

United Nations Population Fund in Turkmenistan



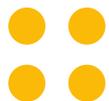
*Empowering women and young people in Turkmenistan
Ensuring reproductive rights for all*



Delivering a world where
every pregnancy is wanted,
every childbirth is safe and
every young person's
potential is fulfilled.

**United Nations
Population Fund
in Turkmenistan**

UNFPA global information



UNFPA is formally named the United Nations Population Fund.

UNFPA is the United Nations reproductive health and rights agency.

OUR MISSION IS:

Deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.



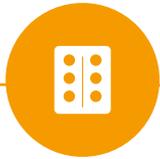
UNFPA will continue to place people, their human rights, well-being and dignity, at the centre of our sustainable development efforts

Dr. Natalia Kanem

Executive Director UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund

UNFPA VISION:

By 2030 achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights through achieving Three Transformative Results:



End the unmet need for family planning



End preventable maternal deaths



End violence and harmful practices against women and girls

ROADMAP TO ACHIEVE THREE TRANSFORMATIVE RESULTS AND BUILD FORWARD BETTER:



Leave no one behind



Meeting global development goals

Two mutually reinforcing development blueprints

the Programme of Action agreed to at the International Conference on Population and Development, along with the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (derived from Sustainable Development Summit) - guide UNFPA in its efforts to improve lives, support reproductive health and rights, and advance gender equality.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (ICPD)

The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo was a milestone in the history of population and development, as well as in the history of women's rights. At the conference the world agreed that population is not just about counting people, but about making sure that every person counts.

ICPD delegates reached a consensus that the equality and empowerment of women is a global priority. It approached this not only from the perspective of universal human rights, but also as an essential step towards eradicating poverty and stabilizing population growth. A woman's ability to access reproductive health and rights is cornerstone of her empowerment. It is also the key to sustainable development.

The 2019 Nairobi Summit advanced the Cairo agenda. Governments, corporations, organizations, and individuals pledged more than \$8 billion and 1,300 commitments toward meeting three zeros by 2030, the same deadline for accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals: zero unmet need for family

planning; zero preventable maternal deaths; and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices.

At the Nairobi Summit, Turkmenistan also reinforced its political will by highlighting the progress made since 1994 and making financial and policy commitments towards:

- achieving universal access to reproductive health and improving maternal health,
- expanding the comprehensive reproductive health education and information for adolescents,
- promoting gender equality and taking action to prevent gender-based violence,
- drawing on quality data to drive economic growth and achieve sustainable development, and
- harnessing the demographic dividend through investing in adolescents and young people.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

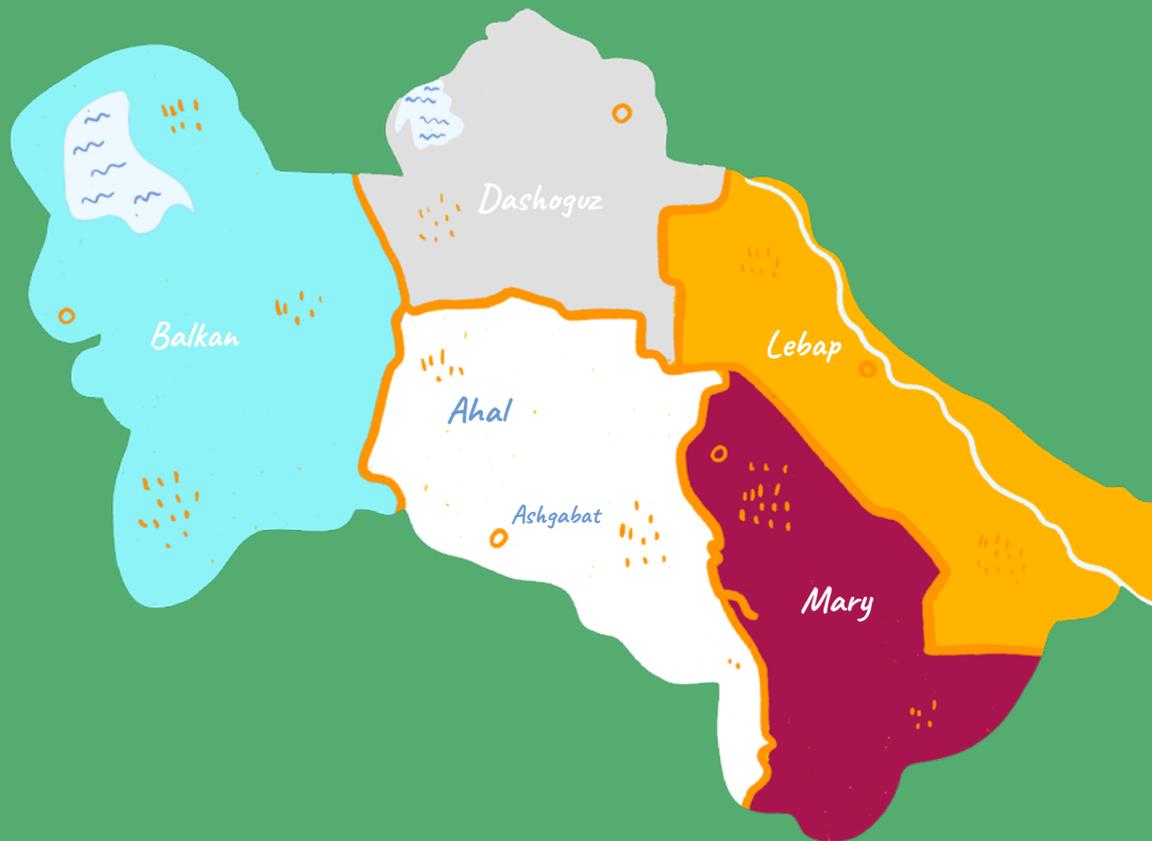
On 25 September 2015, the 193 member states of the United Nations, including Turkmenistan, unanimously adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, a set of 17 goals aiming to transform the world over the next 15 years. These goals are designed to eliminate poverty, discrimination, abuse and preventable deaths, address environmental destruction, and usher in an era of development for all people, everywhere.

The Sustainable Development Goals are ambitious, and they will require enormous efforts across countries, continents, industries and disciplines – but they are achievable.

UNFPA is working with governments, partners and other UN agencies to directly tackle many of these goals – in particular Goal 3 on health, and Goal 5 on gender equality, Goal 10 on reducing inequality, Goal 13 on climate action, Goal 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies, and Goal 17 on partnerships and data – and contributes in a variety of ways to achieving many of the rest.



UNFPA in Turkmenistan



KEY DATA AND FACTS:



**upper-middle
income country**



**5,85
million**
population estimate



25% of population
youth aged 10 to 24



58,4% women 15-49
justify violence
against women

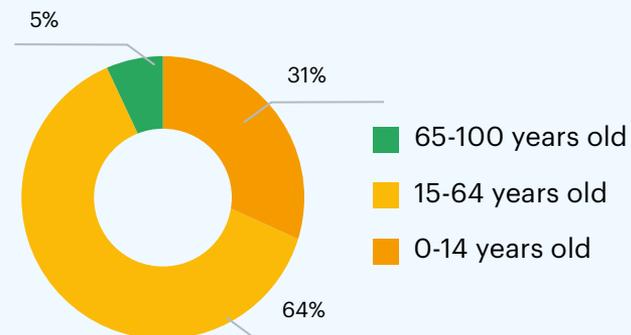


9,7%
unmet need for
family planing



7
per 100,000 life births
maternal mortality

Population by age group, %



In Turkmenistan, UNFPA continues to maximize on almost 30 years of partnership with the Government so that women, girls and men especially those vulnerable exercise their rights to a life of health, equal opportunity and choices.

UNFPA works through five-year country programmes, with the current one approved for the period 2021-2025 and co-financed by the Government as the previous one. Building on the results achieved the current Country Programme focuses on three key areas in line with the 2030 Agenda, namely:

Reproductive health and rights

UNFPA will work to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. This will be achieved by supporting high quality, inclusive and affordable reproductive health services with increased investments in family planning to reach the furthest behind and strengthen accountability mechanisms for health governance.

Gender equality

This will be realized through the work with the state bodies and civil society to establish comprehensive systems and mechanisms for women and adolescents to make informed choices and be protected from violence, and promote positive social norms in the society by engaging men and boys.

Quality data for development

This cooperation in the area of population dynamics will provide the support to ensure access and generation of quality population data, including the 2022 Population and Housing Census, to incorporate population and development analysis into planning and policy decisions to contribute to achieving the SDGs.

Youth development

The well-being and development, empowerment and participation of the youth will be crosscutting across these key areas.

UNFPA will provide policy advocacy, capacity building and knowledge management support to the Government in conducting the 2022 Census, in implementing the National Strategy on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, and Adolescent Health for 2020-2030, the National Action Plan on gender equality for 2021-2025 with a focus on family well-being and prevention of gender-based violence and the State Programme on Youth Policy among many others.

UNFPA will work with the Government on emergency preparedness, mitigation of global pandemics and crises, adaptation, prevention and response, as part of the United Nations system support for the country's efforts to reduce the risk of natural disasters and overcome external shocks.

UNFPA Country Programme contributes to the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework between the Government of Turkmenistan and United Nations 2021-2025 and in line with the national development agenda.

UNFPA Country Programme 2021-2025 through Meryem's Story

Sustainable development starts with the rights and choices of an adolescent girl like Meryem.

UNFPA Country Programme is designed to respond to the needs of women and girls from a diverse socio-economic, cultural and geographical backgrounds. When a girl can realize her rights, stay healthy, complete her education and make her own informed decisions about her life - she contributes to the health and productivity of whole families and communities, and they improve prospects for the next generation.

