

**Comprehensive National Review of
the Implementation of the Beijing
Declaration and Platform for
Action in 1995 (2014 - 2019)**

Turkmenistan

Ashgabat - 2019

This review contains the information on key legislative, administrative and other measures undertaken by the government between 2014 and 2019 towards implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 1995. The national review focuses on adopted and implemented measures of the government, as well as the accomplishments in delivering women's rights.

This review is based on key legislation of Turkmenistan, as well as the data provided by the state authorities and public unions, the periodic reviews of Turkmenistan related to implementation of CEDAW, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other thematic agreement documents.

The preparation of the National Review was carried out by the Working Group of the Interdepartmental Commission for the Implementation of the International Obligations of Turkmenistan on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, including representatives of 17 ministries and departments and 5 public organizations. A number of interagency seminars and consultations with experts and specialist agencies of UN in Turkmenistan were also held as part of the preparation.

In preparation of the final version of the National Review, comments and suggestions from ministries, departments and public organizations have been taken into consideration.

Section 1

Major achievements over the past five years

Turkmenistan consistently implements reforms aimed at accelerating the socio-economic development in the country. The successful delivery of social and economic policies of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on enhancing the role of women in social, political, economic and cultural life, protecting their rights and legitimate interests, delivery of state benefits, ensuring the conditions for a decent life and work, are some of the most important contributing factors to sustainable development in Turkmenistan.

Turkmenistan is implementing an active gender-oriented national policy governed by the principles of equal rights and opportunities for women and men.

The gender analysis of the current situation, the gender-specific assessment of legislation of Turkmenistan and the review of key indicators on status of women demonstrate that the country has made progress in the process of developing and advancing the gender policy.

On September 14, 2016, the Parliament adopted the Constitutional Law of Turkmenistan on "New Edition of the Constitution". The section on human rights and freedoms has been complemented with 11 new articles, which provide constitutional guarantees for human rights and freedoms of citizens in line with requirements of the international law.

In accordance with the recommendations of CEDAW, the new edition of the Constitution of Turkmenistan includes an updated article providing state guarantees for gender equality in all areas of state and public life. According to the Article 29 of the new edition of the Constitution of Turkmenistan, men and women are entitled to equal rights and freedoms, as well as equal opportunities to fulfil them. The Constitutional principle of equality of rights and freedoms of

men and women is the key legal and normative foundation that prevents gender-based discrimination.

On November 23, 2016, the Parliament of Turkmenistan adopted the Law on Ombudsman, defining responsibilities, rights, accountabilities and key directions for the role of Ombudsman which became effective on 1 January 2017. On 20 March 2017, the Parliament of Turkmenistan elected the Ombudsman and established the Office of Ombudsman. In its activities, the Ombudsman is complementing the existing state framework of guarantees and freedoms of citizens.

On August 18, 2015, the Parliament of Turkmenistan adopted the Law “On state guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men”, which implements the provisions of international agreements and presents a large potential in terms of advancing and promoting the concepts and principles of gender equality in the country.

Issues of gender equality are reflected in all national programs of social and economic development in Turkmenistan (Appendix 1), including the priority area of integrating women into social, economic and cultural development of Turkmenistan. The national programs of the social and economic development of Turkmenistan are also aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, including provisions for gender equality and expansion of the rights and opportunities of women and girls.

On January 22, 2015, the first National Plan of Action on Gender Equality was adopted for the period of 2015-2020, which includes measures for eradication of gender stereotypes, fight against all forms of violence against women, advancement of measures on improving women’s access to services and their increased participation in public, political and professional life. In this regard, the monitoring of national legislation is being undertaken to assess the alignment with international norms on gender equality; furthermore, a methodology for data collection and analysis of gender data is being developed; an assessment of health and status of women in the family is carried out; and women’s entrepreneurship development measures are implemented.

In order to ensure the continued advancement of the system of provision of human rights and freedoms, the National Plan of Action on Human Rights (2016-2020), the National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Humans (2016-2018) and the National Plan of Action on Children’s Rights (2018-2022) are being implemented.

The coordination of measures indicated in the abovementioned action plans, and delivery of international obligations on human rights is assigned to the Interdepartmental Commission on Implementation of International Obligations of Turkmenistan on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

As it relates to providing the women’s rights in rural areas, it must be noted that rural women have equal rights to rural men. The legislation of Turkmenistan does not include norms and provisions differentiating between the rights of urban and rural residents, and measures have been put in place to ensure free access to medical healthcare, education, employment activities and improved living conditions for all.

In order to improve the social and economic infrastructure in rural areas, the revised program of the President of Turkmenistan “On upgrading the social conditions of the residents of rural areas, settlements, cities and “etrap” for the period up to 2020” is being implemented, along with other programs.

In line with the national program, new large-scale projects are being undertaken in rural areas, including in the field of construction, building of housing, water and sewage systems, gas and power supply, cultural centers, stadiums and recreation centers.

The state is providing significant amount of support both to men and women interested in producing agricultural goods. In order to stimulate the development of market relations in the agrarian sector, the President and the Government of Turkmenistan have introduced concessions exempting farms from taxes on land, water, livestock, as well as a number of other benefits. These measures make it possible to involve more women in entrepreneurial activities in rural areas, which, in turn, also affects the improvement of the living standards in rural settings. Women constitute more than 50% of the total number of land borrowers (tenants).

Turkmenistan constructively cooperates with international human rights protection mechanisms. Turkmenistan is an active participant in the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Executive Council of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women 2016-2018, the Commission on the Status of Women 2018-2022, the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 2018-2020, the Commission on Population and Development of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations 2017-2020, and the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) 2019-2021.

It is important to note that the activities carried out within the framework of these frameworks further contribute to the achievement of effective results in further promotion of international standards in the field of gender equality and the empowerment of women in Turkmenistan.

Building on significant achievements in ensuring the participation of women in various areas of social and economic life, there is a need to continue the extensive work on ensuring the equal rights and opportunities, and on expanding the participation of women in all domains. The country is focused on the practical implementation of the main provisions of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the provisions of the national legislation on protection of the rights of women and girls.

Key priorities in accelerating the progress on supporting women and girls

- *Equality and non-discrimination in accordance with the law and access to justice*

The legislation on human rights, freedoms, and equality between men and women are specified in the legislation of various sectors of the state law, in line with the Constitution of Turkmenistan. An important step in this direction is the adoption of the Law of Turkmenistan “On State Guarantees for Ensuring the Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men” (2015). Furthermore, Gender Equality Act has a conceptual and practical significance for Turkmenistan, as for the first time in history, it legally ensures the harmonization of national legislation with international standards, the recognition of the need to prohibit discrimination and the introduction of the notion of equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men in Turkmenistan.

The right to education is one of the fundamental and inalienable constitutional rights of citizens of Turkmenistan. General secondary education is compulsory and every individual is entitled

to a free public education. The state provides access to vocational education for each individual in accordance with their abilities.

Article 52 of the Constitution of Turkmenistan guarantees the right of every person to health protection, including the free use of the services at state healthcare institutions. The Law of Turkmenistan “On Health Protection of Citizens” (2015) provides guarantees for gender equality in healthcare provision, full realization of the constitutional right of citizens to health care, including free access to the network of public healthcare institutions, and quality and safe food. The main principles of the state policy in the field of public healthcare are equal rights of citizens to receive safe and high-quality medical care and services, general accessibility of medical care and services, preventive and social orientation of medical institutions, priority protection of mothers and children, social protection of persons with disabilities, and the inadmissibility of denial of medical care and services.

The Law of Turkmenistan “On Supply of Medication” (2016) prohibits the participation of a pregnant women in clinical trial of drugs, except for cases where the clinical trial is for medication intended exclusively for the treatment of this category of patients. The Law of Turkmenistan “On promotion and support for breastfeeding” (2016) establishes the state guarantees for the protection of mothers and children. The Law of Turkmenistan “On the provision of psychiatric care” (2016) provides guarantees for protection of persons with a mental disorder from economic exploitation, and sexual and other forms of violence.

Article 49 of the Constitution of Turkmenistan guarantees the rights of every individual to free choice of employment, career, occupation and a place of employment, as well as to healthy and safe working conditions. The main goals of the labour legislation in Turkmenistan are to create the necessary social and legal conditions and guarantees for the implementation of the constitutional rights of citizens to work, the legal regulation of labour relations, as well as other labour issues. The state guarantees women and men an equal pay for the work of equal value, as well as an equal approach to assessing the quality of work in accordance with the labour legislation of Turkmenistan.

The laws of Turkmenistan “On Amendments and Additions to the Labour Code of Turkmenistan” as of 2016, 2017 and 2019 have been improved in the following areas: the procedure for granting leave and state benefits for pregnancy and childbirth; guarantees to protect the rights of women to accessing annual leave; the procedure for termination of employment contract; restrictions have been lifted on the employment of women in jobs with harmful and (or) dangerous (especially harmful and (or) especially dangerous) working conditions. The Law of Turkmenistan "On Employment" (2016) establishes the state guarantees for legal protection from all forms of discrimination, unreasonable rejection of hiring, unlawful dismissal and termination of an employment contract.

According to the Constitution of Turkmenistan, men and women have the right to enter marriage by mutual consent upon reaching the marriage age. Spouses are entitled to equal rights in a family relationship. The Law of Turkmenistan “On Amendments and Additions to the Family Code of Turkmenistan” (2018) has improved the guarantees of equal rights of men and women in marriage, during divorce and concerning the equal obligations of spouses to support each other.

The Law of Turkmenistan “On combating human trafficking” (2016) defines a system of measures aimed at preventing human trafficking. According to the Law of Turkmenistan “On Employment of Population” (2016), the victims of human trafficking or domestic violence are

classified as persons in need of state support. The Law of Turkmenistan “On Amendments to the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan” (2016) has strengthened the norms establishing the criminal liability for human trafficking. The Law of Turkmenistan “On Amendments and Modifications to the Code of Administrative Offenses in Turkmenistan” (2016) defines the administrative liabilities for violation of the legislation of Turkmenistan on human trafficking.

The Law of Turkmenistan “On Amendments to the Law of Turkmenistan “On Legal Support” (2017) provides victims of trafficking with the right to receive free legal assistance. According to the Law of Turkmenistan “On Advertising” (2016), the advertising aimed at potential sourcing of the victims of human trafficking is not permitted.

In 2018, the Law of Turkmenistan “On Advertising” was amended, according to which, the advertising must not discriminate anyone on the basis of nationality, skin color, sex, origin, rank, place of residence, language, religious beliefs, political beliefs or other circumstances. According to the Law of Turkmenistan “On Refugees” (2017), individuals on the territory of Turkmenistan, who due to a justifiable fear of facing persecution in the state of citizenship on the basis of race, gender, religion, citizenship, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, can be granted a refugee status.

The Constitution of Turkmenistan guarantees the citizens of Turkmenistan an equal right to access to employment in civil service, based on their abilities and professional training. Constitutional norms on gender equality in access to civil service are reflected in the Law of Turkmenistan “On Civil Service” (2016), which guarantees the right of citizens of Turkmenistan who have reached the age of eighteen the right to employment in civil service, regardless of nationality, race, gender, origin, rank and official status, place of residence, language, religious beliefs, political beliefs, party affiliation (or lack thereof), on condition that the candidates have the knowledge of the official language of Turkmenistan.

The Constitution of Turkmenistan guarantees the right of citizens of Turkmenistan to elect and be elected to state and local government bodies. The citizens of Turkmenistan, in accordance with their abilities and professional expertise, have an equal right to employment in public service. Of 125 members of the Parliament of Turkmenistan 32 are women (25.6%), which corresponds to the rates in developed countries. Women participate in state affairs and foreign policy activities on the same basis as men. The Speaker of the Parliament and the Authorized Representative for Human Rights (Ombudsman) are both women.

The Law of Turkmenistan “On the Ombudsman” (2016) defines the procedure for the consideration of complaints by the Ombudsman, which assumes no access to privileges or restrictions on the grounds of nationality, color, sex, origin, official status, place of residence, language, religion and political affiliation (or lack thereof).

The Law of Turkmenistan “On Bodies of Justice of Turkmenistan” (2016), establishes the norms by which the respective officials must ensure equality of rights and freedoms of all individuals, as well as the equal treatment of all citizens before the law, irrespective of nationality, race, gender, origin, official status, place of residence, language, religious beliefs, political beliefs and party affiliation (or lack thereof).

The Law of Turkmenistan “On Amendments and Additions to the Code of Turkmenistan on Social Protection of the Population” (2016) improved the procedure for the payment of state benefits for child care.

The Law of Turkmenistan “On information about private life and its protection” (2017), guarantees every person the right to private data protection, access to private data and checks of personal information.

The Law of Turkmenistan “On Administrative Procedures” (2017) guarantees the right of every person to appeal to an administrative body on the issues of rights and legitimate interests, and to petition or receive information from an administrative body.

