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PROGRESS REPORT

2021 Annual

Project	Aid for Trade for Central Asia (phase IV)
Implementing Agency	United Nations Development Programme
Atlas Project ID	00105653
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Author	Dilshod Akbarov (Project Manager)
Approvals	To be approved by the Project Board
Purpose	As per the project document, the project is monitored through annual and bi-annual reports. The report is prepared to give a summary of progress, present the overall project situation and provide sufficient information for the Project Board to take decisions and to make recommendations.

Contents

- 1. Introduction/Background 3
- 2. Executive summary 4
- 3. External factors and assumptions 8
- 4. Report on results: Progress towards the achievement of the targeted objectives and expected results/outputs 13
- 5. Partnership and Sustainability 37
- 6. Cross-cutting objectives..... 39
- 7. Risks and opportunities update..... 44
- 8. Key challenges/lessons learnt..... 47
- 9. Project monitoring 47
- 10. Resources and budget 48
- 11. Annexes..... 49

1. Introduction/Background

The project focuses on supporting Central Asian countries in promoting inclusive and sustainable growth patterns in rural areas and within green productive sectors. It was designed based on findings of the Aid for Trade project phase III and consultations at national and sub-national levels.

The main logic of the project is to support producers in Central Asia as well as government structures to build productive capacities that are forward looking (future proof) and that address rapidly changing global market demands or climate change. The strategy is to provide support to building productive and export capacities for niche products, identified in the agricultural, agro-industrial, but also in other employment-rich and potentially green sectors, to contribute to more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable growth patterns.

The project addresses the development challenge outlined above through two sub-components:

1. Supporting an enabling environment for job-rich growth through

- 1.1 Enabling policies and regulations for inclusive and trade oriented private sector development (macro level);
- 1.2 Trade support institutions that provide efficient services to the private sector (meso level).

2. Supporting market opportunities for all through more efficient and competitive producers and processors

- 2.1 More efficient and competitive producers and processors contributing to sustainable human development (micro level).

Two cross-cutting themes are gender equality and environmental sustainability.

Linkages to UNDP's Regional Programme Document (RPD):

Direct link to area of work 2 of RPD (No one left behind, centering on equitable access to opportunities and a rights-based approach to human agency and human development), Output 1.3 (Access to basic services and financial and non-financial assets and services improved to support productive capacities for sustainable livelihoods and jobs to achieve prosperity).

SDGs addressed by the project:

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere. Sub-goal 1.1.

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; Sub-goals 2.3 and 2.4

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; Sub-goal 5.5

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Sub-goals 8.1, 8.2, 8.3 and 8.a