How can we help realize the rights and potential of girls like Meryem? We need to ensure that her voice is heard and needs are counted and reflected in the development programmes. It depends on the quality of her education, including reproductive health education, and later in life on her access to quality reproductive health and family planning services and commodities, as well as youth policies and services. She needs to live and actively pursue her dreams in an environment free of violence and full of dignity, equality and respect. Young men and boys like Meryem's classmates need to take an active position in promoting positive social norms and gender practices. This is the dream of Meryem. And this is UNFPA's vision for all girls in Turkmenistan.

*Hi! My name is Meryem,
I am already 12.*



”

This is my family - my mom is an engineer, my father is a doctor and my brother will soon graduate from school. He wants to be a web developer.

I love running, constructing and solving problems.

I have a big dream to become a biomedical engineer.

My friends laughed at me because I'm a girl, and discouraged me.

But my dad saved my dream!

**“Follow your aspirations!
Anything is possible!” he said.**



So THIS is my Dream.

And THIS is the Future UNFPA wants for every girl like me in our country by 2030.



Wanted pregnancy

Quality antenatal services, nutrition, social protection system



Happy adolescence

safe environment free of violence; treated with dignity.



Informed choices and life skills

Quality education, reproductive health and gender equality education, reproductive health services, youth participation



Empowered, educated and counted

Her voice counted, her needs reflected in policy decision-making



Adult marriage, healthy children

Family planning, quality reproductive health and maternal health services for women, men and adolescents



Family-friendly policies, Career, Life-long learning, Healthy ageing

2030

Reproductive health and rights



Family planning



95
reproductive health rooms
countrywide

at-risk women receive free contraceptives



47 %
women aged 15-49 use modern
methods of contraceptives



22
adolescent fertility rate
annual births to girls 15-19 per 1000
women in that age group



7
per 100,000 live births
maternal mortality

3.0
per woman
total fertility rate



9,7%
unmet need for family planing

Unmet need for family planning – percentage of women of reproductive age who would like to prevent or delay pregnancy but do not use one of the modern, reliable forms of contraception due to social or economic barriers. Meeting an unmet need for family planning will have the effect of promoting healthier populations, more efficient health systems and stronger economies.

Source: The State Committee of Turkmenistan for Statistics and UNICEF. 2020. 2019 Turkmenistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS 2019). Survey Findings Report. Ashgabat, Turkmenistan: State Committee for Statistics of Turkmenistan and UNICEF.

UNFPA supports Turkmenistan's progressive efforts to ensure that every woman exercises her right to a safe pregnancy and childbirth and to decide on when and how many children she will have.

UNFPA continues to support the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry (MoHMI) of Turkmenistan in strengthening the health system for more effective delivery of services for mothers, newborns and adolescents.

UNFPA jointly with UNICEF and WHO supports the national health care system in implementing the National Health Strategy "Healthy mother - Healthy child - Healthy future" for 2021-2025.

UNFPA Turkmenistan will continue partnering with the Government to accelerate progress towards achieving universal access to reproductive health. UNFPA will support the Ministry in improving a health financing system to ensure adequate funding for family planning based on the

evidence obtained through the Family planning investment case conducted in 2020. While the MoHMI will identify the budget source for the procurement of contraceptives and designate a budget line for it, UNFPA will continue to assist the MoHMI in bringing the best value products funded from state budget of Turkmenistan for the lowest available price to accelerate progress in further reducing the unmet need.

Within the fifth Country Programme for 2021-2025, UNFPA will also work to identify and address social norms, which constitute barriers for women to access free and voluntary family planning services. UNFPA will support the MoHMI in diversifying the channels of family planning service provision through distributing family planning services among family doctors, obstetricians and nurses.

UNFPA will support the MoH efforts in sustaining the progress achieved with the drop of maternal

mortality through protecting the most vulnerable by better health financing mechanisms and improved availability of services for women living in remote areas and women with disabilities UNFPA will partner to improve the midwifery education and midwifery workforce regulations, as well as the infrastructure of maternities, including modern medical equipment and contraceptives supplies..

UNFPA will continue its support in reducing mortality due to cervical cancer and breast cancer through advising on the most effective and efficient ways of screening, adequate treatment and proper registration in digital platforms.

UNFPA will also continue supporting the MoHMI in making health services for adolescents more friendly (available, accessible, affordable, reliable). For that purpose, UNFPA will support quality improvement of adolescent reproductive health services in pilot sites in Ashgabat and next throughout the country.

KEY PARTNERS

National partners: Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, National Mother and Child Center, State Medical University of Turkmenistan, Nursing schools, State Pharmaceutical Agency, Ministry of Economy and Finance.

UN partners: UNFPA Procurement services branch, WHO, UNICEF.

Other partners: People's Republic of China, EU, UK Government, Pfizer, Gedeon Richter, Hoffmann- La Roche, Reproductive health institutions in Moscow and Saint-Petersburg.

Expanding choices for women and girls will save \$87m for Turkmenistan, UNFPA - government study finds

Voluntary family planning brings transformational benefits to women, families, communities, and countries. Investing in family planning is a development 'best buy' that can accelerate achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Without universal access to family planning and reproductive health, the impact and effectiveness of other interventions will be less, will cost more, and will take longer to achieve.

The Government of Turkmenistan, with UNFPA support, conducted an Investment Case to determine the cost of ending the unmet need for family planning by 2030. The study launched on the eve of World Population Day revealed that an additional \$11 million invested in family planning would be needed to contribute to achieving universal access to reproductive health in Turkmenistan, which is a key component of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Following the commitments made in Nairobi, Turkmenistan initiated the study using a global methodology developed

by UNFPA jointly with Johns Hopkins University, Victoria University, and the University of Washington and Avenir Health.

"UNFPA congratulates the Government of Turkmenistan for staying true to its Nairobi Commitments and conducting the Investment Case on Ending unmet need for family planning in Turkmenistan by 2030," said Ms. Giulia Vallese, UNFPA Deputy Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. "Evidence shows that every dollar invested in family planning will yield more than \$7.8 in financial returns for the public health system over the next nine years, in addition to empowering women to lead healthier and more productive lives."

"UNFPA will continue partnering with the Government to accelerate progress towards achieving universal access to reproductive health, where the family planning needs of all women and couples will be covered, including those furthest behind," said Ms. Vallese.

Goal: Reduce the unmet need for family planning from 9.7% to 3.5% by 2030

Total investments of \$11.1 million will lead to:

\$87.5 mln

public health system
savings due to averted outcomes

22,500

unsafe abortions
averted

681,100

unplanned pregnancies
averted



More women eligible to receive free
contraceptives and more methods



Avert maternal deaths
and complications



Healthier women, families and
more productive society

Reproductive Rights are about making free life choices

Freely choose *whom*
and *when* to marry

Decide *how many* children
you want

Decide *when* to have
children

Access to information to make
INFORMED choices

Access to quality health
services



Reproductive Rights are about making free life choices

“Two kids – a boy and a girl,” giggled Meryem when she was asked how many children she will have when she grows up. Unlike other twelve-year-old girls in her class, Meryem is certain about her life purpose and knows that one day she will study biotechnology at the Medical University. When asked about marriage and children, Meryem gets shy but hopeful that one day she will also build a happy and healthy family, like her cousin Jeren.

“Healthy families start with a healthy adolescence,” said Dr. Akjemal Durdyeva, Director of the National Reproductive Health Center of Turkmenistan. “The new National Strategy Healthy mother-Healthy child-Healthy future for the period 2021-2025 prioritizes the needs of adolescents and youth and will guide the improvement of the adolescent reproductive health services in the country.”

Indeed, reproductive healthcare should start as early as possible. And it should start with a comprehensive education about adolescent reproductive health. Young adolescence is the right time to get the knowledge and skills to be able to make responsible decisions about their own health, to build healthy relationships that

are free from violence and based on mutual respect. These skills are critical to make a healthy passage from childhood into adulthood.

Jeren makes sure she discusses reproductive health and gender equality issues with Meryem. “These issues weren't taught at school during my adolescence and I wish my parents talked to me more about my growing body, my rights and warning signs. Having more information and skills in hands would help me to make smarter and informed choices about my health and the health of my family without being fully dependent on my husband,” says Jeren who is now married and expecting her second baby.

UNFPA works closely with the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan in ensuring that women like Jeren realize their reproductive rights and ensure that every pregnancy is wanted and every childbirth is safe. Launched with the UNFPA support in 1997, today 95 reproductive health room countrywide offer women and couples sensitive and accurate family planning counselling, as well as other reproductive health services.

Gender equality



Turkmenistan ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1997, and its Optional Protocol in 2009.

Turkmenistan nationalized all relevant Sustainable Development Goal 5 indicators on Gender Equality.

Yet, **42,2%** women 15-49

make own informed decisions:
sexual relations, contraceptive use
and reproductive health care

58,4% women 15-49

justify violence
against women

Source: The State Committee of Turkmenistan for Statistics and UNICEF. 2020. 2019 Turkmenistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS 2019). Survey Findings Report. Ashgabat, Turkmenistan: State Committee for Statistics of Turkmenistan and UNICEF.

Gender equality is intrinsically linked to sustainable development and is vital to the realization of human rights for all. The overall objective of gender equality is a society in which women and men enjoy the same opportunities, rights and obligations in all spheres of life.

For almost three decades, UNFPA has been a strategic partner of the Government of Turkmenistan in advancing women's empowerment and promoting gender equality. UNFPA's response to promoting gender

equality in Turkmenistan includes supporting Turkmenistan's national human rights system in fulfilling its obligations as part of the international human rights treaties and conventions it ratified, including CEDAW.

In line with the fifth Country Programme priorities, UNFPA will support the implementation of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality in areas where UNFPA can provide its expert support.

UNFPA will also develop the capacity of policy makers and

civil servants in gender-sensitive policies and gender mainstreaming and the capacity of national institutions and professionals on ways to address gender equality issues.

