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UNESCO Country Strategy (UCS) for Turkmenistan 2016 – 2020



UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office 2017



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FOREWORD



Ms. Esther Kuisch Laroche

UNESCO Representative to Turkmenistan
Director of the UNESCO Cluster Office in Tehran covering
Afghanistan, I.R. Iran, Pakistan and Turkmenistan

It is my pleasure to present the UNESCO Country Strategy (UCS) for Turkmenistan, covering the period 2016-2020. The UCS aims to situate UNESCO's work in each Member State within the country's development context. This document is grounded within the programmatic goals and planned outcomes of the United Nations - Turkmenistan Partnership Framework for Development (UN PDF) 2016-2020, which coordinates and guides the activities of all the UN agencies in Turkmenistan.

The UCS for Turkmenistan, as is the UN PDF itself, is closely aligned with the development priorities of the country and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As a specialized agency within the UN system, UNESCO's mission is to support the efforts of Member States in adhering to international standards and norms adopted by UNESCO's General Conference, and fostering international co-operation between Member States, scientific bodies and civil society organizations involved in UNESCO's fields of competence.

Building peace in the hearts and minds of people remains the primary mission of UNESCO. In collaboration with our partners in Turkmenistan and worldwide, we hope to provide platforms for dialogue and cooperation that will enable the benefits of development to reach all, especially the most disadvantaged, women, youth and children, to shape a sustainable future for the world – a world of unity in diversity.

Esther Kuisch Laroche
Director and Representative
UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office

PART I: STRATEGIC VISION

Turkmenistan is located in Central Asia and borders on Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and the Caspian Sea. Its territory covers 488,100 square kilometers, of which approximately 80 per cent is occupied by the Karakum desert. Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan, is located in the southern part of the country, between the Karakum desert and the Kopet-Dag mountain range. Turkmenistan was an important trading hub on the Silk Road, and has been at the crossroads of civilizations for centuries.

Due to its location, Ashgabat has an arid climate with hot and dry summers and short, mild winters while Turkmenistan, as a whole, has a sub-tropical desert climate that is severely continental. Given its situation on the immense Euro-Asian steppe, the country is generally arid and covers steppe land, desert and high mountain ranges and is home to a unique range of ecosystems and high biodiversity. It continues to be highly vulnerable to environmental damage, particularly with regard to the fragile, arid ecosystems and limited water resources. This situation must be placed within a sub-regional context where there is a lack of a common response to shared environmental problems, especially water.

A further environmental threat comes from land degradation due to agricultural activities (in particular from increased production of strategically important but water hungry crops such as cotton and wheat) and the increasing salinity of land from irrigation. Overall, a strong link must be made between continued population growth, the need to improve livelihoods, and environmental degradation in Turkmenistan and, consequently, sustainable natural resource management will increase in importance in the years to come.

After gaining independence in 1991, Turkmenistan has experienced great social and economic changes associated with the move from a command to a market economy. It is divided into five administrative regions (*velayats*) each consisting of several districts (*etraps*). Each of these is headed by a *khakim* (governor) who is the representative of both Government and the President. Local self-government comprises representative local public authorities, *gengeshy* (municipal councils) and the public territorial organs of self-government. The political system and decision-making structures remain highly centralized and are characterized by a strong presidency.

In 2016, Turkmenistan was ranked 111th in the UNDP Human Development Index with a value of 0.654. Turkmenistan has a highly specialized economy, which largely depends on the export of natural gas, oil, and cotton. Vast hydrocarbon resources in the country make it an important player in world energy markets, ranking it among the top ten in the world for natural gas reserves. Turkmenistan also has extensive reserves of raw chemicals and deposits of raw materials for the building industry. Most industry in Turkmenistan is state-owned.

The population of Turkmenistan was 5.4 million in 2016. Turkmens form largest ethnic group in the country and other ethnic groups include Uzbeks, Russians, Kazaks, Tatars, Ukrainians, Armenians and Azerbaijanis. The Turkmen language is the official state language, although Russian continues to be widely spoken in urban areas. While the majority of the population is Sunni Muslim, the Russian Orthodox, Armenian Christian and other confessional beliefs are also practiced in Turkmenistan.

In 2016, Turkmenistan's GDP was US \$37.7 billion. Its income level is characterized by the World Bank as 'upper-middle income'.

In the coming years, Turkmenistan is poised to tap its enormous human potential through the important projects of institution building and economic diversification. The Government is enabling its state institutions to more effectively reach the entire population, including vulnerable groups, and to reduce existing geographic and social disparities, such as those related to rural location, gender, age and disability. At the same time, Turkmenistan has continued to increase its compliance with international human rights obligations and bring its national legislation in line with international standards¹.

The Constitution requires the State to provide education to all of Turkmenistan's citizens and there is almost universal enrolment in basic education and virtually no gender disparity in school enrolment. Since 1996, Turkmenistan has been a party to the two International Covenants of 1966, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In May 2010, the Government of Turkmenistan adopted the *National Programme for Socio-Economic Development (NPSD) 2011-2030*. The NPSD identified sustained growth, continued improvement in living standards, and increased role for the private sector, and economic diversification as strategic government priorities. Other specific objectives include reaching a high-income status for the country by 2025; ensuring sustainable regional development by achieving universal access to drinking water in all communities by 2030; and closing the development gap between rural and urban areas and ensuring inclusive development throughout the country. UNESCO's commitment is to support the Government of Iran in achieving its national priorities through its mandate in Education, Sciences, Culture and Communication and Information.