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. Sub-goal 9.2

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns; Sub-goal 12A

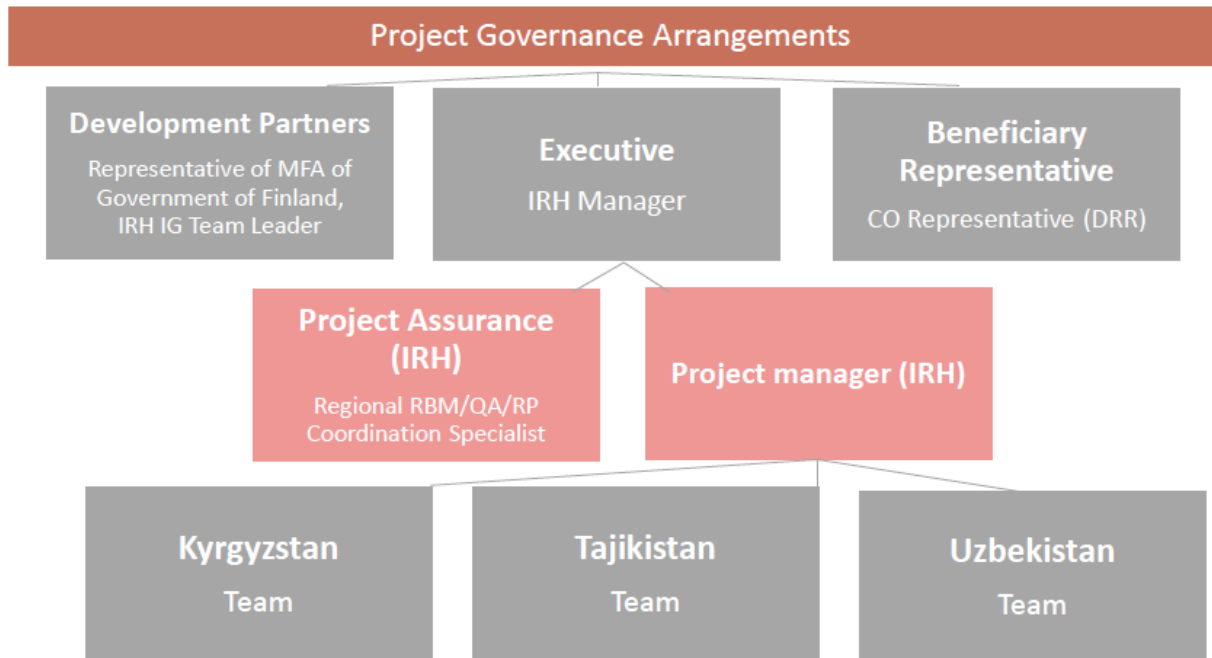
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. Sub-goal 17.6

Governance and management arrangements:

The project is implemented under DIM modality. UNDP IRH acts as the project implementing partner (agency) and is responsible for overall project coordination and implementation of the regional component.

UNDP COs in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are responsible for implementation of the country components under the Delegated Authority.

Project is directed by the Project Board, chaired by the UNDP IRH Manager. The project board also consists of representatives from the Government of Finland, as well as representatives of UNDP COs.



2. Executive summary

The project has been supporting promotion of seven green and inclusive value chains in selected employment-rich agricultural, agro-industrial and tourism sectors in rural areas of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (in progress in Uzbekistan due to funding availability as of July 2021) through building ‘forward-looking’ and sustainable productive capacities. Sustainable solutions have been identified and implemented to raise productivity, resource efficiency and added value of target green and marketable niche products/value chains, while simultaneously improving export market access and reducing trading costs to increase competitiveness.

In 2021, the project’s work to strengthen target green value chains in the rural areas of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan has led to an increase in decent jobs focusing on productive employment (over 530 new decent jobs were created) particularly for young people and women. Along with the new jobs creation, support provided to value chain actors (farming enterprises, agro and food-processing SMEs, tourism sector actors) has led to an increase in productivity, income and export volumes of target VCs on average by 20%, with the potential to replicate and scale-up the innovative and sustainable solutions that were implemented.

The project has facilitated access of Trade Support Institutions of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, as well as SMEs/target value chain actors to cutting-edge trade and market intelligence and enhanced their capacities to use available big data tools to foresight markets and VCs development to be able to capture new opportunities and diversify production beyond traditional export baskets.

The project continued to support the regional partnership and integration initiatives of Central Asian public and private stakeholders and value chain actors that foster linkages to regional and global value chains. The long-standing partnership established with UNECE, GIZ and Hilfswerk International continued to support regional cooperation initiatives, including the Central Asian Working Group on Export Promotion of Agricultural Produce (CAWG), where Central Asian public and private experts, supported by UNDP and other development partners, worked on quality standards, strategies and networking which supported better cross-border networks in the entire Central Asian region. In 2021, jointly with its partners, the project worked with the CAWG to deliver a series of regional trainings on quality, food safety and sustainable agriculture to the sector's regulators, producers and exporters. The aim was to help the countries transit to more sustainable production patterns and food supply chains for better quality products, increased incomes and new market access.

