

# UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM

Results Report 2020



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UNITED NATIONS  
TURKEY



## FOREWORD BY RESIDENT COORDINATOR



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In 2020, the UN marked its 75th anniversary at a time of great disruption for the world, compounded by an unprecedented global health crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to reverse the development progress made in past decades and exacerbate the outstanding challenges.

Against this backdrop, this report presents the collective results of the UN system in Turkey in 2020. This was the last year of the United Nations Development Cooperation Strategy (UNDCS) for 2016-2020. Under the UNDCS, the UN agencies making up the UN Country Team (UNCT) collectively aimed to collaborate with national and international partners to bring about progress towards Turkey's national development and humanitarian priorities and to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The priority areas of the UNDCS were:

Sustainable Inclusive Growth and Development; Democratic Governance and Human Rights; Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, and Migration and International Protection.

The UNCT continued to work hard to achieve the intended results in all the above areas, bearing in mind that Turkey remained the country with the largest refugee population in the world. At the same time, the pandemic increased socio-economic and health-related needs, requiring the adjustment of existing programming and the development of new programmes to respond to new challenges. Thanks to the understanding and commitment of all key partners and stakeholders, the UNCT continued to achieve results in this complex situation.

Meanwhile, the government and the UNCT, in close consultation with our partners, have developed a restorative and sustainable cooperation framework for the 2021-2025 period. Informed by evidence-based analyses and lessons learned from the UNDCS cycle, the new 'United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework' (UNSDCF) aims to contribute further to Turkey's efforts to achieve its sustainable development priorities while adapting to the "new normal".

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## ABREVIATIONS

<b>AVRR</b>	Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration	<b>MoFLSS</b>	Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services
<b>B4G</b>	Business for Goals	<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>BADV</b>	Business Against Domestic Violence	<b>MoNE</b>	the Ministry of National Education
<b>ÇATOMs</b>	Multi-Purpose Community Centres	<b>NAB</b>	National Advisory Board
<b>CCTE</b>	Conditional Cash Transfers in Education	<b>HREIT</b>	Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey
<b>CEFM</b>	Child, Early and Forced Marriage	<b>OI</b>	Ombudsperson Institution
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus Disease 2019	<b>PDF</b>	Partnerships, Development Financing
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations	<b>POPs</b>	Persistent Organic Pollutants
<b>DGMM</b>	Directorate General of Migration Management	<b>PPE</b>	Personal Protective Equipment
<b>EBMOs</b>	Employer and Business Membership Organizations	<b>RGs</b>	Results Groups
<b>EIB</b>	European Investment Bank	<b>SDGia</b>	SDG Impact Accelerator
<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>FSC</b>	Forest Stewardship Council	<b>ŞÖNİMs</b>	Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres
<b>GAP</b>	Southeast Anatolia Project	<b>SRH</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence	<b>STEM</b>	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
<b>HLPF</b>	High-Level Political Forum	<b>TOBB</b>	Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Rural Development	<b>ToC</b>	Theory of Change
<b>IFIs</b>	International Financial Institutions	<b>TurkStat</b>	Turkish Statistical Institute
<b>JWP</b>	Joint Work Plan	<b>TÜSİAD</b>	Turkish Industry and Business Association
<b>KEFEK</b>	The Committee on Equality of Opportunity for Women and Men	<b>UNCT</b>	UN Country Team
<b>LDCs</b>	Least Developed Countries	<b>UNDCS</b>	United Nations Development Cooperation Strategy
<b>LFC</b>	Land Forces Command	<b>UNSDCF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>LMS</b>	Learning Management System	<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review
<b>MDBs</b>	Multilateral Development Banks	<b>WEPs</b>	Women's Empowerment Principles
<b>MoEU</b>	Ministry of the Environment and Urbanization	<b>YTB</b>	Turks Abroad and Related Communities

# UN COUNTRY TEAM

## REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE



## THROUGH REGIONAL OFFICE \ HQ



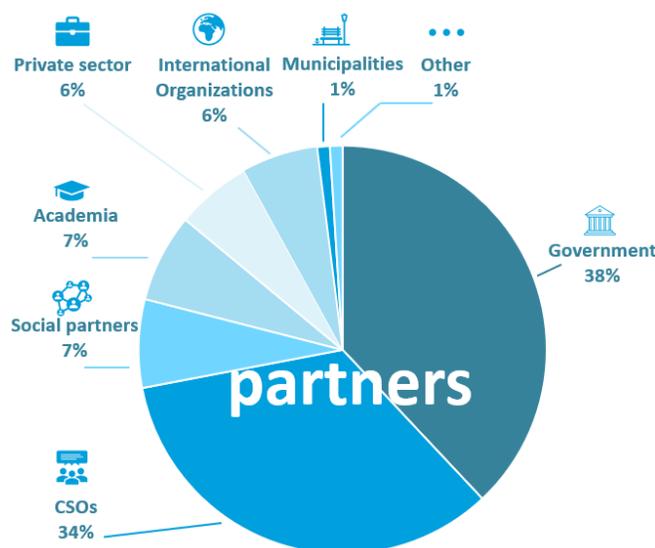
## KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN IN THE COUNTRY

The UN's partners in Turkey include governmental institutions, private sector entities, academia and think tanks, research entities, civil society organizations, workers organizations, employer and business membership organizations (EBMOs), and international organizations and networks.

According to the **UNDCS Common**

**Partnerships and Donor Relations Survey** conducted in October 2020, the number of UN partners and the quality of the partnerships increased over the past three years. Pilot and scale-up cooperation models with non-traditional partners were developed, and efforts were undertaken to shift from project-based relations to a multi-year programming approach for increased efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability.

The traditional **relations between the UN and national governmental institutions**, particularly the line ministries, have evolved and strengthened over the years and are marked by a significant level of mutual trust, collaboration and commitment. In 2020, these strong relationships, combined with the extensive reach and capacities of many of the governmental institutions in question, remained essential to the development, implementation and sustainability of UN programmes in all priority areas. The same relations also underpinned advocacy and policy dialogue and the exchange of know-how and expertise. Partnerships with a wider range of institutions, from Parliament to the new presidential policy boards and entities established following the adoption of a presidential system of government in 2017, continued to develop. The UN needed to adapt to more centralized policy-making under the new system and to the changes that were made in the status and mandates of



some line ministries. High staff turnover and/or frequent changes at decision-making levels posed temporary challenges to cooperation in some programme areas.

Partnerships with **civil society organizations** (CSOs) continued to play an important part in the work of the UNCT, particularly in terms of their capacities for outreach and the implementation of programmes for

vulnerable groups. The UNCT also continued to value CSOs for their specialist knowledge and advocacy. It maintained its long-term relationships with key CSOs and increasingly collaborated with CSO platforms and networks. The growth of collaboration between the UNCT and civil society faces constraints in some areas due to limited implementation capacity of many CSOs, civil-society government interaction and/or limited legal frameworks for civil society engagement.

The UNCT continued to expand its relations with the **private sector**, notwithstanding the financial challenges that businesses have been facing due to economic conditions and the challenges posed by COVID-19. UN agencies are supporting or collaborating with companies of all sizes from multinational companies to small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly in the context of economic development, inclusive businesses, decent work and livelihoods/economic empowerment. Partnerships with global, national and sectoral employer and EBMOs were developed. Platform-based cooperation models have turned out to be an increasing mode of partnership.

Subject to the necessary due diligence, the private sector and EBMOs are expected to become key partners for the UNCT in broader areas like safeguarding the

environment, increasing food security, protecting child rights, and ensuring social inclusion. They have the potential to become important agents for SDG mainstreaming, integration and financing beyond the traditional corporate social responsibility approach, through shared value partnerships and inclusive business models. Meanwhile, the UN maintained its partnerships with workers' organizations for the decent work agenda.

The UNCT continued to pursue its engagement with **local authorities** (municipalities, governorates, provincial directorates, and development agencies) in 2020, given their environmental and social responsibilities and capacities to reach vulnerable groups. This collaboration is expected to expand in the context of localizing the SDGs. The institutional infrastructures and human resources of some municipalities will require development.

The UNCT has increasingly benefited from the know-how, technical expertise, human resources, networks, and

local presence of **academia** (universities, think-tanks and research institutes) in both the development and humanitarian workstreams. The UNCT maintained its partnerships with the **International Financial Institutions** (IFIs) and Global/Regional Development Banks on advancing Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. The UN collaborated with the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank (EIB), KfW and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in various programmatic areas.

The European Union (EU) and the member states of the UN are vital partners for the UNCT. According to the UN Funding Landscape Analysis of the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Turkey, the member states are the second largest contributor to the UN in Turkey after the EU. Aside from financial resources (See also Chapter 3), the EU and member states are strategic partners for advocacy for the implementation of international norms and standards.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The profile of the UNCT partners is given in the accompanying chart. The percentages are based solely on the numbers of partnerships, without respect to their scope or financial throughput (if any).

# CHAPTER 1: KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

By the end of 2020, Turkey had recorded 2.2 million cases of COVID-19. As in other countries, the pandemic had major socioeconomic impacts, increasing pre-existing vulnerabilities, creating new ones and affecting the resilience of communities.

The health sector mounted a robust response, benefiting from Turkey's strong healthcare and health insurance systems. Access to health services for persons under the law on Foreigners and International Protection was maintained. Nevertheless, the provision of some other essential health services and demand for these services were affected by the prioritization of the pandemic.

Economic activity was negatively affected in the second quarter due to interruptions to trade, virus containment measures, financial distress, and uncertainty. The initial proactive policy response to the pandemic led to a strong rebound of economic activity in the rest of the year, and annual GDP grew by 1.8% by comparison with 2019. As part of the Treasury Backed Credit Guarantee System, in order to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the economy's production and employment capacity, several guarantee packages have been put in place since March 2020. The target group of these packages, including households and SMEs, as of December 31, 2020, had a guarantee of TRY 192.5 billion. Nevertheless, the crisis disproportionately affected some business sectors, including tourism, and small and micro enterprises.