The *United Nations Partnership Framework for Development (UN PFD) 2016-2020*, agreed between the Government of Turkmenistan and the United Nations in 2016, is a strategic programme framework for development that will guide the work of the Government and the UN until the end of 2020. It signifies a move away from donor-recipient relations towards a partnership with an upper middle income country that aspires to continue with two-digit economic growth rates that are obtained using sustainable development approaches that can contribute to healthier and more prosperous lives for the people of Turkmenistan.

The eight key results expected from this partnership, called outcomes, were identified jointly by the Government of Turkmenistan, the UN, and civil society partners. They are aligned with the priorities established in the NPSD 2011-2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The outcomes make best use of the expertise and resources of the UN agencies to support the achievement of development results. Strategies for each outcome share a common focus on reaching vulnerable groups and assisting Turkmenistan. These are focused on the following strategic areas:

1. *Quality data and progress monitoring*
2. *Quality, inclusive social services*
3. *Environmental sustainability and energy efficiency*
4. *Employment, economic diversification, and trade*
5. *Governance and the rule of law*

¹ The United Nations in Turkmenistan: A Strategic Partnership, UN Country Team, 2015.

UNESCO will leverage its technical expertise in its areas of competence to support the achievement of the priority UNDAF outcomes specified above.

The UN PDF 2016-2020 Results Matrix is provided as Annex A.

Challenges, Opportunities, Successes, and Lessons Learnt

The key challenge facing UNESCO in Turkmenistan is its status as a non-resident agency (NRA), as well as the limited resources of the UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office. This renders it challenging to maintain UNESCO's contributions to the UNPDF, limits the possible scope of cooperation and makes it difficult to ensure effective and efficient communications with national partners, possible donors, and the UN Country Team. Another challenge is the limited capacity of the Office resulting from budget constraints at the level of the Organization as a whole.

A significant opportunity rests in the fact that UNESCO, although it is not a resident agency, is a well-known and respected UN agency in Turkmenistan. This positive image is attributed to the overall work of UNESCO and the keen interest of the Government of Turkmenistan in culture, especially in the field of World Heritage, and also in its international cooperation in the fields of education and science.

In its cooperation with Turkmenistan, UNESCO can also draw on a large network of field offices in the region, UNESCO Category 1 and 2 institutes and centres as well as on expertise from the Organization's specialized networks and programmes such as the Man and the Biosphere Programme, the International Hydrological Programme, the World Heritage Centre in tangible cultural heritage, etc.

Since the establishment of the UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office in 2003, the Office has introduced and expanded its programmes for the Education, Natural Sciences, Culture, and Communication and Information sectors. Key focus areas and partnerships have been created around strengthening the education sector, management of water resources, environmental sustainability, disaster preparedness and mitigation, preservation of cultural heritage, and institutional capacity building of the media.

Education

Turkmenistan has made impressive progress in the field of Education over the past decade. The country has gone through an Education Reform process and Education has been recognized as a national priority.

According to the 2016 UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report², Turkmenistan is one of only twelve countries in the world currently on track to reach its global education targets. This is largely due to the fact that the primary and secondary education sectors enjoy very high enrolment rates for both sexes. In addition, gender disparities were eliminated in both primary and secondary education by 2005. Some challenges remain, however, including in the areas of education planning; producing quality education statistics; and the effective use of ICTs in education.

Currently, UNESCO supports Turkmenistan in its efforts to achieve the targets under the stand-alone goal on education, Sustainable Development Goal 4 (*Ensure inclusive and quality*

² 2016 Global Education Monitoring Report Education for people and planet: Creating sustainable futures for all <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002457/245752e.pdf>

education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all) in the areas of education policy, planning and strategy; education data collection, analysis and reporting; quality education; inclusive education; technical and vocational education and training, education for sustainable development; and ICT in education.

UNESCO contributes to the national implementation of SDG 4 through a combination of knowledge-sharing; analytical work and research; providing upstream policy advice and capacity building; facilitating policy dialogue, and developing partnerships. One key aspect of UNESCO's work is to disseminate internationally tested best practices and innovative ideas on education among policy makers and practitioners.

Since 2005, UNESCO has been providing support for improving education quality at all educational levels through technical cooperation, advocacy, expert exchange and training. Such support included:

- Teacher training and review and development of the curriculum and of teaching materials;
- Capacity building for education planning through a high-level national workshop on strategic planning and sector-focused management and study visits (UNESCO Education Institutes such as IIEP and Education Sector in Paris HQ);
- Advocacy for extending the duration of primary education (from nine to ten years);
- Sub-regional policy assistance through the annual Central Asian Forum for Education for All;
- Support for the development of a national EFA plan and for EFA reporting, including completion of a first draft EFA Mid-Decade Assessment report (with UNICEF);
- Production of ten prototype e-textbooks on science subjects and teachers' guidelines on ICT education, as a joint effort of Education and Communication & Information Sectors;
- International consultation on quality education, Science and Technology education and ICTs through a national conference and expert missions;
- Visits to centres of excellence in the fields of higher education and sciences in France;
- Capacity building for statisticians and data managers on compiling, processing and disseminating education statistics with a view to monitor Turkmenistan's progress against SDG 4;
- National Launch of the 2016 UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report (in Russian), which provided an important technical forum for the sharing of experiences, achievements, challenges and lessons learned on the six Education for All Goals, and reflection on the current post- 2015 education agenda.

As the lead United Nations agency for education, UNESCO is strategically positioned to support the national implementation of SDG 4. The Office is provided technical backstopping by experts in the Regional Office in Bangkok and the Headquarters in Paris, as well as various Category 1 Institutes and Centres, thus bringing to bear the full range of UNESCO's expertise in education.