Gender equality has been a key programming principle in all activities of the project. The project ensured women are represented in the activities that aim to enhance the productive and export capacities of small businesses working along the supported green value chains. Also, in the three countries where the project is active – Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the project supported development of the capabilities of women entrepreneurs and traders by providing Mentorship Programmes for business/trade development, networking and investment, as well as programmes of affordable finance for women entrepreneurs. In 2021, over 470 women in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were empowered through support in building 'forward-looking' productive capacities at target green value chains, mentorship programmes, programmes on affordable finance, trade promotion activities or other forms of support.

Overarching indicators to measure progress (as per prodoc) and results (ongoing):

Total number of jobs created: 732 (501 women)

Number of MSMEs supported: 3,589

Number of women-owned enterprises supported: 1,771

Number of participants in value chain networks/cooperation: 361

Volume of export contracts supported: \$ 125 mln.

Key challenges and risks:

The coronavirus continued to disrupt some of the planned activities throughout 2021. Limitations have been in place in terms of possibilities to organize exchange visits, study tours, B2B meetings, participation at various exhibitions, forums etc. Travel restrictions locally and internationally made it difficult to implement certain activities and these had to be reprogrammed for the later periods (international consultants whose engagement required travel to the countries, study tour/exchange visits for TSIs to neighboring countries, etc.).

The project conducted where possible online meetings, however, faced constraints in rural areas and with farmers where connectivity is limited and/or costly.

Utilization update:

The total projected budget for 2018-2023 is EUR 6,151,697.79¹. Total expenditure until the end of 2021 is \$4,628,868.6 (equivalent to EUR 3,983,095.11) which equals to 64.75% of the total budget in EUR.

¹ [The budget consists of EUR 6,014,676 as per the project document and EUR 137,021.79 of Phase III unspent funds equivalent to \\$161,012.68 at exchange rate USD/EUR 0.851 transferred to Phase IV \(Regional component\) to support to](#)

The project budget for 2021 is \$1,826,843.51. Expenditure during the reporting period 01 January to 31 December 2021 amounted to \$1,831,949.27, which equals to 100,28% of the annual budget. Over expenditure occurred due to 4 multi-year POs with 2020 budget dates, which were paid out in 2021. The project will make a downward revision of the TJK output budget for 2022 in March.

Brief summary of 2021 results

Regional

At the regional level, the project jointly with ITC finalized works and launched The Central Asian Trade Intelligence Portal (CATI)² <https://catiportal.org/>, which provides access of Central Asian Trade Support Institutions as well as government partners and SMEs to cutting-edge trade and market intelligence.

The project at the regional level supported the 5th regional meeting of the Central Asian Working Group (CAWG) on Export Promotion of Agricultural Produce from Central Asia (Almaty, 21-22 June 2021)³, as well as the regional meeting of the National Technical Groups on UNECE standards (substructures of CAWG) (Tashkent, 15-16 November 2021) - the regional platforms for collaboration in promoting international quality/food safety standards (UNECE, GLOBAL G.A.P, ISO 22000), which facilitate access to international markets, particularly relevant for agri-food value chains the project has been supporting.

The project organized two regional trade and export promotion trainings for SMEs and representatives of Central Asian Trade Support Institutions including the 2-day training on trade promotion and export development at the 'Russian Export Center'⁴ in Moscow and 3-day regional workshop on "Global Export Strategy" in Almaty.

The project in collaboration with UNECE, GIZ and Hilfswerk International co-organized three regional trainings on agricultural quality and sustainable value chains, including online training on 'Improving walnut value chain in Central Asia for better quality products and new market access', 'Agroclusters' development in CA region based on international best practice' and 'Pre-export inspection services development on the basis of quality standards for dried fruits and vegetables' held in Tashkent.

The regional level also organized online B2B meetings and contract negotiations with EU wholesale buyers in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, which resulted in signing export contracts in the amount of \$12 million. and continued to foster linkages between Finland and Central Asia, including by familiarization tour and B2B meetings in Kyrgyzstan with tourism sectors actors from Finland⁵ (13-19 May 2021).