Some employees, and many informal workers and self-employed persons, suffered from lost income or lost livelihoods. Formal jobs were protected through a ban on dismissals, a procedure for companies to put their workers on unpaid leave, and support to enterprises through a short-term work allowance. Approximately 5.8 million employees benefitted from the employment protection support schemes in 2020.

In response to Covid-19, the Government has launched a number of measures including short-term work allowance (kısa çalışma ödeneği), the cash wage support (nakdi

ücret desteği) and Social Support Programme etc. However, these measures did not fully compensate for lost income of workers including informal and self-employed workers as observed in other developed and developing countries.

Social assistance programmes remained operational during the Covid-19 epidemic, and additional steps were taken, including cash transfers for those not covered by social insurance. Approximately 8.4 million households benefitted from one-off cash transfers in 2020. As in many economies, the risk of poverty and income inequalities increased.

During the Covid-19 process, immigrants under international and temporary protection have benefited from equal services with Turkish citizens in vaccination and treatment. On the other hand, The Covid-19 crisis has increased the importance of international assistance to persons under international and temporary protection..

The pandemic exacerbated pre-existing gender inequalities in the labor market and in time spent on unpaid domestic and care work. There is need for additional studies on violence against women and girls during the pandemic in Turkey. However global reports indicate the surge of gender-based violence in global scale and the urgent need to ensure that access to support services is unhindered, even in times of crisis. The introduction of distance education and other factors added to women's care and domestic responsibilities.

Schools closed in March 2020 and education continued remotely and in blended modality. While the Education Information Network (EBA) online platform enabled distance learning of nearly 14.1 million students, children from vulnerable and poor households face access challenges. There are concerns about maintaining standards of education quality. The pandemic has increased existing inequalities, and some groups of children, including those with disabilities and those from refugee and low-income households, are particularly at risk of deprivation of essential services such as education

and protection, as well as of leisure and participation opportunities. These developments affected progress towards the sustainable development goals (SDGs) including SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and

Wellbeing), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

## CHAPTER 2: SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

### 2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

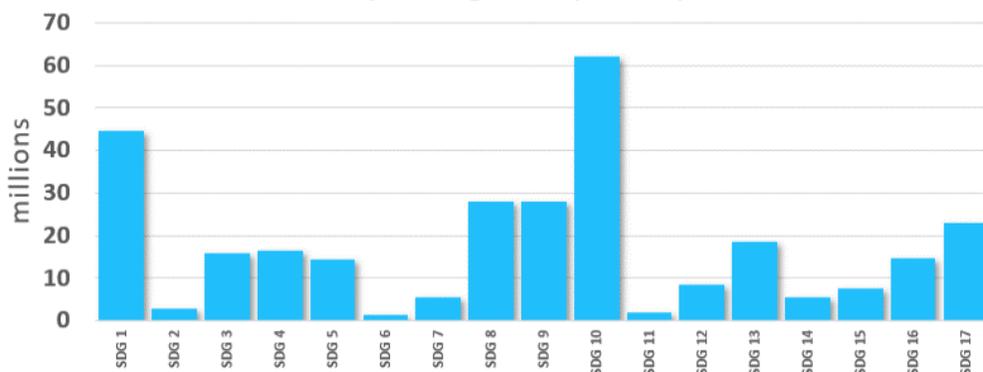
In 2020, the UNCT and its partners continued to implement the UN Development Cooperation Strategy (UNDCS) for 2016-2020, which was drawn up in the light of national priorities. The implementation of the UNDCS continued to be coordinated through five Results Groups (RGs). Each RG was composed of the UN organizations working towards the results area in question and followed a joint work plan (JWP) that combined the relevant programmes of these organizations.

While continuing to implement the UNDCS, **all UN organizations rapidly adjusted and expanded their programmes to respond to the needs arising from the Covid-19 crisis.** The main purpose of these interventions was to mitigate the impacts of the crisis for vulnerable groups and contribute to the continuity of essential services for those at risk of being left behind.

Simultaneously, **the UNCT undertook a comprehensive Covid-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment** to understand the impacts of the crisis. The Assessment assisted the UNCT and the individual UN organizations in reviewing their programmes and adjusting them to the emerging needs.

In line with the Assessment, a Covid-19 Socio-Economic Response Offer was drawn up. This offer aimed to support the Government and development

Total Cost of the Interventions by SDG Alignments (million \$)



partners in mitigating the socio-economic impacts of the Covid-19 crisis. It was also intended to align the ongoing and planned Covid-19 response, recovery and building-back-better activities of the UNCT with the existing national response efforts on the one hand and the long-term national development priorities outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Eleventh National Development Plan (2019- 2023) on the other.

The offer incorporated a total of 220 Covid-19 interventions to be implemented within a period of 18 months at a cost of USD285.7 million. Of these interventions, 77 (costing USD 65.5 million) were already funded through the repurposing of existing interventions or newly raised funds.

In term of allocation of funds under the Covid-19 Socio-Economic Response Offer, the Offer focused more on SDG 10, SDG1, SDG 8 and SDG 9.

## Inclusive and Sustainable Growth and Development, and Environmental Sustainability



**In 2020, UNCT technical support contributed to increased capacities of a number of public and private institutions for effective sustainable natural resource management and climate change adaptation.** Several land use and conservation plans were implemented, chemical waste management improved, and a national strategy and action plan on food loss and waste was launched.

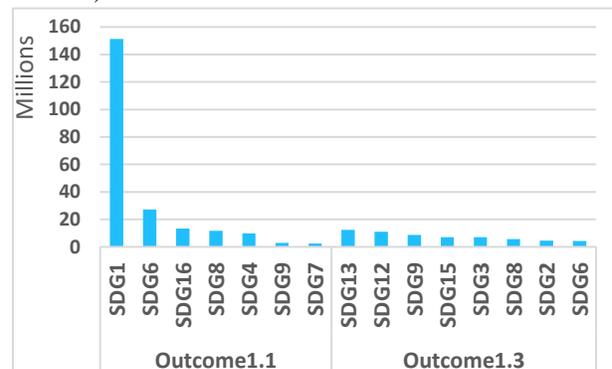


In partnership with key government institutions and the private sector, **the UNCT continued to invest substantially in the decent work agenda, including decent work for persons under international and temporary protection.** Support was extended for technical and vocational training programmes, the enhancement of employment services, and the distribution of information. The programmes were maintained despite COVID-19 with the help of additional health and safety measures.

**Between 2016 and 2020** numerous strategies, policies, plans and incentive to promote *investment, regional and rural development, and research and development* were adopted, and policy measures were taken to combat *child*

*labour.* However, *reducing income inequalities* proved challenging even before the COVID-19 pandemic. Although Turkey did not ratify the Paris agreement, there was progress on *climate-friendly technologies and policies*, the elimination of *hazardous chemicals and waste disposal and recovery*, while the area of land for which *integrated land management plans* are being implemented expanded. The UNCT's work on inclusive and sustainable growth, and

development and environmental sustainability between 2016 and 2020 was aligned to several of the SDGs. **In funding terms, the largest contributions were made to SDG 1 (No Hunger)** followed by SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).



## Social Inclusion



**In 2020, the UNCT continued to contribute significantly to the strengthening of national education, health and protection systems in such a way as to provide inclusive services.** Technical support was extended for the development and implementation of programmes in areas such as early childhood education, remedial education, inclusive education, social and child protection, mental health and sexual and reproductive health, with an emphasis on leaving no-one behind.

**Vulnerable groups benefited from several other programmes supported by the UNCT.** For example, support was extended to various government and non-government partners to support social protection services for vulnerable groups and persons under international and temporary protection, combat rural poverty through women's employment and combat child labour, including in migratory seasonal agriculture work.

**The UNCT supported the families of hundreds of thousands of school-attending children** under international and temporary protection **and helped to ensure their continued participation in learning** through continued support for the conditional cash transfers in education (CCTE) programme for refugees.

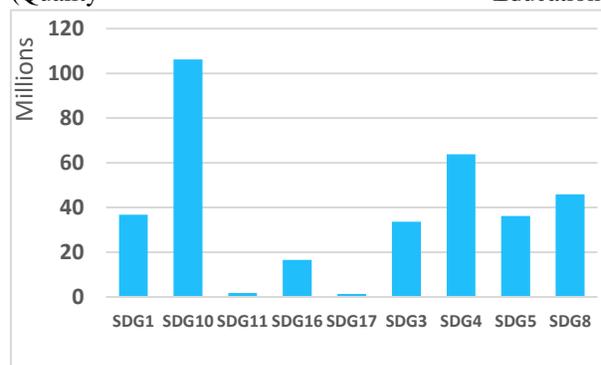
**The negative impacts of COVID-19 on beneficiaries and key services were mitigated.** Additional components were added to many of the above programmes to ensure their continuity and effectiveness. These included the provision of health information and sanitary supplies, support for online services, additional psychosocial support modules and a supplementary CCTE payment. The UNCT contributed to the capacities of education personnel to adjust teaching methods to remote and blended learning modalities and to the monitoring of hospitals that might become overburdened.

**Between 2016 and 2020, considerable progress was made towards social inclusion** for vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, persons under

international and temporary protection, rural populations, vulnerable children and youth, seasonal migratory agricultural workers and people at risk from, or already affected by, non-communicable diseases and HIV. Available data shows that basic health and nutrition indicators including child and maternal mortality continued to decrease, although some geographic disparities persisted, while the probability of dying due to non-communicable diseases decreased by 4 percentage points. Enrolment in education including early childhood education, secondary education and education for children under international and temporary protection increased and gender gaps narrowed or were eliminated. The OECD Programme for International Student Assessment results showed good progress from 2015 to 2018. Children's engagement in economic activities, excluding refugee children, decreased overall to 4.4% in 2019. However, COVID-19 has affected access to learning and possibly other services, and increased socioeconomic inequalities.