Moving forward, UNESCO needs to continue leveraging the assistance of all national stakeholders and sister UN agencies, such as UNICEF, in order to effectively support the implementation of the SDG 4 – Education 2030 agenda in Turkmenistan. UNESCO has successfully built crucial partnerships with national stakeholders, in particular with the Turkmen National Commission for UNESCO, the State Committee for Statistics, and the Ministry of

Education. However, UNESCO's status as a non-resident UN agency poses a challenge for regular follow-up with national counterparts. Therefore, continued close cooperation and partnership with resident UN agencies, in particular UNICEF, is important to guarantee the sustainability of UNESCO's activities.

Natural Sciences

Challenges in this sector include the extremely arid climate; the overuse of existing water resources and its impact on soil and the natural ecosystem; the need for better regional/sub-regional cooperation over shared environmental challenges; and capacity gaps.

Key achievements in this area include improved interest in an integrated approach to water management, enhanced local capacity for environmental conservation, and increased efforts towards better regional cooperation in this area.

Cooperation with Turkmenistan in the field of sciences was at a low level during the first few years after the country's independence in 1990s, when the Academy of Sciences was closed and many research institutes faced of lack of funding and support.

Subsequently, this cooperation gained momentum, notably through sub-regional, regional, and international cooperation. A strategic focus was placed on the fact that environmentally sustainable use of natural resources contributes to the effectiveness of economic processes and to increased quality of life. UNESCO has been working, in line with the overarching UN strategy, towards building and strengthening indigenous planning and policy-making capacities, with a view to mainstreaming of environmental issues into national priorities.

Since 80 percent of Turkmenistan comprises waterless desert, UNESCO's long-term cooperation with Turkmenistan has mainly been based on the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB), and the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP). IHP has targeted trans-frontier water management in particular and supported a move towards integrated water resource management, while the focus of MAB has been on minimizing loss of biodiversity and how these issues interact with sustainable development.

In 2008, Turkmenistan hosted major regional workshops on IHP and MAB with support from UNESCO, the Ministry of Nature Protection and the Ministry of Water Economy as well as UNDP Turkmenistan. These meetings resulted in recommendations for regional cooperation over trans-border water management, efficient irrigation schemes, dry-land management, biodiversity conservation, integrated coastal zones management, long-term ecological monitoring and the preparation of new Biosphere Reserve nominations in Central and West Asian countries. Also the meeting emphasized on using of "newly appeared" alternative water sources e.g. ice melting, which is particularly important for Turkmenistan and Central Asia as a whole. UNESCO has also supported the creation of national focal points on IHP and biodiversity for closer participation in UNESCO science programmes and the participation of water experts from Turkmenistan in various regional training workshops.

Turkmenistan has one Biosphere Reserve named Repetek located on the north-eastern edge of the Karakum Desert (this desert constitutes approximately 80 percent of Turkmenistan's territory). The Biosphere Reserve extends over 34,000 hectares of sandy deserts and hosts one of the first desert ecology research stations in the world (established in 1908) and, as such, represents an important scientific heritage. This station is significant

for long-term environmental research and observing and learning about global environmental changes. Over the years, long-term studies have been conducted on the dynamics of this sandy desert, rehabilitation of overgrazed pastures, and halting sand encroachment. Protection and monitoring of the biodiversity of the East Karakum Desert is now the major concern of the Repetek Biosphere Reserve, which is administered by the Ministry of Nature Protection.

In 2010, a MAB mission was carried out on Turkmenistan's coastal development, including eco-tourism around the Caspian seashore, with a view to nominating the first coastal Biosphere Reserve. UNESCO participants also attended the International Scientific Conference on "The role of Altyn Asyr Turkmen Lake in improving of the ecological situation of the region," held in Turkmenbashi on the Caspian Sea on 24-25 March 2010. They also visited the Turkmenbashi Protected Area. The subject of this meeting, namely the ecological impact of large water channels and artificial lakes in Turkmenistan, was very important and it signalled that Turkmenistan hopes to utilize the MAB Programme to address these issues and to establish new biosphere reserves possibly in the coastal area.

In 2010, Turkmenistan submitted a draft nomination for the "Badhyz State Nature Reserve" as a World Natural Heritage property, after it had been entered on the Turkmenistan Tentative List in 2009. It covers 87,680 hectares and is located in the South of the country between the Tedzhen and Kushka rivers and bounded to the North and West by the Eastern Kopetdag Mountains. It is home to large populations of extremely rare wild mammals such as the Asiatic Wild Ass or Kulan (*Equus hemionus kulan*) and the Persian Leopard (*Panthera pardus saxicolor*). The nomination process is still pending.

Turkmenistan is also interested in the inscription of parts of Karakum Desert and the Koytendag Nature Reserve as a World Natural Heritage. During UNESCO's participation in and contribution to the international conference on "Undiscovered Miracles of Koytendag" held in Turkmenistan in May 2012, it was noted that further research would benefit the possible nomination of Koytendag as a Global Geopark and/or a UNESCO World Heritage site. The site is located in the south-western slopes of the Koytendag (the Kugitang range), at the south-western extreme of the Gissar range of the Pamir-Alay mountain system and includes Ayrybaba, the highest peak of Turkmenistan at 3,139 m above sea level.

The International Hydrological Programme-related Global Network on Water Resources Management in Arid and Semi-Arid Zones (G-WADI) operates in the Asia and the Pacific region in cooperation with UNESCO's science sector. Several representatives from Turkmenistan have participated in regional G-WADI training, workshop and capacity building activities. A further water-related programme is the Hydrology and Environment, Life and Policy Programme in the Aral Sea Basin. Established in 1999, this is a cross-cutting programme component that has established a global network of basins in order to improve the links between hydrology and the needs of society. HELP is designed to create a new approach towards integrated basin management. In the Earth Sciences, UNESCO has cooperated in a project on dating Caspian Sea Level Change.

The UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office developed a joint project with UN-Habitat and the ECO Secretariat on Seismic Hazard and Risk Analysis in Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan has nominated experts to be part of this project and has actively participated in the first induction meeting and training on the project methodology.

Regional and international cooperation in the field of natural sciences could be further promoted through regional/sub-regional programmes in thematic areas of interest and relevance to Turkmenistan, such as transboundary waters, seismic risk analysis, science and technology education through UNESCO Chairs and Category 2 institutes. UNESCO could further leverage the expertise of its Regional Science Office in Jakarta, various intergovernmental programmes and UNESCO-affiliated institutes to further promote international cooperation, the sharing of best practices and capacity building in areas related to the environment and sustainable development.

Culture

UNESCO's global role and expertise in the field of culture is widely recognized and respected in Turkmenistan, and the Government attaches great importance to the promotion of Turkmenistan's tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The country became a State Party to the World Heritage Convention in 1994, and ratified the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2011.

Important achievements include capacity-building work undertaken within the framework of the World Heritage Convention, and achieving regional cooperation over the Silk Roads programme.

In 2000, the WHC organized the first UNESCO Culture meeting in Turkmenistan entitled "Global Strategy Meeting for Central Asian Cultural World Heritage", which served as an important catalyst for activating Turkmenistan Government initiated cultural heritage activities.

UNESCO's engagement in Turkmenistan regarding the Culture sector increased after 2003 with the establishment of the UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office, notably, in the areas of capacity building for regional co-operation, national inventorying, Tentative List preparation, built heritage conservation and successful World Heritage inscriptions.

As a result of the recognition as World Heritage of Ancient Merv (inscribed in 1999), Kunya Urgench (inscribed in 2005), and the Parthian Fortresses of Nisa (inscribed in 2007), Turkmenistan ranked UNESCO as the second most popular international organization after the International Red Cross/Red Crescent in 2007.

In the framework of the UNESCO Integral Study of the Silk Roads, Roads of Dialogue, the third UNESCO Expedition "Steppe Routes" was launched in Turkmenistan's capital Ashgabat on 18 April 1991. During this expedition both tangible and intangible Silk Road heritage of the country was visited and studied by the UNESCO expedition team. Turkmenistan Silk Roads heritage (for instance World Heritage elements that are identified in the framework of World Heritage Serial Nomination of Silk Roads or related festivals) will be presented and promoted through the Road Online Platform. Moreover, those Turkmen institutions that work on the Silk Roads will be involved in this project for promoting and sharing their Silk Roads knowledge with other institutions alongside the Silk Roads and above.

Within the Silk Roads programme on serial nominations, 30 cultural properties in Turkmenistan have been identified and included in the Silk Roads Tentative List lying along eleven separate routes identified as follows: I. Amul-Merv (3 cultural properties); II. Merv-Khorezm (5 properties); III. Merv-Heart (2 properties); IV. Amul-Khorezm (2 properties); V. Amul-Zemm (Kerki) (3 properties); VI. Merv-Sarakhs (3 properties); VII. Sarakhs-Heart (2 properties); VIII. Sarakhs-Abiverd (3 properties); IX. Abiverd-Nisa (2 properties); X. Nisa-Dekhistan (2 properties); and XI. Dekhistan-Khorezm (5 properties). Fifteen monuments

lying along the Silk Roads in Turkmenistan have been studied, resulting in the completion of draft nominations. In 2008-2009, there was a surge of training opportunities in Turkmenistan for improved implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

For the promotion of safeguarding and revitalizing intangible cultural heritage, UNESCO lent symbolic support for the International Festival for Intangible Cultural Heritage and Folklore 2006, which the Government of Turkmenistan organized. Turkmenistan then ratified the 2003 *Convention for the Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage* in 2011 and the 2008 Operational Directives for its Implementation have been translated into Turkmen. Preparation of the first nominations to the Representative List were initiated in 2013. Currently, Turkmenistan has three elements inscribed on the Representative List: Nowruz, the Epic Art of Gorogly, and Kushtdepi rite of singing and dancing.

In 2015, the UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office implemented a one-week capacity building workshop on Community-Based Inventorying of Intangible Cultural Heritage, in Ashgabat. This first national capacity building workshop on ICH provided the participants with an introduction to the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. It also dealt specifically with the practical aspects of fieldwork for identification and inventorying of ICH with a focus on engaging with the local communities. As community engagement is key in safeguarding intangible heritage, a follow-up training workshop was organized in November 2017.

Lastly, in order to support cultural tourism and enhance Silk Road interpretation and the general quality of tour guides in Turkmenistan, the UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office organized a one-week training course in June 2017. The training programme, organized jointly by UNESCO, the World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (WFTGA) and the State Committee for Tourism of Turkmenistan, provided 25 Turkmen tour guides operating across the Silk Road, with specialized know-how on site interpretation and presentation.

Continued support in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and promoting cultural diversity will be required in the years to come.

Communication and Information

Although the Turkmenistan Constitution guarantees pluralism and freedom of expression, media and publishing activities are fully state-owned. Internet access is still costly and selective, and the penetration of ICTs into the education and research sectors is still at a relatively low level.

None of the UNESCO Conventions that Turkmenistan has ratified is relevant to the CI sector, although as a Member State of the Organization, it is guided by the 2003 Recommendation Concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace.

Turkmenistan has participated in a limited number of international seminars, workshops and conferences in the field of the CI programme, while the CI sector's competence is in demand in the areas of ICTs for development, promoting environmental sustainability, natural disaster preparedness, as well as for e-learning and training in journalism.