Kyrgyzstan

[increase business linkages between Finland and participating countries and for other activities as per the November 2020 board decision.](#)

² <https://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/undp-and-itc-launch-trade-intelligence-portal.html>

³ https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/tajikistan/101003/fifth-meeting-central-asian-working-group-export-promotion-agricultural-produce-central-asia_en

⁴ <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/07/traning-for-export.html>

⁵ Evidence source: The Final report on Familiarization tour and B2B meetings, 2021

During 2021, the project supported project partners with access to markets, finance and technologies, strengthening the three target value chains (honey; dried fruits, vegetables, berries and nuts; and adventure tourism) and women entrepreneurship development.

The project continued its support to the Cabinet of Ministers, in particular the former Investment Protection and Promotion Agency (now the Agency for Investments and Development, in expanding online services for exporters provided through EXPORT.GOV.KG, which as a result saw an increase of the web-site users by 83% compared to the last year.

In 2021, the project also supported Kyrgyz exporters through participation in business matching activities such as regional and international B2B meetings (2 offline, 2 online) and trade fairs. 11 companies signed 23 export contracts for the total value of \$3,7 million. In the tourism sector, 3 Kyrgyz tourism companies signed 7 contracts with UAE-based companies for the provision of tourism services.

The project continued its support of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in developing their corporate governance systems through the provision of consulting and training services by the Guarantee Fund, as well as of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry to digitalize their business education and training services.

With respect to the three target value chains, the work entered its active phase and entailed intensive capacity building for VCs actors and handing over means of production. By the end of 2021, the project contributed to the creation of 278 permanent jobs (out of which 151 for women). In addition, with respect to the Adventure Tourism VC, in November 2021, the project's promotional publications on Kyrgyz Berkutchi (an eagle hunter) attracted international attention and resulted in a crew from the Netherlands coming to Kyrgyzstan to film a documentary about the national hunting Salbuurun for Netflix which will air in 2022. The project also helped the filming crew to organize and facilitate the trip to Kyrgyzstan and the filming process.

The project also actively implemented and finalized two of its programs on women entrepreneurship, particularly the program on improving access of women-led companies to affordable innovative and inclusive financing (contributed to the creation of 105 permanent jobs, out of which 78 for women), as well as the mentorship program (contributed to the creation of 66 jobs). In addition, work started on supporting women-led SMEs involved in the target value chains through additional capacity building activities and grant support in the form of equipment (and infrastructure improvements in the case of adventure tourism).

Tajikistan

In 2021 the project in Tajikistan focused on strengthening capacities of the target value chain actors, targeted interventions to support women entrepreneurship, and taking into consideration the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Discussions with national partners on export and trade policy improvements also continued. At the policy level the project supported the Government with elaboration of the State Export Development Programme for the period of 2021-2025 (EDP-2025), which was adopted by Governmental Decree #169 on 30 April 2021. In addition, to contribute towards enabling policies and regulations for inclusive and trade oriented private sector development the project worked closely with the Ministry of Justice to support with elaboration of implementation mechanism for the law "On State Services" and supported the Consultative Council on

Improving Business Climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan in enabling e-commerce and improving legal basis for e-commerce in the country.

The project continued its support to trade support institutions on improving services for entrepreneurs and producers. The project also continued to provide support to stakeholders in target value chains (mung beans, honey, peanuts, apricot kernel oil and dried fruits) with trainings, developing market profiles, production quality analysis and providing new technologies for processing the target niche products. The project enhanced its technical assistance to women entrepreneurs with series of targeted trainings and means of production through the mentorship program.

Uzbekistan

The funding for Uzbekistan output (2021 – 2023) was received in June 2021. Subsequently the multi-annual work plan for 2021-2023 was approved in June 2021. During July-August 2021 the project conducted a number of meetings with the national partners and beneficiaries to outline plan of activities for the remaining four months (September-December) of 2021. The output in Uzbekistan started to implement activities as of September 2021.