The programme on gender equality will focus on work with the state bodies to establish comprehensive systems and mechanisms for women and adolescents to make informed choices and be protected from violence, and promote positive social norms in the society.

KEY PARTNERS

National partners: National Council (Parliament), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Statistics Committee, Office of the Ombudsman, Institute of State, Law and Democracy, Women's Union, hakimliks.

Other partners: UK Government, SDG Fund, Human Security Trust Fund, EU.

Partnering to advance gender equality and end gender-based violence

Violence against women and girls is one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world. It knows no social, economic or national boundaries. Worldwide, an estimated one in three women will experience physical or sexual abuse in her lifetime.

UNFPA is partnering with the Government to establish a multi-sectoral response system to gender-based violence for healthcare, police and social services.

The UNFPA Regional Project for Central Asia funded by the UK Government supported the Governments' efforts to prevent and respond to Gender-Based Violence in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The project specifically supported in the

development and operationalisation of Standard Operating procedures (SOPs), protocols and training packages for three sectors. Special attention is paid to integrating the specific needs of vulnerable groups including women with disabilities.

The UK partnership also gave the needed start to the establishment of the Hotline on COVID-19, reproductive health and gender-based violence. The partnership resulted in immediate community-based support to women and girls, and continued its work in Ashgabat and Turkmenabat cities with the support received from the SDG Fund UN-Government Joint Programme.

Multi-Sectoral Response - Coordinated approach to responding to gender-based violence

Multi-sectoral response, in other words a collaborative and coordinated approach, is needed to address gender-based violence, which brings together several key sectors, including the police, the legal and justice system, social services and health.

A multi-sectoral response to gender-based violence leads to increased level of support for the victims through an effective, immediate and consistent network of services. It leads to durable and sustainable changes and help to create an institutional and community culture where gender-based violence is not acceptable and tolerated.



Gender equality contributes to the health and productivity of whole families and communities, and they improve prospects for the next generation



#ErkeklerHem (#MenEngage) campaign encourages men to promote positive gender practices

Achieving gender equality requires change at all levels of society, transforming the lives of both men and women. UNFPA works with men and boys around the world to advance gender equality and end violence. In Turkmenistan, UNFPA launched #ErkeklerHem campaign to encourage men and boys to promote positive gender practices.

“My wife is a journalist and I am probably the biggest fan of her written work,” said Maksat Geldiyev, one of the active participants of the campaign. “Her work is equally important and meaningful. My wife inspires me for greater things and her success supports in all of my endeavors.”

Dividing household chores equally and applying family-friendly policies at work allow women and girls to receive education, pursue their careers and contribute to the social and economic development of the communities they live in.

Maksat supports his wife’s career and makes sure he is fully involved in his daughter’s life. “My daughter Ogulsheker is the light of happiness who gives me strength and inspires me to be a better father,” he says.

In Turkmenistan, only 13% of dads spend meaningful time with their children, according to the MICS 2019 study. Engaging men as involved fathers and husbands can lead to improved maternal and child health, a reduction in violence against women, and lifelong benefits for daughters and sons. Men’s involvement as caregivers also makes them better fathers, improves their relationships and their quality of life.

Gender equality is good for everyone.

Reforming the system of social services for women and girls to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and unintended pregnancies

A transformative change in the current system of social service delivery in Turkmenistan was the purpose of the UN-Government Joint Programme “Improving the system of social protection through the introduction of inclusive quality community-based social services.” Funded by the SDG Fund, the Joint Programme is delivered by the partnering UN agencies, namely UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, UNODC, and the Government of Turkmenistan.

The Joint Programme aims at ensuring that all vulnerable populations will have access to quality community-based social services provided by professional social workers and qualified social service providers to address their individual needs and ensure their social inclusion.

Social inclusion is the process by which efforts are made to ensure equal opportunities – that everyone, regardless of their background, can achieve their full potential in life. Such efforts include policies and actions that promote equal access to services and resources as well as enable citizen’s participation in the decision-making processes that affect their lives.

Who is most likely to face social and economic hardships: People with disabilities, people with chronic diseases who need care and rehabilitation at home, children left without parental care or at risk of becoming such, women and girls subjected to gender-based violence, children

whose parents suffer from any kind of addiction, people in difficult life situations need social assistance within their communities, so that they have equal opportunities with other community members to participate in the life of their society.

UNFPA’s role

In order to create a reformed and modernized national model of inclusive quality community-based social services that is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, UNFPA supported the review and development of the legislative and regulatory framework for social services.

Two new community-based specialized social services were introduced in Ashgabat and Turkmenabat cities on social support for prevention of unintended pregnancy and prevention of the domestic violence. The UNFPA’s partners with the NGOs “Beyik Eyyam” and “Keyik Okara”, which have started piloting these new specialized social services in 2021. The specialized social services were piloted in coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The NGO Keyik Okara and Beyik Eyyam have a trained team of social worker, psychologist, gynecologist and a lawyer who provide telephone and, if needed, in person consultations, case management support, and shelter.

The Keyik Okara Hotline on health and status of a woman and a girl in the family:

Ashgabat: +99312 – 229389, Monday to Saturday 8:00 – 20:00;

The Beyik Eyyam Hotline on health and status of a woman and a girl in the family:

Turkmenabat: +993422 – 32229, Monday to Saturday 9:00 – 21:00; Sunday 9:00 – 18:00.



NGO Keyik Okara brings critical relief to women amid domestic violence

After losing her husband, 36-year old Sulgun was gently encouraged by her in-laws family to move back with her parents. At a constant care of her 11-year-old son Serdar who has a disability, she neither had a job, nor was she welcomed at her parents' home. Sulgun was temporarily settled at a balcony of two-room apartment where she endured tensions and violence from her father and other family members and soon was left homeless.

Globally, one in three women are subjected to gender-based violence mainly at the hands of their closed ones, husbands, boyfriends or like in case of Sulgun, her own father. These traumatic experiences seriously affect the health, productivity and the quality of life of a woman, her children, generations ahead, and have an impact on the communities and the entire nation.

Sulgun was in despair and had no friend or family who could support her, when she came across a Hotline ad.

"Every day we receive calls from women and girls who are in difficult life situations," said Hotline consultant and social worker at the Keyik Okara non-governmental organization. "We assessed Sulgun's situation and first referred her to the psychologist." The NGO arranged a series of meetings for Sulgun with the legal specialist and labour exchange, as well as a family doctor and medical specialists to document her son's medical history and the department of education to place him at a school.

September was a special month for both Sulgun and her son – she started a new job at plastic products

processing factory. Serdar went to school for the first time at the Rehabilitation Teaching and Education Complex of Ahal region. "I am finally starting to get back on my feet," said Sulgun. "Every weekend I pick up my Serdar from school and we spend time together at a new apartment that I can now afford. My son can feel that I am no longer as stressed as I was before and now we have energy to fight for a better life," she added.

"What is of utmost importance is that we need to raise the awareness of our women on their rights, especially reproductive rights," said the NGO team. Lack of awareness is one of the reasons why nearly 60 percent of women in Turkmenistan do not make their own informed decision and choices about their reproductive health, usage of contraceptives and most intimate aspects of their life.

One of such Hotline callers was Ayjema, a 26-year old mother of five children, one of whom had a vision impairment. Ayjema was pregnant with her sixth baby when her husband left her and their children without a roof. Young mother with her children was placed at the NGO shelter and invited for the in-person sessions with the social worker, legal specialist, psychologist and reproductologist.

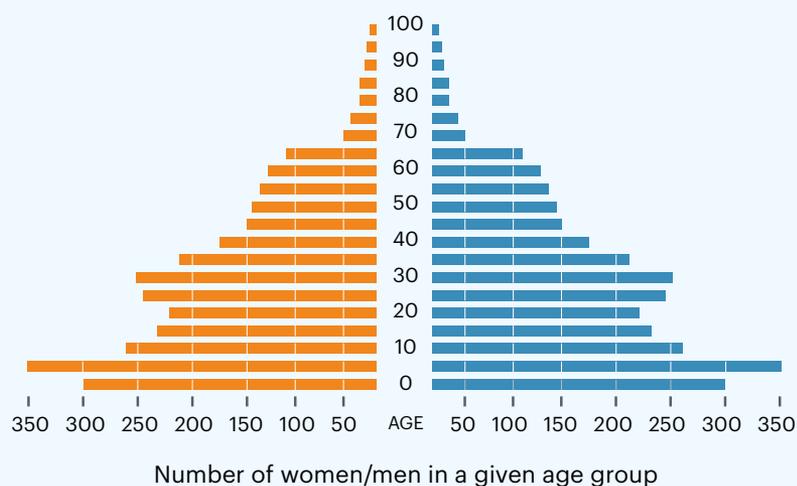
"Many women who are in difficult life situation often have numerous unwanted pregnancies and have never heard about the free existing services in family planning" said the social worker. "We have 95 reproductive health rooms at the houses of health countrywide, where women with special health and socio-economic conditions can receive free contraception and all women can get a consultation on family planning for building a healthy family, and if needed, get a treatment before planning a healthy wanted pregnancy."



Youth



Youth in Turkmenistan (UN Population Division, 2019)



Population aged

0-30: 0-24: 10-19: 10-24: 15-29:

55% **46%** **17%** **24%** **25%**

Definitions of adolescents and youth:

The UNFPA Youth Strategy embraces all adolescents (aged 10 to 19) and youth (aged 15 to 24), as per the United Nations definition for statistical purposes without prejudice to other definitions by the Member States.

The Law on Youth Policy of Turkmenistan identifies youth as young citizens aged 14 to 30 years old.

UNFPA puts young people—their talents, hopes, perspectives and unique needs—at the very center of sustainable development. In doing so, it backs the achievements and aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

UNFPA works with governments, civil society and diverse partners, to help empower young people to make their own choices and determine their own futures. They, in turn, will be able to shape and improve the world around them by sustaining Peace, People, Planet and Prosperity.