As part of the activity on strengthening UNESCO's Memory of the World (MoW) programme, Turkmenistan was an active player in the "Sub-regional Seminar on Evaluating Achievements of the MoW Programme", which was held in Tehran on 21-22 October 2012, marking the 20th anniversary of the Programme. This seminar, a joint effort of the Iranian

National Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office brought together representatives from all four countries of the Tehran Cluster (Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkmenistan). The participants included heads of libraries and archives and members of the Iranian Committee for the MoW of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO. Together with the other countries, Turkmenistan supported the plan to further strengthen cooperation between the countries of the Tehran Cluster in the framework of MoW, bearing on their shared cultural heritage and civilizations. This includes the interest to be part in future training related to MoW. Turkmenistan also expressed interest in establishing National MoW Committee.

In September 2015, the UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office organized a first-ever 2-day national training workshop for young journalists of Turkmenistan on the popularization of sciences. During the two-day workshop a group of about 85 students of journalism from two different universities were introduced to basic science literacy and new skills of reporting scientific findings and developments in an easily comprehensible manner for the public. They also learned about key bio-ethical questions to consider when reporting.

As the only United Nations agency with a mandate in communication and information, UNESCO needs to focus its efforts in fostering information and communication capacities for universal access to knowledge. In this regard, capacity building interventions must continue to target practicing journalists, students of journalism and national media institutions.

Key areas requiring further capacity building support include quality reporting on sustainable development and environmental issues, accurate and non-discriminatory reporting, access to public information, and preservation of media archives.

UNESCO should widely disseminate and promote guidance materials developed by UNESCO such as the *Model Policy for Inclusive ICTs in Education for Persons with Disabilities* and *Guidelines on the Inclusion of Learners with Disabilities in Open and Distance Learning* as they can inform the development of national policies and action plans.

PART II: COOPERATION FRAMEWORK AND PARTNERSHIPS

UNESCO's envisaged interventions are anchored on the core programming principles of the new UNPFD guidance.

The broad goals and concrete objectives of the international community – as set out in the internationally agreed development goals, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals – underpin all UNESCO's strategies and activities. UNESCO's unique competencies in education, the sciences, culture, and communication and information contribute towards the realization of those goals.

UNESCO's work in Turkmenistan is guided by the Organization's mission to “contribute to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information”.

Further, UNESCO's cooperation and technical assistance framework promote inter-sectoral approaches in formulating responses to complex development issues through UNESCO's five core functions: *a laboratory of ideas, a standard setter, a clearinghouse, a capacity-builder for Member States and a catalyst for international cooperation.*

In order to identify opportunities for joint programming and resource mobilization, UNESCO actively builds and sustains strategic partnerships with government counterparts, UN agencies, the Turkmen National Commission for UNESCO, development partners, private sector, civil society organizations, UNESCO Headquarters, UNESCO Regional Bureaus, UNESCO Category 1 and 2 Institutes, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, and UNESCO Chairs.

In Turkmenistan, UNESCO provides technical guidance and operational assistance to government counterparts, UN system partners, and the Turkmen National Commission for UNESCO on the operationalization of its mandate and strategies to support the delivery of results.

As can be seen in this cooperation framework, UNESCO's programmatic interventions are fully aligned with the goals and targets of the *United Nations Partnership Development Framework 2016-2020*, the *National Programme for Socio-Economic Development (NPSD) 2011-2030*, and the overall framework of the *Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030* as well as the *UNESCO Global Medium-Term Strategy 2014-2021* and Regional Support Strategies for its various sectors.

UNESCO's programming for 2017-2021 in Turkmenistan will specifically contribute to the following UNPFD outcomes (please see Annex I for the UNPFD Results Matrix):

Strategic Area 1: Quality Data and Progress Monitoring

Outcome 1: Quality data, aligned with international standards, is available to policy makers, legislators, and the interested public to monitor the major goals of the National Programmes, the post-2015 SDGs, UNPFD and to formulate new national strategies and programmes

Strategic Area 2: Quality, Inclusive Social Services

Outcome 2: Pre-school, primary and secondary education services are of higher quality, in line with international standards, and with priority given to inclusive education

Strategic Area 3: Environmental Sustainability and Energy Efficiency

Outcome 6: The national policy, legislative and institutional frameworks are responsive to climate change issues by promoting climate resilience, adaptation, climate risk management and disaster risk reduction measures at sector and community level



PART III: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

This section outlines the approach to monitoring and evaluation of programme implementation, with a strong focus on monitoring, data collection, analysis and reporting as the 2030 Agenda has strongly increased data demands. Monitoring and evaluation is critical to assess progress towards achievement of the outcomes underlying UNESCO support, but also for accountability.

With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) has been clearly recognized as the “the official source of cross-nationally comparable data on education”, as confirmed in the Education 2030 Framework for Action. The UIS national database for Turkmenistan can be used as a source of data, analysis and evidence to track UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office’s contributions towards national results.

For the UNPDF 2016-2020 cycle, a Results Matrix was developed (please refer to Annex I) which includes indicators, baselines, and targets as well as means of verification. The primary responsibility for gauging performance rests with the National Steering and Coordination Committee (NSCC) on the basis of routine monitoring and reporting by Results Groups (RG). UNESCO is a member of the following RGs: *RG1 – Quality Data and Progress Monitoring; RG2 – Quality, Inclusive Social Services; and RG3 – Environmental Sustainability and Energy Efficiency.*

The main steps involved in UNPDF monitoring and evaluation are as follows:

- Routine progress monitoring and reviews by RGs to share information, highlight implementation progress and constraints against planned outputs and activities, work plans, and identify key issues for attention of the NSCC
- Annual reviews by Results Groups that are focused on assessing progress and challenges towards expected PFD outcomes. Results Groups annual reports will describe actual outputs or the results of major activities delivered against those in work plans, and use data from monitoring efforts
- Preparation of one annual Progress Update on the basis of RG monitoring and review
- The Progress Updates from RGs, as well as reporting by individual UN agencies and Turkmen Ministries, Departments, and State Agencies are the main inputs for a formal annual review by the NSCC
- An evaluation by the end of the third year of the PFD cycle will be conducted to support the formulation of the next PFD. The evaluation process will assess the relevance of the PFD outcomes, the effectiveness and efficiency of implementation by partners, and their sustainability and contribution to country priorities. The evaluation will also gauge the effectiveness of the NSCC and RGs
- At each step in the Monitoring and Evaluation process, ownership and leadership by the Government of Turkmenistan is essential to sustain the demand for performance information about the PDF and to use performance information for learning, managing and adjusting strategy and resources for greater impact

UNESCO will measure progress against available UNPDF indicators and report achievements to the UNPDF Monitoring and Evaluation Team and the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office, as required. UNESCO will also prepare periodic results-focused monitoring reports for Member States, donors and partners, as required, and publish bi-annual activity reports.

ANNEX A. RESULTS MATRIX FOR THE PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT (PFD)

Turkmenistan-UN Results Matrix [2016-2020]				
Strategic Area 1: Quality Data and Progress Monitoring				
<p>National Development Goals² : Attention to policy reform, institutional capacity development, planning, budgeting, monitoring and information systems [5]</p> <p>SDGs³ : To implement the SDGs, it is important to improve the availability of and access to data and statistics disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts to support the support the monitoring of the implementation of the SDGs. There is a need to take urgent steps to improve the quality, coverage and availability of disaggregated data to ensure that no one is left behind. [para 17]</p>				
Partnership Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions	UN Contribution in 2016-2020
				Indicative UN funds in 2016-2020
<p>Outcome 1 Quality data, aligned with international standards, is available to policy makers, legislators, and the interested public to monitor the major goals of National Programmes, the post-2015 SDGs, UNPFD and to formulate new national strategies and programmes</p>	<p>1.1. % of the recommendations from the adapted Global Assessment of the National Statistical System implemented</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> National State Statists Committee received recommendations and partially implemented some of them</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 40%</p>	<p>- Report of the adapted Global Assessment of the National Statistical System.</p>	<p>Assumptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement to make some essential data accessible to different users, from policy makers to general public. - Agreement to improve practices for the exchange of information between SSC and sector ministries and departments - Continued support and budget allocations for implementation of GoT law on state statistics <p>- Regular submission of reports according with main international obligations</p>	<p>UNDP: 500,000</p> <p>UN Women: \$125,000</p> <p>UNFPA: \$600,000</p> <p>UNICEF: \$320,000</p> <p>UNESCO: \$51,990</p> <p>UNHCR: \$210,000</p> <p>WHO: \$ 85,000</p>
	<p>1.2. Number of sectors that have developed sector plans and established a system to monitor progress</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> Partially in two ministries</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 3 ministries developed and approved sector plans and monitoring systems established to measure progress of implementation</p>	<p>- Reports of Periodic assessments of available disaggregated data collection instruments and indicators</p>		
	<p>1.3. SDG targets adopted and incorporated into national strategies and sector plans</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p>	<p>- National strategies reflecting SDG</p> <p>- Sector plans reflecting SDG targets</p>		

² NATIONAL PROGRAMME OF TURKMENISTAN ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PERIOD 2011-2030.

³ Sustainable Development Goals⁹ and targets, <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>, Sept 2014.

	<u>Target:</u> SDGs and their targets adopted		Risk: - Delayed and irregular submission of national data to international databases	
	1.4. Availability of a nationalized SDG monitoring and reporting system in keeping with international standards <u>Baseline:</u> no <u>Target:</u> yes	- SDG progress reports		
				Sub-total: \$1,891,990

Strategic Area 2: Quality, Inclusive Social Services

National Development Goals: General education schools (primary and secondary schools) will be aligned with international standards, quality of education will be improved, interactive tools and information technologies will be used in teaching methodologies, electronic books and education aid tools will be developed for teachers and students [3.4]

SDGs: 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all; 4.1 by 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes; 4.8 build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

Partnership Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions	Indicative UN funds in 2016-2020
Outcome 2 Pre-school ³ , primary and secondary education services are of higher quality, in line with international standards, and with priority given to inclusive education	2.1. % of five year old girls and boys enrolled in pre-primary education <u>Baseline:</u> 33.5 % <u>Target:</u> 80%	- MoE reports - SSC reports	Assumptions: - Continued commitment of the GoT to obligations stemming from ratified international conventions, i.e. CRC, CEDAW, CRPD, etc. - State allocates more funds to enhance quality education and human capital - State policy focused on alignment	UNICEF: \$1,225,000 UNFPA: \$400,000 UNESCO: \$37,390
	2.2. % of secondary (incl. primary) schools that implement quality and inclusive education standards <u>Baseline:</u> 5.5% <u>Target:</u> 80%	- MOE reports on CFS certification		

³ Preschool education (3-6 years of age) includes one year of pre-primary education, which starts at the age of 5 and aims to prepare girls and boys for schooling.