The project in Uzbekistan supported its national partner – the Ministry for Investments and Foreign Trade (MIFT), Export Promotion Agency and local SMEs with the organization of B2B missions, participation at the international exhibitions, certification for international standards, provision of access to trade intelligence information, export promotion of niche agricultural products and fostering linkages with the regional value chains.

The project supported women entrepreneurs in the organization of the international conference and participation at the international exhibition within the framework of its interventions on promoting exports potential of local women-led SMEs.

With respect to the target value chains, the procedures on call of proposals were initiated with the engagement of the local state agencies and a number of perspective business ideas on improving target value chains were identified for further assessment and implementation.

3. External factors and assumptions

The countries of the CA region continue to grapple with COVID-19. The recovery is ongoing, but it is uneven and incomplete, with new waves of the virus emerging. Consistent with global trends, merchandise trade in 2021 has recovered to its pre-pandemic level. Hotel demand has also been increasing, but it has remained below pre-pandemic levels. Remittances continue to provide crucial support for the three Central Asian countries.

Output growth in Central Asia is forecast to remain steady at 4.3 percent in 2022⁶, with tighter monetary policies in some countries weighing on the recovery. Growth in Central Asia is expected to strengthen to 5.1 percent in 2023, supported by firming investment. In Uzbekistan, growth is forecasted to continue to benefit from the implementation of its reform agenda, which progressed throughout the pandemic despite formidable headwinds. Weighing on the medium- to longer-term outlook for Central Asia are concerns about spillovers

⁶ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/eca/brief/global-economic-prospects-europe-and-central-asia>

from political stability in neighboring countries, particularly Afghanistan. The outlook is also subject to political uncertainty within the region following domestic political tensions, social unrest, and conflicts over border disputes.

Kyrgyzstan

In addition to the socio-economic implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, the situation has been exacerbated by the implications of the major political unrest that took place in October 2020. These events led to the resignation of President Sooranbay Jeenbekov (October 2020), the early presidential elections and a referendum on a new Constitution offering new political system and presidential governance model of the country (January 2021). As a result of the presidential elections and the referendum, Mr. Sadyr Japarov became the President of the country, and the political system (system of governance) of the country was changed from parliamentary to presidential, which, in turn, entailed cardinal alignment of the legislation framework and re-structural changes in the Cabinet that are currently being finalized.

One of the major implications of the restructuring that affected the project has been the structural change in the Investment Promotion and Protection Agency (IPPA), the project's main national partner that was responsible for the export promotion in the country. In June 2021 the IPPA has been transformed into the Ministry of Investments of the Kyrgyz Republic, which in its turn has been transformed into the Kyrgyz Agency for Development and Investments (KADI) in November 2021. KADI's functions also envisage implementation of strategic work on export promotion.

The uncertainty caused by the re-shuffling of the Cabinet that was taking place throughout the whole year also affected another partner of the project – Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI). The Chamber was tasked to re-organize its structure which led to key staff turnover and as a result cancelation of some of the activities that were initially requested by the Chamber from the project.

Furthermore, despite weak signs of economic recovery in some of the areas of economy in 2021, the results of the country's socio-economic development as a whole are still far from the pre-COVID indicators. The economy's recovery is still highly dependent on the epidemiological situation in the country, as well as on the recovery of economies in Kyrgyzstan's main trading partners. Slow vaccination of the population (15.4% of the population as of the end of 2021), as well as the rise of new variants of the COVID-19 virus that result in continued imposition of travel and import restrictions, may further slowdown the revival of the economy, as well as affect the project implementation.

Analysis of the potential impact of external factors (political and COVID-related) discussed above on the project:

- At the activities level, the project planned for a significant number of activities to be implemented with or for the IPPA. They included capacity building of the IPPA staff (e.g. training on business planning/project management, provision of access to business intelligence, such as Euromonitor), business matching activities, trade missions and fairs, etc. Due to the restructuring of the IPPA (and partially COVID-related restrictions), some of these activities had to be canceled or postponed.
- At the impact level, the project focused on jobs creation and poverty reduction through supporting export promotion and women entrepreneurship, as well as increasing the productivity of producers and MSMEs in the target regions. Due to the slow economic recovery and the re-introduction of restrictions as a result of new waves (and variants) of the COVID-19 pandemic affecting export

sectors (especially tourism and honey), there is a risk of underperformance with respect to some of the project targets (increasing exports, productivity and incomes of target VC actors, etc.).