The Law of Turkmenistan “On Amendments to the Provision of the Honorary Title in Turkmenistan – “Ene mähri” (2018), provides the mothers awarded with this honorary title with the right to free use of water, gas, electricity and housing and communal services at the expense of government.

The Code of Turkmenistan on Social Protection of the Population has undergone changes and additions (2018), according to which, Group I and II persons with disabilities, in receipt of referral from the medical and social expert commission (MSEC), are entitled to competition-free admission and study in institutions of primary, secondary and higher educational and vocational institutions. Group III persons with disabilities have a preferential right to enrolment into institutions of primary, secondary and higher education. The persons with disabilities enrolled in institutions of primary, secondary, higher education and vocational education, are entitled to receive full state benefits and scholarships during studies.

The Ministry of Education and other responsible government agencies are accountable for provision of children with disabilities with access to out-of-school education. Group I persons with disabilities (except for persons with disability acquired due to illegal activity), and family members residing in the same accommodation, have the right to free use of water, gas, electricity, as well as housing and communal services provided at the cost of responsible government bodies.

The Parliament of Turkmenistan is actively engaged in work on comprehensive monitoring of the legislation of Turkmenistan to assess its compliance with provisions of international agreements to which Turkmenistan is a party, as well as on the adoption of new laws to protect the rights of women.

- *Access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health, and protection of the reproductive health*

The Reproductive Health (RH) service of Turkmenistan provides the population with all types of medical services in the area of family planning, including free counselling on sexual and reproductive health, and the choice of contraceptives.

The RH service provides services for women, men and adolescents. Family planning services are available to the entire population; through:

- Government strategies and programs for the development of healthcare system

(Appendix 2)

- Family reproductive health protection system established at all levels. Turkmenistan has 105 institutions offering family planning services.

- Creation of favourable service hours, training of medical staff, including family doctors and nurses.

The country has a highly effective mechanism for estimating the needs, as well as the distribution and monitoring of the rational use of modern contraceptives. Contraceptives in Turkmenistan are not used for birth control, but rather for the purpose of wellbeing, including women at risk.

Modern contraceptives are included in the list of essential medicines of Turkmenistan and are offered for free to women at risk.

Since 2017, the procurement of contraceptives has been publicly funded by the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry (MOHMI) of Turkmenistan; until 2017, this support was provided as a generous aid by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Since 2013, in order to improve the health of future mothers, a new tool has been introduced to assess the quality of family planning services; risk groups have been identified; a new sectoral reporting format has been introduced and an indicator has been defined to determine the degree of coverage by contraceptives among women at high risk. A medical passport for reproductive health of mothers has been introduced. The active efforts of the RH units towards improving women's health and rational use of contraceptives, has increased the coverage of contraceptive provision to women at risk from 21% (2013) to 71.4% (2018).

To improve the quality and accessibility of RH support, integrated reproductive health services are being improved since 2017: with a view to meet the needs of women at high risk, all RH cabinets are provided with state-funded medication and cervix cancer screening service is also available.

Since 2016, as part of the National Immunization Program, free vaccination of boys and girls aged 9 against human papillomavirus is carried out, with vaccination coverage at over 98%.

Since 2017, a confidential audit process of critical issues has been introduced in obstetric institutions. The practice of confidential audit allows for a more reliable assessments of the main risk factors related to mothers' health, and helps to identify the factors which can be eliminated or corrected in these institutions. The research has been implemented in 6 pilot obstetric hospitals in two regions.

In order to improve the quality of medical care and to reduce the perinatal mortality among newborns weighing over 2,500 grams, the methodology and procedure for conducting a confidential perinatal audit is in the process of introduction in the country as of 2018. With technical assistance from UNFPA and UNICEF, introductory workshops have been organized with attendance of 48 specialists in the field of newborn health, who were equipped with the knowledge and skills to conduct a confidential perinatal audit.

The country has a referral system for hospitalization based on the degree of risk and new and effective technologies for providing perinatal care have also been introduced.

With the technical support from UNFPA, new measures have been developed by the MOHMI to improve the RH services for women, men and adolescents, which include comprehensive prevention of reproductive disorders in men and women from childhood; and improving the quality of RH services for the male and female population. As part of this initiative, clinical protocols were also developed on male reproductive health.

- *The right to work and rights in the workplace (for example, gender differences in remuneration of labour, the division of occupations by gender and career progression)*

According to Article 49 of the Constitution of Turkmenistan, every citizen has a right to work, to free choice of profession, occupation and employer, as well as to healthy and safe working conditions.

This constitutional principle is governed by Article 6 of the Labour Code of Turkmenistan. Every citizen has an exclusive right to apply their capabilities towards

productive and creative work in order to perform any activity not prohibited by the laws of Turkmenistan.

Every citizen has the right to free choice of employer either through direct application to the employer or through state agencies (services) of employment.

In accordance with Article 7 of the Code, any restriction or limitation to the labour rights or limitations to access these rights based on nationality, color, race, sex, origin, status, place of residence, language, age, religious beliefs, party affiliation (or lack thereof), as well as due to any circumstances unrelated to professional performance of workers, is prohibited.

The Law of Turkmenistan “On Employment of the Population” defines the legal, economic and organizational basis for state employment policy and is aimed at ensuring the constitutional rights of citizens to work, protection against unemployment and further establishes the state guarantees on employment.

This Law guarantees every citizen of the state the free choice of profession, occupation and employer, ensuring equal rights and opportunities for everyone to acquire a profession, work and remuneration commensurate with the quantity and quality of work, legal protection from any forms of discrimination or unjustified rejection of employment, unlawful dismissal and termination of employment contract, assistance in vocational training, retraining and advanced training of unemployed persons seeking relevant employment.

The degree of women's participation in labour activity reflects their level of economic activity. Women make up more than 43% of the economically active population of Turkmenistan, and more than 45% of the population employed in the economy.

According to Article 49 of the Constitution of Turkmenistan, employees are entitled to remuneration commensurate with the quantity and quality of work. The amount of this remuneration may not be less than the minimum wage established by the state. This constitutional norm is regulated by the relevant articles of the Labour Code of Turkmenistan.

The principle of fair pay for work is not a formality - it is applied in both social and legal practice. Thus, the size and forms of remuneration for work are determined on the basis of an objective assessment of performed work, regardless of the gender of employee. According to official statistics, women employed in different sectors of economy receive fairly high wages. In general, women's wages are on average 10-13% lower than wages of men in Turkmenistan.

Certain differences in the average wages of men and women in particular sectors of economy are largely stemming from both the amount of time worked and the specifics of working conditions. Women's wages in mining and quarrying are 28% lower than wages of men, 24% lower in transport and cargo storage, 21% lower in car and engine repairs, and 13% lower in construction.

Taking into account the special working conditions and continuous production process in these industries, they are predominantly occupied by men. The work under these conditions entitles employees to various additional payments and allowances.

The largest share of employed women is concentrated in manufacturing (light manufacturing and food), agriculture, forestry and fishing (excluding tenants and farmers), hotel and restaurant activities, health care and social services, education, art, information and communications, hotel business and others. In these fields, women's wages are only 2-10% lower than those of men.

Commented [AT1]: By 'economy' the author is perhaps referring to formal employment (i.e. implying formal economy).

- *Social protection, including gender considerations (e.g. universal health insurance, cash transfers and pensions)*

The Code of Turkmenistan on Social Protection of the Population is the key legislative act guaranteeing the provision of pensions to citizens on the basis of state pension insurance and the provision of state benefits to certain categories of citizens in line with the principles of social justice.

The Law of Turkmenistan “On State Guarantees for Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men” also provides the state guarantees for ensuring gender equality in social protection delivered through financial support and social services in form of pension payments, state benefits and social benefits.

The new pension mechanism provides a personal contribution account for every individual contributing to the pension system, in accordance with the Law of Turkmenistan "On State Pension Insurance".

The country has a voluntary medical insurance, which provides the right to a 50% discount on all types of medical services, and 50% discount on medicines on the list of essential medicines.

Measures to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of women and girls

- *Women living in remote and rural areas*

Women living in rural areas have equal rights with men. The legislation of Turkmenistan does not include any norms or regulations differentiating the rights between urban and rural residents, and provide conditions for free access to medical care, education, vocational training, employment and improved accommodation conditions.

The government is actively implementing policies to improve the living conditions of the population in villages, towns and cities. The modified “National Program of the President of Turkmenistan on the transformation of social and living conditions of the population of villages, towns, cities, etrap centers for the period up to 2020” and other national economic development programs are aimed at creating a modern socio-economic infrastructure in rural areas.

In the framework of national programs, new large-scale projects are being implemented in rural areas – particularly, including construction of housing, communication, roads, water and sewage systems, gas and electricity supply. As a result, during the period between 2008 and 2019, 862 public facilities were commissioned in rural areas, including modern hospitals, houses, health centers, kindergartens, secondary schools, cultural centers and sports schools.

The state is providing a significant amount of support both to men and women interested in producing agricultural goods. In order to stimulate the development of market relations in the agrarian sector, the President and the Government of Turkmenistan introduced privileges exempting farms from taxes on land, water, livestock, as well as introducing a number of other benefits. These measures make it possible to involve more women in entrepreneurial activities in rural areas, which, in turn, also affects the improvement of the living standards in rural areas. Women constitute more than 50% of the total number of land borrowers (tenants).

- *Women with disabilities and young women*

In order to create opportunities and conditions for provision of citizens' constitutional rights to work, to increase the availability of decent work for the population and to develop the productive labour force of the country, the President of Turkmenistan signed a Resolution on the Program on improvement of employment opportunities and creation of new jobs in Turkmenistan in 2015 – 2020 and an Action Plan for the implementation of this program in May 2015. The subject Program and Action Plan envisage measures related to the improvement of professional competencies of labour force and human potential through the modernization of the system of training, retraining and advanced training of personnel; provision of the improved conditions for citizens with low competitiveness in the labour market; stimulation of the entrepreneurial activity of the population, including through the creation of additional employment in the field of small and medium businesses.

Within the framework of the subject Program, as well as in implementation of the Code of Turkmenistan on Social Protection of the Population (2012), the Law of Turkmenistan “On Employment of the Population” for persons in acute need of social protection, Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of Turkmenistan signed a Decree in January 2016 establishing the procedure for quota of up to 5% of the total number of workplaces in enterprises to be allocated to persons with disabilities who have recommendations on individual rehabilitation program for work, as well as for orphans, single parents and families with many children who raise minor children or children with disabilities, and for other persons in need of special state support, considering the working conditions in enterprises.

At the same time, the employers have a right to provide workplaces to the specified categories of citizens in excess of the established quota, provided that, in order to protect the health of workers, the necessary facility safety requirements are taken into account, including the potential risk of harm.

In order to improve the living standards of persons with disabilities, to ensure their right to work and to create appropriate conditions for their employment, the Resolution of the President of Turkmenistan as of October 2016 approved a Plan of Action to ensure the full implementation of labour rights and employment of persons with disabilities in Turkmenistan during 2017-2020, with special provisions for social and labour rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, expansion of opportunities for self-employed persons with disabilities and their entrepreneurial activities.

In accordance with the National Plan of Action on Human Rights during 2016–2020, a State Register of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, has been created. In February 2017, the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Medical Industry the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of Turkmenistan signed an agreement on cooperation and inter-agency exchange of disability data in order to populate this Register. The abovementioned agencies have developed and approved an Electronic Card for persons with disability, including the relevant information on each individual. It must be noted that the card also provides information on employment-specific needs of persons with disabilities. Currently, the work is underway to create a database of the State Register of persons with disabilities.

Presently, the issues of youth employment are particularly important. The data from the labour force survey conducted by the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan illustrates that the share of young people aged 18–29 among the economically active population is about 36%.

High levels of professional requirements reduce the employment prospects of graduates of higher educational institutions seeking first employment. In this regard, the government has adopted and is implementing a number of state programs aimed at creating new jobs; professional training and retraining, providing the necessary conditions for citizens with low competitiveness in labour market (women, youth, persons with disabilities) and stimulation of entrepreneurial activity of the population, among other measures.

In August 2017, the President of Turkmenistan signed a Decree on Creation of an Interdepartmental Commission on Employment of Young Professionals in the country. This document necessitates the analysis of national legislation on youth employment, the advancement of normative and regulatory acts in this area, as well as the modernization of the domestic system of personnel training.

In March 2018, the President of Turkmenistan approved the Decree on the Program for Improvement of the System of Employment of Young Specialists in 2018- 2020, as well as the Plan of measures for its implementation. The objectives of this regulation include ensuring the balance between labour supply and demand in the labour market, increasing the employment of young people and providing the economy with qualified personnel.

Key priorities for accelerating the progress on advancement of women and girls through laws, policies and / or programs in the next five years

- *Delivery of affordable and quality healthcare services, including sexual and reproductive healthcare, as well as reproductive health rights*

The main objectives of the state program “Saglyk” (Health) during 2015–2025 is to improve the health, well-being and life expectancy of population, to provide citizens with a broad range of equal opportunities and conditions for health protection, as well as to create a highly efficient healthcare system.