The UNCT's work on social inclusion between 2016 and 2020 was aligned to several of the SDGs.

**In funding terms, the largest contribution was made SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)** followed by SDG 4 (Quality Education).



## Democratic Governance and Human Rights



**In 2020, the UNCT continued to act as a voice for human rights.** The UNCT promoted and raised awareness about international human rights standards and mechanisms. It advocated for, and strove to facilitate the implementation of, the recommendations of international human rights and labour rights bodies.



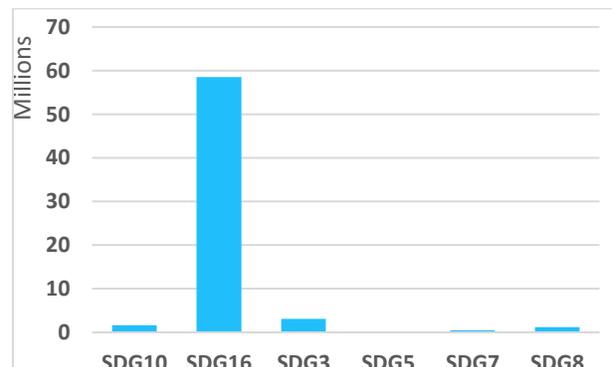
government was adopted in 2018. The government updated and partly implemented its judicial reform strategy, and positive developments were registered in the areas of justice for children, legal aid for members of disadvantaged groups and transparency of the

**The UNCT contributed to national capacity for human rights and access to justice in several ways,** notwithstanding some delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With contributions from the UNCT, the capacities of the Ombudsman institution the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey, civil society organizations and the social partners to protect and promote human rights and international labour services more effectively were **supported**. The capacity of the justice system to improve access to justice, including for persons under international and temporary protection and children, was developed further although the pandemic created difficulties in accessing lawyers in practice.

**Capacity for democratic governance was supported in specific areas.** The UNCT supported various national government institutions in efforts to ensure transparency in the judiciary, civilian oversight, and integrated border management.

**Between 2016 and 2020, improvements were observed in certain areas of human rights and democratic governance.** These years witnessed significant changes in the environment due to the 2016 coup attempt. Through a referendum, the presidential system of

Court of Cassation. Recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms which have been implemented include the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Rights of the Child on a Communication Procedure the lifting of the state of emergency and the establishment of an equality institution. The capacities and activities of the Ombudsman Institution and the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey expanded. The UNCT's work on human rights and democratic governance between 2016 and 2020 was overwhelmingly designed to contribute to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and this is reflected in the breakdown of the funding.



## Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment



**In 2020, the UNCT continued to raise awareness and advocate for and contribute to legislation and policies for gender equality and combating violence against women, in line with international norms.** For example, members of Parliament drafted bills to increase women's participation in politics and prevent violence against women in politics. The gender equality policies of several municipalities were strengthened through technical support and training.

**Several steps were taken towards increasing women's employment and economic opportunities.** A Learning Management system was developed for use in building the capacities of staff of the national employment agency İŞKUR and other actors in the world of work. Support was extended to various programmes and projects for the employment of women, including women under international and temporary protection, as well as for the employment of women in non-traditional professions. To enhance monitoring in this regard, UNCT contributed to Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) effort to improve gender pay gap statistics.

**The capacities and skills of government and civil society organizations involved in preventing and responding to violence against women, including child, early and forced marriage, were supported** through multiple initiatives encompassing different sectors. Studies were carried out; awareness was raised among key stakeholders and information was disseminated to members of vulnerable groups. **Six violence prevention centres** were established under local bar associations and **five women's crisis centres** were opened. Several local action plans for combating child, early and forced marriage were improved.

**The engagement of numerous private enterprises and business organizations for gender equality was strengthened** through a range of initiatives contributing – inter alia – to workforce transformation, inclusive

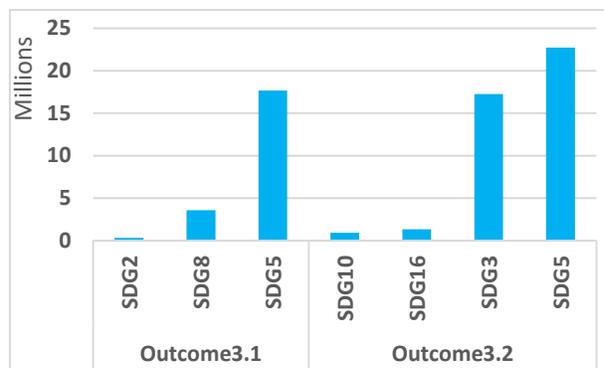


business models, eliminating workplace violence and combating stereotypes in advertising.

**Between 2016 and 2020, various policies and practices were adopted, and institutional capacities strengthened and mobilized, for gender equality and the prevention of violence against women,** although more still needs to be done to eliminate negative attitudes and behaviors that generate and reinforce domestic and other types of violence. The Eleventh National Development Plan contains targets and measures for women's employment and participation in decision-making and social life and for reducing violence against women and early and forced marriage. Other relevant policy documents adopted in this period include the National Strategy and Action Plan on Women's Empowerment (2018-2023), National Action Plan on Combating Violence and Women (2016 -2020) and National Action Plan on Women's Employment (2016-2018).

Despite some improvements, significant gender gaps in participation in decision-making and economic life remain and violence against women has remained a major issue. 2018 data showed a continuing level of child marriage. The COVID-19 pandemic affected women disproportionately.

The role of the private sector in promoting gender equality has increased considerably. The UNCT's work on gender equality and women's empowerment between 2016 and 2020 was primarily aligned to SDG5 (Gender Equality). In funding terms, a significant contribution was also made to SDG3 (Good Health and Well-Being).



## Migration and International Protection



**In 2020, the capacities of national public institutions and other partners continued to be supported, personnel were trained and material support was extended to maintain and expand the access of persons under international and temporary protection to livelihoods and quality education, health and social protection services.** Support was extended, inter alia, for language classes and vocational training, employment services and work permit procedures. The UNCT contributed to teacher training and the employment of Syrian education personnel in the education system. It was also engaged in the dissemination of information about hygiene, e-learning and access to services, the expansion of the range of services provided by Turkish and Syrian health staff at migrant health centres and through mobile service units, and an increase in home care and psychosocial support services and services for survivors of gender-based violence. Contributions were made to improved administrative practices for registration and refugee status determination. As a result, the severe effects of Covid-19 on the wellbeing of the refugee population were mitigated.

**Social cohesion and interaction between members of migrant communities, persons under international and temporary protection and host communities was promoted** through support to a wide range of

educational, cultural and social programmes provided in partnership with public institutions, municipalities and civil society organizations. The capacities of these institutions and their personnel to provide such programmes were **supported**. These programmes were maintained as far as possible despite the impact of COVID-19, including through observing international and national protocols for safety and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

**The technical capacities of the relevant public institutions to manage migration effectively were supported** in areas such as combating human trafficking, assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR), integrated border management, combating irregular migration and rescuing irregular migrants at sea.

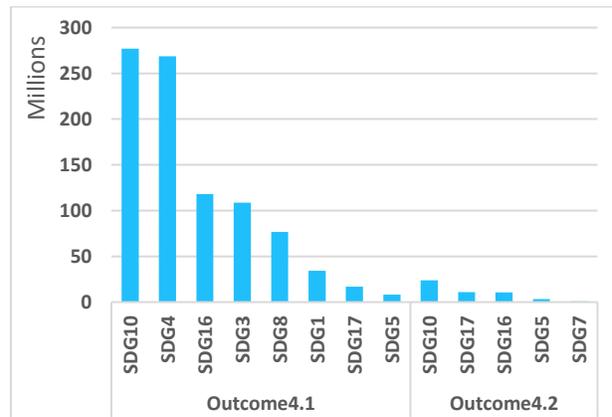
**Between 2016 and 2020, there was an increase in the access of migrants and persons under international and temporary protection to services**, in the quality and sustainability of these services, and consequently in their lives. Health, education and social services and assistance became available to larger numbers. The percentage of persons under the Law on Foreigners and International Protection benefiting from primary health care, including immunization and maternal health care provided by the state, rose towards the target of 100%. The percentage of

school-aged Syrian children under temporary protection enrolled in formal education reached 63% in the 2019-2020 school year.

The legal basis for obtaining work permits for Syrians is in place. In addition, employment of Syrians is encouraged through methods such as reducing the work permit fees of employers employing Syrians. As a result, access to formal employment also increased, although it remained relatively low. In 2020, however, progress stalled. Humanitarian aid activities for Syrians continue uninterrupted. The Turkish Red Crescent, government institutions, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations provide psychosocial support and livelihood assistance to Syrians in the country. Due to negative effects of the Covid-19, the burden of the country increased. With schools closed, not all children were able to continue learning through the remote modality.

**Since 2016, capacity for migration management has increased.** The registration and processing of

international protection applications has been carried out entirely by the national government since 2018. **The UNCT’s work on migration and international protection between 2016 and 2020 was aligned to several of the SDGs. In funding terms, the largest contributions were made SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) followed by SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).**



## 2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

**Outcome 1.1.** *By 2020, relevant government institutions operate in an improved legal and policy framework, and institutional capacity and accountability mechanisms assure a more enabling (competitive, inclusive and innovative) environment for sustainable, job-rich growth and development for all women and men.*

5

0.2%

*# of laws and policies adopted between 2016 and 2020 in line with international standards and the UN development agenda (Agency monitoring report, 2020)*

*Ratio of budgetary incomes to expenditures for the three NUTS2 regions with the lowest socioeconomic development (the Annual Programme of the Presidency for 2020)*

**Livelihood opportunities were created for persons under international and temporary protection** and progress was made towards their socioeconomic integration in conjunction with the public employment agency İŞKUR, through vocational training, a cash-for-work plus scheme and social security premium support. Grants were provided for smallholder farmers and agri-food entrepreneurs, and farmer field schools were established. Language training and day care services were provided for programme participants.