	3.3. % of population (disaggregated by residence, age, sex, and disability status) who have knowledge of where and how to access community based social services <u>Baseline:</u> tbd, to be measured by 2018 KAP <u>Target:</u> tbd, to be measured by 2020 KAP	- Survey data		
				Sub-total: \$1,435,000
<p>National Development Goals: Improvement of health insurance system of population; Prevention of diseases, promotion of healthy life style, increased investments for healthcare sector, bringing the healthcare system to the level of international standards [3.5]</p> <p>SDGs: 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; 3.2 by 2030 end preventable deaths of newborns and under-five children: 3.3 by 2030 end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases; 3.4 by 2030 reduce by one-third pre-mature mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and wellbeing; 3.7 by 2030 ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes; 3.8 achieve universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.</p>				
<p>Outcome 4 The people of Turkmenistan, especially vulnerable groups, enjoy better coverage of quality health care services focusing on women and child health, nutrition, NCDs, Multiple Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDRTB), early detection and early prevention of diseases</p> <p><i>*Focus: young children, children with developmental delays, MDRTB patients, young people, pregnant and</i></p>	4.1. U5 mortality rate <u>Baseline:</u> 53/1000 l.b. (est.2012) ³ <u>Target:</u> 15% reduction by 2020	- MOH reports - SSC reports - Surveys, including MICS 5	<p>Assumption: - Sustained political and budget support to expand quality and coverage of health services</p> <p>Risk: - Absence of reliable data on essential mortality indicators (IMR, U5, maternal mortality) for policy decisions</p>	UNICEF: \$1,225,000 WHO: \$1,230,000
	4.2. % percentage of pregnant women covered by antenatal care in 1 st trimester <u>Baseline:</u> 70% (MOH data) <u>Target:</u> 90%	- MOH reports - Survey data - Programme reports - Monitoring visits		UNFPA: \$800,000 UNHCR: \$210,000
	4.3. % percentage of maternity facilities providing comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care in line with adopted clinical protocols Baseline: 42% Target: 60 %	- MoH reports - Programme reports - Survey results		
	4.4. Mortality rate from cardio-vascular diseases, cancer, diabetes mellitus and chronic respiratory diseases	MOH reports		

³ Child Mortality Report 2013 2

<i>lactating women, reproductive age women</i>	<u>Baseline:</u> WHO EURO indicator on NCDs 650/100,000 (2010) <u>Target:</u> 1,5% annual reduction to achieve 10% reduction by 2020			
	4.5 Proportion of people receiving medical treatment and counselling (including glyceemic control) for prevention of heart attack and stroke, out of all in need <u>Baseline:</u> 25% <u>Target:</u> 50% of all people in need receive medical treatment and counselling (including glyceemic control) for prevention of heart attack and stroke	MoH reports		
	4.6. Tobacco use rate among population groups of 18-64 age <u>Baseline:</u> 8.3% <u>Target:</u> 6 %	- MoH /national NCD action plan reports - STEPS survey		
	4.7. TB and MDR-TB incidence rate disaggregated by sex, education, age and urban/rural groups <u>Baseline:</u> 42.6/100,000 (2014) <u>Target:</u> 20% reduction of 2014 baseline by 2020	MoH report		
	4.8. % of people who have access to drug demand reduction services disaggregated by sex, age, urban/rural <u>Baseline:</u> to be established in 2015 <u>Target:</u> 20% from baseline by 2017			
				Sub-total: \$3,465,000

Strategic Area 3: Environmental Sustainability and Energy Efficiency

National Development Goals: Environmental protection and efficient and rational use of natural, agricultural and energy resources [4.1]; Sound improvement of environmental situation, increased ecological standards, quality drinking water supply [3.2]

SDGs: 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all; 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;

Partnership Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions	Indicative UN funds in 2016-2020
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Outcome 5 The national policy, legislative and institutional frameworks are aligned to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to promote sustainable practices on energy efficiency, the use of renewables, urban development and waste management	5.1. Number of current and new institutions that research, pilot and replicate sustainable energy efficiency initiatives in rural and urban development, and the use of renewables, urban development and waste management practices <u>Baseline:</u> No <u>Target:</u> Two	- Municipal reports - Line Ministries/ Institution reports - Programme reports - NLEDP progress reports	Assumptions: - Continued emphasis on energy efficiency agenda and GhG reductions - State budget allocations, esp. for municipal pilots Risks: - Economic downturn and reduced oil and gas revenues -No lead institution will be agreed to coordinate the implementation of NLEDP - Renewables will not be prioritised by government	UNDP: \$6,500,000
	5.2. Number of state laws, regulations and procedures developed or amended that incorporate energy efficiency standards and practices, the use of renewables and sustainable waste management <u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Target:</u> 1 law and 2 regulations/ standards	- GoT Gazette		
	5.3. Annual emissions of carbon dioxide (in million metric tons) are measured by an established integrated monitoring system in place <u>Baseline:</u> 53 million metric tons (2010) <u>Target:</u> Nationally produced and verifiable annual data on emissions	- International data reports - GhG emission statistics - A NLEDP monitoring system in place		
	Sub-total: \$6,500,000			
National Development Goals: Environmental protection and efficient and rational use of natural, agricultural and energy resources [4.1]; Sound improvement of environmental situation, increased ecological standards, quality drinking water supply [3.2]				
SDGs 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development; 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss				
Outcome 6 The national policy, legislative and institutional frameworks are responsive to climate change issues by promoting climate resilience, adaptation, climate risk management and disaster risk reduction measures at sector and community level	6.1. Availability of solutions developed and implemented at national and sub-national levels for climate change adaption, sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystem services, as part of NEPAAM <u>Baseline:</u> None <u>Target:</u> 10% of NEPAAM proposed solutions	- State and sector plans/reports - NAP progress reports	Assumptions - State budget allocations for national and regional DRR investments - The cross-sectoral coordination mechanism has sufficient authority	UNDP: \$4,500,000
	6.2. Hectares of land that are managed sustainably under a conservation, sustainable use or access and benefits sharing regime <u>Baseline:</u> TBD	- State and sector plans/reports - NAP progress reports - Programme reports		UNICEF: \$365,000 UNESCO: \$30,000