The program involves: the creation of a unified system of prevention and improvement of health systems management; the development of multi-sectoral interdepartmental cooperation on protection of population health, including sexual and reproductive health; public health and disease prevention; improving the provision of medical care to the population, including family planning services; development of the medical industry, full provision of the population with high-quality, safe medicines and other medical supplies produced in the country, import substitution in the domestic market and increased export opportunities; strengthening the financial and technical base in health care; developing e-health and improving medical statistics; improving the economy and sustainable financing of the healthcare system; improving the state system of voluntary medical insurance of citizens of Turkmenistan; healthcare personnel training and continued professional development; development of medical science; improvement of the legislation on healthcare.

The concept of “Digital Turkmenistan” (2018) is designed to accelerate the process of innovation of the national economy, increase employment in high-tech industries, introduce advanced technologies in production, and fully switch to electronic document management.

Digital and computer systems included into network infrastructure have become an important contributor into the development of society and a way to increase the efficiency of various sectors of the economy. The public health information system has already become part of the country's single information space.

In 2015, the essential provisions were introduced into the Law of Turkmenistan “On the protection of citizens' health”, including the trajectories for development of health information support, as well as the introduction of the concept of telemedicine. The regulatory mechanisms are established to define the exchange of information on health and health protection based on electronic documents.

According to the Decree of the President of Turkmenistan, as of 2011, the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan has been working on creating an electronic document circulation system in the health industry. At present, electronic document circulation is valid in medical institutions of Ashgabat and regional centers.

There are mechanisms in place to facilitate the workflows using electronic transmission. In order to increase the efficiency of patient counselling, medical assistance using telemedicine service is now available.

- *The right to work and rights in the workplace (for example, gender-based differences in remuneration of labour, the division of occupations by gender and career advancement)*

Female workers in various sectors of the economy are often employed at a different level from men. However, in instances of employment at the same level, the principle of equal pay for equal work applies.

The Labour Code of Turkmenistan restricts the involvement of women with children under the age of three (or a disabled child under the age of eighteen), to work in hazardous and harmful working conditions, during night shift, overtime, weekends, public holidays and commemoration days, as well as in jobs performed on a rotational basis. Based on modifications into labour legislation, employment of women of the abovementioned categories under specified conditions is permitted with women's consent. Women indeed use this right to refuse work under the abovementioned employment conditions.

In March 2019, the Labour Code of Turkmenistan underwent changes, including, inter alia, removal of restrictions on employment of women in jobs with harmful and (or) dangerous (especially harmful and (or) especially dangerous) working conditions.

In order to combine work with family responsibilities, women are more likely than men to resort to the “flexible” working schedule provided under the labour legislation, including part-time work (weekly) and temporary work. These employment arrangements will, to a certain extent affect the size of women's wages relative to men's wages for the same level of work.

- *Social protection, including gender considerations (e.g. universal health insurance, money transfers and pensions)*

The Code on Social Protection of the Population of Turkmenistan defines the legal, organizational and economic foundations of social protection of the population of Turkmenistan, establishes the state guarantees for the provision of pensions to citizens based on state pension insurance, provides the state benefits to certain categories of citizens and determines measures for their social protection in compliance with the principles of social justice.

The Law of Turkmenistan “On State Guarantees for Ensuring Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men” also provides the state guarantees on ensuring gender

equality in social protection, through financial support and social services in the form of pension payments, state benefits and social benefits.

The state pension provision in Turkmenistan is implemented through the state pension insurance, which is based on conditional pension savings system and savings pension system.

The conditional pension system is based on mandatory pension contributions paid by insured payers in accordance with the pension insurance agreement under the Law of Turkmenistan "On State Pension Insurance".

Individuals engaged in the informal sector, cottage enterprises and household-level labour activities without an employment contract, as well as self-employed citizens who have a pension insurance contract with the Pension Fund based on residency status and payment of compulsory pension contributions, are entitled to an old-age pension upon reaching the retirement age. These citizens are also entitled to join the contributory pension system by entering into a voluntary pension insurance contract.

According to Article 23 of the Code on Social Protection of the Population of Turkmenistan, men are entitled to retirement on reaching the age of 62 years, and women - on reaching the age of 57 years, on condition of participation in compulsory pension insurance for at least 5 years. Women who gave birth and raised 3 and more children until the age of 18, have a right for early retirement, depending on the number of eligible children, and on condition of participation in compulsory pension insurance.

Persons who, for any reason are not entitled to a pension, are guaranteed to receive state social benefits defined at the age of 62 for men and 57 for women.

Article 26 of the Code on Social Protection of the Population of Turkmenistan establishes the right to a disability pension. Citizens recognized as persons with disabilities in accordance with the procedure established by the law and who have participated in compulsory pension insurance for at least five years, are entitled to a disability pension.

Article 65 of the Code on Social Protection of the Population of Turkmenistan facilitates the provision and payment of state disability benefits to the following eligible groups:

- Children with disabilities under the age of 18;
- Persons with disabilities acquired in childhood, whose participation in compulsory pension insurance is less than five years;
- Persons with disabilities, whose participation in mandatory pension insurance scheme is less than five years.

Assessment of a person's disability status and identification of the category and group of disability is carried out according to established processes as administered by the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan.

Article 27 of the Code on Social Protection of the Population of Turkmenistan includes a provision for a right to a disability pension and in case of a loss of a breadwinner. The family members who were permanently supported by the breadwinner or who received assistance from them, become entitled to a pension on loss of a breadwinner.

These include, in particular, children (including adopted children, stepchildren), brothers, sisters and grandchildren who are under the age of 18; children who have reached the age of 18 who study in educational institutions; persons under the age of 24 enrolled in full-time education in higher, secondary and vocational educational institutions; father, mother, husband, wife, grandfather and grandmother - if they have reached the age stipulated by the Code, and

do not have other sources of livelihood; the spouse of the participant of the Great Patriotic War, if she is not receiving another form of pension or state allowance.

The above-mentioned individuals are entitled to a pension on the loss of a breadwinner, irrespective of whether the breadwinner is insured under the compulsory state pension insurance. The right to a pension on loss of a breadwinner also applies in case of disappearance of the breadwinner, if their absence is recognized through the process identified by the legislation of Turkmenistan. Minor children who are entitled to a pension on loss of the breadwinner also retain this right upon adoption, with the exception of the cases when children are adopted by their parents who were previously deprived of parental rights.

If there are adopted or foster children in the family that lost the breadwinner, irrespective of their kinship with other members in the family, the children retain the right to an allocated pension for the loss of the breadwinner.

In the event of acquired disability, the citizens working in the informal sector, or on personal cottage and household-based economic activities without employment on a contractual basis, as well as self-employed citizens, become entitled to a disability pension (allowance) irrespective of their previous contributions to the state pension insurance. In the event of death of these categories of citizens, dependent family members are entitled to a benefit for the loss of the breadwinner, irrespective of their previous contribution to the state pension insurance.

Section 2

Actions taken in the past five years to recognize, reduce and / or redistribute unpaid care and household work and support for work and life balance

- Introduction or increase in maternity leave and maternity / paternity / leave to care for a child or other types of leave for family reasons

According to Article 96 of the Labour Code of Turkmenistan, women have a right to maternity leave. In accordance with Article 61 of the Code on Social Protection of the Population of Turkmenistan, maternity leave is granted for a minimum of 112 calendar days and consists of 56 calendar days of leave before and after childbirth. In case of premature childbirth, the allocated duration of leave before childbirth does not change.

In case of difficult childbirth, postpartum leave is extended by 16 calendar days, and on birth of two or more children - by 40 calendar days.

According to Article 97 of the Labour Code of Turkmenistan, following the end of maternity leave, a woman, irrespective of her work experience, is entitled to unpaid care leave until the child reaches the age of three years. Parental leave can also be granted to the person physically caring for a child, including father, guardian, as well as another relative, under circumstances established by the legislation of Turkmenistan.

According to the childcare leave approval procedure approved by the Decree of the President of Turkmenistan, the following types of persons are entitled to childcare leave:

- Mother or father of a child (including adoptive parents);

– Child’s official guardian, if the biological father or mother cannot raise the child due to the following reasons:

- Death of the father and mother (including the adopter);
- Deprivation of parental rights of the father and mother;
- Illness of the father and mother;
- Due to other special reasons when a child is left without parental care.

A person on childcare leave is entitled to a state childcare allowance in accordance with the Code on Social Protection of the Population of Turkmenistan. During childcare leave, the employee retains their position at work.

- *Awareness campaigns to encourage the participation of men and boys in unpaid care and domestic work*

Since 2014, in cooperation with UNFPA, annual informational round tables are organized in all regions and the capital, in order to raise the awareness of representatives of state and public organizations about the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, as well as the National Plan of Action for Gender Equality in Turkmenistan 2015–2020, with a focus on the issues of women's rights, reproductive rights and health, participation in employment and public life, rights and opportunities of rural women, promotion of equal participation of women and men in household responsibilities, the role of public organizations in promoting the principles of gender equality, and elimination of gender stereotypes, etc.

During the roundtables, over 750 representatives of state and public institutions raised their awareness of the principles of gender equality and used this platform to discuss and propose effective measures and approaches to working with population on promoting a correct understanding of the principles of gender equality, including the participation of men and boys in unpaid care and household work. Leading national experts in the field of gender equality, as well as experts from international organizations were involved in the round tables.

Actions taken in the past five years to reduce / eradicate poverty among women and girls

- *Supporting women's activities in the field of entrepreneurship and business development*

A Center for Business Women is an entity operating under the Union of Women of Turkmenistan, working on engaging women in business and employment into the public life of the country. The Center organizes lectures, exhibitions, and round tables to stimulate women's involvement in business and public activities. During the reporting period, 4 exhibitions were organized and 87 round tables were held, including the topics on the role of women in the economic development of the country, business opportunities, development of business plans, opportunities for self-employed women and others. In addition, the Center provides strategic, legal and other forms of assistance, as well as advice to women planning to start their own business.

- Implementing or advancing the social protection programs for women and girls (e.g. remittances for women with children, public works / job security programs for women of working age and pensions for older women)

The Code on Social Protection of the Population of Turkmenistan has provisions for the payment of state benefits for childbirth and childcare.

According to Article 62 of the Code, the mother (father) or guardian of a child, irrespective of their employment status, is entitled to state allowance for the birth of a child. The right to this benefit also applies to parents who adopted a child aged under four months, if the allowance was not previously paid to the mother or father of the adopted child.

According to Article 63 of the Code, the right to a childcare allowance of a parent of a child under 3 years of age applies to the following categories of individuals, irrespective of their employment status:

- Mother, father or physical guardian taking care of a child until the age of three years;
- Other relatives physically taking care of a child under the the age of three years, in cases when the mother and (or) father have died or have been declared dead, deprived of parental rights, restricted in parental rights, are missing or incapable (partially capable) of care for health reasons, individuals serving a sentence in correctional institutions or in imprisonment, individuals who evade raising a child or protecting their rights and legitimate interests, individuals who have refused to take back the child from educational, medical or other relevant institutions.

Actions taken over the past five years to improve the access of women and girls to social protection

- Reforms to contribution-based social security system aimed at increasing the access and benefits for women

The Code on Social Protection of the Population of Turkmenistan adopted in 2012 and enacted in January 2013 is regularly revised. The Law of Turkmenistan On State Pension Insurance (2012), in turn, has provisions for incorporating the individual contributions into the pension system.

- Introduction or development of social protection for unemployed women (e.g. unemployment benefits, public works programs and social assistance)

Social assistance is one of the main activities of non-governmental associations. In particular, the work of the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan (NRCS) is guided by legislation, including the Law of Turkmenistan “On State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men”, as well as the statutory documents of the NRCS and the International Movement of Red Cross and Red Crescent, which include specific considerations on issues of gender equality. In the framework of the statutory activities, the

NRCS provides social support to vulnerable groups of the population, including single parents, families with a sole-female breadwinner and others.

NRCS are running two sewing shops in the cities of Ashgabat and Turkmenabad, employing women and girls, including persons with disabilities. These shops also provide vocational skills training. Presently, 11 girls and women work in NRCS sewing shop in Ashgabat. A free, three-month long courses on tailoring and sewing are offered to women and girls from vulnerable groups in NRCS sewing shop in Turkmenabad.

NRCS intend to continue the delivery of similar social projects. For example, in the future, the NRCS plan to develop and implement projects facilitating skills training in hairdressing and beauty services.

Actions taken in the past five years to improve the health outcomes for women and girls in the country

- Expansion of specific health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health, mental health, maternal health and HIV support services

A significant part of the budget of the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan is allocated to reproductive health, and programs on maternal health, children, youth and other special groups. In order to provide citizens with equal opportunities and conditions for health care, about 30 regulatory acts related to the new edition of the Laws of Turkmenistan On the protection of citizens' health and "On drug provision" have been developed, modified and adopted.