**The capacities and skills of persons under international and temporary protection for formal and sustainable employment were augmented** with various partners through training programmes developing vocational competencies, Turkish language skills, life skills and entrepreneurial capacities, reaching over 3,000

beneficiaries. Entrepreneurship training encompassed business law, English language, marketing, website design, financial literacy and IT. 1,300 individuals benefitted from entrepreneurship training and counselling.



**Access of persons under international and temporary protection to formal labour markets was supported** through the distribution of information about the work permit system in conjunction with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and İŞKUR.

İŞKUR Service Centres was supported with interpreters who in turn were able to provide counselling on access to jobs and register job seekers in the İŞKUR database. The support reached over 16,000 individuals through public services such as counselling on access to jobs and database registration.

**Vocational training opportunities for adolescents, including apprenticeship training, were improved** in cooperation with the Turkish Confederation of Tradesmen and Craftsmen and MoNE. Needs analyses were conducted, SMEs received support, family and 5,466 workplace visits including 3,498 homes and 1,968 workplaces in the scope of the Vocational Education Acquisition Program were conducted, information was disseminated, and hygiene kits were distributed. A **Guidebook on Occupational Health and Safety** was developed and the pedagogical content of the master

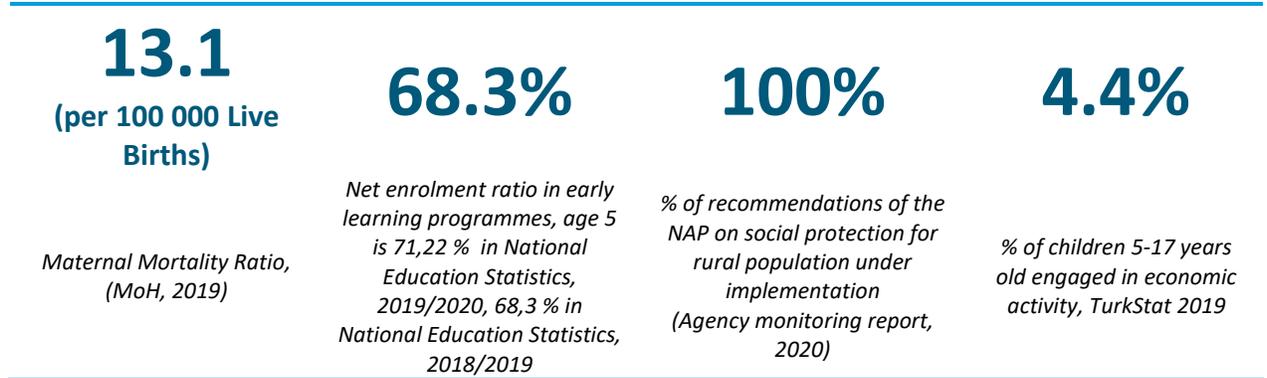
trainers' programme for apprenticeship training was updated. Several public education centres received equipment, renovation-refurbishment, and personnel support as part of efforts to increase the access of persons under international and temporary protection to vocational training.

**Efforts to combat child labour continued**, including contributions to the implementation of the National Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour and the

provision of community-based services for children engaged in seasonal migratory agricultural labour. Relevant firms and agricultural intermediaries were equipped with knowledge for identifying and eliminating child labour in seasonal agriculture in partnership with the private sector.

Adjustments were made to sustain all these programmes in the face of COVID-19.

**Outcome 1.2.** *By 2020, all underserved population groups have more equitable and improved access to integrated, sustainable and gender-sensitive quality services (e.g., health, education, decent employment, and social protection systems).*



**The capacity of the education system to support vulnerable learners was supported** through programmes in partnership with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE). All primary schools nationwide were provided with **Remedial Education Programme** materials to support learners who have difficulty reaching the expected literacy and numeracy levels. Counselling and Research Centre services were expanded to cover the needs of children with autism and language disorders. An e-monitoring assessment framework was developed to track the developmental progress of children with disabilities. Progress was also made towards stronger assessment systems and data-driven analysis of the progress and needs of learners.

**Conditional cash transfers continued to be provided to refugee families with children in school**, supporting the wellbeing and learning of 81% of all children under

international and temporary protection enrolled in the 2019-2020 school year. To support families facing increased challenges due to COVID-19, a one-time top-up payment of 85 TL per beneficiary child was made in respect of 518,794 children and 44,097,490 TL in total..

**The response of the education system to COVID-19 was strengthened** through cooperation with MoNE on a range of measures for equipping education personnel to support students and themselves in coping with the demands of distance learning.

**The capacities of the health system to respond to emerging health issues were increased** in partnership with the Ministry of Health. National capacity for effective blood pressure control was substantially expanded and the knowledge and abilities of health personnel for caring for persons with mental disabilities

were increased through the development and implementation of training modules.

**Young people’s knowledge of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and protection against COVID-19 was increased** through on-line and face-to-face channels reaching over 130,000 young people.

**The psychosocial impact of COVID-19 was alleviated through several initiatives**, including the establishment of a dedicated hotline by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS) and the distribution of psychosocial support kits to 83,916 vulnerable refugee and Turkish children. The UNCT contributed to on-site monitoring of hospitals in 65 provinces to identify possible gaps due to the over-burden created by COVID-19 and inform early action. Meanwhile, standardized tools and training programmes on psychosocial support were developed for government staff to be deployed in emergencies and 1,138 staff of various ministries were trained.

**National capacity to provide social protection and child protection services expanded.** The outreach capacities of the Family Support Teams and Social Services Centres of the MoFLSS were improved. Technical assistance was provided for the creation of an emergency foster care system and the design of a system of family-based arrangements for the care of children with disabilities. In view of COVID-19, webinars were provided to professional staff of government ministries, local authorities and civil society organizations on

combating violence against women and children, remote case management and positive parenting.

**An elderly day-care centre in the Southeast Anatolia Project (GAP) Region was established** and a training curriculum was developed for the staff.

**Contributions were made to rural development**, particularly through vocational and entrepreneurial skills development, cash-based support, the training of farmers on grant programmes, and capacity development activities for local institutions for alleviating rural poverty and gender inequality.

**The awareness and positive social engagement of young people and the participation of children were encouraged** through various community-based and online channels providing benefits to nearly 2000 people through language education, more than 44.000 people with child protection program and also to approximately 416.000 people with sportive, cultural, artistic and traditional social cohesion activities in conjunction with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and other partners. Young people contributed to the delivery of COVID-19-related supplies to households in 25 provinces. ‘Zero waste’ was another focus of these activities.

**Evidence was generated to inform further action** through studies of child, forced and early marriage and out-of-school children and a series of studies on the impact of COVID-19 on children, young people and travelling seasonal agricultural workers and their families.

**Outcome 1.3.** *By 2020, improved implementation of more effective policies and practices for all men and women on sustainable environment, climate change, biodiversity by national, local authorities and stakeholders, including resilience of the system/communities to disasters.*

**638 923**

*Hectares of forest landscape with integrated forest plans developed and under implementation (Agency monitoring report, 2020)*

**2 781**

*Tons of hazardous chemicals and waste including POPs managed, treated, and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner(2016-2020)*

**The UNCT continued to contribute to the sustainability of agriculture and forestry** through knowledge transfer and modelling for the development of national practices on a wide scale in areas like conservation agriculture, climate friendly agriculture, sustainable land management, land degradation neutrality, steppe ecosystem resilience and the mainstreaming of biodiversity. Integrated forest management plans were further expanded and developed, and forestry staff were trained for their implementation. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification was obtained for 231,273 ha of low-density forests in the pilot area Ereğli. This will demonstrate the environmental benefits of biodiversity mainstreaming into forest and rangeland management and restoration practices.

**Contributions were made to clean energy and energy efficiency programmes** with partners including the Ministries of Industry and Technology, and Agriculture and Forestry. Support was extended for the purchase and installation of rooftop solar plants and efficient motors, the drafting of legislation and the testing of sample motors. Proposals were received for projects that will demonstrate the use of modern biomass energy plants and biomass supply chains to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in key economic sectors. Work was carried out on heating and cooling in food sector enterprises and the use of organic waste streams for industrial renewable energy.

**The Seventh National Communication was finalized and re-submitted**, and the Fourth Biennial Report prepared and submitted under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Knowledge about gender mainstreaming in climate change was increased to identify needs and gaps.

**The UNCT continued to support the capacities of public and private institutions managing chemicals, waste and contaminated sites.** With the Ministry of the Environment and Urbanization (MoEU), a further 1,664 tonnes of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) were destroyed. POPs releases were reduced in the steel industry, and initiatives were developed for further progress.

**The institutional capacity of the National Ozone Unit within the MoEU was supported for the phase-out of hydrofluorocarbons.** Good service practices were introduced, awareness raised, and technicians trained. Vocational and technical schools were provided with equipment which will help to ensure that their graduates have the knowledge and skills needed to minimize emissions through their daily work.

**Research and reports on marine invasive alien species were completed** to conserve the globally significant native biodiversity of Turkey's coastal and marine ecosystems.

**Outcome 2.1.** By 2020, central and local administrations and other actors more effectively protect and promote human rights, and adopt transparent, accountable, pluralistic and gender-sensitive governance systems, with the full participation of civil society, including the most vulnerable.