The well-being and development of young people is a cross-cutting theme among the programme areas covered as part of UNFPA's 5th Country Programme for 2021-2025 – Reproductive Health,

Gender Equality and Population Dynamics.

Using its comparative advantages, UNFPA will continue providing technical support and policy advice to empower young people enabled by population dynamics, human rights and gender equality, and creating conditions for the population to contribute to the development of the country.

Within the framework of the new State Programme on the Youth Policy,

UNFPA supports the government in establishing innovative platforms for youth participation and reinforcing youth-related statistical and SDG measurement systems. The partnership also focuses on promoting men and boys' engagement in advancing gender equality and positive social norms in society.

UNFPA's support to the education sector has focused on strengthening the quality of reproductive health, gender equality and life skills education within the Basics of Life skills subject through the adoption of teaching norms and standards and expanding the pedagogy resource base.

UNFPA supports health policies and programmes that prioritize the needs of adolescents and youth.

The UNFPA Country Programme will have a specific focus on the populations furthest behind, including young girls in rural areas and from the lowest wealth quintile, adolescent girls and boys, and young people with disabilities.

KEY PARTNERS

National partners: Ministry of Sport and Youth Policy, National Council (Parliament), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, State Statistics Committee, Institute of State, Democracy and Law, Youth Organization named after Magtymguly, Women's Union, NGOs, universities and academia, mass media and other relevant national partners.

UN partners: UNICEF, UNODC, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, and others.

Other partners: UK Government, Republic of China, Human Security Trust Fund, EU.

Empowering and engaging young people in responding to the threats of the health pandemic

The United Nations and the Government of Turkmenistan launched a new Joint Programme “Empowering and Engaging the youth to mitigate the multi-dimensional threats of the health pandemic” (2021-2022), funded by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security.

The UNFPA-led Joint Programme will integrate the human security as a critical approach to plan in times of crisis using the bottom-up approach and will focus on the most vulnerable in line with the principle of “leaving no one behind.”

The programme aims to build the capacity of the government officials at the local level to implement the Immediate Socio-Economic Response Plan to Acute Infectious Disease Pandemic for Turkmenistan in the communities inspired by the human security approach in ways that are people centered, comprehensive, context specific and preventive.

In addition, the programme targets the youth in Lebap and Dashoguz regions to build their resilience and make them agents of change in their communities. Young people will be empowered to engage with their local communities through community-based initiatives to improve the lives of the community groups, especially at risk youth and the older persons.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund and the Ministry of Sport and Youth Policy of Turkmenistan are the lead agencies in the programme. Coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, other implementing partners are UNICEF, IOM, UNODC and Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, Institute for State, Law and Democracy, Office of the Ombudsman, as well as public organizations and local NGOs working with the communities.

UNFPA promotes reliable information on reproductive health and gender equality among Turkmen youth



Facts, tests and advice about your growing body, health and relationships.

Stay healthy. Stay informed.

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For girls



For teachers



For boys



COVID-19



For parents



"Men should promote positive gender norms both in daily life and on social media.

Gender equality is good for everyone."

Batyr Berdiyev, journalist.



#DiverseButEqual campaign promotes Rights, Equality, Inclusiveness among young people

UNFPA Turkmenistan kicked off "We are Diverse. We are Equal" campaign in November 2021 to generate buzz around the issues of rights, equality, inclusiveness in the society and among young people together with the Olympic silver medalist Polina Guryeva and Instagram influencers and youth activists in the area of gender equality, reproductive rights, and inclusiveness.

The campaign invited young people to actively engage in promoting tolerance, inclusiveness and respect among peers towards all groups regardless of gender, age, region, ability or disability, ethnic background or life choices, simply on the grounds that we are all human and we are all equal.



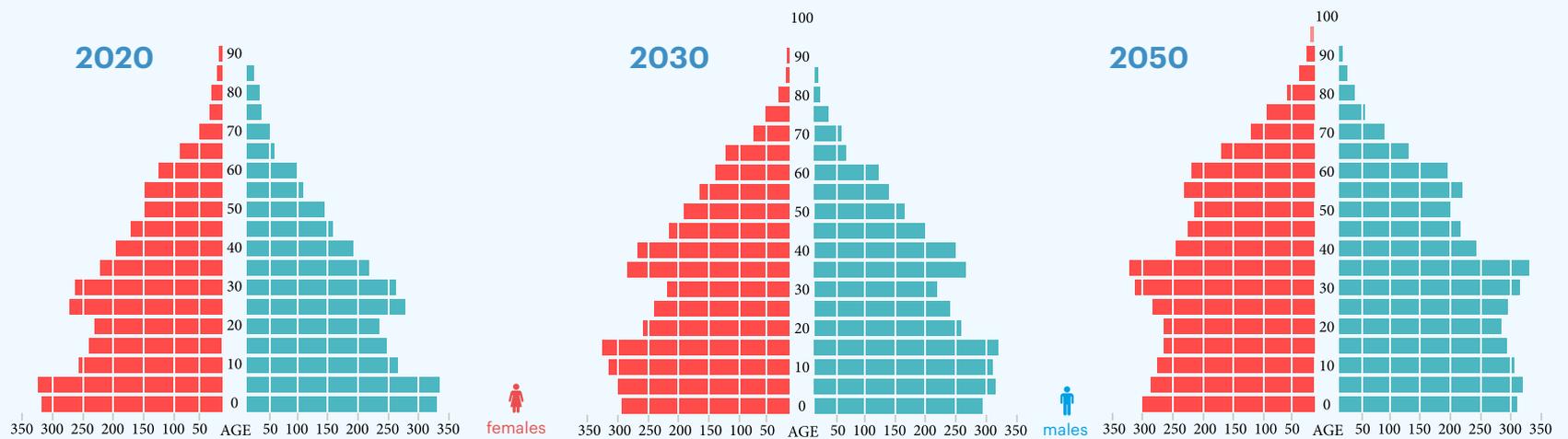
#DiverseButEqual campaign also started a #DürliEmmaDeň Social Media Movement on promoting positive social norms and gender-sensitive engagement among young people. Throughout several months, UNFPA mobilized partners and together they shared inspiring stories of youth, animations and posts on rights-based engagement among our young people.

The Campaign also featured a series of Youth Dialogues on Rights, Equality and Inclusiveness that engaged the experts and youth speakers who discussed and unpacked the issues of inclusiveness and equality and together with young people discuss the opportunities for building a stronger, more inclusive and equal society.

Population dynamics



Population dynamic projections in Turkmenistan



Number of women/men in a given age group
Population in thousands

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition. Rev. 1.

Collecting, analyzing and disseminating quality, timely and disaggregated population data to identify the population size, structure and distribution is essential to plan development work and is also key for informed decision-making.

It took hundreds of thousands of years for the world population to grow to 1 billion – then in just another 200 years or so, it grew sevenfold. In 2011, the global population reached the 7 billion mark, and in 2021, it stands at about 7.8 billion.

Within the framework of its current five-year Country Programme (2021-2025), UNFPA is supporting investments in governance reforms and people-centered policies and services that will be based on high quality disaggregated data, including population data.

Key state ministries and agencies, under the coordination of the State Statistics Committee, will be supported in introducing international methodologies and systems to collect and analyze disaggregated population data, which respond to the priorities of state programmes, as well as the data gaps in monitoring Sustainable Development Goals related to the International Conference on Population and Development Agenda.

Within its technical advisory support, UNFPA will support the Government of Turkmenistan in holding the 2022 Population and Housing Census, advancing the national civil registration and vital statistics system, helping to collect, process and analyze data to measure the progress towards the SDGs and provide evidence for

essential Government development programmes and initiatives, holding thematic population surveys and research to provide data on the most vulnerable groups of population, including persons with disabilities to ensure that no one is left behind.

UNFPA's partnership with the Government will also focus on developing the capacity of public servants and policy makers in the application of modern methods of data analysis for decision-making, with a focus on demographic trends.

Education in Demography will be in the focus of UNFPA cooperation with the Government with the aim to nurture national capacity in population forecasts, data analysis, and supporting the socio-economic planning.

KEY PARTNERS

National partners: State Statistics Committee, Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Academy of State Service under the President of Turkmenistan and other relevant stakeholders.

Other partners: Government of Russian Federation.

Decade of action on demographic resilience in Europe and Central Asia 2022-2032

High-level government representatives, thought leaders and experts from across Europe and Central Asia launched a Decade of Demographic Resilience 2022-2032 in Sofia, Bulgaria on 2 December 2021 at a Ministerial Conference on Demographic Resilience.

The Ministerial Conference discussed pathways for societies to thrive in a world of rapid demographic change and covered the issues of population ageing, fertility, gender equality and family policies, aspirations of young people, revitalization of rural areas, and financing of social policies, as well as the interlinkages between demography and democracy.

Governments across the Europe and Central Asia region recognize addressing demographic change as a top priority. Many governments in Eastern Europe and Central Asia are concerned about how the demographic shifts will affect economies and the sustainability of social security systems, as well as vital infrastructures and services in areas with low or decreasing population density. Demographic resilience is an aspiration that involves the ability to predict demographic shifts, understand their implications and develop policy responses that are based on evidence and human rights. It means moving beyond

narrow quick-fix approaches focused on population numbers towards comprehensive population and social policies aimed at ensuring prosperity and well-being for all.

The conference also launched the Sofia Alliance, a Member State-led community of practice to facilitate sharing of experiences and broker policy advice and technical assistance on strengthening demographic resilience in the region. Within this Alliance, UNFPA will support the governments in the region, including Turkmenistan, with strengthening their capacity to understand and anticipate the population dynamics they are experiencing, and ensure they have the skills, tools, political will and public support to manage them.

In this way, countries can mitigate potentially negative effects for individuals, societies, economies and the environment, and harness the opportunities that come with demographic change for people, prosperity and the planet.