Turkmenistan is actively implementing SDG 3.7 on “Providing the universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services by 2030, including family planning services, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health issues into national strategies and programs.”

The results of the MICS-5 survey (2016) showed that the rate of met demand for contraception is high (81%) among women aged 15-49 needing contraception in Turkmenistan (SDG indicator 3.7.1).

The share of met customer demand for contraception among women aged 15–49 in Turkmenistan and regions, MICS-5 data (2016)

Year	Total	Regions						Urban/Rural	
		Ashgabat	Ahalsky province	Balkansky province	Dashogussky province	Lebapsky province	Mariy province	Urban	Rural
2015-2016	80.5	76.4	89.4	73.8	73.9	81.9	82.9	78.9	81.5

Share of women of reproductive age (15-49), who use modern methods of contraception in Turkmenistan and regions, MICS-5 data (2016)

Year	Total	Regions						Urban/Rural		Sex	
		Ashgabat	Ahalsky province	Balkanaky province	Dashogusky Province	Lebapsky province	Mariyski province	Urban	Rural	Male	Female
2015-2016	47.1	43.1	55.1	46.5	39.1	50.2	49.4	46.9	47.2	***	***

The Department of Family Medicine of the Turkmen State Medical University has incorporated into the curriculum program of family doctors the training on integration of reproductive health services, the integrated counselling of pregnant women, and the development of relevant practical experience.

- Conducting public awareness campaigns and the strengthening of health, including gender considerations

The Ministry of Health and Medical Industry has an information center implementing activities to promote a healthy lifestyle and raise public awareness on relevant topics. The center coordinates multi-disciplinary interdepartmental work on health education in the country in fulfilment of the approved plan of action. In 2018, 280 events were held involving 18,150 representatives of various institutions, enterprises, schoolchildren, and students of higher and secondary vocational institutions.

Regular awareness raising activities are delivered through the media. Newspapers, magazines, television and radio programs deliver programs on healthy lifestyle, healthy nutrition, physical exercise and sports. Bi-weekly scientific program “Il saglygy-ýurt baýlygy” (“Health of the Nation is the Wealth of the Country”) directed by the Information Center of the MOHMI, covers various topics related to health, including reproductive health and healthy lifestyle, including addressing the viewers’ requests.

Since 2008, the school curriculum includes the subject on the “Essentials of Life Activities”, which includes issues relating to marriage, family, family relations, preparation for family life and reproductive health. The Health Information Center in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, has developed the practical guidebooks and curriculums for students of all classes. With support of the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan, teachers delivering the Essentials of Life Activities classes in Ashgabat and the regions, participate in seminars on the fundamentals of healthy lifestyles, reproductive health, combating bad habits and preventing NCDs, HIV/AIDS and STIs.

As part of the class on the "Essentials of Life Activities" delivered from grades 1 to 10, medical personnel are involved in teaching of certain topics in secondary schools, such as various diseases and their prevention, hygiene, gender characteristics of adolescents, etc.

As part of the National Awareness-Raising Week on Breastfeeding, the Women's Union of Turkmenistan holds annual meetings with women to introduce them with provisions of the Law of Turkmenistan "On the Promotion and Support to Breastfeeding".

In order to implement the government programs and strategies aimed at protecting the health of the population, since 2016, in the framework of the month of awareness on combating breast cancer and cervical cancer, the Women's Union of Turkmenistan conducts training seminars for campaigners, as well as informational activities for employed and unemployed women. These projects are implemented jointly with the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of Turkmenistan and cover more than 1,200 women annually. Since 2018, the Women's Union of Turkmenistan, MOHMI and NRCS have carried out similar work to prevent tuberculosis, which covered more than 600 women and men.

Actions taken in the past five years to improve the outcomes of education and skills for women and girls

- *Measures to improve the access and retention of girls in education, vocational education and training, as well as programs for professional skills enhancement and graduation*

The principles of gender equality are observed in the educational system from the initial level of education. The Law of Turkmenistan "On Education" provides guarantees to the citizens of Turkmenistan on access to education, irrespective of nationality, color, gender, origin, official status, place of residence, language, religious and political beliefs, health condition and other circumstances.

In accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Turkmenistan, the students in state educational institutions (both boys and girls), are provided with scholarships, hostel accommodation and boarding schools, as well as other measures of social support.

During application process, there is no gender-based differentiation in admission to study programs.

Girls are increasingly acquiring skills in new and promising areas, such as technology, engineering, physics and mathematics, as well as in the field of digital technologies.

The work is underway to create equal interest for all professions among boys and girls. This topic is introduced to children through educational materials and real life examples. Every year, professional educational institutions at all levels (primary, secondary and higher) hold "Open Doors", which promote the right of boys and girls to acquire any profession, by introducing them to real life stories.

Measures are undertaken to attract girls into technical professions, as well as to attract boys into areas of education, health care, and light manufacturing, which are more popular among girls. There are planned initiatives to increase the number of male teachers working in secondary schools. For example, male citizens with higher education employed as teachers in

rural secondary schools are exempt from military service during the period of employment. This measure is regulated by the Law of Turkmenistan "On Education" and "On Military Duty and Military Service."

- *Development of curriculum to promote gender equality and to eliminate biases at all levels of education*

Textbook materials and teaching aids are periodically assessed by experts to evaluate the content on gender and as appropriate, images are replaced with new images better promoting gender equality.

The Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan has examined and implemented the best practices in developing a module on gender equality. The module on gender equality has been developed and incorporated into all levels of general education - in pre-school, school and at all levels of higher and vocational education through curricula and printed educational publications (textbooks, teaching aids and notebooks).

In 2013–2014, the secondary school curricula and textbooks were reviewed by international experts on reproductive health and provided recommendations informed the changes to textbooks and curricula issued in 2015–2016.

As part of the cooperation of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of Turkmenistan and UNFPA, in 2017, a methodological manual was developed for a master's level course on "Gender Equality and Development". This manual is also applicable for use in other programs of higher educational institutions.

- *Providing education on gender equality and human rights for teachers and education professionals*

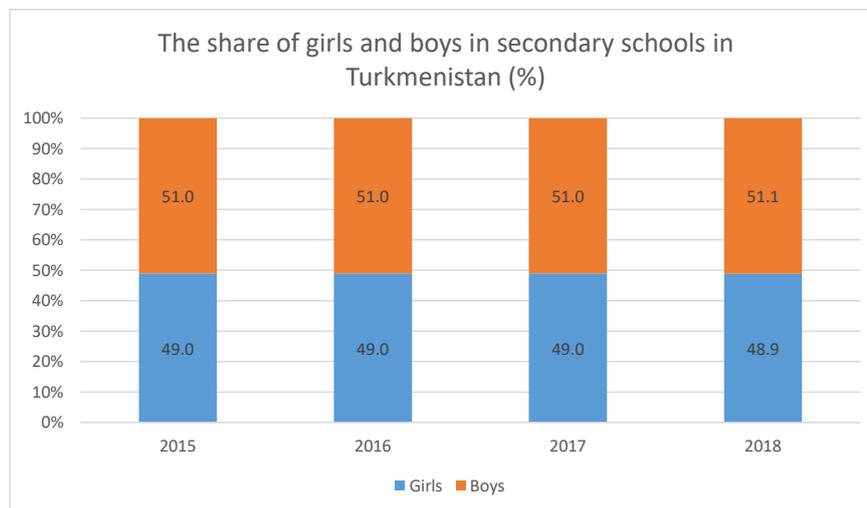
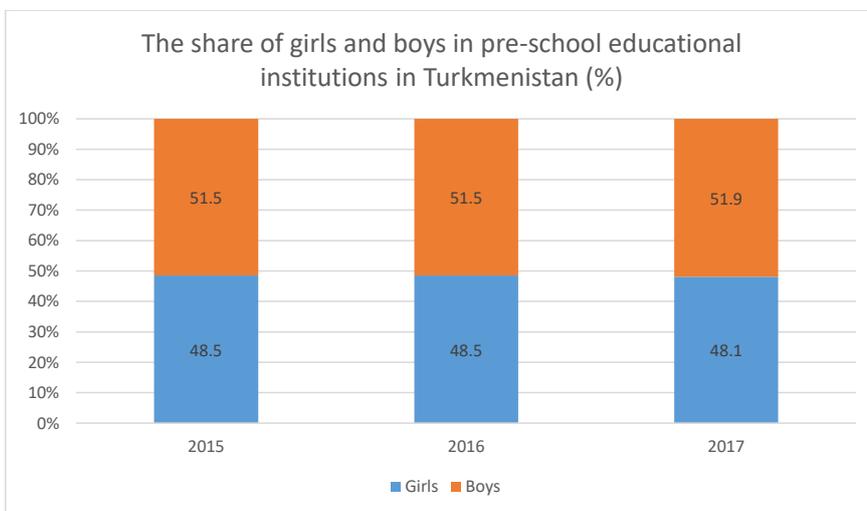
Training programs on gender equality and human rights have been developed and are currently offered to teachers and other education specialists (specialists of departments of education, inspectors, etc.) through the advanced training departments of the Makhtumkuli Turkmen State University, S. Seydi Turkmen Pedagogical Institute, The Turkmen National Institute of World Languages named after D. Azadi, the National Institute of Sport and Tourism of Turkmenistan, as well as in professional advancement courses at the National Institute of Education of Turkmenistan and regional education departments.

- *Promotion of safe, inclusive and harassment-free conditions for education of women and girls*

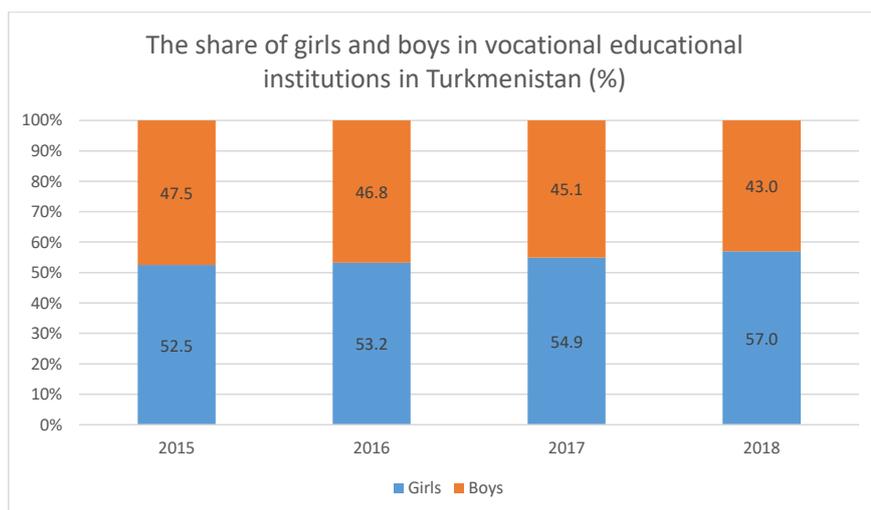
In accordance with the Law of Turkmenistan "On Education", citizens of Turkmenistan are guaranteed the right to receive education, and further guarantees regarding availability and free access to study in state educational institutions, irrespective of nationality, race, gender and origin.

The education and care for orphans and children without parental care (or guardians) is delivered free of charge, irrespective of the child's gender and other individual characteristics. The state provides the persons with physical and (or) mental disabilities with conditions for education in state educational institutions (as part of inclusive education).

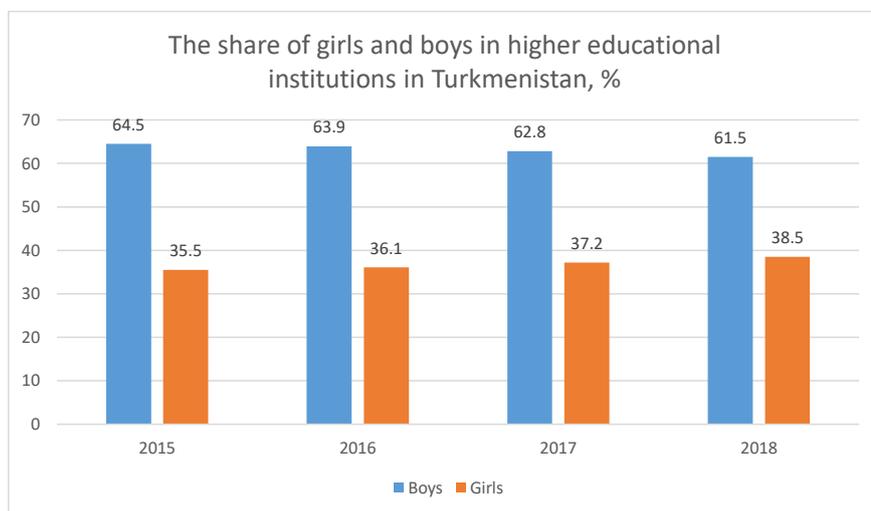
The implementation of the principle of equality is ensured by providing women with equal opportunities in education and vocational training, life-long education and self-education. According to the Ministry of Education, there is no gender gap between pupils and students in general educational institutions.