Mitigation measures:

- With respect to the situation with the export promotion agency, in light of the absence of the national partner's (IPPA) support in the second half of 2021, the project engaged an individual contractor who helped to implement some of the activities related to export promotion (e.g. business matching activities, trade fairs, etc.). In 2022, the project will re-start its partnership with KADI which got back its mandate on export promotion and will thus become one of the main national partners of the project. Due to the fact that KADI will have new staff working on export promotion, the project is planning to intensify its support of the agency, particularly with respect to capacity building and advisory support at both organizational and individual levels.
- To the extent that the project interventions may be unable to take place offline due to COVID-19 restrictions, the project will do what is within its power to facilitate conducting these events online with minimal disruptions to project timelines and to ensure that any interventions conducted online are of an appropriate quality given what these events aim to achieve. Additionally, the project has been re-directing its attention to servicing export markets where sales opportunities are less likely to be affected by the deleterious impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through revising its approach to marketing and promotion activities. For example, with respect to tourism, the project organized business matching events in partnership with countries, identified by the project in consultation with relevant stakeholders in the sector (for example, UAE), whose citizens are more likely to visit Kyrgyzstan despite the COVID-19 pandemic due to factors such as geographical proximity/connectivity, high level of vaccination, as well as ease of travelling / absence of travel restriction.
- Any project plan deviations will be discussed with the UNDP CO management and IRH to find the best solutions and deliver project results as committed.

Tajikistan

After the economic slowdown in 2020, Tajikistan's GDP grew at a rate of 8.7% in 2021. The strong economic rebound was supported by sharp increase in the export of precious metals, and a pickup in private investment and consumption. Domestic economic activity strengthened as the government gradually relaxed lockdown measures and started vaccination program in 2021. The cautious and incremental resumption of air traffic allowed migrants to resume traveling abroad and restore the inflow of remittances.

Foreign trade picked up in 2021 with the export of precious metals, minerals and textile increased by 36% (y/y). Imports also increased by 32% led by machinery and equipment, non-precious metals, and food products, being an indication that real incomes of business and population and thus the consumer demand are strengthening after the sharp drop in 2020.

Despite the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on economy and lives, the government of Tajikistan maintained its development course aiming to transit from agrarian to industrial-agrarian economy with the goal of improving the quality of life of the people. The national development priorities are stipulated in the National Development Strategy 2030 and the new Mid-term Development Program (MTDP) for period 2021-2025 developed by the government in 2020, which was informed by the lessons from COVID-19 and with stronger

focus on industrialization and digitization. As per program documents, the government will continue its efforts by addressing the issues of Sustainable Economic Development, strengthening of human potential, improvement of the system of public administration, expansion of export opportunities of the country, improvement of investment climate, development of private sector and improvement of labour market conditions.

In the beginning of 2021, the project conducted extensive stakeholder consultations, which covered a wide number of actors, starting from project clients from micro to macro level. The project held 13 meetings with attendance of 30 organizations (CSOs, private, state agencies and ministries, women entrepreneurs) covering three target regions of Tajikistan and Dushanbe.

The most frequent and prevailing issues voiced by the private sector and state actors focused on:

- Lack of affordable financial services (high interest rates) and private investments for SMEs
- Poor business management practices of SMEs, inadequate access to business information
- Challenges of export and access to foreign markets
- Inadequate gender empowerment in business and trade
- Low capacities/professionalism of state authorities

Overall, the unconducive business climate is highlighted as an issue, with limited access to affordable finance and still a limited support available to the private sector.