For more information about the Decade of Action on Demographic Resilience and the Sofia Alliance, please visit:

<https://eeca.unfpa.org/en/shaping-europes-demographic-future#tab>

UNFPA support to the Government in Population and Housing Census 2022



Why do we need Census?

What kind of world do we want to live in? What do we need for development? How many houses and schools need to be blueprinted today, so that there will be enough constructed in the future?



Reaching those who have historically gone uncounted

The national census are undertaken every 10 years as one of the government's most critical duties and an essential tool for achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The census data is important to understand disparities, the citizen's health and development needs and where or how to invest in everything from schools to healthcare to transportation.

However, censuses are also costly, requiring huge amounts of time and man power and are one of the most complicated peacetime processes nations undertake. UNFPA is the lead agency to provide technical and financial support to ensure that censuses are of high quality, uphold international principles and standards,

Population and Housing Census 2022 has all of these answers.

-  construction of kindergartens and schools
-  construction of health houses, maternities and hospitals
-  electric and gas stations
-  construction of roads, railways, bridges
-  provide data on population distribution and household characteristics for socio-economic policy decision-making

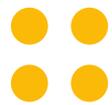
Disaggregated data is a source for the majority of SDG indicators.

Based on the Census data, the state will be able to make the budget allocations for any years ahead!

and produce data that are widely disseminated and utilized for development.

“By adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the international community has made a commitment that no one will be left behind in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,” said Ayna Seyitlieva, UNFPA Head of Office in Turkmenistan. “We welcome the government's decision to include the questions on disability in population census. This will allow to develop better ways to reach those who have historically gone uncounted.”

Key indicators Turkmenistan

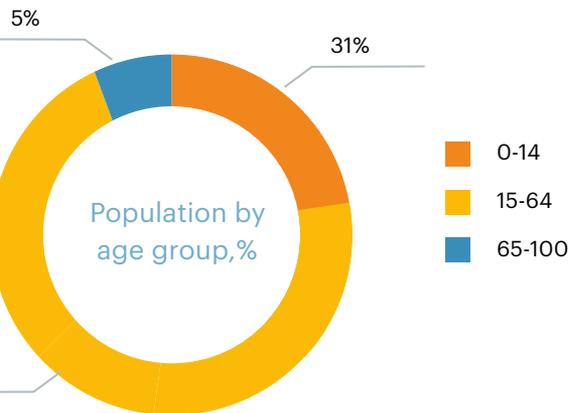
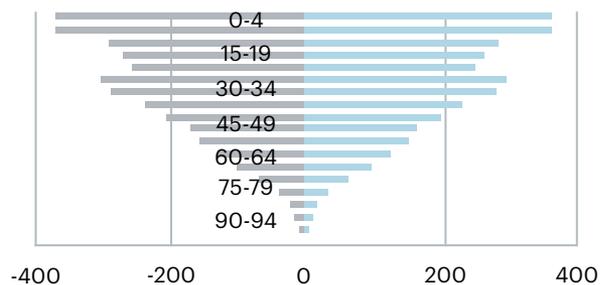


POPULATION DYNAMICS

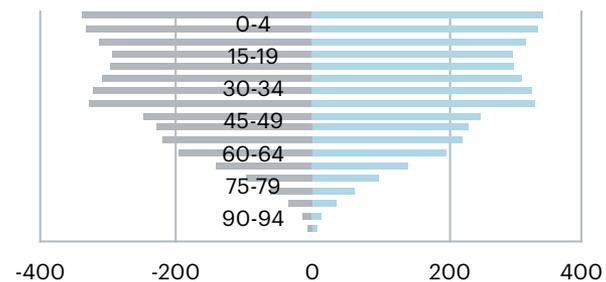
Projected population dynamic 2020-2100

(population in thousands)

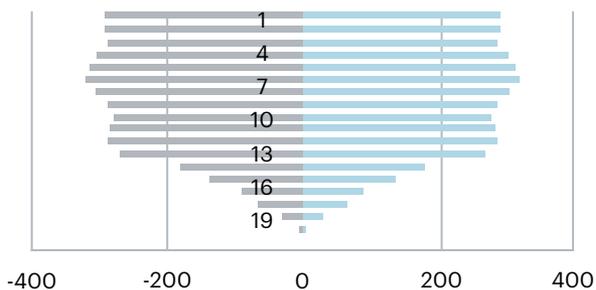
Population Structure, 2020



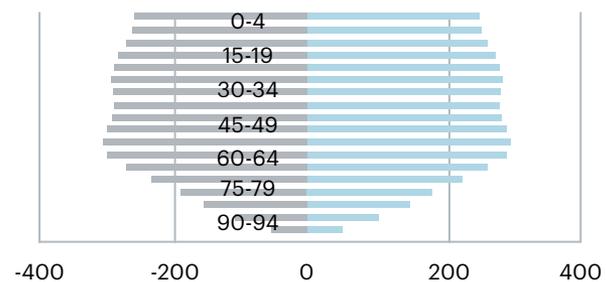
Population Structure, 2050



Population Structure, 2075



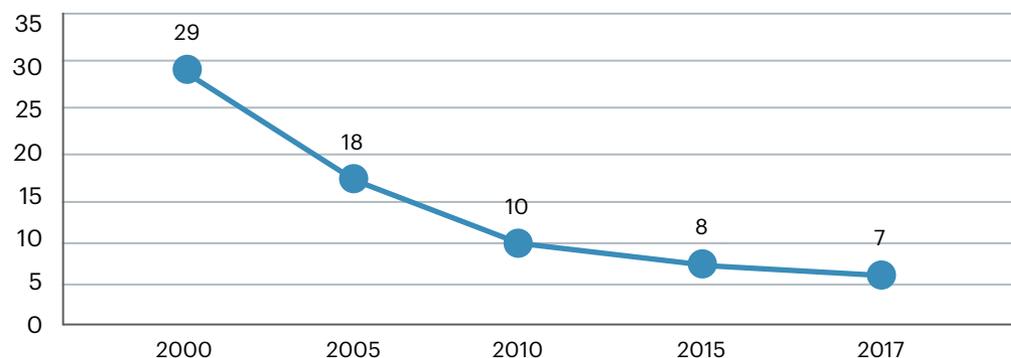
Population Structure, 2100



United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019).
World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition. Rev. 1.

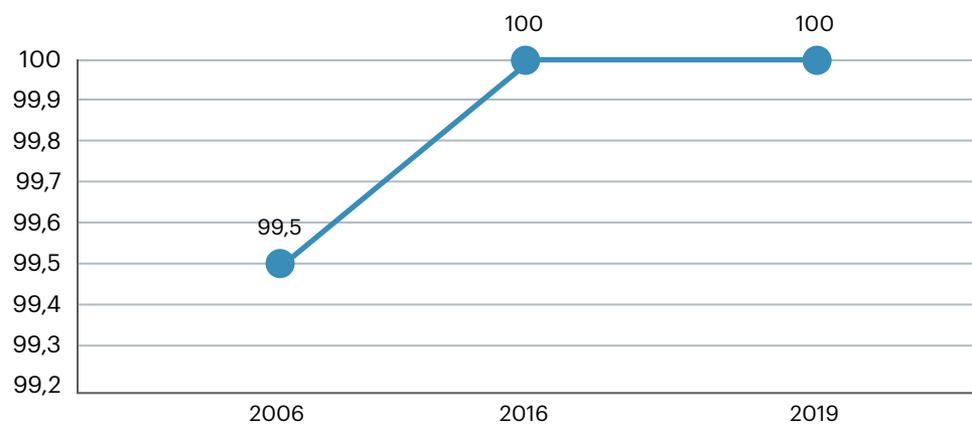
MATERNAL HEALTH

Trends in maternal mortality (MMR)



Trends in maternal mortality 2000 to 2017: estimates by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and the United Nations Population Division. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2019.

Birth attended by skilled health personnel, %



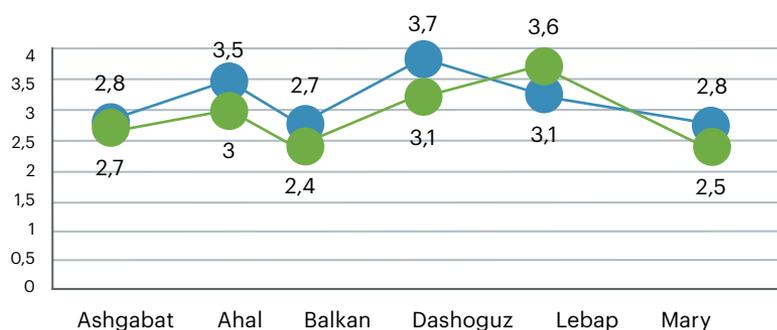
The State Committee of Turkmenistan for Statistics and UNICEF. 2020. 2019 Turkmenistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS 2019). Survey Findings Report. Ashgabat, Turkmenistan: State Committee for Statistics of Turkmenistan and UNICEF.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