As illustrated in the chart below, there is a small gender gap in vocational education enrolment. In 2018, girls accounted for 57% of all students receiving vocational education.



There remains a gender gap in education attainment across different programs. Men dominate professions in manufacturing, agriculture, transport and communications. In 2018, the proportion of girls studying in higher educational institutions was 38.5%.



The availability of free, accessible and compulsory secondary education ensures a high level of education and literacy among population. According to 2012 census, the literacy rate of the population aged 15 years and older was 99.8% among women, 99.9% among men and 99.9% among both women and men aged 15-24. Literacy growth is observed among both urban and rural populations. As such, the literacy rate among men and women is very high and equal in Turkmenistan. This is a result of high rates of primary and secondary education coverage in Turkmenistan.

The government of Turkmenistan regularly adopts and implements state/national programs and plans on development and advancement of the education system in the country, including design and enrichment of teaching materials of educational institutions, the introduction of modern and innovative technologies, forms and methods of education, as well as the creation of a safe and effective learning environment in both urban and rural areas.

With development of inclusive education, children with disabilities (children with minor lesions of the musculoskeletal system, hearing-impaired, visually impaired, speech impaired, etc.), studying in general school and preschool institutions, are educated through the individual and differentiated approach, which ensures children's interaction and integration into studies with children without disabilities.

Children on long-term treatment in medical institutions receive education at the place of their stay (treatment) by the teachers from nearby secondary schools (in accordance with a special curriculum, adapted programs and specific class schedule). Similarly, home-based learning for children with disabilities is available.

General education institutions (secondary schools and boarding schools) in Turkmenistan are supplied with computers, laboratories, linguistic and interactive multimedia equipment for use for educational purposes. For example, the number of schools provided with interactive multimedia equipment increased from 61% in 2015 to 97.4% in 2018.

Children's preschool institutions built in recent decades and those currently under construction, are being supplied with modern furniture and equipment, as well as computer and language laboratories and interactive multimedia boards, which are also intended for use for educational purposes.

In 2018, the share of schools with access to electricity, as well as gender-specific minimally equipped toilets was 100% (in accordance with the current Sanitary and Epidemiological Standards of educational institutions of Turkmenistan), 28.2% of schools had access to internet for educational purposes, while 99.2% were equipped with computers for educational purposes. In accordance with the decree of the President of Turkmenistan, ahead of beginning of the school year, all first-grade students in the country receive free personal computers for educational purposes. Currently, access to computers in primary education is 100%.

- *Expanding access to skills and learning in new and promising areas, especially STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), as well as the knowledge of digital technologies*

The Concept of Development of Digital Knowledge in Turkmenistan and the Plan of Action for the Implementation of The Concept of Development of Digital Knowledge approved by the Decree of the President of Turkmenistan in 2017, plays an important role in expanding the access to digital knowledge.

The concept is aimed at providing high-quality electronic educational information for institutions all levels of education, in order to enrich the content of tutoring, improve the quality of knowledge, and to introduce the modern innovative technologies and teaching methods through the use of digital technologies that meet the needs of intensive and innovative socio-economic development in the country and society. The concept of digitalization of the educational system is designed to attract all citizens of the country into using digital technologies, irrespective of gender.

- *Ensuring access to safe water supply, sanitation services and menstrual hygiene, especially in schools and other educational institutions*

The MOHMI in collaboration with the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan, developed and approved the Sanitary and Epidemiological Regulations for Secondary Schools of Turkmenistan in 2011, providing measures for supporting daily hygiene of schoolchildren. These regulations, which apply to all educational institutions, provide sex-segregated toilets with sanitary and hand-washing facilities. Boarding schools are equipped with hygienic facilities segregated by age and sex.

According to these regulations, all educational institutions should be provided with water supply and sanitation systems, including safe drinking water.

Since 2016, there is a requirement for creating girls' personal hygiene rooms in schools, in accordance with the building standards of Turkmenistan.

- *Strengthening of the measures to prevent teenage pregnancies and to provide girls with the opportunity to continue their education in the event of pregnancy and / or motherhood*

The Ministry of Education has developed and approved an educational and practical manual on education standards about reproductive health; the practical manual on protection of reproductive health in upper grades of schools has been published as an annex to the textbook on the "Essentials of Life Activities" for students in grades 7-8. In 2013, the topic of reproductive health was introduced in textbooks for grades 7-10.

In 2013–2014, the secondary school curricula and textbooks were reviewed by international experts in the field of reproductive health and their recommendations informed the changes to textbooks and curricula issued in 2015–2016.

Advocacy and preventive works are regularly carried out in the education system jointly with the health sector authorities, the inspectorate for minors' issues, representatives of public organizations on health protection, prevention of early pregnancy and reproductive health.

In order to deliver the compulsory secondary education in Turkmenistan, special conditions are created for girls in the case of pregnancy or maternity, to help them continue studies at their discretion in the school of enrolment or through an accelerated study program. For any of these options, girls are provided with the opportunity to complete a secondary education program and receive a graduation diploma.

During 2017-2018, the National Center of Trade Unions of Turkmenistan and the Women's Union of Turkmenistan held 136 awareness-raising meetings with adolescent girls to discuss reproductive health, with a particular focus on prevention of early pregnancies.

Priority actions for combating violence against women and girls over the past five years

One of the objectives of the NPA on Gender Equality in Turkmenistan 2015–2020 is to examine the legislation of Turkmenistan with a view to potentially adopt a law criminalizing gender-based violence, and to conduct a survey on the prevalence, causes and consequences of all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence.

There is no dedicated law on violence against women in Turkmenistan and the legislation does not contain provisions for criminalization of “domestic violence”. However, the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan criminalizes unlawful acts committed in everyday life. The relevant norms indicate liabilities in case of illegal actions aimed at humiliating the honour and dignity of an individual, as well as cruel treatment and cause of bodily injuries, including those against women.

In accordance with the Law of Turkmenistan “On State Guarantees for Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men”, the state guarantees the equal rights of women and men to protection against sexual assault, kidnapping and trafficking. The perpetrators of such actions are criminally liable under the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan.

This is a foundation for improving the national legislation and further legislative work towards prevention of violence against women in any form.

In 2018, a joint review of national legislation was carried out by the Parliament of Turkmenistan and UNFPA, with a view to assess its compliance with international legal instruments on gender equality. In October 2018, a discussion on the review of the outcomes was held with participation of the MPs and specialists in the Parliament. One of the main conclusions of the analysis was the recommendation to consider the issue of improving legislation on gender-based violence.

With the assistance of UNFPA in Turkmenistan, as part of the analysis of the issues around prevention of gender-based violence, the Interdepartmental Commission on Implementation of Turkmenistan’s International Obligations on Human Rights and the International Humanitarian Law and its Working Group were introduced to the concept of an inter-agency response to gender-based violence at the inter-departmental level.

Preparatory work is underway to conduct a survey on the health and status of women in the family, including review of the laws in the field of domestic violence in other countries. A dedicated expert Working Group is established to conduct a survey of representatives from the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the State Statistics Committee, the Institute of State, Law and Democracy of Turkmenistan and the Women's Union of Turkmenistan.

A survey questionnaire and output table forms have been developed. Based on results of the survey, the rates of prevalence and root causes of this social phenomenon will be identified, and depending on the results, proposals for changes and additions to existing national legislation will be prepared and the feasibility of developing a draft law on domestic violence will be assessed.

In accordance with the Plan of Legislative Activities of the Parliament of Turkmenistan in 2018-2022, a draft Law "On the Prevention of Violence against Women in Family" will be developed with a view to strengthen the rights, protect the legitimate interests of women, strengthen the family and create favourable conditions for family relations.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan (MIA) has instructed the relevant departments of the Ministry to adopt a gender-sensitive approach in resolving any emerging issues. To control the timely planning and delivery of the abovementioned works at relevant levels, this objective is included into the annual workplan of the relevant units of the MIA.

Responsible units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs are working on delivering the objectives of conducting preventive and awareness-raising programs on the prevention of violence against women, including in the family.

In order to implement the objectives of the NPA on Gender Equality, the training sessions are held for employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan who work directly with imprisoned women, including involvement of medical workers and security guards to ensure equal, dignified and safe treatment of all women in detention. Training programs for preparedness of employees of special institutions have been updated with information of gender-sensitive consideration in working with female prisoners. In particular, during the period from 2016 to 2018, the staff of correctional institutions were trained as follows:

No	Indicator	2016	2017	2018
1	Number of classes (units)	48	20	53
2	Number of trained employees	2,000	1,596	2,708

The relevant units of the Ministry of Interior organize an event entitled “Family”, which includes organization of meetings with women to educate them on women’s rights. Also, the abovementioned topics are addressed in the media, in newspapers and magazine articles, as well as on radio and television channels Altyn Asyr, Turkmenistan, Yashlyk, Miras, Ashkhabad and others. In 2017-2018, 22 articles were published and 44 television and radio programs were delivered on instruction from the MIA.

Based on specific plans of the local police units, meetings, discussions and lectures are delivered among women and girls on annual basis, in collaboration with the law enforcement agencies, the Makhtumkuli Women's Union and the Makhtumkuli Youth Organization.

As preventative measure, within the framework of the “Family” event, in course of a full month, inspections are carried out at the addresses of persons who previously committed dangerous and especially dangerous crimes and who have families. As of the end of this month, inspection results are being finalized.

Actions taken over the past five years to boost the image of women and girls, and to tackle the discrimination and / or gender bias in the media

- *Promoting women's participation and leadership in the mass media*

A television program jointly organized by the TV channel "Miras" and the Women’s Union of Turkmenistan “Zenan Kalby”, includes a section on “Gender Policy in Turkmenistan”. Primary state TV channels broadcast weekly meetings and “round tables” with participation of women's activists on issues of gender equality (16 programs were broadcast in 2018).

The Women's Union of Turkmenistan, in cooperation with the Parliament of Turkmenistan and participation of representatives of local authorities, held 8 events (including 1,040 participants) in 2017-2018 to promote the importance of women's participation in the public and political life of the country.

In 2018, the Women's Union of Turkmenistan jointly with UNFPA in Turkmenistan, held an information event for young women and girls with participation of women successful in career and life. The main purpose of this informational and educational dialogue with young women and girls was to promote their active involvement in the democratic development of the country and to create a positive image of women in society. More than 40 young women and girls participated in the event.

In 2017, as part of the partnership between the Institute of the State, Law and Democracy of Turkmenistan and UNFPA, a guidance document has been issued for journalists on professional coverage of gender issues in the media. The manual received excellent feedback following the testing through the teaching program for students of the department of Journalism of the International University for the Humanities and Development.

Actions and measures taken in the past five years to promote women's participation in public life and decision making

Women participate in the management of state affairs and foreign policy activities on an equal basis with men. For example, the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations and the Speaker of the Parliament of Turkmenistan are both women. Presently, the proportion of women in Parliament is 25.6%. Women are well represented in executive bodies of the state at all levels and are actively involved in the social and political life of Turkmenistan. Women are members of representative, executive and judicial authorities at all levels and are actively involved in the development and implementation of socio-economic development programs of the country on an equal basis with men.

Women represent 20% of the total of 240 members of the regional people's councils and the people's councils of Ashgabat. Out of 1,200 members of district and city people's councils, 26.1% are women, and out of 5,900 members of local self-government - 21.9% are women.

Providing opportunities for mentoring, leadership training, decision making, public speaking, protection of rights and political campaigns

Every year, the Women's Union of Turkmenistan holds a contest entitled "Woman of the Year". The competition is held in seven nominations, including: excellent organizational skills; women in law enforcement; women's contribution to rural development; women's contribution to the development of entrepreneurship and others. This competition contributes to the creation of a positive image of modern women in society, stimulates further improvement of their social status and provides support to public activities of women in Turkmenistan. The criteria for evaluating the social activity of the contest nominees involves assessment of their achievements in various spheres of public life throughout the year.

The Plan of Action on Gender Equality

The National Plan of Action Plan on Gender Equality in Turkmenistan 2015-2020 (NPA) was approved by the Presidential Decree at a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan on January 22, 2015.

The NPA covers the period from 2015 to 2020. The preparation of the National Plan of Action was conducted within the framework of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The National Plan of Action is a comprehensive political document that defines the goals and strategic aspects of promoting gender balance in various aspects of life.