60.4%



## Good Progress

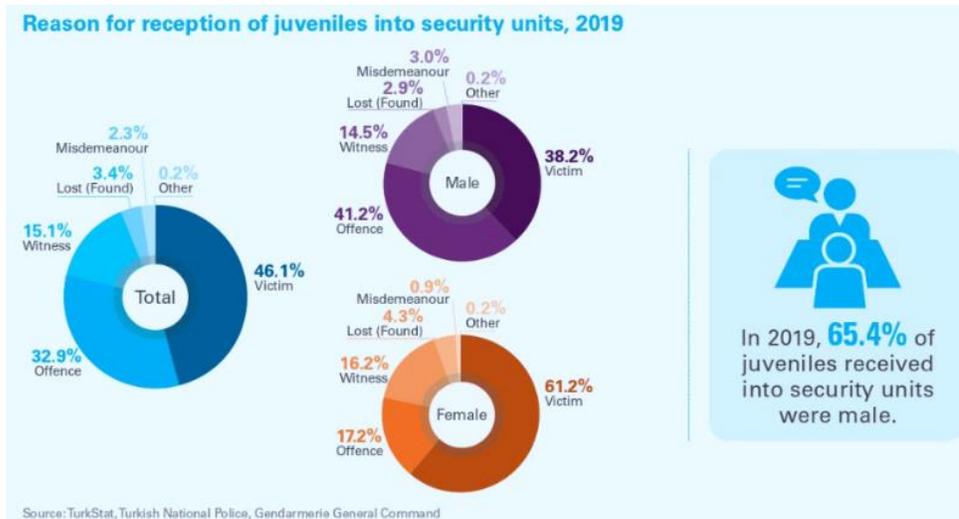
Satisfaction with judicial services (TurkStat, 2020)

Level of implementation of Integrated Border Management (IBM) Strategy (Agency Monitoring Report, 2020)

The UNCT continued to facilitate and raise awareness about UN human rights mechanisms and engage in dialogue and capacity development for the implementation of recommendations.

Awareness was raised around Turkey's 3rd Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and an analysis of the recommendations from a gender perspective was conducted for use in programming. Information was shared with CSOs about the upcoming review by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and UNCT advocacy contributed to the establishment of a parliamentary sub-committee on the Rights of the Child, which started to develop child-friendly versions of relevant legislation. Initial support was extended to CSOs for monitoring and reporting ahead of the forthcoming eighth periodic report of Turkey under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

**Awareness raising and advocacy continued for the adoption and implementation of ILO conventions** and the decisions of the ILO's Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations. Several ILO documents were translated and disseminated and a tripartite dialogue on the ratification and



implementation of the ILO Maritime Labour Convention (2006) was facilitated.

**The UNCT continued its work to strengthen national human rights institutions and high courts.** Support was extended to Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey for a capacity assessment that will inform its preparations for seeking accreditation from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. The outreach of the Ombudsperson Institution (OI) to young people and children was strengthened through awareness raising activities and the development of a range of materials; 326 complaints were lodged directly by children with the OI. In conjunction with the Court of Cassation, a "Code of Judicial Conduct" was prepared and disseminated, and a Strategy on Transparency in the High Judiciary was drafted.

**Despite difficulties stemming from COVID-19, further steps were taken towards ensuring access to justice, particularly for vulnerable groups,** through a

systematic and structured approach to legal aid services by means of cooperation with and between the Ministry of Justice and other public bodies, bar associations and CSOs. Pilot bar practices were supported, and a performance monitoring system promoted among bar associations. Work on access to justice for persons under temporary protection and international protection applicants and status holders included continued support for the operation of three legal clinics and awareness-raising and capacity building among refugees themselves, lawyers, and judges. A protocol was signed with the Justice Academy to promote labour standards in the justice system, as well as to increase the capacity enhancement in judiciary on the labour rights of persons under the Law on Foreigners and International Protection under Turkish laws and regulations. Information on international labour standards and the relevant laws and regulations was also shared with social security and Ministry of Family Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS) experts. Regarding gender-based violence victims, preparations were made for the modelling of Violence Prevention Centres. Sex-disaggregated data was collected for the first time which showed that 81% of legal aid recipients are women. Support and training were provided to bar associations and lawyers to improve

children's access to justice. Progress was made on an analysis of child-related jurisprudence by the national courts and European Court of Human Rights, and draft procedures were developed. Meanwhile, increased numbers of children benefited from child-friendly interview rooms and from the juvenile probation programme.

**Capacity for border security and surveillance was supported** through the training of Land Forces Command (LFC) personnel. Further training modules were developed (including on COVID-19) and delivered online. **The e-consulate project continued to facilitate online visa applications.** The total number of users in 2020 was 7,529,943 (60.7% men, 39.3% women).

**The UNCT contributed to the institutionalization of civilian and democratic oversight** of internal security forces through the establishment of ten local prevention and security boards which will promote a culture of cooperation with civil society.

**A start was made on further reform of local government** through the introduction of a data management system to collect and analyse local data.

**Outcome 3.1.** Improved legislation, policies, implementation and accountability mechanisms to enable equal and effective social, economic and political participation of women and girls by 2020.

2

# of pieces of legislation and policies promoting equal participation of girls and women in political decision making between 2016-2020  
(Agency monitoring report, 2020)

17.3%

% of female MPs in Parliament,  
(TurkStat, 2018)

62.1 M

Amount of public funds allocated to institutional mechanisms and capacity development to empower women at national and local level (US\$ million) (Central government budget for 2021, women empowerment programme)

**Steps were taken to support national legislation and action plans for gender equality.**

The UNCT contributed through awareness-raising, advocacy and technical support. A review of seven laws from a gender equality perspective was completed in partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Committee on Equality of Opportunity for Women and Men (KEFEK) and UNWomen. Women MPs submitted amendments to the Law on Political Parties to increase women's participation in politics and drafted a bill combating violence against women in politics. Efforts were initiated to update the National Action Plan for Women's Employment including a monitoring framework by establishing a social dialogue mechanism and a baseline capacity assessment study. The process of developing the Fourth National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women was launched. The government initiated an **unprecedented programme to advance the use of gender responsive budgeting** at central level and in pilot municipalities.



**The gender equality plans of municipalities were developed and/or strengthened through UN technical**

**support.** For example, Ankara Metropolitan Municipality adopted a Local Equality Action Plan (2021-2024) in which it pledged to introduce a gender responsive budget for 2022 and 2023 and started implementing a new innovative social risk map to improve the provision of gender-sensitive municipal

services. UN capacity building contributed to the establishment of equality units in Hatay and Muğla. Muğla also set up women's counselling units, and an emergency hotline to enable access to services in the context of Covid-19. The capacities of all local equality units were assessed to inform further action for gender-sensitive service delivery.

**The UNCT contributed to data generation and research to fill knowledge gaps.** In cooperation with the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), the Gender Wage Gap in Turkey was calculated<sup>2</sup> in a new way to better reflect the features of the country's labour market. Motherhood wage, parent wage and factor-weighted wage gaps were calculated for the first time. Several studies to understand the impacts of COVID-19 on women and to support gender responsive recovery and policy making informed specific programmatic activities. For example, based on a need's assessment among women in Southeast Turkey, **“Emotional Healing**

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.ilo.org/ankara/news/WCMS\\_757055/lang-en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/ankara/news/WCMS_757055/lang-en/index.htm)

Talks” were organized in collaboration with academics and experts. Since domestic workers were found to be one of the groups worst affected by the pandemic, continuous online awareness raising activities were conducted on their working conditions and rights throughout the year.

**Several initiatives were launched and sustained to increase women’s economic participation and status, including in male-dominated sectors.** A Learning Management system, including training activities, was established to form the basis for comprehensive capacity building of all targeted groups in the world of work, including staff of the national employment agency (IŞKUR). The UN facilitated collaboration between the online sales channel and the Mardin Women Cooperative for the marketing and sale of products created by women from the Southeast Anatolia Project (GAP) region. Turkish and Syrian women acquired enhanced vocational and entrepreneurial skills, jobs and/or credit under projects implemented with various government ministries and other partners. Meanwhile, 120 female students studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) benefited from UNCT-supported scholarship programs. A high school programme continued to raise awareness on STEM among teachers, students and their parents, reaching 1,410 girls and 903 boys. Training was provided to women and men from concerned industries to increase the participation of women.

**The engagement of the private sector for gender equality was strengthened.** The UNCT continued to provide technical support to companies to adopt and implement the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs). The number of WEP signatories grew from 311 to 341 (Turkey has the second largest number of WEPs signatories in the world). Fenerbahçe Sports Club, HeForShe Turkey’s partner, became the first WEP signatory sports club in Turkey and the second in Europe. The awareness of female and male employees about gender equality in the workplace increased. Models like the Gender Equality in the Enterprise Model and the Gender Equality Seal Programme were used to stimulate transformation in the workplace. Companies were informed about principles of gender-responsive firm transformation. Inclusive business models involving Multi-Purpose Community Centres (ÇATOMs) and private sector companies benefited 971 women in Southeast Turkey. 2020 was the first year of operation of the Turkey chapter of the Unstereotype Alliance, which was marked by an award-winning public campaign on challenging stereotypes in advertising. A study on the impact of COVID-19 on women conducted with two major business membership organizations will serve as a basis for developing new corporate tools on managing crises in a gender-responsive manner.

**Outcome 3.2.** *Improved legislation, policies, implementation and accountability mechanisms (on prevention and protection) to promote gender equality and reduce all forms of Sexual and Gender Based Violence by 2020.*

**7**

**(1 NAP + 6 CEFM local NAPs)**

*# of policies (national and local) on Violence Against Women (including Early and Forced Marriages) prevention and protection adopted during 2016-2020 supported by the UN (Agency monitoring report, 2020)*

**235 931**

*# of victim girls & boys identified /brought to the security institutions (TurkStat, 2019)*

**Public awareness about gender equality and violence against women and girls was increased and positive social norms promoted** throughout the year, in conjunction with a variety of partners and media, and especially on International Women’s Day, the International Day of the Girl Child and the 16 Days of

Activism to End Gender-Based Violence. Emphasis was placed on the importance of the full implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) and the related national legal framework including the Law Numbered 6284,

entitled “The Law on the Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence Against Women with respect to prevention of and protection from violence against women. Attention was drawn to emerging topics such as the role of adolescent girls in combating climate change and gender-based cyberviolence.