2016 **22** total fertility rate
 2019 **28** per woman

● 2016
 ● 2019

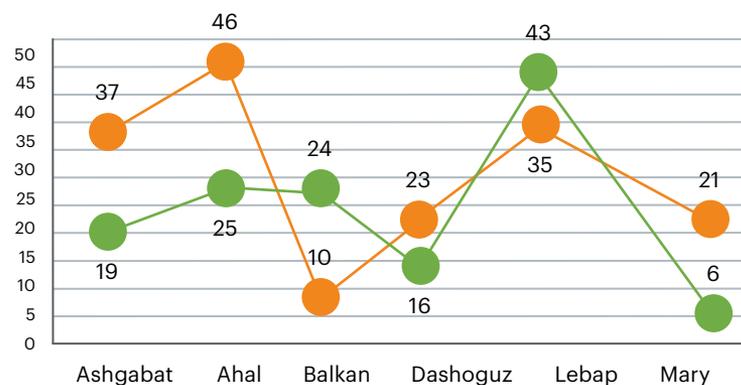
Total fertility rate, by region



2016 **3.0** adolescent fertility rate
 2019 **3.2** per woman, 15-19

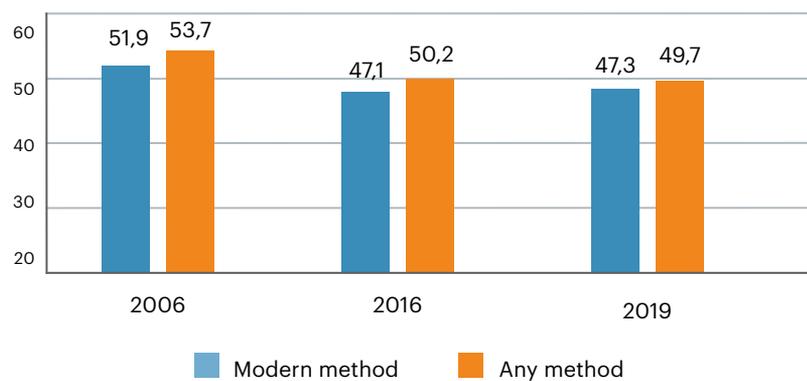
● 2016
 ● 2019

Adolescent birth rate, by region



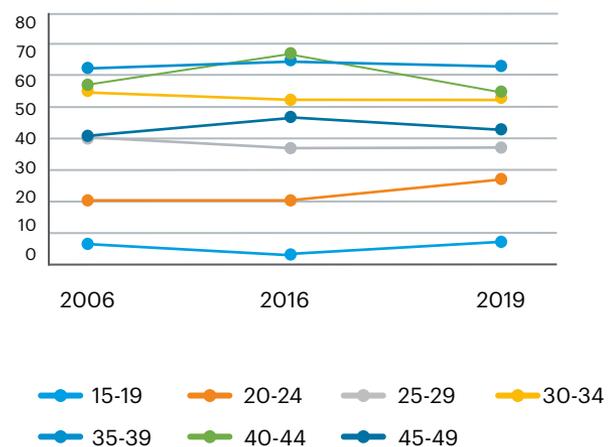
Contraceptive prevalence rate

(women 15-49 y.o. married or in union)



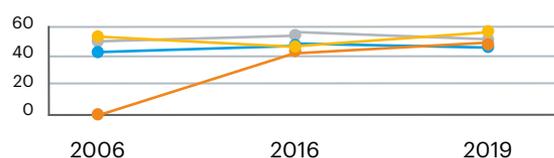
Use of contraception (modern method), by age

(women 15-49 y.o. married or in union)



Use of contraception (modern method), by education

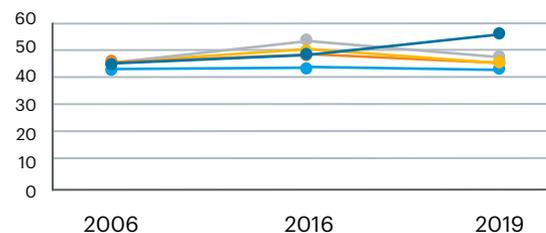
(women 15-49 y.o. married or in union)



● Primary/Secondary ● Primary vocational
● Secondary vocational ● Higher

Use of contraception (modern method), by wealth

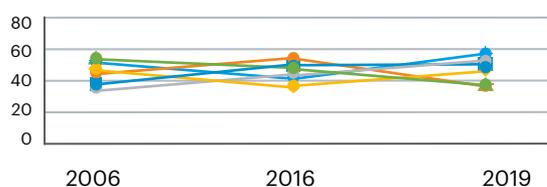
(women 15-49 y.o. married or in union)



● Poorest ● Second ● Middle
● Fourth ● Richest

Use of contraception (modern method), by region

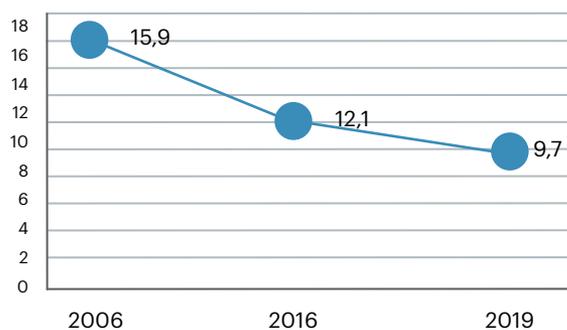
(women 15-49 y.o. married or in union)



— Ashgabat — Ahal — Balkan
— Dashoguz — Lebap — Mary

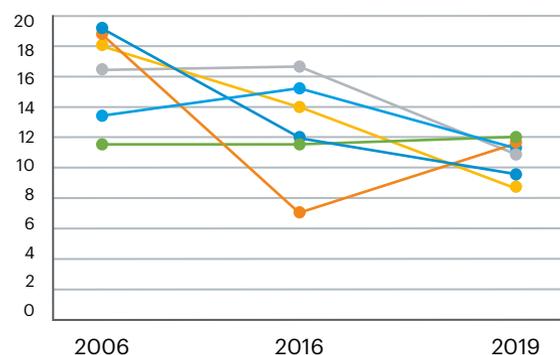
Unmet need for family planning, %

(women 15-49)



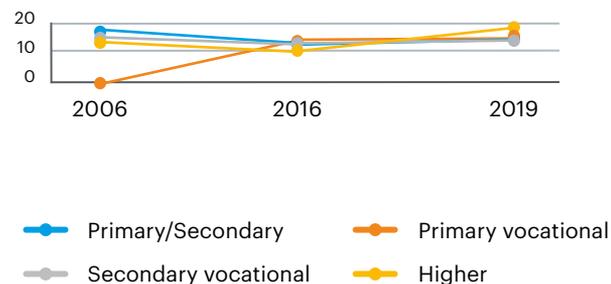
Unmet need for family planning, % - by region

(women, 15-49)



● Ashgabat ● Ahal ● Balkan
● Dashoguz ● Lebap ● Mary

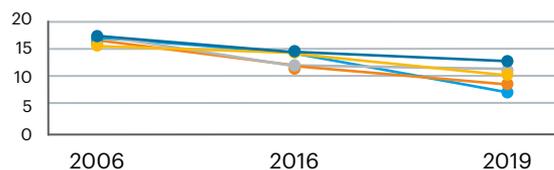
Unmet need for family planning, % - by education



● Primary/Secondary ● Primary vocational
● Secondary vocational ● Higher

Unmet need for family planning, % - by wealth

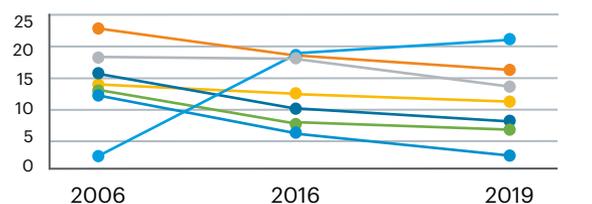
(women, 15-49)



● Poorest ● Second ● Middle
● Fourth ● Richest

Unmet need for family planning, % - by age

(women, 15-49)



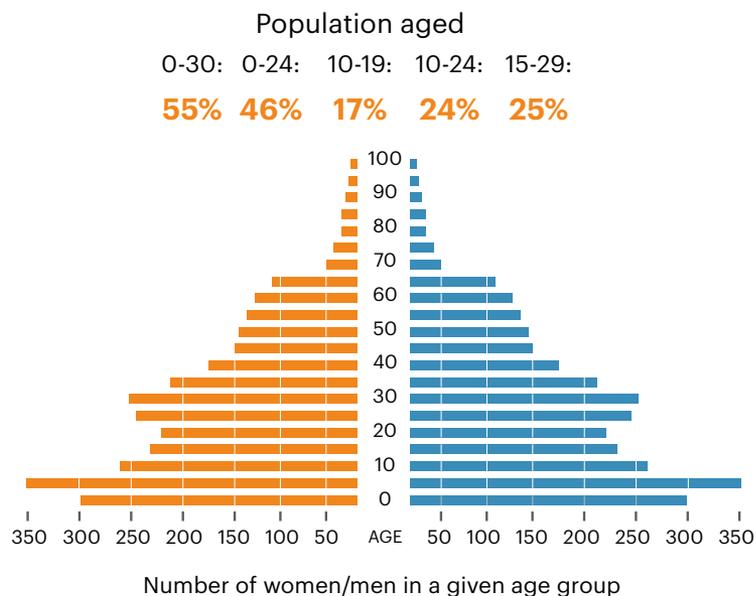
● 15-19 ● 20-24 ● 25-29 ● 30-34
● 35-39 ● 40-44 ● 45-49

The State Committee of Turkmenistan for Statistics and UNICEF. 2020. 2019 Turkmenistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS 2019). Survey Findings Report. Ashgabat, Turkmenistan: State Committee for Statistics of Turkmenistan and UNICEF.

YOUTH

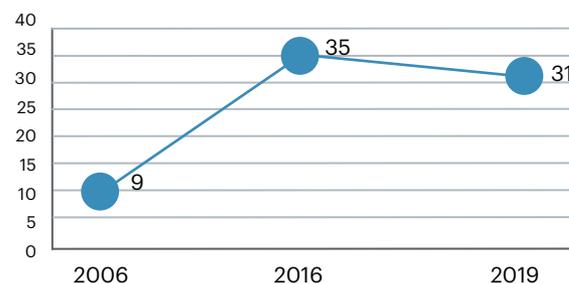
The State Committee of Turkmenistan for Statistics and UNICEF. 2020. 2019 Turkmenistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS 2019). Survey Findings Report. Ashgabat, Turkmenistan: State Committee for Statistics of Turkmenistan and UNICEF.

