

COMMENTS ON THE UNFPA DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR TURKMENISTAN (2021-2025)

Second regular session 2020

Comments by USA	UNFPA country/regional office response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The United States would like to thank UNFPA for sharing its draft country programme document for Turkmenistan, and recognizes that the program focus, key program components, and proposed outputs fit well with Turkmenistan’s demographic, health, and reproductive health needs. 	<p>UNFPA appreciates the comments.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Below are some recommendations and comments, which the authors may wish to consider while finalizing the draft. 	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>1. Regarding the Programme Rationale and the Results and Resources Framework</p> <p>a. Item 2 of the Programme Rationale states that adolescents and youth comprise approximately a quarter of Turkmenistan’s population and the Programme Document highlights youth as a target population. However, the Results Framework lacks outcome and output indicators directly tied to meeting the health needs of adolescents and youth. We therefore encourage UNFPA to include measurable indicators for youth-specific sensitization, outreach, and service delivery programming.</p>	<p>The proposed UNFPA Country Programme focuses primarily on policy advisory and upstream support in an upper-middle income country context. This includes advocating for the Government to increase investments in youth-specific outreach and service delivery. UNFPA will also continue to accelerate its communication efforts on adolescent reproductive health through its online media platforms.</p> <p>The Results Framework includes some indicators on this issue. However, while developing the biannual work plans with the relevant ministries, we will include indicators related to reproductive health of adolescents, in support of the implementation of the National Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Children and Adolescents Health Strategy 2020-2030, which prioritizes the health needs of adolescents and youth at all levels of the national health system and has a monitoring framework to track the progress (currently pending Government endorsement).</p>

<p>2. Regarding the Results and Resources Framework</p> <p>a. Related to Output 1, we encourage UNFPA to consider how it will coordinate and engage with the Government of Turkmenistan regarding health programming, including HIV/AIDS programming. It is our understanding that the Government of Turkmenistan's official position is that Turkmenistan is HIV/AIDS-free. As Output 1 provides for coordination with the government on national HIV/AIDS strategies, we encourage UNFPA to take current national strategies and programs into consideration.</p>	<p>At present, no national HIV strategy has been developed after completion of the previous one (2012-2016). UNFPA will contribute to the country's needs on HIV by supporting the implementation of the National Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Children and Adolescents Health Strategy 2020-2030, especially through linking HIV and integrated reproductive health services. UNFPA will continue its advocacy efforts in strengthening HIV/AIDS programming and in the development of the new National HIV strategy.</p>
<p>b. Related to Output 2, we acknowledge UNFPA for the efforts to strengthen monitoring and accountability systems for gender-based violence in Turkmenistan. The interventions identified under Output 2, particularly operationalizing the domestic violence monitoring framework and ensuring referral mechanisms and networks are in place, are crucial for reducing GBV. Additionally, we appreciate the inclusion of indicators related to addressing discriminatory gender and cultural social norms that perpetuate harmful gender-based practices. We encourage UNFPA to consider additional programs and indicators related to engaging community leaders and men in such behavior change activities.</p>	<p>At present, UNFPA provides technical support to the Government on the development of the National Action Plan on gender equality (NAP) for 2021-2025. The NAP will specifically be focused on challenging the harmful social norms and will promote men engagement strategies and tools. The relevant indicators will be incorporated in the NAP to enhance the national commitment and ownership towards these issues.</p>