The NPA consists of 14 key tasks and over 60 measures. The key tasks include:

- Awareness-raising on gender issues
- Further improvement of the legislation of Turkmenistan on gender equality
- Further strengthening of the national mechanisms for promoting women's rights
- Changing and elimination of stereotypes
- Identification of priority areas in fight against all forms of violence against women
- Increasing women's participation
- Delivery of equal opportunities for women
- Women and education
- Women and employment
- Access to healthcare services
- Reproductive health education
- Women in special institutions
- Gender equality in the family
- Data collection, monitoring and evaluation of NPA results

Plan of Action and timeline for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (for State-parties) and the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review and other United Nations human rights mechanisms aimed at combating inequality and discrimination against women

Turkmenistan is a party to 150 multilateral conventions and treaties forming the basis of its international legal commitment to ensuring human rights and freedoms, solving social, economic and humanitarian problems, including the fundamental international acts on human rights.

In fulfilling all bilateral and multilateral international agreements, treaties and conventions, our country strictly follows its obligations and makes full use of its impressive political, economic and cultural potential in the name of peace and progress. There are several concrete examples

of our joint activities with international organizations on the practical implementation of planned activities on human rights.

Regular national reports are issued on implementation of the provisions of the Human Rights Conventions to which Turkmenistan is a party, and are submitted to the concerned United Nations Committees. Recommendations of international organizations are taken into account in integration of the norms of international law into the national legislation.

In 2018, the delegations of Turkmenistan took part in the consecutive, third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review on Human Rights, the dialogues on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The recommendations of the UN Treaty Bodies, as well as the measures planned in the country's national socio-economic development programs, are consistently implemented. To this end, regular methodological seminars, working meetings and consultations are held including the international experts on methods for preparation of national human rights reports, and collecting and analysing relevant data. In April 2019, a seminar was held for the Working Group of the Interdepartmental Commission on development of a roadmap to implement the recommendations received during the current cycle of the Universal Periodic Review on Turkmenistan, the dialogue on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The workshop was organized with technical support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). It should be noted that in the process of developing the roadmap, an integrated approach to human rights was applied, drawing the link between the implementation of the recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms and human rights indicators of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

State Human Rights Institutions

According to the Law of Turkmenistan "On the Ombudsman", the post of Ombudsman, as the authorized representative for human rights in Turkmenistan, is established in accordance with the Constitution of Turkmenistan, in order to guarantee the state protection of human and civil rights and freedoms, compliance and respect by state authorities, local authorities and their representatives. This is the first instance of appointment of Ombudsman, as the authorized representative for human rights in Turkmenistan.

The law of Turkmenistan "On the Ombudsman" clearly defines the powers and functions of the Ombudsman, that are aimed at protecting the human rights and citizen rights, including rights of women, and the status of the Ombudsman's office, as a state legal entity.

Thus, in accordance with Article 18 of the Law, the Ombudsman has a right to pay visit without prior notice to any state bodies, local governments, enterprises, institutions and organizations regardless of their organizational and legal structure and form of ownership, as well as correctional and other specialized institutions and pre-trial detention centers, places of detention, the Armed Forces of Turkmenistan, other troops and military establishments. Independently or jointly with the specialised state bodies, officials and civil servants, the Ombudsman is authorized to conduct examination of their activities, to request and receive from state officials, local self-government, enterprises, institutions and organizations (irrespective of their organizational and legal forms and forms of ownership) all necessary

documents, materials and other information and their explanations; to instruct the specialised state bodies and scientific organizations to conduct expert research on the issues requiring clarification; to contact the authorized state bodies or officials with a proposal on initiating the disciplinary and administrative proceedings or criminal proceedings against officials who violated the human rights and freedoms; to appeal to authorized state bodies or officials with a proposal to initiate disciplinary, administrative proceedings or criminal proceedings against officials who violated human rights and freedoms; exercise other powers, stipulated by this Law and other regulatory acts of Turkmenistan.

In order to establish the cases of violation of rights and freedoms of an individual, the Ombudsman, within its competence, verifies the information on violations of human rights and freedoms both on the basis of received appeals and on own initiative, if the Ombudsman becomes aware of these violations from official sources or media.

The Ombudsman accepts appeals both from the citizens of Turkmenistan, as well as foreign citizens and stateless persons residing on the territory of Turkmenistan, in relation to actions and decisions of officials and organizations that may have violated their rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, as well as other normative legal acts and international treaties of Turkmenistan.

The functions of the Ombudsman enshrined in the Article 19 of the Law include assisting the observance of human rights and freedoms, the restoration of violated human rights and freedoms, the ratification of international human rights treaties, the improvement of legislation in this area, the legal education of citizens in the field of the protection of human rights and freedoms of citizens, as well as the forms and methods of their protection, the interaction among state bodies on protection of human rights and freedoms, and the development and coordination of international cooperation in this field. The Ombudsman is assigned to review the complaints against decisions or actions of state authorities, local self-government institutions and government officials, if these decisions or actions have previously been appealed in a judicial or administrative procedure.

The work of the Ombudsman's Office is organized in accordance with the annual workplan approved by the Ombudsman, including tasks to be delivered by the Office.

One of the main activities of the Ombudsman is the consideration of complaints against decisions or actions (inaction) of state authorities, local self-government bodies and their officials which may be violating the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of citizens of Turkmenistan and foreign citizens and stateless persons residing in Turkmenistan, by inspecting these individuals without allowing any privileges or restrictions on grounds of nationality, color, sex, origin, official status or position, place of residence, language, attitude to religion, political beliefs, party affiliation (or lack thereof).

A certain share of complaints to Ombudsman's Office has been received from women. The Ombudsman also holds in-person discussion of complaints from citizens, some of which come from women; all complaints are addressed according to the legislation of Turkmenistan. In addition, the Ombudsman and responsible officers regularly travel across the country to review appeals in different regions, including those from women; these complaints and appeals are responded to in accordance with the law. According to Article 33 of the Law, one of the priorities of the Ombudsman's activity is to promote public awareness on human rights. To this end, the Ombudsman has organized seminars in all regions of the country in 2017 and 2018 to explain the national legislation and international documents related to the protection of human rights, including women's rights.

Actions taken over the past five years to create and maintain peace, to promote peaceful and inclusive communities for sustainable development and to implement the agenda on women, peace and security

- *Actions on women, peace and security*

Turkmenistan is making a great contribution towards strengthening of peaceful and sustainable development, and creating conditions for advancing of the good-neighbourly relations and fruitful partnerships. The active engagement of our state on the international arena, the dynamic participation in solving acute problems of the present day, help to address the universal goals for well-being and prosperity, a fruitful partnership between countries of the region and the world. Thanks to the “open door” policy pursued by the President of Turkmenistan, friendly ties with foreign countries are being increasingly strengthened.

Turkmenistan is expanding partnerships with many countries across various areas. The strategic goals of Turkmenistan are fully aligned with the key requirements and objectives of a peaceful, secure and inclusive development.

The Peace Fund of Turkmenistan is one of the public associations that pursue the main objectives of actively participating in strengthening the peace, friendship and harmony among nations, promoting the peaceful resolution of interethnic and social conflicts and other issues. The main activities of the foundation including promoting peace, friendship, mercy and harmony among nations, as well as the conservation of environment. The offices of the Foundation work in all regions of Turkmenistan. The Foundation holds events with participation of young people, veterans, and elders, representatives of various professions, in the form of different types of meetings, conferences, and round tables.

Actions taken in the past five years to strengthen judicial and extrajudicial liabilities on violations of international humanitarian law and human rights of women and girls in situations of armed and other conflicts or in the implementation of humanitarian activities and in response to crisis situations

- *Increased access of women affected by conflict, refugee women or displaced women to services on prevention and protection against violence*

Sustainable Development programs in the country include dedicated strategic areas on migration and statelessness, which are the areas where Turkmenistan has achieved notable success and intends to continue taking active measures to eliminate the statelessness.

There is a factual proof of this success: Turkmenistan has granted citizenship to over 22,000 refugees and stateless persons, and plays a leading role in Central Asia on acceding to the conventions on statelessness, executing legislative reforms, introducing biometric identification of the identity of refugees and stateless persons, all of which are key actions contributing to the United Nations Global Plan on the Reduction of Statelessness launched in 2014.

Following identification of the priority areas that are important in implementing the actions of the UN Global Plan for the Elimination of Statelessness, Turkmenistan developed and approved National Plan of Action in January 2019, including the necessary measures to be implemented until 2024 in consultation with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for

Refugees and other UN agencies other international organizations, as well as the civil society and stateless persons themselves.

The National Plan of Action presents a national strategy founded upon the Constitution of Turkmenistan, adhering to the principles of permanent neutrality and emphasizing the adherence to the objectives and principles of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which help to ensure the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the programs of the President of Turkmenistan on socio-economic development of the country in 2018–2024, as well as the implementation of the National Plan of Action on Human Rights in Turkmenistan in 2016- 2020.

The National Action Plan is intended to promote the coordination and strengthening of coordination among authorized state bodies and international organizations and civil society in resolving situations of statelessness and preventing the reoccurrence of statelessness through the adoption of legislative and practical measures.

In addition, the state guarantees the stateless persons the right to housing, access to education, employment, medical services, identification documents and travel biometric documents of international standard, non-discriminatory access to the justice system, the right to cultural identity, and the right to participate in state and international sports events. This is evidenced by the adoption of the Declaration “On the Promotion of the Valuable Contribution of the Olympic Refugee Teams to the Consolidation of Peace and Human Rights” at the 36th session of the UN Council in Geneva, based on proposal by the President of Turkmenistan.

It should also be noted that the achievements of Turkmenistan in resolving issues of refugees and statelessness have been a result of remarkable acceleration in recent years of cooperation between Turkmenistan and the United Nations, especially with its agencies including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as well as with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

As a permanent member of the Executive Committee of the Program of the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, our state is an active supporter of consolidating international efforts to ensure and protect the rights of refugees and stateless persons.

- *Taking measures to combat trafficking in women and children*

In Turkmenistan, crimes related to human trafficking are not widespread. In 2016, crimes related to trafficking in persons accounted for 0.03% of the total number of cases examined; only one crime was registered in 2017, no incidences were registered in 2018. No cases of trafficking in children have been registered.

The Law of Turkmenistan “On Countering Trafficking in Persons” was adopted on October 15, 2016, including the provisions on identification of victims of human trafficking and the procedure for conferring the status of a victim of human trafficking to persons affected by this criminal act, as well as other measures aimed at effective countering of the activities related to human trafficking.

According to this law, in order to bring the national legal framework in line with international standards on combating trafficking in persons, relevant amendments and additions were made to the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan, the Code of Turkmenistan on Administrative Offenses,

as well as the Law of Turkmenistan “On advocacy in Turkmenistan”, the Law “On Employment” and the Law “On Advertising”.

The Article 1291 of the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan, which regulates the liabilities for trafficking in persons, is brought into line with international standards on combating trafficking in persons. In particular, the scope of this crime has been expanded and deepened.

Turkmenistan has successfully implemented the National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons for 2016-2018, as part of which, a draft standard operating procedure for identifying the victims of human trafficking and the basis for the National Referral Mechanism were developed. Information materials (memos and booklets) on the issues of human rights, the rights of migrants, and victims of human trafficking have been developed and published.

Currently, a new cycle of the NPA to Combat Trafficking in Persons has been developed for 2019-2022.

Actions taken in the past five years to eliminate discrimination and violations of girls' rights

- *Increasing girls' access to quality education, skills development and training*

Over the past years, Turkmenistan has continued the reforms of the education system at all levels from preschool to postgraduate education.

The concept of improving the teaching of foreign languages and the plan of action for the implementation of the Concept of improving the teaching of foreign languages approved by the Resolution of the President of Turkmenistan in 2017, has played an important role in improving the quality of teaching.

The concept involves: the creation of a holistic educational environment at all levels of the educational system (from kindergarten to postgraduate education) for all citizens of the country, including girls; systemic modernization of the scope of teaching of foreign languages, improving the quality of language and culture of communication, developing and introducing innovative modern technologies and interactive methods of teaching the languages to stimulate effective and creative learning activity.

- *Raising the awareness of girls and their participation in social, economic and political life*

The awareness of girls, as well as the entire population of Turkmenistan about the social, economic, and political life in the country and internationally, is raised through widely available mass media: newspapers, magazines, radio, television, Internet, and others. This knowledge is made available to girls and boys as part of educational activities and events in educational institutions and is delivered in an accessible format relevant to the age of children, starting from kindergartens.

In addition, girls and boys actively participate in many mass cultural and sporting events held in the country, as well as the national and international celebrations, festivals, sports and other competitions, Days of Culture of Turkmenistan and other countries, tree-planting and charity events.

Many educational institutions of Turkmenistan have girls' clubs and public women's organizations, which also contribute to raising the awareness of females about the social, economic and political life in the country and abroad.

- *Implementing policies and programs to eradicate child labour and excessive levels of unpaid care and domestic work performed by girls*

The new edition of the Constitution of Turkmenistan adopted in 2016, introduced a norm on prevention of forced labour and the worst forms of child labour, which serves as an important step in the prevention of child labour.