Youth in Turkmenistan (UN Population Division, 2019)



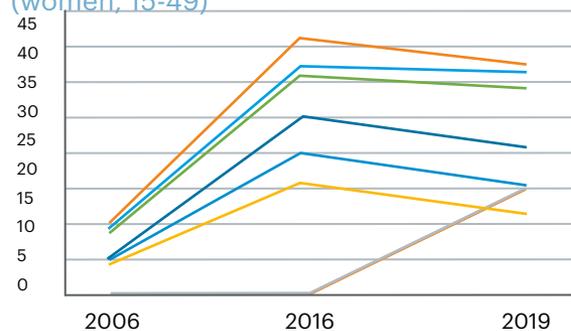
Comprehensive knowledge about HIV transmission

(women, 15-49)



Comprehensive knowledge about HIV transmission - by age

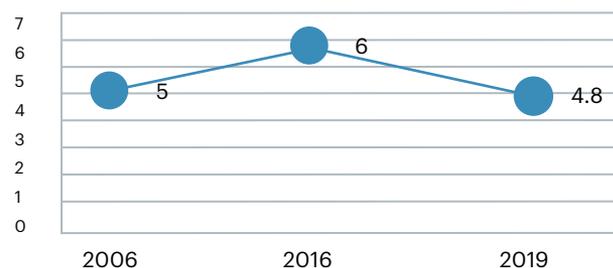
(women, 15-49)



15-24 15-17 18-19 15-19
20-24 25-29 30-39 40-49

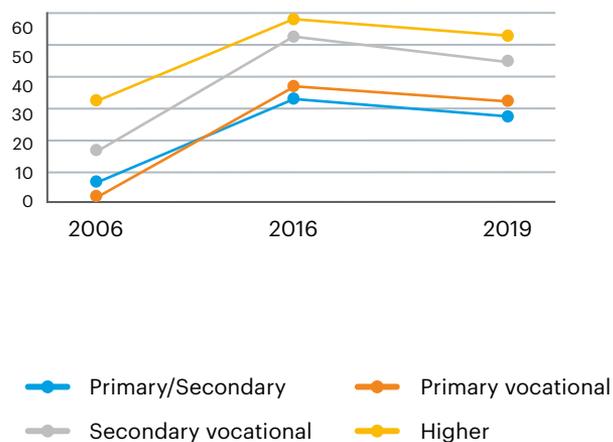
Child marriage, %

(currently married or in union)



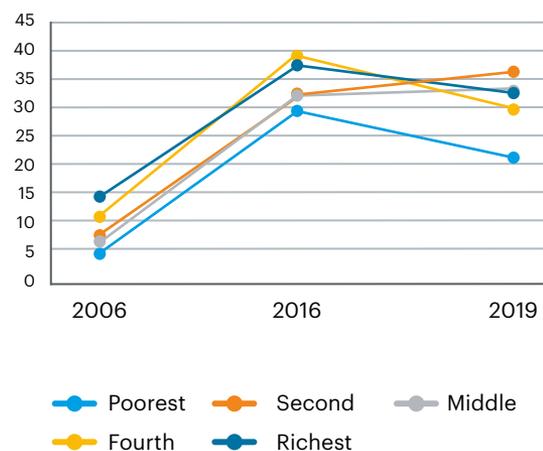
Comprehensive knowledge about HIV transmission - by education

(women, 15-49)



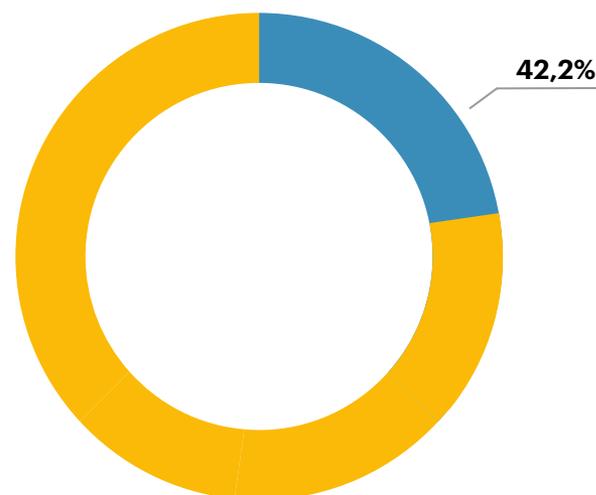
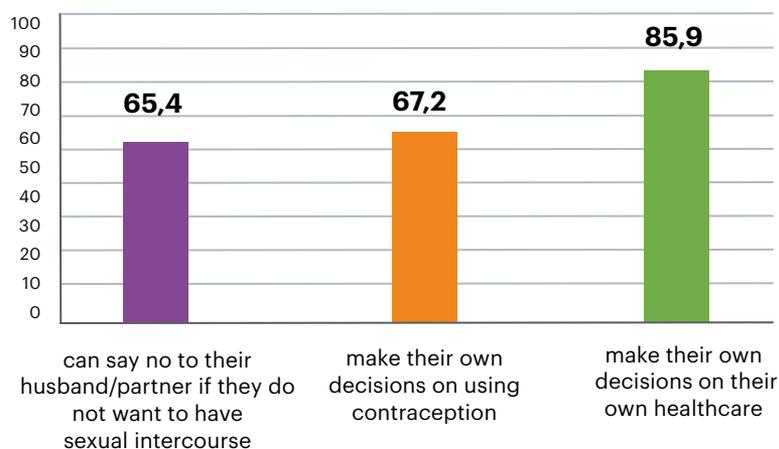
Comprehensive knowledge about HIV transmission - by wealth

(women, 15-49)

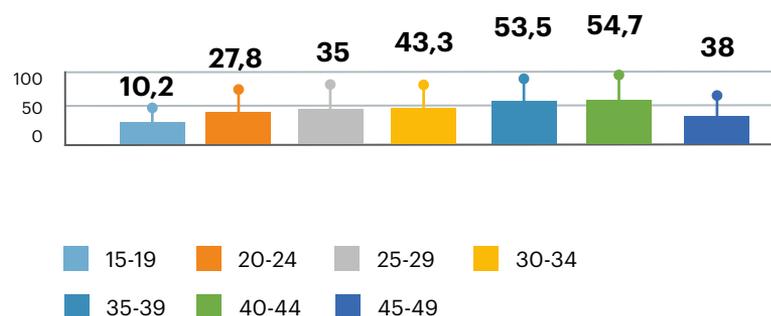


GENDER EQUALITY

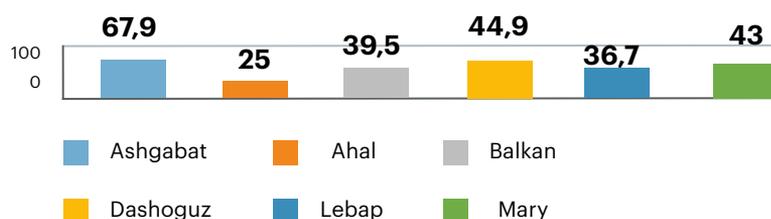
Women who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health, %



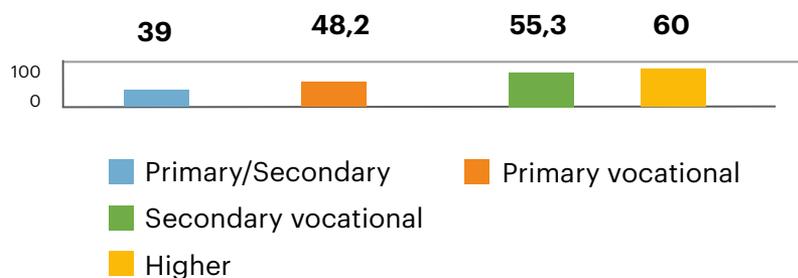
Women who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health, % - by age



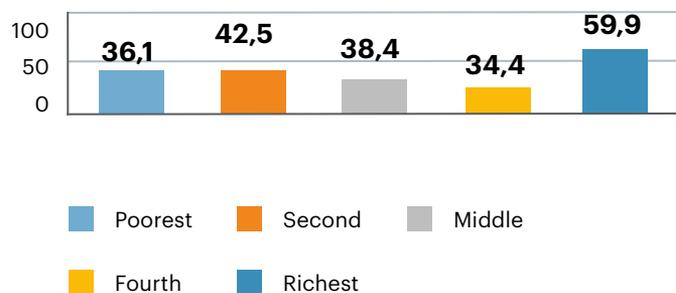
Women who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health, % - by region



Women who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health, % - by education



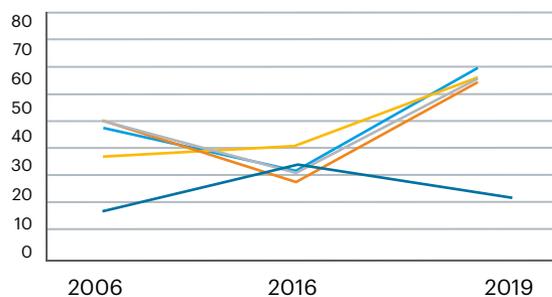
Women who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health, % - by wealth



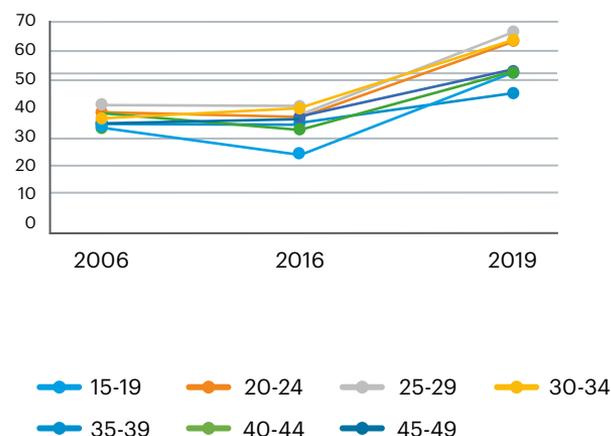
Attitude towards domestic violence, % women who think a husband is justified to beat their wife in certain circumstances (women, 15-49)



