and their accessibility.
Indicator 5.2.2 – Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and over who experienced sexual violence by someone other than their intimate partner in the	ISLDoT	MoHMIT	ISLDoT	5.2.1, 11.7.2, 16.1.3, 16.2.3	There are no data on indicator 5.2.2 for Turkmenistan in international sources. Typically, in international practice,	In the VNR 2023 of Turkmenistan and on the website of TurkmenStat in 2021 for indicator 5.2.2 – Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and	The global indicator measures the percentage of women and girls aged 15 years and older. In a survey conducted in Turkmenistan, the	In the future, it is necessary to carry out work to improve the methodology, expand disaggregation, increase the comparability of

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[147] Data source: Sample survey "Health and status of women in the family in Turkmenistan", ISLDoT, UNFPA, 2020/2021.
[148] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/5-2-1

					only data published by countries is used.	older who were subjected to sexual violence by persons other than close relatives in the previous 12 months – 0.3%[149],[150].	age of respondents was 18-59 years. There is no disaggregation by ethnicity (nationality) and disability status among respondents/women.	indicators/data, and their accessibility.
Objective 5.3:								
Indicator 5.3.1 – Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18	Turkmen Stat	Turkmen Stat	TurkmenStat	Not applicable	UN Global Database: in 2019, before reaching the age of 15 years – 0.2%; under 18 years old – 6.1%.	MICS-6 (2019 – UNICEF and TurkmenStat): before reaching the age of 15 years – 0.2%; under 18 years old – 6.1%. There are no discrepancies between international and national data.	There is an increase in 2019 compared to 2016 in the number of early marriages (MICS 5-6), that is a deterioration in indicator 5.3.1.	The main attention should be paid to improving the availability, quality of data, their comparability and disaggregation.
Indicator 5.6.1 – Proportion of women aged 15-49 who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health	Turkmen Stat	Turkmen Stat	MoHMIT	3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.7.1, 3.7.2, 5.2.1, 5.6.2	UN Global Database: 2019 - 59.3% (Percentage of women who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, use of contraceptives and reproductive health).	MICS-6: The share of women aged 15-49 years who are currently in (in)official marriage and who independently make decisions regarding sexual relationships, the use of contraception and health care is 42.2% in 2019.	There are discrepancies between national (TurkmenStat)[151] and international data (UN). Moreover, in both cases the MICS, conducted in Turkmenistan in 2019, is indicated as a source of information.	It is necessary for TurkmenStat, together with UNFPA and UNICEF, to clarify the methodology for measuring indicator 5.6.1 and expand its disaggregation.
Indicator 5.6.2 – Number of countries with laws and regulations guaranteeing full	Mejlis	Turkmen Stat, Mejlis	MoHMIT,	3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.3.1,	UN Global Database: 2022 – 94%.	VNR 2023 of Turkmenistan and	In 2019, Turkmenistan did not participate in the UN	Further data collection will be carried out every 4 years. Turkmenistan

[149] VNR of Turkmenistan "On the progress of implementation of the global Agenda for Sustainable Development", 2023.
[150] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/5-2-2
[151] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/5-6-1

and equal access to sexual and reproductive health services, information and education for women and men aged 15 years and older			Ministry of education	3.7.1, 3.7.2, 5.2.1, 5.6.1		TurkmenStat website[152]: 2022 – 94%. Data for Turkmenistan in available international and national sources for indicator 5.6.2 (2022, DESA survey) are the same.	DESA survey on baseline data for 5.6.2.	should actively and timely participate in UN surveys.
ЦУР - 10								
Задача 10.3:								
Indicator 10.3.1 – Proportion of people who report having personally experienced discrimination or harassment in the past 12 months on a ground that is prohibited under international human rights standards (number of applications per 100 thousand population)	Ombuds man Office	Ombuds man Office	Ombudsm an Office	5.1.1., 16.1.3, 16.a.1, 16.6.2	UN Global Database: 2019 – 2,7%.	The annual Report of the Authorized Representative for Human Rights - Ombudsman of Turkmenistan has been published since 2017[153].	MICS-6 (2019) - percentage of women aged 15–49 who, in the past 12 months, felt discriminated against or harassed on grounds prohibited by international human rights law, makes 2.6%. This figure does not fully reflect indicators 10.3.1 and 16.b.1, which according to the metadata should include the entire adult population (including men).	On the TurkmenStat website for indicator 10.3.1 for 2017-2022, zero values are given, which raises doubts[154]. Specified data should be provided. The Report of the Authorized Representative for Human Rights - Ombudsman of Turkmenistan should provide information on the relevant metadata on the adopted indicators (10.3.1, 16.a.1, 16.b.1) with the required disaggregation of indicators. It is necessary to ensure full compliance of