**The capacities of relevant government institutions, civil society organizations and their staff to prevent and respond to gender-based violence were increased.**

Five women’s crisis centres were opened in Ministry of Health hospitals to offer comprehensive services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, including Syrian women and host community women. Staff working in all Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres (ŞÖNİMs), women’s shelters and Social Service Centres nationwide were trained to provide more effective psychosocial support to child survivors and witnesses of domestic violence. The knowledge and abilities of staff of public institutions and civil society organizations for prevention and response were strengthened. Specialized training was provided to health service providers and law enforcers. Progress was made on the standards of counselling services for survivors, through capacity building for local women’s civil society organizations and service providers.

**The exacerbated risks of gender-based violence due to COVID-19 were mitigated** through additional interventions. Online seminars including Gender Based Violence (GBV) sessions were provided to staff of public institutions and civil society organizations to strengthen their responses to COVID-19. Support was extended to three women’s civil society organizations in providing appropriate psycho-social and legal support services, information and referrals to over 22,000 survivors of violence against women and girls. In partnership with two private companies, guidelines on how to access violence prevention and protection services were distributed to

over 54,000 women, particularly women in rural areas, women under international and temporary protection and women with disabilities. Vulnerable families received hygiene kits and information on how to access GBV support services, and 46,053 households received psychosocial support kits.

**Evidence was generated, awareness raised and capacities supported for the prevention of child, early and forced marriage (CEFM).**

CEFM was included in all efforts to combat gender-based violence. Under a stand-alone joint UN Programme, local action plans were developed or improved, monitored and implemented in 12 provinces, knowledge gaps about the health consequences of CEFM and the perceptions of men were filled through research, while awareness about the causes and consequences of CEFM was raised through community mobilization, with a focus on girls’ empowerment and male engagement. The UNCT and partner civil society organizations reached over 100,000 individuals with communications, information and training on child rights and protection mechanisms, including prevention and response to child marriages. Such activities contributed to the establishment of civil society networks for the prevention of CEFM in three provinces.

**Eleven more companies joined the Business Against Domestic Violence (BADV) programme,**

bringing the total to 73 companies with 180,000 employees. Guidelines were developed to expand the programme to municipalities.

**Promising new interventions were developed for transforming gender norms through communication for behavioural change,**

such as role model meetings and peer-to-peer mentorship programmes incorporating inter-generational dialogue and reaching men and boys.

**Outcome 4.1.** *Government institutions provide improved and sustainable multi-sectoral services to people under international protection based on the rights and entitlements stipulated in the Law on Foreigners and International Protection and Temporary Protection Regulation.*

**63.3%**

*School enrolment rate among Syrians under Temporary Protection (MoNE, 2019)*

**Fully**

*Extend administrative practice provide effective procedures for registration a Refugee Status Determination (RSD) consistent with international standards relating to refugees as regulated in the Law on Foreigners and International Protection.*

**In partnership with the Ministry of National Education, the UNCT continued to contribute significantly to quality education for children under the Law on Foreigners and International Protection while mitigating the impact of COVID-19, the closure of schools and the switch to e-schooling.** Training was provided to 196,786 Turkish public-school teachers (114,136 female) to address the needs of children with different backgrounds as well as to combat COVID-19 and prepare for safe reopening. Monthly financial incentives were paid to 12,246 Syrian volunteer teachers (6,515 female). A total of 12,794 children (6,688 female) were enrolled in accredited non-formal education. Classrooms were rehabilitated, information on available e-learning education services was disseminated widely and support was extended to a learning management system (LMS) and e-learning portal visited by over 76,876 users.

**The promotion of access of persons under international or temporary protection to higher education continued** in partnership with the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB). In all, 1,303 students (646 female) received scholarships for undergraduate and post-graduate programmes.

**The UN continued to enhance the capacities of the migrant health centres of the Ministry of Health, mobile service units and other providers to offer migrant-sensitive health services,** including sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and sexual and gender-based violence response services. For example, 13938 home care consultations were provided through the employment of 394 Syrian Community Health Support Staff and online training was provided to about 1,800 Syrian health care providers on health services for refugees and migrants and to another 800 on SRH.

Despite constraints caused by COVID-19 containment measures and temporary changes in health-seeking behaviour, about 320,000 persons under international and temporary protection benefitted from consultations through seven Migrant Health Centers, over 32,000 from SRH services and about 55,000 from mobile health services. UN partners also provided nearly 50,000 dignity and maternity kits to respond to the urgent basic needs of women and girls.

**In 2020, the UN continued to support the provision of protection services to large numbers of persons under international and temporary protection** through Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS) units, mobile units, women-only centres and complementary channels. The capacities of over 105 social services centres to provide protection services – including outreach, psychosocial support, case management, and information about rights, obligations and services – were strengthened in terms of technical knowledge and skills, human resources and materials and equipment. Mental health and structured psychosocial support were made available to nearly 73,000 children under international and temporary protection (38,553 girls), including through remote counselling and telephone and/or virtual individual and group consultations. A total of 231,500 vulnerable Syrians and host community children benefited from UNCT-supported child and adolescent-friendly spaces. The reach and quality of specialized protection services for refugees with special was improved and two new service units were established to reach out to men and boys who are survivors or at risk of sexual violence. Mobile outreach teams supported information counselling, gender-based violence case management and referrals of members of rural populations to advanced medical

services. In 2020, 48,067 individuals were provided with protection services and information.

**The UNCT continued to contribute to formal employment and decent work for migrants and persons under international and temporary protection** through institutional capacity building and support for small and medium-scale enterprises, entrepreneurship, and vocational/language/soft skills training. The numbers of Syrian under temporary protection receiving work permits continued to increase. However, the great majority of those working are still employed informally, and the COVID-19 pandemic severely affected refugee/migrant employment. Despite the logistical constraints caused by the pandemic, social security contributions and work permit fees were covered for over 7,000 individuals, over 1,200 SMEs received business mentoring and consultancy support, and about 2,200 beneficiaries were supported through direct employment and job placement. In the scope of the Transition to Registered Employment Programme UN partnered with the Social Security Institution to support Syrian (under temporary protection) and Turkish workers with the aim of transition to registered employment. The financial support has been continuing during the

pandemic. Totally 35.042.650 TL were paid for 8.732 workers between 2019-2020. Some 100 enterprises and four women's collectives were established, particularly for waste recycling and open-field vegetable production. Office equipment support was extended to five offices of the national employment agency İŞKUR. Two Digital Transformation Centres and a Digital Transformation and Innovation Centre were established. About 6,750 people benefited from training to improve their employability.

**Administrative practices for registration and Refugee Status Determination (RSD) were improved further** through support to the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM). An online appointment system was extended to international protection applicants, reducing overcrowding, while the existing temporary protection appointment system (for Syrian refugees) was improved with additional security functions. The ability of the DGMM to conduct registration, data update and RSD was strengthened through technical and human resources support, various training activities and quality assurance tool. Contributions to the availability of country-of-origin information continued through the translation of reports and compilation of updates.

**Outcome 4.2.** *Central/local administrations and civil society effectively manage migration through provision of technical assistance and mobilization of resources with a particular focus on vulnerable migrants and people under international protection.*

**6 217**

*# of Vulnerable Migrants Supported with Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration between 2016-2020*

**4 048**

*People were assisted to depart Turkey on resettlement. (UNHCR, 2020)*

**112 000**

*# of people benefited from community stabilization projects*

**National capacities for migration management were supported in several respects.** The knowledge and skills of nearly 300 government officials on migration management and human rights, and the abilities of law enforcement officials to counter irregular migration and rescue irregular migrants from the sea, were supported through training. Four sea rescue vessels were supplied to save migrants' lives during dangerous sea-crossings.

Officials also received training on Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR), which led to 479 stranded and vulnerable migrants receiving AVRR in line with the adopted operating procedure.

**Training was provided to Turkish institutions to increase their abilities to combat, identify and assist victims of human trafficking** in line with international norms and national legislation. Assistance was provided

to 21 victims of trafficking in coordination with the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM).

**Institutional capacity for effective integrated border management was supported.** Training activities, conferences and workshops were held, and strategy papers, handbooks, standard operating procedures, and training modules were developed covering topics such as the investigation of irregular border crossings, the examination of travel documents, border surveillance, combating corruption in border management and risk analysis.

**Knowledge about the labour migration-trade nexus and the practices of different countries was augmented** through a Strategic Outlook to Labour Migration and Trade held with the participation of ministries, academics, NGOs, the private sector and labour union representatives from countries of origin and destination.

**Social cohesion and interaction between communities of migrants and persons under international protection, and host communities continued to be promoted actively** in spite of the constraints and social conditions caused by COVID-19, and with a new focus on containing the pandemic. In this context, Turkish language training was provided to 44,419 Syrians (31,543 female). Over 20 community stabilization projects were implemented benefiting around 112,000 beneficiaries. The capacities of the migrant centres established by four

municipalities to provide counselling, referrals and information and promote social cohesion were strengthened. In conjunction with civil society organizations, cross-cultural dialogue and social activities were organized for women and girls in key provinces and through online platforms. As a result, refugee and host community women organized solidarity groups and were active in the response to COVID-19 in Gaziantep and İzmir. Several other women's solidarity groups helped to address women's needs during the pandemic. The SADA Women's Development and Solidarity Center cooperative produced over 200,000 masks in partnership with local authorities.

**The abilities of Turkish institutions to promote social cohesion were strengthened.** Information and training was provided to over 450 staff of the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) and other institutions in support of the DGMM's harmonization policies. Awareness raising events were held and regional workshops were organized with academia, civil society, and policy makers.

**The UNCT continued to contribute to mitigating the pressure on existing urban infrastructure of population growth due to migration,** supporting municipalities in Hatay, Kilis and Gaziantep in delivering effective solid waste management and wastewater treatment and strengthening the infrastructure and technical capacities of four municipalities.

## 2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

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**An inter-agency Task Team on Partnerships, Resource Mobilization and Development Financing (PDF TT)** provides the UNCT and the Results Groups with strategic and technical recommendations on partner engagement and development financing workstreams. In this way it seeks to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs in Turkey, the inclusive and collaborative design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Cooperation Framework, and the funding of the Cooperation Framework and financing of the SDGs in Turkey.

