

Ashgabat, 23 January 2026 – From 21 to 23 January 2026, the United Nations Population Fund ([UNFPA](#)) in Turkmenistan organized a three-day national workshop to update the emergency response preparedness plan within the framework of the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for reproductive health, adopted by the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan in 2014. The event, conducted within the framework of the new [UNFPA](#) Country Programme for 2026-2030, brought together leading specialists from the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan. The workshop was led by [UNFPA](#) international expert Ms. Heather Lorenzen.

During the workshop, participants analyzed national response preparedness capacity and supplemented the MISP action plan. Participants also detailed aspects of coordination, financing, and capacity building to guarantee the continuity of reproductive health services in emergency situations. Special attention in the plan was given to protecting the rights and interests of women and youth.

The workshop resulted in a shared understanding among national stakeholders of the MISP principles and their application in emergency settings. The results of the MISP readiness assessment at the national level were validated. Based on these outcomes, participants finalized the National MISP Action Plan, defining roles, responsibilities, and next steps for strengthening preparedness and monitoring to ensure the prompt integration of the updated plan into national systems. This initiative represents an important practical step in implementing the new five-year cooperation program between UNFPA and Turkmenistan for the 2026-2030 period.

Ms. Heather Lorenzen is an international public health expert with over 20 years of experience in reproductive health and humanitarian response. Throughout her career, she has conducted 11 MISP readiness assessments across the Asia-Pacific region and led numerous capacity-building and technical guidance initiatives for UNFPA and other international organizations. Ms. Lorenzen is the author of globally recognized training modules on reproductive health in emergencies.