	<u>Target:</u> TBD		and budget for effective operation	
	6.3. Availability of DRR and CRM/adaptation legal instruments approved and under implementation with appropriate financial and technical arrangements, and quality sector plans developed and initiated that have DRR/CRM/ adaptation practices, include gender aspects and appropriate DRR cross-sector coordination mechanisms included <u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Target:</u> 3 legal instruments and 2 sector plans	- GoT Gazette - Sector plans - Periodic assessment of sector plans against international DRR/CRM criteria - Programme reports		
	6.4. No of cross boundary water and climate change initiatives undertaken to support regional efforts for building climate resilience and adaptation <u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Target:</u> 2	- Periodic Reports		
				Sub-total: \$4,895,000

Strategic Area 4: Employment, Economic Diversification and Trade

National Development Goals: Diversification of the national economy [I]; Ensuring competitiveness of Turkmen companies in worldwide high technologies markets, creation of scientific-education sector and industries with highly developed technologies [3.3]

SDGs: 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; 8.2 achieve higher levels of productivity of economies through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors

Partnership Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions	Indicative UN funds in 2016-2020
Outcome 7 Strategies and simplified regulations are in place to promote high quality inclusive employment through sustainable economic diversification	7.1. Number of enhanced and simplified legal instruments (or measures), bylaws to facilitate import, export and border crossing procedures <u>Baseline:</u> There are plans to develop a program to facilitate import and export <u>Target:</u> 4	Government Official Gazette Published import, export regulations; Institute for trade research	Assumptions: - Continued emphasis on agenda for economic diversification and private sector development - Sufficient state budget allocations for R&D and technology development - State Budget allocations Risk: - Economic downturn and reduced oil and gas revenues	UNICEF: \$275,000
	7.2. Share of non-hydrocarbon sectors to GDP <u>Baseline:</u> (TBP) <u>Target:</u> increased by ...TBP	Government reports Periodic Reports of partner-agencies involved in UNPFD implementation, State Committee of Statistics		

		(to be provided)		
	7.3. Number of state, sectorial, regional programs including on SME development aimed at piloting new initiatives related to economic diversification at national and sub national levels <u>Baseline:</u> One national program for entrepreneurial development in industrial sectors <u>Target:</u> 3	Periodic Reports from the Ministry of Economy and Development		
	7.4. Number of new jobs created as a result of measures to diversify the economy <u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Target:</u> to be determined from programme reports	Ministry of Economy and Development, Programme reports		
	7.5. A national inclusive employment strategy developed and implementation launched <u>Baseline:</u> No <u>Target:</u> Yes	National employment strategy		
	7.6. Employment ³ rate disaggregated by sector, sex, age and excluded group <u>Baseline:</u> 73%. Currently not disaggregated, with plans to disaggregate in 2016 <u>Target:</u> yearly reporting of disaggregated employment	National employment statistics MOLSP reports, State Committee of Statistics, ILO reports		
	7.7. A national socio/economic interim plan 2017-2021, developed and a monitoring system established to measure progress in implementation <u>Baseline:</u> Current interim plan 2012-2016 <u>Target:</u> Plan developed, approved and monitoring system established	Ministry of Economy and Development, Institute for Strategic Planning and Economic Development of the Ministry of Economy and Development		
				Sub-total: \$275,000
Strategic Area 5. Governance and Rule of Law				

³ Reference is made to formal economy

National Development Goals: Development of a governance system which is able to ensure political stability, security, social equality and social order [2.2] SDGs: 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; 16.2 16.6 develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels; 16.7 ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels				
Partnership Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions	Indicative UN funds in 2016-2020
Outcome 8 State institutions implement and monitor laws, national programmes, and strategies, in a participatory manner and in line with the country's human rights commitments	8.1. Number of the new laws, and amendments that are gender sensitive and developed in line with UN human rights standards <u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Target:</u> 4	- Periodic assessment of amendments published in GoT Gazette - Programme reports - Treaty body reports	Assumptions: Sustained commitment to governance reforms and ratified human rights commitments Sustained commitment to civil society development and engagement Cross border cooperation State budget allocations Risk: - Government priority set in Human rights areas may differ with the ones of international communities.	UNDP: \$589,000 UNICEF: \$365,000 UNHCR: \$445,000 UNFPA: \$600,000 UN Women: \$125,000 OHCHR: \$100,000
	8.2. Number of human rights national plans approved and percentage of actions implemented Plans approved: <u>Baseline:</u> 1 <u>Target:</u> 3 (cumulative) Implementation rate: <u>Baseline:</u> 0% <u>Target:</u> 65%	- Reviews and reports of Treaty Bodies - Monitoring reports on national human rights action plans		
	8.3. Number of civil society development bodies representing women, youth children and people with disabilities participating in the design and implementation of national and sector programmes <u>Baseline:</u> 5 <u>Target:</u> 10	- Field visits - Consultation reports - Periodic qualitative review with partners, NGOs, media - NGO reports - Programme reports		
	8.4. Number of new key initiatives implemented that can assist with addressing emerging cross border issues including the legal flows of goods and people in an integrated manner . <u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Target:</u> 3	Periodic qualitative review Cross border trade reports Human Trafficking, drug and crime reports Programme reports		
	8.5. Number of e-governance services offered to improve the efficiency and accountability of public governance service delivery	Periodic qualitative review		

	<u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Target:</u> 2			
	8.6. Number of new initiatives implemented that strengthens law enforcement and judiciary bodies to promote greater access to justice <u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Target:</u> 2	Programme reports		
				Sub-total: \$2,224,000
			Grand Total:	\$22,348,380

NOTE: These figures are indicative only. They will depend on the availability of UN regular and other_resources from UN agencies. The amount of resources to be mobilized for the achievement of the PFD Outcomes does not include the amount of parallel co-funding of the Government of Turkmenistan for joint work plans with UNICEF for 2016-2020.