United States foreign assistance has enhanced efforts to support Turkmenistan’s sovereignty, security, and resiliency. Turkmenistan’s vast natural resources make it an important player in regional economic cooperation. Assistance programs support the U.S. Central Asia Strategy which envisions Turkmenistan as a sovereign and independent partner whose territorial integrity is respected by its neighbors, and which helps stabilize the region. Continued U.S. engagement is important to maintain a positive development path in Turkmenistan that supports U.S. strategic interests in the region.

$493 million
USG assistance since 1992

$6.5 million
State/USAID assistance for FY 2020

$920,000
COVID-19 assistance**

FY 2020 ACE-Coordinated State/USAID Assistance to Turkmenistan by Category* ($6.5m), in millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assistance Category</th>
<th>Amount (in millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peace &amp; Security</td>
<td>$2.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democracy, Human Rights &amp; Governance</td>
<td>$1.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Growth</td>
<td>$1.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Social Services</td>
<td>$0.78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: The assistance highlights below are examples of results achieved by funding in each category in the chart.

CIVIL SOCIETY & POLITICAL PROCESSES ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

The United States is the only bilateral donor providing direct support to the development of civil society organizations through foreign assistance. This partnership helps the nascent civil society community in Turkmenistan be less isolated from the international community, relevant global developments, and modern best practices. U.S. programs support the engagement of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in informational campaigns, policy dialogues, and trafficking-in-person’s prevention activities. As an example, in 2020, the government developed, adopted, and implemented a new TIP National Action Plan, relying on the participation of U.S.-supported NGOs. This plan will help protect the vulnerable from being trafficked.

TRADE & BUSINESS ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

U.S. assistance programs in Turkmenistan aim to foster a resilient, growth-oriented economy and tackle challenges in the overall business climate to make the country a more viable economic partner. In 2019, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) partnered with Ter Önüm, a Turkmen company specializing in wholesale import and export, to send a successful trial shipment of agricultural products to Austria. Applying the skills gained since the program’s inception, in August 2020, Ter Önüm shipped a consignment of 8.5 tons of melons to a wholesaler in Dubai without any USAID assistance. The program also addresses domestic food needs, for instance by working with potato farmers to increase yields by as much as 43 percent to help relieve a shortage that had resulted in a price increase of 300 percent in 2020.

EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

U.S. assistance in educational, entrepreneurial, and diplomacy programs is a hallmark of U.S. leadership in Turkmenistan. In 2020, U.S. assistance provided English language training, educational exchange opportunities, and targeted skills for graduates from higher education institutions, to make up for deficits in the educational system while promoting U.S. interests in reducing the country’s isolation. The U.S.-funded Preparation for Success (P4S) program prepares the youth of Turkmenistan to enroll, and succeed, in quality higher education institutions in the United States and abroad. Since its launch in 2011, 354 participants have graduated from the P4S program. Sixty-three program alumni are currently studying in U.S. colleges and universities in 18 states and upon their return can help Turkmenistan develop.
FY 2020 ACE-Coordinated State/USAID Assistance to Turkmenistan by Account* ($6.5m), in millions

Source: ACE
*Does not include centrally managed funds or COVID supplemental funds.

NOTE: The U.S. Government also provided additional FY 2020 assistance from other agencies and centrally managed funding.

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND CIVIL SOCIETY ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

U.S. assistance programs in Turkmenistan continue to advance U.S. strategic goals and promote democratic values by helping citizens play a more active role in governance and civil society by building the capacity of government officials. For example, in FY 2020, USAID trained Government of Turkmenistan officials, including 139 female civil servants in good governance practices and how to reduce the existing disparity between men and women in government.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

Partnering with Winrock International, U.S. assistance is helping combat TIP in Central Asia by increasing the capacity of government officials and law enforcement to proactively identify and provide support to victims of human trafficking, reducing their vulnerability to traffickers and other criminal groups who seek to exploit at-risk populations. As a result, Turkmenistan now has standard operating procedures for identifying and referring TIP victims and, thanks to an amendment to the pertinent law, providing free legal assistance to them. USAID’s Safe Migration in Central Asia program conducted online webinars for government officials on eradicating forced labor and human trafficking, enabling the government to initiate an awareness campaign on labor rights and endorse an order on obligatory labor inspection mechanisms for health, safety, and other working conditions. The program assisted victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants and provided training on the use of modern information and communication technologies for the promotion of public associations and NGOs in social and information networks. Over 3,600 individuals have called the hotline as of August 2021 to receive information on migration.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

U.S. assistance is working to increase clean and renewable energy generation, modernize the electricity sector, and boost energy trade within and beyond Central Asia. USAID supports Turkmenistan’s participation in the Central Asian Regional Electricity Market to expand cooperation on energy resources. Increasing regional cooperation and energy trade will improve Turkmenistan’s energy security, unlock new sources of revenue, and ensure clean and reliable energy for the citizens of Central Asia. Additionally, U.S. assistance is helping improve cooperation and ease tensions over the use of natural resources in the region. With respect to scarce natural resources, the USAID Smart Waters program helped Turkmenistan translate Integrated Water Resources Management law into practice through examples such as the creation of the Small Basin Council on the Murgab River to facilitate the enforcement of the new Water Code and the adoption of Integrated Water Resources Management principles to bolster the region’s shared water resources.