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[152] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/5-6-2
[153] https://ombudsman.gov.tm/reports.html
[154] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/10-3-1

								national metadata with global ones.
SDG - 11								
Objective 11.a.1								
Indicator 11.a.1 – Number of countries that have adopted national urban development programs or regional development plans that (a) take into account population dynamics; b) balanced territorial development is provided	Ministry of Finance and Economy	Ministry of Finance and Economy	Ministry of Finance and Economy	1.4, 1.5, 2.3, 2.c, 5.2, 5.a, 6.1, 6.2, 7.2, 7.3, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 9.1, 9.4, 9.a, 10.4, 12.5, 13.1, 13.b, 15.9, 16.7, 16.a, 16.b, 17.14	In the UN Global Database for Turkmenistan, indicator 11.a.1 for 2020 has the number "1". The data is likely to refer to the fact that the country has National Urban Programs (NUPs)[155].	The TurkmenStat website notes that these data are in the process of development and are not yet available [156].	UN-Habitat collects through questionnaires (publications – 2018, 2020, biannually) and submits national urban development programs to the National Urban Development Program Database. Turkmenistan does not regularly participate in surveys of international organizations.	Turkmenistan (MFoE) should actively and timely participate in UN-Habitat surveys.
SDG - 13								
Objective 13.1								
Indicator 13.1.1 - Number of dead, missing, injured and	MoD	MoD	MoD	1.5; 11.5; 11.b; 13.1; 2.4;	In the UN Global Database for	VNR 2023 of Turkmenistan and	Incomplete information on	In the future, the Ministry of Defense of

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[155] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database

[156] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/11-a-1

				3.6; 3.9; 3.d; 4.a; 6.6; 9.1; 9.a; 11.1; 11.3; 11.c; 13.2; 13.3; 13.a; 13.b; 14.2; 15.1;15.2; 15.3; 15.9	Turkmenistan, indicator 13.1.1 in 2019 = 0.	TurkmenStat website[157]: indicator 13.1.1 in 2015-2022 = 0.	Turkmenistan in Global Databases.	Turkmenistan (Department of Civil Defense and Rescue Works) should improve the frequency of reports on the Monitoring of the Sendai Framework Program in order to fully reflect information on Turkmenistan in the UN Global Database.
Objective 13.2								
Indicator 13.2.1 – Number of countries reporting that they have established or implemented a comprehensive policy/strategy/plan that improves their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and contributes to their capacity development combating climate change and reducing greenhouse gas issues in a way that does not jeopardize food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national public information system, preparation of a biennial	MoEP	MoEP	MoEP	1.5.1, 1.5.2, 1.5.3, 1.5.4, 3.9.1, 7.a.1, 11.b.1, 12.4.1, 12.4.2, 12.8.1, 13.1.1, 13.1.2, 13.1.3, 13.2.1, 13.2.2, 13.3.1, 17.9.1, 17.16.1	There are no data on indicator 13.2.1 for Turkmenistan in the UN Global Database.	VNR 2023 of Turkmenistan: in 2015-2018, 4 strategies and plans were prepared, 2019-2021 - 5, in 2022 - 6. The same figures are presented on the TurkmenStat website [158].	There is no information on Turkmenistan in the UN Global Database.	To reflect information on Turkmenistan in the UN Global Database, the Ministry of Environmental Protection needs to improve its work in this direction.

