Scaling-up of GLOF Risk Reduct-UNDP-PAK-00104582

B0424 - Pakistan - Islamabad

REPORTING PERIOD 2017- 2026

Narrative

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1. Executive Summary

2. Background

3. Key Results Achieved

- **Level of Reporting:**

  Output level results

  Project Outputs:

  Scaling-up of GLOF Risk Reduct-UNDP-PAK-00104582

  Contributing Outcomes:

  Outcome 3 By 2027, people living in the Indus River Basin, particularly the most vulnerable, including women, girls, boys, persons with special needs and senior citizens, will have their lives positively impacted by improved water access and utilization, economic development, livelihoods, climate-resilient settlements, and prosperity.

  Contributing Outputs:

  PAK_OUTPUT_3.1 In line with international conventions and national policy frameworks, implementation mechanisms are strengthened to promote, manage and conserve natural resources

  Progress Note:

  In 2023, UNDP (GLOF-II Project), in collaboration with Forest Departments, completed slope stabilization initiatives on 132 ha land in GB and KP by bringing the area under sustainable forest management.

- **Level of Reporting:**

  Project level results

  Contributing Outcomes:

  Contributing Outputs:

Progress Note:

In 2023, the EWS installation process was commenced in the Project valleys, with 143 base-platforms constructed at the installation sites, and 15 systems installed in 02 valleys of GB (Ghulkin and Shisper). 89 irrigation channels were rehabilitated in the valleys, while the construction of 163 small-scale infrastructures (gabion walls) was completed. 132 Ha of slope stabilization successfully took course, and the construction of 07 CBDRM Centres, and rehabilitation of 17 Safe Havens was completed. The Project's infrastructures (including EWS) have benefitted 78,401 individuals (39,431 women, 38,970 men), constituting to 50% women beneficiaries. 388 community awareness sessions (on GLOFs and Climate Adaptation), Mock-drills, trainings on kitchen gardening/food processing and Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans for disaster risk reduction, and stakeholder coordination workshops were rolled out, through which 12,035 women (44%) were capacitated with knowledge, skills, and strategies to adapt to the changing climate. The filming process of the EWS installation was also initiated, while IEC material was produced (comic books, activity books, recycling instruction book, animation) explaining the Project's interventions) to spread awareness on Climate Change and GLOFs amongst children. 06 in-house videos were also developed on the Project's various interventions and achievements; while international coverage (through Reuters and NKS Japan) was given.

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4. Key Challenges Encountered

- **Level of Reporting:**

  Project level results

  Contributing Outcomes:

  Contributing Outputs:

  Progress Note:

  1. Delay in implementation in KP province due to notification from the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to halt tender of new schemes until culmination of General Elections As the interim government took over, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) issued a notification in January 2023 to not take on any further tenders or hiring of staff. With reference to this, since the Project was engaged with the Irrigation Department (KP) through PDMA for the construction of small scale