Attitude towards domestic violence, % - by wealth (women, 15-49)

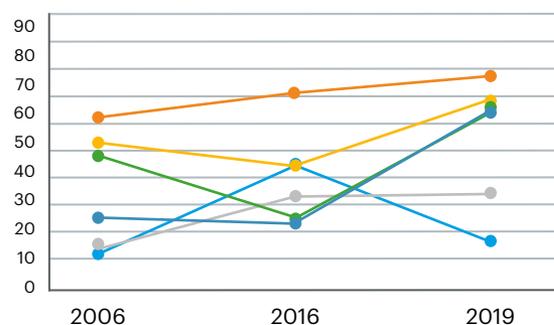


Attitude towards domestic violence, % - by age (women, 15-49)



Attitude towards domestic violence, % - by region

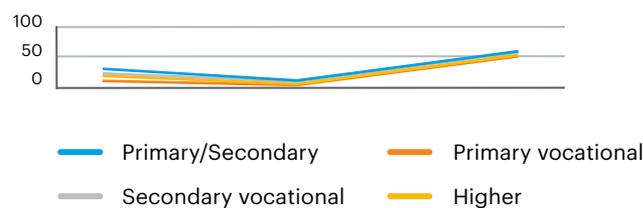
(women, 15-49)



● Ashgabat ● Ahal ● Balkan
● Dashoguz ● Lebap ● Mary

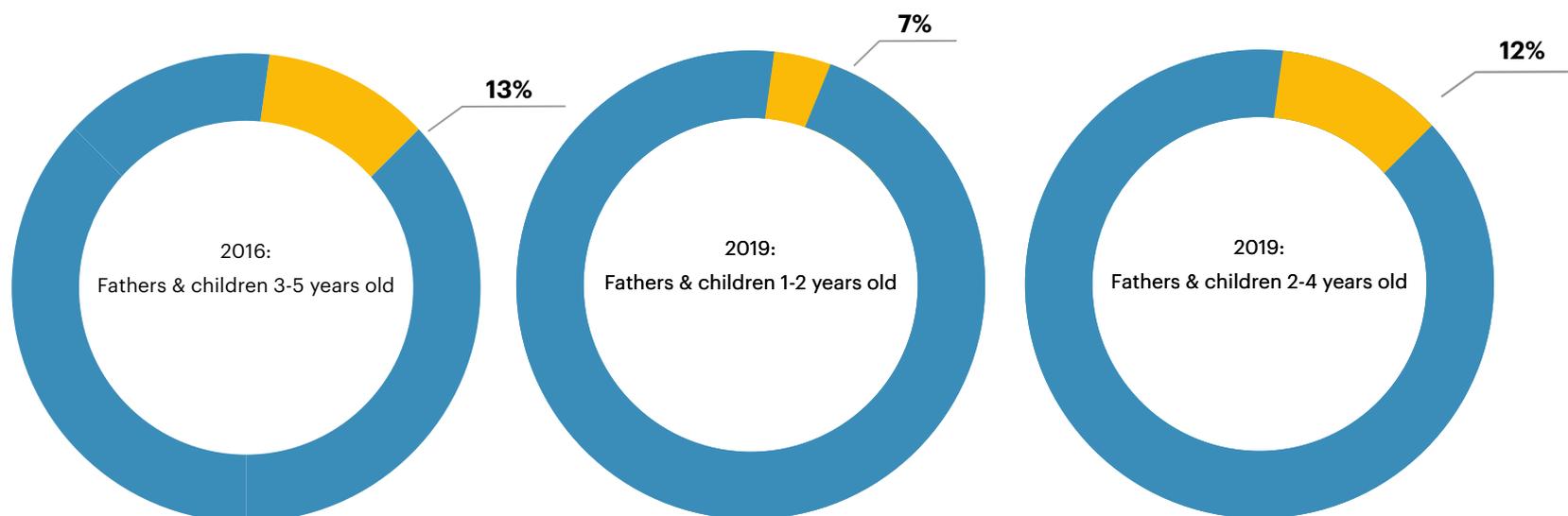
Attitude towards domestic violence, % by education

(women, 15-49)

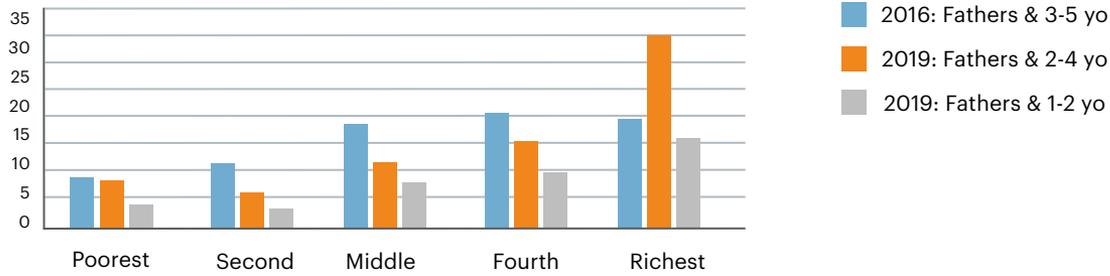


— Primary/Secondary — Primary vocational
— Secondary vocational — Higher

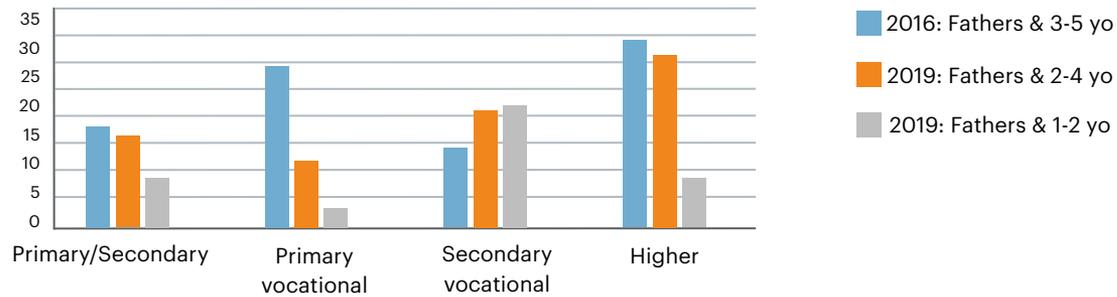
Fathers engaged in four or more activities with children, %



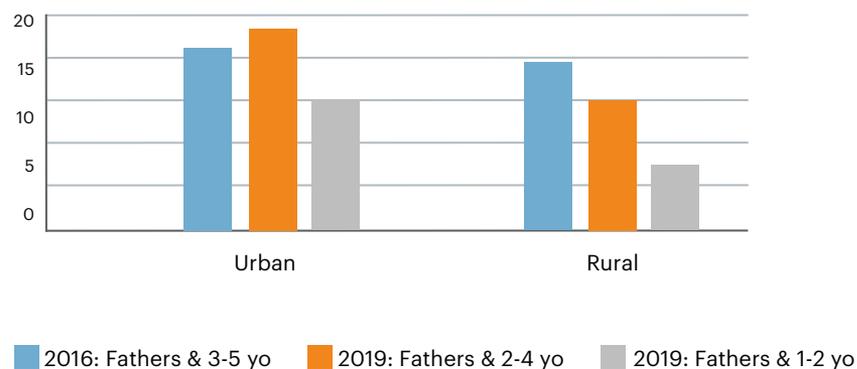
Fathers engaged in four or more activities with children, % - by wealth



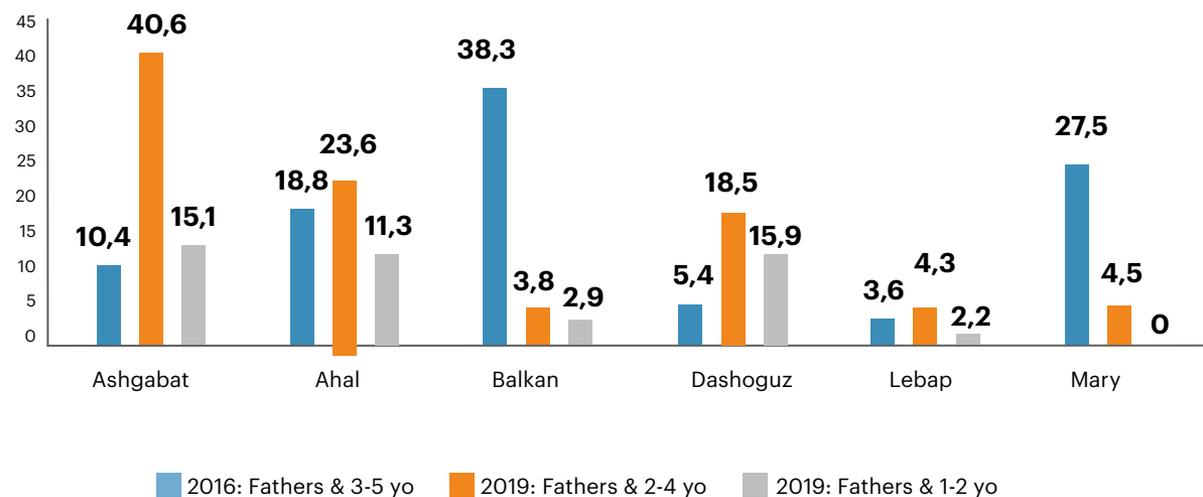
Fathers engaged in four or more activities with children, % - by education



Fathers engaged in four or more activities with children, % - by urban, rural



Fathers engaged in four or more activities with children, % - by region



The State Committee of Turkmenistan for Statistics and UNICEF. 2020. 2019 Turkmenistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS 2019). Survey Findings Report. Ashgabat, Turkmenistan: State Committee for Statistics of Turkmenistan and UNICEF.



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