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[157] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/13-1-1
[158] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/13-2-1

update report or others), (duplicates 13.b.1)								
SDG - 16								
Objective 16.9								
Indicator 16.9.1 – Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births are registered with a civil authority, by age	Turkmen Stat	Turkmen Stat	Adalat Ministry (MoJ)	1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.3.1, 8.7.1, 10.1.1, 10.2.1	UN Global Database: 2019 – 99,9%[159].	MICS-6 (2019, TurkmenStat and UNICEF) - the percentage of children under 5 years of age whose birth was reported to be registered with an official body was 99.9%[160]. Late registration accounts for a low proportion of 0.1%. There are no discrepancies between international and national data.	No disaggregation by age for the indicator.	It is advisable for UNICEF to include the indicator "disability" in the MICS survey questionnaires. The indicator is included in the annual state reporting of TurkmenStat on administrative data (registry office). Additionally, the results of MICS should be used. It is necessary to ensure that the indicator is disaggregated in accordance with global metadata.
SDG - 17								
Objective 17.18								
Indicator 17.18.1 - Share of sustainable development indicators adopted by Turkmenistan for which reporting is provided (proxy, i.e. modified)	Turkmen Stat	Turkmen Stat	TurkmenS tat	17.18.2, 17.18.3, 17.19.1, 17.19.2	UN Global Database: 2022 – 1.1 (open data).	The TurkmenStat website provides a dynamic series of indicator 17.18.1 for 2015-2022, which increased from 64.4% to 70.0%.	The methodology for measuring indicator 17.18.1 by TurkmenStat does not correspond to the global ODIN methodology, and therefore national data will not be recognized by	Turkmenistan should adopt the formulation and methodology for measuring global indicator 17.18.1. TurkmenStat, as well as relevant national ministries and agencies,

[159] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database
[160] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/16-9-1

							international organizations. There is no metadata on the TurkmenStat website for indicator 17.18.1. According to UN estimates, Turkmenistan has one of the lowest Open Data Inventory (ODIN) coverage index among all countries in the world.	need to improve the SDG monitoring and reporting system.
Objective 17.19								
Indicator 17.19.2 - Proportion of countries that: a) conducted at least one population and housing census during the last 10 years; and b) achieved the birth registration goal of 100 percent of cases	Turkmen Stat	Turkmen Stat	TurkmenS tat		UN Global Database – no information on Turkmenistan for indicator 17.19.2.	a) TurkmenStat website: it is indicated that the population and housing census was carried out in 2022.[161] There is brief information on some indicators. b) The VNR-2023 of Turkmenistan provides data based on the results of MICS 5-6: 2016 - 99.6%, 2019 - 99.9%[162]. The TurkmenStat website has the same numbers.[163]	a) Disaggregated results of the 2022 population and housing census are not publicly available yet.

b) There is no information on indicator 17.19.2 (b) for Turkmenistan in the Global SDG Database (UN). Indicator 17.19.2 (b) consists of two parts: the first relates to the registration of births and the second linked | a) Disaggregated results of the Population and Housing Census completed in December 2022 are planned to be published by TurkmenStat at the end of the second quarter of 2024. It is necessary to ensure the accessibility to the final results.

b) Availability of national data must be ensured. It is advised to accept the second part of indicator 17.19.2 (b) - |

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[161] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/17-19-2
[162] VNR of Turkmenistan "On the progress of implementation of the global Agenda for Sustainable Development", 2023.
[163] https://sdg.stat.gov.tm/ru/indicator/17-19-2

							to the registration of deaths in each individual country or area. Turkmenistan did not accept the second part – death registration. It shall be noted that in Turkmenistan there is a fairly high rate of death registration (data from civil registry offices).	regarding death registration.