infrastructure, CBDRMCs, and Safe Havens, the actions had to be halted. The Project as a mitigation strategy engaged with the Soil & Water Conservation department for the execution of the respective construction activities, as the department's model of implementation is community based. 2. Delay in the implementation of construction and EWS activities due to heavy snowfall in the winter season of 2022-2023 Due to heavy winter snow fall of late 2022-early 2023, the access routes to the construction sites at the valleys were severely hindered. Moreso, the community members who support the construction activities had moved to other areas/districts during this time of the heavy snow fall. As a mitigation measure, the Project extended the planning phase of the activities, which entailed discussion on rolling out the construction and EWS related activities in the months (May/June) following the snowfall. 3. Lack of Access Routes to targeted valleys Some Project valleys remained completely inaccessible during 2023. In KP, the valley of Kandia could not be accessed by virtue of the extreme damage caused by the 2022 floods, while in GB the valleys of Muthat, Haramosh and Badswat remained inaccessible as well. As a mitigation measure, the development of access routes to the respective valleys has been planned for 2024. 4. Delay in the hiring of Civil Engineers/Technical Experts for GB Since the Project experienced a delay in the hiring of Civil Engineers and Technical Experts; the quality assurance for the construction undertaken by department remained lagging, whereas the construction progress also remained slow. To mitigate this, the Project's monitoring teams conducted regular visits to the infrastructure schemes to identify and highlight all quality issues. The concerns were shared with the implementing partners for necessary action. Consequently, 02 civil engineers were also hired in Q4 2023. 5. Lack of representation and participation of women and girls in the Project activities The representation and participation of women and girls in some valleys of KP and GB remained low due to prevailing socio-cultural gender norms. A Gender Expert was hired to gen-der mainstream the Project's actions in order to enhance the inclusion of women. This included separate activities for women, such as Mock Drills, Kitchen Gardening, and Exposure Visits. The Green Climate Clubs at schools and Colleges ensured the representative of 50% women and girls. Further-more, Focus Group Discussions and Gender Sessions were held with the community members, and the Project Staff. 6. Change in design of the EWS base platforms The design of base platforms for the EWS had to be changed which resulted in a delay in initiating the construction works. This is because the previous base platform design did not align with the actual EWS equipment procured by the project. Through mutual consultations of project engineers with the PMD team and implementing partners, the revised base platform design was approved in June 2023, after which construction of base platforms was initiated in Q3 2023. 7. Sorting and Assembly of the EWS equipment prior to on-site installation The EWS equip-ment procured by the project is not a simple plug and play system, and required sorting of equipment and formation of valley wise sets prior to dispatch to onsite locations for installation. These are laborious tasks which took a lot of the time prior to EWS installation.

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5. Project Risks and Issues

In 2023, the overall project risk rating remained Moderate. One major risk which the Project mitigated through intensive coordination and collaboration with the Project's stakeholders was securing the fifth and the final tranche from GCF before 11th January 2024 (i.e. closing date of the Project). Resultantly, the tranche was secured by meeting the delivery targets in December 2023. The risk of the Project experiencing delays in its construction related actions remained pertinent as unpredictable weather patterns were experienced. This included heavy snowfall, which hindered the Project's access routes to the valleys (particularly Kandia, Muthat and Haramosh), impacting the scheduled installation of the Project's EWS and construction of small-scale infrastructures, CBDRM Centres, and irrigation channels. However, once the weather turned conducive from June to November 2023, the Project's partners fully utilized the window by accelerating the construction process. Some valleys such as Kandia, despite the transition of the weather, remained completely cut off from the access (due to the extensive damages caused by the 2022 floods), because of which no construction activity could be undertaken in 2023. To mitigate this risk of inaccessibility, the project has included an action as part of its implementation in 2024 to address the persisting challenge of accessibility to the valleys.

6. Lessons Learned

- No items to display.

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7. Conclusions and Way Forward

In 2024, the project will continue with its key implementation activities, which including the installation of EWS equipment in 22 project valleys, and the construction of 84 small scale infrastructure, 68 irrigation channels, 24 CBDRM centres, and 31 safe havens in the target communities of KP and GB. The aim remains to cement all gender aspects taken up in the previous years, and to mainstream the voices of women and girls impacted by climate-induced disasters. Following the Project's Exit Strategy, the Project will be concluded by 11th January 2025, by which time all targets pertaining to the Project's interventions would be met, and the communities will be fully capacitated to respond to GLOF events through the installed Early Warning System(s) and disaster response mechanisms. The operation and maintenance of the installed Early Warning Systems shall be handed over to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), while all other assets shall appropriately be handed over to the relevant department(s).The Project's strategy to strengthen community resilience by instilling ownership and a strong sense of responsibility through Community Based Disaster Risk Management Committees and Hazard Watch Groups would further solidify the Project's impact, ensuring inclusive and sustainable climate action.

8. Other Reporting Requirements

- No items to display.

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