In accordance with the Law of Turkmenistan "On State Guarantees of the Children's Rights" adopted in May 2014, the state guarantees the protection of children from all forms of exploitation at work through legal, economic, social, medical and educational means.

Involving a child into agricultural and other work activities during the school year is prohibited.

According to the provisions of the Law of Turkmenistan "On State Youth Policy" (2013), it is not allowed to attract students to the labour activity during the education process, except for cases when such work is related to their chosen degree (profession) and is a form of educational and industrial practice or voluntary collective or individual work performed during their free time. At the same time, this labour activity must be organized and conducted in accordance with the labour and other laws of Turkmenistan.

Officials of educational institutions bear disciplinary responsibility for using child labour in educational institutions in all industries, including in agriculture.

Individuals, officials and legal entities are administratively liable for non-compliance with this requirement by using forced or compulsory labour, including persons under the age of 18, which involves punishment in form of administrative suspension of the activities of legal entities for up to three months, among other measures.

In accordance with international obligations, in 2016, the Labour Code of Turkmenistan was amended, based on which, the minimum age for employment is set at 18 and the labour activity of students is only permitted with the permission of parents or authorized guardians, and in coordination with the relevant educational institutions. Corresponding changes were made to the Code of Turkmenistan on Social Protection of the Population, the Laws of Turkmenistan "On State Guarantees of the Children's Rights" and "On Road Safety".

Of all persons registered in state employment services, children aged under 18 years comprised 0.03%, as compared to 1.2% in 2013, 0.4% in 2014, 0.26% in 2015, 0.11% in 2016 and 0.08% in 2017.

The share of working children under the age of 18 in 2016 was 0.13% of those employed in large and medium-sized enterprises, in 2017 this number stood at 0.04% and in 2018 - 0.003%.

Persons under the age of 18 are covered by provision in the Labour Code of Turkmenistan establishing special working schedule with reduced labour hours. It is prohibited to involve this category of workers into employment in night shift, overtime and weekends, non-working holidays and commemoration days, as well as to send them on business trips.

The resolutions of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan and the State Service Turkmenstandartlary approved in 2016, provide the guidance on limits for lifting and

manually moving weights by persons under the age of 18; in 2018 the List of Occupations, Professions and Posts with harmful and dangerous (especially harmful and especially dangerous) working conditions was published prohibiting the the employment of persons under the age of 18 in these roles.

Turkmenistan was among the first countries in the world to start the consultations on the adaptation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, and in 2016, the relevant objectives and indicators covering the priority development areas for the Government of Turkmenistan were identified. In particular, as part of the delivery of target 8.7 “On taking urgent and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and to ensure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, and to end child labour in all its forms by 2025”, activities are underway and appropriate indicators have been adopted, including the measures to prevent forced labour.

In 2018, a decree of the President of Turkmenistan approved the National Plan of Action for Children of Turkmenistan 2018-2022, which aims to implement the principles and provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international treaties protecting the interests of children. The Plan of Action includes measures on prevention of the worst forms of child labour, awareness-raising, examination of the methodologies for conducting targeted surveys and other activities on this topic.

- *Raising awareness of girls and ensuring their participation in social, economic and political life*

Girls' clubs have been established in all secondary schools in the country. Girls' clubs are a common-interest, voluntary organizations of high school students in the country. The main objectives of the Club are:

- Involvement of students into creative activities;
- Improving the knowledge of female students in areas of science and art;
- Promotion of scientific knowledge and achievements;
- Development of cultural capabilities of female students;
- Development of moral and aesthetic values;
- Development of teamwork skills;

Actions taken over the past five years to integrate gender considerations and concerns into environmental policy

In order to improve the social conditions and standards of living of the rural population, relevant measures are being taken in the country within the framework of the updated National Program of the President of Turkmenistan “On transforming the social conditions and standards of living of the population of villages, towns, etrap and etrap centers for the period up to 2020” and the “Program on provision of clean drinking water in settlements of Turkmenistan.”

As part of the “Village” program, which intends to provide the population with drinking water, more than 9.2 thousand km of pipelines, 1.7 thousand km of drainage canals, around 600 wells, 6 water purification plants and 5 water disposal facilities have been built since 2008.

The efforts undertaken within the framework of the “Program on provision of clean drinking water in settlements of Turkmenistan until 2020” have led to improved access to drinking water. Consequently, the percentage of household members using improved sources of drinking water increased from 70.8% to 82.8%.¹ In urban areas, the access to safe drinking water is almost universal - 97.8%, while in rural areas, it is 73.2%.²

The agency of the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Service of the MOHMI continuously monitors the production and consumption of drinking water. The percentage of the population with access to improved sanitation is stable and high at 99%. The percentage of households using improved sanitation facilities not shared with other households is 98.6%.³

The efforts implemented within the framework of the Program on provision of clean drinking water in settlements of Turkmenistan until 2020 have led to improved access to drinking water. As a result, the percentage of household members using improved drinking water sources increased from 70.8% (MICS-3, 2006) to 82.8% (MICS-5, 2015-2016). In urban areas, the access to safe drinking water it is almost universal at 97.8%, and in rural areas, it is 73.2%.

Indicators on purified drinking water

Indicator name	Measurement unit	Total	Of which	
			urban	rural
A	B	1	2	3
The amount of filtered water	thousand m ³	399,696.5	362,887.1	36,809.4
of which, water purified according to state standards	thousand m ³	355,946.5	346,265.0	9,681.5

The State Sanitary and Epidemiological Service of the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan, guided by the Sanitary Code of Turkmenistan, carries out regular sanitary and epidemiological monitoring of the quality of water consumed in households, according to the state standards.

In certified laboratories of 78 subordinate institutions of the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Service available in all regions, samples of drinking water are examined for compliance with the requirements of the state standard for microbiological, chemical and organoleptic indicators.

¹ Cluster Survey Data across multiple indicators of Round 3 (2006)

² Cluster Survey Data across multiple indicators of Round 3 (2015-2016)

³ Ibid

The percentage of the population with access to improved sanitation is stable and high at 99% (MICS-5, 2016).

In 2015-2016, Turkmenistan conducted a 5th round of the multiple-indicator cluster survey. The survey questionnaires included questions on the use of improved water sources and access to improved sanitation. Information on the use of improved water sources and access to improved sanitation can be found in the Final Report available on the UNICEF website www.mics.unicef.org/surveys.

Section 3

The state institutions and structures on gender equality and women's empowerment

The decree of the President of Turkmenistan of August 24, 2007 appointed a State Commission for the Implementation of the International Obligations of Turkmenistan on Human Rights (hereinafter - the Interdepartmental Commission), in order to ensure the fulfilment of international obligations of Turkmenistan on human rights, to ensure the preparation of national reports on the implementation of international treaties on human rights, as well as to coordinate the activities of ministries, state committees, departments and local executive authorities, enterprises, institutions and organizations working on the implementation of international legal obligations of Turkmenistan in the field of human rights.

In August 2011, the Commission was reorganized into the Interdepartmental Commission for ensuring the implementation of Turkmenistan's international obligations in the field of human rights and international humanitarian law.

In January 2019, the Decree of the President of Turkmenistan involved the authorized representative for human rights in Turkmenistan into the Interdepartmental Commission.

The Interdepartmental Commission acts as a permanent advisory body. The functions of the Interdepartmental Commission include:

- Coordination of the activities of the responsible authorities in the implementation of international obligations on human rights;
- Ensuring the preparation of national reports on the implementation of international human rights treaties for submission to relevant international organizations;
- Monitoring of the national legislation of Turkmenistan in terms of its compliance with international human rights standards;
- Preparation of proposals for the improvement of the legislation of Turkmenistan in accordance with the provisions of international treaties in the field of human rights, to which Turkmenistan is a party;
- Ensuring the coordination and cooperation among the government and public authorities, public associations of Turkmenistan and the international organizations in efforts of protection of human rights.

The Interdepartmental Commission includes the representatives of: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Institute of State, Law and Democracy of Turkmenistan, the Mejlis (Parliament) of

Turkmenistan, the Ombudsman of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the General Prosecutor's Office, the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Economy and Development, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, the Ministry of Culture, the State Statistics Committee, the Department of Religions Affairs of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan, the National Center of the Trade Unions of Turkmenistan, the Peace Foundation of Turkmenistan, the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan, the Women's Union of Turkmenistan, and the Makhtumkuli Youth Organization.

A working group of experts and specialists has been established within the Interdepartmental Commission. The Institute of State, Law and Democracy of Turkmenistan is responsible for the coordination of the activities of the Interdepartmental Commission to ensure the implementation of Turkmenistan's international obligations on human rights and international law.

The Interdepartmental Commission is implementing a set of measures aimed at further strengthening of the legal foundations of the Turkmen society, ensuring the implementation of the political, economic, social and cultural rights of the citizens of the country.

One of the critical roles of the Interdepartmental Commission is the monitoring of the national legislation on human rights and regular preparation of proposals for the implementation of international human rights standards as part of the legal reforms initiated by the President of Turkmenistan.

In accordance with the main goals and objectives of the Interdepartmental Commission, work is underway on developing the proposals and recommendations for the improvement of national legislation, taking into account the fundamental principles of international human rights law.

The Interdepartmental Commission is responsible for ensuring the implementation of Turkmenistan's international obligations on human rights and international humanitarian law, as well as the preparation of national reports on the implementation of international human rights treaties for submission to the relevant UN bodies.

The Inter-Ministerial Commission maintains an active dialogue on human rights issues with the Regional Representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan (NRCS), the European Union (EU), the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), and other international organizations.

Together with the abovementioned international organizations, a significant amount of work is performed on planning and conducting various conferences and seminars. Their main purpose is the dissemination of knowledge in the field of human rights and freedoms, covering both the international standards and national legislation.

Currently, a joint project of the United Nations Development Program in Turkmenistan and the Institute of State, Law and Democracy of Turkmenistan on "Assisting in the Implementation of the National Plan of Action Plan on Human Rights in Turkmenistan 2016-2020" is being implemented on a co-financing basis, in accordance with our country's commitments to sustainable development goals.

As part of this project, the government of Turkmenistan is working on the implementation of the NPA on human rights, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of Turkmenistan, as well as the implementation of Turkmenistan's commitments to the country's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the context of the project, a constant constructive dialogue is being held between representatives of state structures and public associations of the country with experts of international organizations on issues related to human rights.

In partnership with the United Nations Population Fund's country office in Turkmenistan, the project on "Support to strengthening of the system and mechanisms for promoting gender equality" is being implemented on a co-financing basis.

Implementation of SDGs

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth, social integration and environmental protection, as well as promotion of partnerships for sustainable development. In Turkmenistan, the SDGs guide the country's development strategy as stipulated in government policies. The National Program for the Socio-Economic Development of Turkmenistan until 2030 and the Presidential Program for Social and Economic Development for the period of 2019-2025 are aimed at achieving the sustainable development and ensuring consistent implementation of the SDGs as one of their key priorities. Turkmenistan was one of the first countries in the world to begin consultations on the adaptation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In order to ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Agenda, the Scientific and Methodological Center on Sustainable Development Goals was created on 1 September 2017 under the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

On November 17, 2017, the President of Turkmenistan approved a Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Turkmenistan.

Turkmenistan plans to further integrate sustainable development goals and objectives into national, sectoral and regional programs, development strategies and plans, as well as financial plans of the country. In this regard, a Working Group has been established as a coordination mechanism composed of deputy heads of ministries, departments, public organizations, educational and scientific institutions, which oversee the implementation of sustainable development goals and monitoring of results. The coordinating body of the Working Group is the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan. The State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan is assigned with responsibilities for monitoring and reporting on progress, designing the methodology of collection of state and departmental statistics, preparing state reports and coordinating the collection of administrative data, as well as creating and maintaining a database for SDG information.

In 2019, Turkmenistan will present its first Voluntary National Review on progress in the implementation of the SDGs focused on empowering people and achieving universal coverage and equality, as part of the High-level Political Forum under the auspices of ECOSOC to be conducted in New York in July 2019.

Does your country have formal mechanisms for participation of various stakeholders in the implementation and monitoring of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda?

Yes.

a) Which of the following stakeholders are formally involved in government coordination mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action	2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Organizations of civil society	Organizations of civil society
Organizations of protection of women's rights	Organizations of protection of women's rights
Scientific community and specialized analytical centers	Scientific community and specialized analytical centers
Religious organizations	Religions organizations
Parliaments/ parliamentary committees	Parliaments/ parliamentary committees
Private sector	Private sector
United Nations organizations	United Nations organizations
Other participants	Other participants

Is gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls a key priority in the state plan / strategy for implementing the SDGs?

Gender equality is one of the fundamental foundations of democracy. Legislative and regulatory acts have been adopted and a number of measures have been implemented in the field of gender equality, providing mechanisms and guarantees to ensuring equal opportunities for men and women in Turkmenistan.