**The UNCT has endorsed a common vision for engagement with strategic partners recommended by the PDF TT.** Accordingly, a joint effort will be made to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs through sustained, strong, inclusive and innovative partner engagement, and a harmonized and strategic approach will be adopted to partnerships with existing and emerging partners to support the achievement of the results of the Cooperation Framework. To achieve this overall vision, the UNCT agreed to communicate with its strategic partners through a *shared UN value proposition* supported by a common messaging.

**The advancement and financing of the SDGs in Turkey was supported through several major development partnerships:**

- The **Business for Goals (B4G) platform** served as a platform open to all large, medium and small-sized enterprises willing to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into their corporate policies and strategies. The platform is operated in collaboration with two major Turkish business membership organizations, the Turkish Industry and Business Association (TÜSİAD) and the Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation. It acts as a think-do tank and positions itself as a reliable knowledge hub and an inclusive action platform for building new partnerships. The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) of July 2019 made a specific reference to the B4G platform as a successful way of engaging the private sector in sustainable development,

and it was mentioned in the Voluntary National Review report of the Government of Turkey.

- An **SDG Investor Map** was conducted as part of the **SDG Impact Initiative** in collaboration with the Investment Office of the Presidency of Turkey, the Presidency of Strategy and Budget, the Ministry of Industry and Technology, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), the Development and Investment Bank of Turkey, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Islamic Development Bank. The aim was to identify “Investment Opportunity Areas” in Turkey which are aligned with national priorities and the requirements of the SDGs and which at the same time offer considerable investment potential. The final product constitutes a guide for investors who are keen on generating positive impact alongside financial returns through the way they allocate their resources. The findings of this mapping exercise also informed the establishment of a National Advisory Board (NAB), which is expected to play an instrumental role in creating an enabling ecosystem for impact investing in Turkey.

- The **SDG Impact Accelerator (SDGia)**, a partnership with the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is a global multi-stakeholder platform and accelerator for empowering system entrepreneurs and innovators who provide impact. The accelerator supports the generation of market-creating innovations for refugees and the populations of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) through a broad range of services spanning mentoring, funding, and networking. Along with the services it provides for enterprises, the SDGia intends to create an impact fund to allocate resources to graduates of the accelerator programme.

- Under the **Unstereotype Alliance Turkey Chapter**, a strategic partnership has been established with the private sector to drive positive change through communications. The alliance is an action coalition of gender equality champion advertisers, brands and companies in collaboration with the Turkish Advertisers Association, the Turkish Association of Advertising

Agencies and a number of major companies and consumer brands. It is engaged in raising awareness of stereotypes among the public, creating progressive portrayals in advertising content, and fostering an un-stereotyped business culture with an emphasis on equality, diversity and inclusive practices, and serves as a knowledge hub for leveraging good practices.

The UNCT took part in several **south-south or triangular partnerships** to advance the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda in 2020. For example:

- In partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Services, UN agencies in Turkey and Bangladesh, in association with the global Migrant Nations initiative, agreed on a cooperation framework to **support digital livelihoods for refugees and host communities**.
- In collaboration with the Government, workers' organisations and EBMOs of Turkey and Colombia, UNCT designed an SSTC Initiative to share lessons learned, challenges, and good practices on **promoting access to decent work opportunities for migrants and**

**refugees**. The cooperation has a unique nature as it allows cross-continental cooperation mainly focusing on regional cooperation possibilities. Such cross-continental cooperation sets an example for reassuring that access to decent work and social justice are universal values that should be accessible for all.

- The UNCT, the UN South-South Cooperation Office in İstanbul, and the Islamic Development Bank have embarked on consultations with the Ministry of Health to enhance south-south cooperation and triangular partnerships and to **share the knowledge and expertise of Turkey's health sector in addressing COVID-19 challenges** with Southern countries and explore how Southern countries can benefit from one another's knowledge and experiences in this context.
- A South-South cooperation model for **capacity development for sustainable forestry management** was adopted by UNCT, the Government of Turkey and the governments of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

## 2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

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**In 2020, guided by the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment and Response Task Team, the UNCT demonstrated a high degree of effectiveness in addressing the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic** and complementing the efforts of the government and other development partners in mitigating the impacts of the pandemic and in addressing the additional risks to the wellbeing and safety of vulnerable groups. A Covid-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment informed the development and adoption of a robust Covid-19 Socio-Economic Response Offer. Simultaneously, the Results Groups adjusted their programming to respond to extra demands and emerging needs due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Following the recommendations of an inter-agency ad hoc Results Group Task Team aiming at making the results groups more fit for purpose** to enhance a coherent and effective implementation of the UNSDCF,

the results groups (RGs) have been restructured to become the main mechanism for the implementation and monitoring of the Country Framework and for bringing together the expertise of the individual organizations to enhance synergies for a common and collective response on matters related to normative frameworks.

**A Partnership and Development Financing Task Team has been established to increase joint efforts** of the UNCT and the results groups in partnership engagement, resource mobilisation and development financing.

**Expanding and scaling-up intra-UN partnerships** through joint programme proposals was a key priority in 2020.

The UNCT responded to the globally available funding opportunities for Covid-19 recovery. In response to the call for proposals under Covid-19 MPTF, the UNCT developed and used a prioritization tool to identify UNJP proposals to be submitted for funding and pipeline purposes. This resulted in the UNJP proposal “**Promoting innovative service provision models to support the Covid-19 health system response**”, developed by the UNCT, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services to be awarded and initiated as of March 2021. Two other joint programme proposals have been submitted to the COVID-19 MPTF and are included within the global Solutions Catalogue of Proposals for prospective funding opportunities.

Through the **UN Joint Program for the Prevention of Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM)**, the UN contributed to efforts to increase the capacities of the child protection system, NGOs, communities, and families to detect, refer, assess, prevent and manage cases of child victims of gender-based violence and child marriage among both Turkish citizens and refugees, and expanded its work on prevention, advocacy, data generation and multi-sectorial service provision to survivors, and provided coordinated support to the implementation of the local and national action plans for combating CEFM on conjunction with multiple partners ranging from the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services (MoFLSS) to civil society organizations.

**The UNCT has continued to step up its technical support for evidence-based policy formulation** to maximize its contribution to national development goals and the SDGs. The UNCT’s contribution to legislative, policy and institutional development has supported the regulatory and institutional foundations for solving

important issues of rights and access to services across themes and sectors.

**The review of the UNDCS funding framework showed that, although the budget expenditure has been decreasing in the last two years, it has increased over the longer term**, primarily due to an increase in funding in response to the Syrian crisis. The human resource framework has remained closely aligned with the scope of work, and timely action has been taken to respond to the need for increased staffing as a result of the expansion of interventions to respond to the country’s needs.

**The UNCT has continued to make use of its convening power** to promote closer links and dialogue among and between government institutions, donors, civil society and the private sector, particularly in those areas where the UN is strongly positioned as a partner of the government. In areas like the refugee response, human (including children’s) rights, inclusive and sustainable growth, the environment and tourism, the UNCT has served as a strong convening force for actors of all kinds. The UNCT is seen as a partner with a clear agenda and priorities, which is a driver for its role in advocating with the government and other stakeholders to meet unmet needs and priorities, particularly for the most vulnerable groups.

**The UNCT has acted together** in the context of its communication strategy and has amplified the impact of advocacy, message and awareness on important days and UN norms and standards, in order to increase efficiency in communication.

**The UNCT developed the Business Operations Strategy (BOS 2.0), aiming at cost-avoidance over the coming years**, eliminating duplication and leveraging the common bargaining power of the UN. This includes focus on quality and cost, environmental sustainability, increased accountability, and joint business operations and results.

## 2.5. Evaluations and Lessons Learned

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**An independent evaluation of the UN Development Cooperation Strategy for 2016-2020 was conducted in 2020.** The purpose was to assess the strategies implemented and determine their relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability in achieving the intended results. In addition, lessons learned were drawn out to inform the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2021-2025.

**The evaluation found that the UNCT's interventions were broadly in line with Turkey's national development priorities and responsive to evolving needs.** It indicated that the UNCT made notable contributions in promoting and supporting institutional and policy reforms around inclusive growth, social protection and environmental governance, and creating an enabling environment for improved public services and human rights. With respect to the "protracted refugee situation", the evaluation commended the strategy of channelling the humanitarian response through national systems to reach the most vulnerable while increasingly focusing on strengthening those national systems.

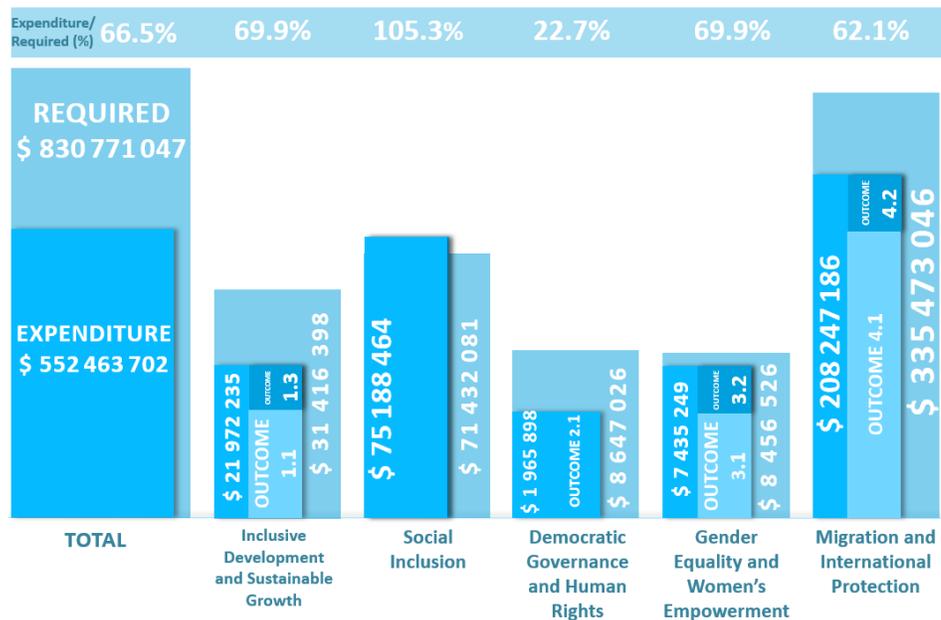
**The evaluation made the following nine recommendations,** which encourage the UNCT to pursue its work in certain core areas further while improving planning, coordination and monitoring and addressing funding risks:

- A clear **Theory of Change (ToC)** should be articulated for the next cycle of cooperation.
  - The UNSDCF **results framework** should contain fewer but stronger indicators to allow for better monitoring.
  - **Mainstreaming of human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment** should be further promoted in 2021-2025.
  - **Coordination structures** for implementation and monitoring should ensure ownership and continuity of membership in working groups and other types of working bodies.
  - The **monitoring framework** for the UNSDCF should be clearer and more robust and include a plan for monitoring financial aspects.
  - The UNCT should maintain and enhance its **partnerships** with civil society, the private sector and government.
  - The UNCT should continue to uphold **human rights, governance and equality** and support the **most vulnerable groups**.
  - The UNCT should continue to address gaps in the **availability of data** to measure progress against the SDGs, including disaggregated data on vulnerable groups.
  - **Different strategies and partnerships should be formulated** for a transition from humanitarian to development priorities. Engagement on finance for refugee-focused programmes is urgently needed for sustainability of the results achieved so far.
- In response to the evaluation, the UNCT developed a management response** which set out a series of actions for putting the recommendations into effect. The majority of these actions have been completed as part of the development of the UNSDCF. In particular:
- A **clear ToC** was articulated through a specific inter-agency exercise, and sufficient and appropriate outcome **indicators** were selected.
  - A structured process was designed for the development of **joint work plans (JWPs)**, ensuring that outputs are formulated adequately.
  - Following a review of results groups (RGs), the use of **online monitoring tools (UNINFO)** was introduced and a **regular schedule** adopted for cooperation with partners on monitoring.
  - A **Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Plan** was developed within the UNSDCF.
  - The UNSDCF both mainstreams **human rights and gender equality** and treats them as stand-alone areas. These dimensions are to be made explicit in JWP outcomes.
  - Cooperation with national data producers has intensified and work on **disaggregated data**, to ensure nobody is left behind, and the **measurement of SDG indicators** has been included in the UNSDCF.
  - The Partnerships and Development Financing Task Team has been tasked with developing recommendations and strategies continuously, particularly on **engagement with private financing and development financing**.

## 2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

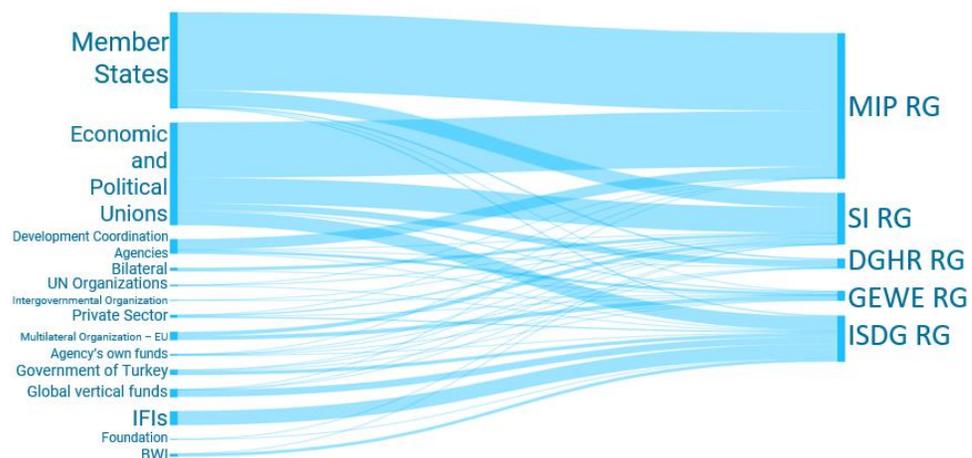
### Financial Overview

The UNDCS spending reported by the Results Groups in 2020 was US\$552 million. Results Group on Migration and International Protection reported the largest share of this amount, with US\$208 million, followed by Social Inclusion with US\$75 million. Overall, Results Groups reported an average of 66.5% of expenditures against the planned budget.



### Resource mobilization

The Common Donor Relations Survey conducted by the Partnerships and Development Financing Task Team (PDF TT) in October 2020 indicated that the donor base of the UNCT has diversified to some extent with the inclusion of international financial institutions (IFIs), multilateral development banks (MDBs) and private sector entities. Nevertheless, the EU has continued to be the key contributor to UN programmes in Turkey, followed by UN member states. Development-oriented programmes attracted most of the funds, followed by humanitarian and resilience-oriented activities. While there has been a



slight increase in non-projectized and longer-term partnerships and thematic partnerships, the lack of multi-year funding persists.

**The agencies identified a number of key challenges in donor relations and fundraising:**

- Unpredictability surrounds the longer-term funding strategies of key donors. As Turkey is being supported substantially by the EU, many traditional humanitarian donors have supported other operations perceived as less well supported, leading to a reduction in their funding over the years.

- Government funding has declined and is likely to become more uncertain with funding decisions being postponed and less public funding being made available.

- Although some donors have a long-term commitment to gender equality, limited funds are allocated specifically for addressing normative frameworks (gender equality, human rights etc.) within larger financial envelopes.

- The relatively short funding cycles of the donors and the bureaucratic procedures of the UN agencies with respect to programme/project management procedures can make it difficult to meet commitments on time and with the intended quality.

- The depreciation of the Turkish Lira has caused unplanned savings and caused delivery rates to fall short of the commitments made to donors.

- The global COVID-19 pandemic, anticipated donor fatigue and competing large-scale crises elsewhere are expected to make fundraising and advocacy with donors more challenging.

In 2021 (Q2), in consultation with the results groups, the PDF TT will conduct a funding landscape analysis to identify existing, emerging and potential sources of funding for the UNSDCF. The analysis will cover a wide range of funding opportunities provided by the government, UN member states, the EU, IFIs, MDBs, vertical funds, multi-partner trust funds, the private sector, foundations and others. Funding Frameworks will then be prepared for the joint work plans of each results group (RG). The PDF TT will then prepare a draft Resource Mobilization Strategy and support the RGs in developing their own resource mobilization action plans. The Resource Mobilization Strategy will specify the level of resources to be mobilized, determine how the UNCT will initiate and maintain dialogues with donors and other partners, and outline what funding instruments the UNCT might establish and/or draw on for resource mobilization, including pooled funding.

## CHAPTER 3: KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR

In 2021, the UNCT will seek to make a vigorous start to the **implementation of the UNSDCF for 2021-2025** while paying full attention to continuing and outstanding needs related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

**A UNCT, configured to contribute in the most cost-effective and complementary fashion to the implementation of the UNSDCF implementation<sup>3</sup>**, includes additional expertise in domains that will gain further importance in the years to come (environmental issue, disaster risk reduction, urbanization and livable cities).

The **socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic**, especially on women, children, young people, the informally employed, persons under international and temporary protection and migrants with the principle of “just burden share”, are expected to persist in the coming years. Accordingly, the response needs brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic will be fully taken into consideration and will be built into the joint work plans of the Results Groups for 2021. In this way, the UNCT will be better positioned to respond to this new development challenge while maintaining its focus on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals under the new Cooperation Framework.

At the same time, the need to build back better will be a predominant concern in many areas. The UN will work with all partners to support an inclusive and sustainable post-pandemic recovery across different sectors, including health, social protection, employment, and education. The key focus will be on “leaving no-one behind” considering that the pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing inequalities and vulnerabilities.

Particular attention will be paid to make the **results groups** the cornerstone for the UNSDCF implementation and to laying the foundations for **effective partnership** engagement and development financing initiatives during the UNSDCF 2021-2025 cycle.

Efforts to **support employment and decent work** with a particular focus on youth unemployment will gain importance as emergency labour market measures are phased out, with a new emphasis on workplace health and safety. In all areas and through specific targeted actions, special attention will be paid to the **rights, needs and leadership of women and girls**, who have felt the greatest negative impacts of the pandemic in terms of employment and incomes, domestic burdens and the risk of violence. The UNCT will focus on remedial action and innovative solutions to counter the negative impacts of the pandemic on **children’s learning and equality of opportunities in education**.

The UNCT will demonstrate continued vigilance concerning the risks in the **agri-food sector related to supply chain disruptions, labour shortages and price volatility**. In the years to come, the UN will amplify its **advocacy for the Sustainable Development Goals**, mobilize all stakeholders to these ends and contribute to the facilitation of multi-sectoral approaches to development. UN Agencies in Turkey will engage with a wide range of partners to support a spectrum of interventions.

With respect to **mobilizing resources** for UN programmes **and enhancing development financing**, the Partnership and Development Financing Task Team UNCT will further collective action on partnerships, resource mobilization, and development financing. Inter-agency collaboration and synergies within the UN system will be an important component of resource mobilization strategy. Joint advocacy with donors on the funding of the UNSDCF and the development of more joint programme concepts will help the UNCT to expand its resource base.

During the last quarter of 2020, the UNCT initiated the process for the establishment of the United Nation Migration Network (UNMN) in Turkey. The UNMN has been operationalized in 2021 in agreement with the government of Turkey.

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<sup>3</sup> UNCT Turkey: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNECE, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNWOMEN, WFP, WHO, UNHABITAT, UNDRR, UNEP, UNOPS, UNESCAP, UNIC, UNDSS, UNV, RCO.



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