The development of market relations under conditions of independence in Turkmenistan has led to major changes in political, economic and social policy of the country. These changes, in one way or another, have affected the interests of the entire population, including women, who play a critical role in any society. In this regard, the issue of women's participation in business in a transition economy is particularly relevant. Issues of gender development are integrated into the national programs of social and economic development of Turkmenistan.

Women in Turkmenistan account for 50.2% of the population. The average life expectancy of women is almost 7 years longer than that of men.

Section 4

The main areas of progress over the past five years in collection of gender statistics at the national level

- *Introduction of normative acts and programs/strategies on collection of gender statistics*

The State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan, in accordance with the Law of Turkmenistan “On State Guarantees for Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities of Women and Men”, has developed a procedure for generating statistical reports on gender equality, which will guide the data collection on gender statistics. At present, the draft Order is going through the process of approval by the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan. Also, as necessary, the matters related to development of gender-related statistical information are reviewed by the Interdepartmental Council on Statistics under the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan.

Gender-oriented statistical information is collected on the basis of data reported on labour statistics, wages, education, health and demographic statistics, as well as on the basis of data from regular (quarterly) labour force surveys of households. Household surveys conducted with technical assistance from international organizations in Turkmenistan include gender-sensitive indicators.

In 2015–2016, a Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey Round 5 (MICS 5) was conducted in Turkmenistan with technical support from UNICEF and UNFPA, in order to collect internationally comparable data on the situation of children and women. The results of MICS 5 were recognized by the international community and its final report was published on the UNICEF website. Turkmenistan is one of the first CIS countries to conduct a survey using the CAPI method - the use of tablets in the survey. At present, preparatory work is underway to conduct a 6th round of the multi-indicator cluster survey (MICS 6), which will be held in May-July 2019. The survey questionnaire has been expanded in order to collect the information for monitoring the achievements of sustainable development goals. Testing of questionnaires is performed by staff of the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan with participation of international experts.

In implementation of the NPA on Gender Equality in Turkmenistan in 2015–2020, the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan and the Institute of the State, Law and Democracy of Turkmenistan, are currently preparing to organize a sample survey on the status of women in the family. A questionnaire has been prepared with technical support from UNFPA in Turkmenistan. In the coming months, the survey and the listing of the households for surveying will be prepared. The results of the survey will be presented in a report. The findings will also allow for monitoring of the achievements across selected SDG 5 indicators.

As part of the implementation of the National Plan of Action on Human Rights in Turkmenistan in 2016 – 2020, the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan, jointly with the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of Turkmenistan, is working on development of a state register for information on persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities and sex-disaggregated indicators.

An electronic card for persons with disabilities has already been developed. Also an agreement has been reached on the content of the register, software to be used for inputs, analysis and aggregation of data.

The data absent in the statistical sources are collated separately, for example, the information on the number of women in the Parliament.

In accordance with the Law of Turkmenistan “On Statistics”, statistical data are disseminated only in aggregated form. The State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan annually publishes statistical reports entitled “Statistical Yearbook of Turkmenistan” and “Labour Market and Wages in Turkmenistan” which contain gender-sensitive statistical information. Also, in 2018, the statistical report on “Men and Women of Turkmenistan” was released.

The State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan regularly prepares statistical and analytical papers on topics of concern in the country, including gender issues. Official statistics are also used in the preparation of scientific articles both by the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan and other institutions.

Key priorities in the development of national gender statistics in the next five years

- *Conducting new research for national baseline data on selected topics*

The activities of the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan are performed in accordance with the annual workplan which is formed on the basis of state development programs.

In the framework of the work programs of UNICEF and UNFPA offices in Turkmenistan, two surveys will be administered in 2019 - a multiple-indicator cluster survey (6th round) and a survey on the status of women in family. Also, the final works on establishing a well-functioning state register with data on persons with disabilities (including children with disabilities) will be completed.

In accordance with the Decree of the President of Turkmenistan, a population census of Turkmenistan will be conducted in December 2022. At present, the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan, jointly with other relevant ministries and departments, is conducting the relevant preparatory work in this regard.

In accordance with the State Program for the Development of the Economic, Financial, and Banking Systems of Turkmenistan in 2019–2025, the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan plans to execute over 10 major measures to improve national statistics over the next 5 years. Almost all of these measures will also consider the issues of statistics collection on gender.

Have you identified a national set of indicators to monitor the progress in implementation of the SDGs?

Yes. 175 indicators, of which 25 are gender-oriented.

Gender-oriented SDG indicators

Indicator No.	Indicator
1.1.1	Proportion of population living below the international poverty line; data disaggregated by sex, age group, geographic location (urban / rural)
1.3.1	Percentage of the population covered by systems / minimum level of social protection, disaggregated by sex, children, persons of retirement age, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, and newborns affected by occupational injuries
2.3.2	Average income of small food producers; disaggregated by gender, geographical location, and type of manufacturers
3.3.2	The incidence of tuberculosis per 100,000 people
3.3.3	The incidence of malaria per 1,000 people
3.3.4	The incidence of hepatitis B per 100,000 people
3.4.2	Suicide-related mortality per 100,000 people
3.5.2	Alcohol abuse (determined according to national characteristics of per capita alcohol consumption by the age of 15) in litres of pure alcohol per calendar year
3.a.1	Age- standardized prevalence of tobacco use by persons over the age of 15
4.2.1	Percentage of children aged under five who are developing without issues related to health, education and psychosocial wellbeing, disaggregated by sex
4.2.2	Level of participation in organized education (one year prior to school enrolment age), disaggregated by sex
4.5.1	Equality indices (women and men, urban and rural residents, disabled, depending on data availability)
4.6.1	Percentage of the population in this age group who has reached or exceeded the level of functional a) literacy and b) mathematical literacy, disaggregated by sex
	a) Proportion of young people (aged 15–24) who have reached or exceeded standard level of skills in (a) literacy and (b) quantitative thinking

b) Percentage of adults (aged 15 and above) who have reached or exceeded the standard level of skills in (a) literacy and (b) quantitative thinking

5.a.1 a) Share of people who have a guaranteed right to the use agricultural land (among the population engaged in agriculture), disaggregated by sex;

b) Share of women with a guaranteed right to the use of agricultural land, disaggregated by land tenure

5.b.1 Proportion of people owning a mobile phone, by sex

8.3.1 The share of informal employment in the non-agricultural sector; disaggregated by sex

8.5.1 The average wages of women and men, disaggregated by type of economic activity, age and disability status

8.5.2 Unemployment rate by sex, age and disability status

8.7.1. The proportion of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour; disaggregated by sex and age

8.8.1 Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries by sex

11.7.1. Average share of developed urban areas open to public, indicating accessibility by sex, age and disability status

16.1.1 Number of victims of premeditated murders per 100,000 people, disaggregated by sex and age

16.2.2 Number of victims of trafficking in persons per 100,000 people, disaggregated by sex, age and form of exploitation

16.2.3 The proportion of young women and men aged 18 to 29 years who are sexually abused before the age of 18 years

16.7.2 Share of the population who believe that the decision-making process is comprehensive and responsive, disaggregated by sex, age and disability status

Has data collection and compilation of indicators for SDG 5 and gender indicators for other SDGs started?

Yes. Each indicator treated as a priority.

Which of the following data sharing options are used regularly in large-scale research in your country?⁴

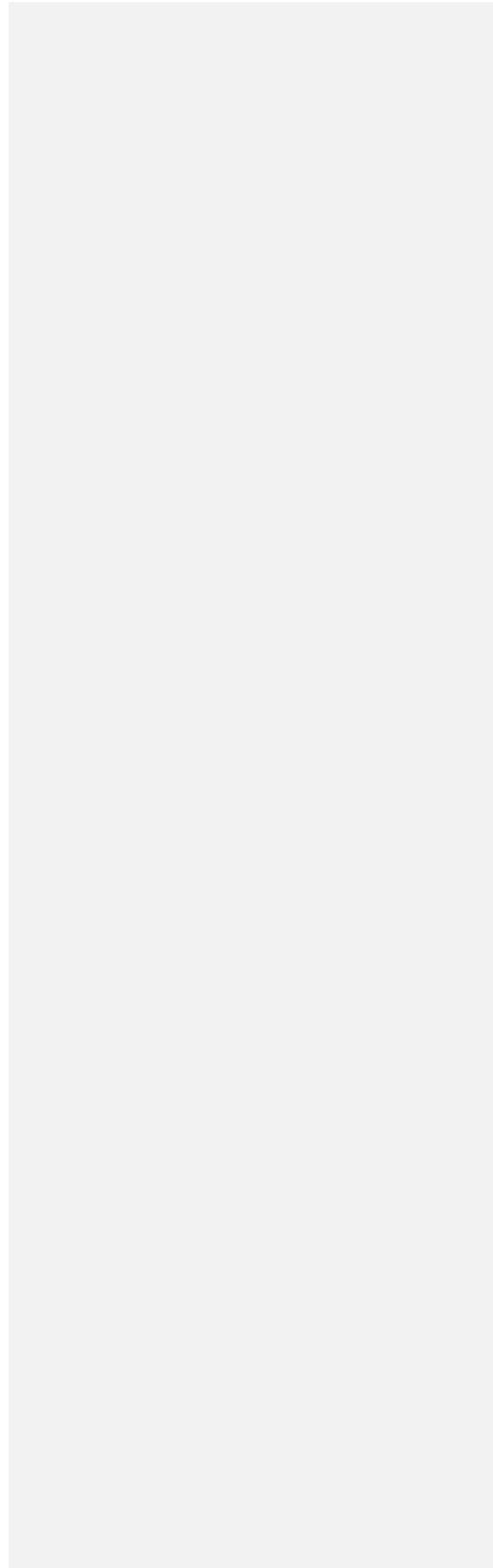
√ Geographic location

√ Income

⁴ According to document A / RES / 70/1, with the addition of education and marital status.

- ∨ Sex
- ∨ Age
- ∨ Family status
- ∨ Race/ Ethnicity
- ∨ Migration status
- ∨ Capacity limitations/disability

Other characteristics relevant to the public context



APPENDIX 1

Completed and ongoing national programs of social and economic development in Turkmenistan

- The national program of socio-economic development in Turkmenistan in 2011-2030
- The program of the President of Turkmenistan on the socio-economic development of the country in 2019-2025
- The program of the President of Turkmenistan on the social and economic development of the country in 2012–2016
- The program of socio-economic development of Ahal area in 2012–2016
- The program of socio-economic development of Balkan area in 2012–2016
- The program of socio-economic development of Lebap area in 2012–2016
- The program of socio-economic development of Dashoguz area in 2012-2016
- The program of socio-economic development of Mary area in 2012–2016

APPENDIX 2

State and national programs, strategies and action plans adopted and implemented in the period of 2015-2018

- The state program of Turkmenistan on healthcare (2015);
- The state program on development of healthcare systems in Turkmenistan in 2012-2016;
- Immunization for the period until 2020;
- The state program on development of the pharmaceuticals industry of Turkmenistan in 2011-2015;
- The plan of action on development of the sanatorium-resort system in Turkmenistan;
- The national strategy and plan of action for the implementation of the Ashgabat declaration on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in Turkmenistan in 2014–2020;
- The national strategy and plan of action on the health of mothers, newborns, children and adolescents in Turkmenistan in 2015–2019;
- The national program of Turkmenistan on improvement of perinatal medical care in 2014-2018;
- The strategy on combatting malignant breast cancer and cervix cancer in Turkmenistan;
- The national program on healthy nutrition of the population of Turkmenistan in 2013-2017;
- The national program for early development and school preparation of children in 2011-2015;
- The concept of development of paediatrics and national early intervention services in Turkmenistan and the plan of action for its implementation in 2015-2020;
- The national program and Plan of Action on infant and child nutrition in Turkmenistan 2017- 2021;
- The national program of Turkmenistan on combating HIV infection 2012–2016;
- The national program on prevention of measles and congenital rubella infection in Turkmenistan;
- Comprehensive interdepartmental plan of action to prevent the reoccurrence of malaria in Turkmenistan in 2016-2020;
- The national plan of action on tobacco control in Turkmenistan in 2012-2016;
- The national program on road traffic in Turkmenistan in 2015-2017;
- The strategy on strengthening the control measures against viral hepatitis in Turkmenistan in 2019-2030;
- The national program of support to development of sports and physical training in Turkmenistan in 2011–2020;

- The national program for prevention of the harmful effects of alcohol in Turkmenistan in 2018–2024;
- The national program for the protection of mental health in Turkmenistan in 2018-2022;
- The national strategy on increasing the physical activity of the population in Turkmenistan in 2018-2025 and the plan of measures for their implementation;
- The strategy and action plan to combat antimicrobial resistance for the period of 2017-2025;
- The national policy on strengthening the rapid laboratory services in 2018–2020;
- The national program for the safe handling and disposal of medical waste in healthcare facilities;
- An interdepartmental plan for the implementation of measures for the prevention of infectious diseases transmitted from animals to humans in Turkmenistan for the period of 2016–2020.