The stakeholder consultations highlighted the following future priorities:

- Support in analysis and advocacy of the private sector recommendations to the government through existing PPD platforms.
- Support in implementation of the priorities set in the new State Program for Export Development (SPED) for 2021-2025.
- Support to young entrepreneurs in establishing sustainable business and forward-looking initiatives through existing and new start-up and incubation programmes.
- Support in increasing capacities of civil servants in public services, export promotion, e-trade, online customer support and online state services, etc.
- Support to participation of entrepreneurs at the regional and international exhibitions;
- Support in improving the quality of products and facilitating access to markets of EAEU, EU and China;
- Tackling gender social norms, encouraging women's entrepreneurship, and creating more quality jobs for women.

Uzbekistan

In 2021 the country's GDP grew by 7.4%, compared to last year's modest growth of 1.9%. Inflation in Uzbekistan continues to slow year by year. Over 2021, the consumer price index has increased by 10%, compared with 11.1% in 2020. Prices for food products increased by 13% over the year (in 2020 by 15.3%), for non-food products - by 7.8% (in 2020 by 8.8%).

The volume of industrial production in Uzbekistan increased by 8.7% (in 2020 growth was 0.9%). The mining sector is recovering from a serious downturn in 2020 (by 22%) with output up 10.7%, manufacturing sector

continues to show steady growth rates by 8.2% (in 2020, an increase of 7.9%). The industry drivers in 2021 were the production of textiles (19.1%), clothing (18.7%), finished metal products (18.9%), beverages (17.7%), metallurgy (increase by 8.1%) and chemical products (5.7%).

In agriculture, despite difficult climatic conditions, in 2021 the growth rate of the sector's output increased by 4% (in 2020 - 2.9%). Crop and livestock production increased by 3.9%, fish production continues to grow at an accelerated pace growing by 21.4% (in 2020 by 17.9%).

In the second half of 2021, foreign trade has also returned to positive dynamics. The volume of foreign trade turnover increased by 16% and reached \$42.1 billion, surpassing the figures for 2019 (\$41.8 billion). Exports rose by 10% to \$16.6 billion and imports by 20% to \$25.5 billion. The trade balance was in deficit in the amount of \$8.9 billion.

The Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026 was endorsed by the Decree of the President in the end of January 2022 and sets out seven main directions of the development agenda for the next five years.

The Development Strategy outlines general objectives by specifying targets and, at the level of action plans, a mechanism for achieving the intended objectives. Among the main reforms are the elimination of monopolies, reduction of VAT rates, privatization, improvement of energy efficiency of the economy, promotion of conducive business environment, trade promotion and provision of social guarantees.

According to the Strategy it is planned to continue the implementation of liberalization reforms to reduce further the presence of the state in the economy and develop the private sector and bring its share in GDP to 80% and up to 60% in exports. The strategy sets ambitious plans to increase export potential to \$30 billion in 2026 by improving the organizational and financial assistance provided to exporting enterprises. The number of exporters is set to increase from 6,500 to 15,000, and the geography of exports of goods from 115 to 150 countries. As part of the Export Development Program 2022-2026 the share of finished products in exports is set to increase from 32% to 42%, while the share of raw materials in exports is set to decrease from 34% to 24% due to the growth in processing of raw materials. The volume of export of services is set to increase to \$3.3 billion.

The strategy puts special emphasis on implementation of standards that meet international requirements, which echoes the AfT project's long-standing work on supporting the countries in adoption and implementation of international quality and food safety standards to increase export competitiveness.

In order to increase the share of the private sector in exports, compensation and guarantees are planned to be introduced for exporting enterprises and reimbursement of expenses to promote exports via regional and global e-commerce platforms in 2022. It is planned to implement a system of reimbursement of transportation costs for exporters of finished products with high value added supplied to foreign markets.

The project will work with MIFT and other national partners to support trade promotion and private sector development priorities set in the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026.

4. Report on results: Progress towards the achievement of the targeted objectives and expected results/outputs

Regional (Output 1. Cooperation between trade policy makers and implementers, as well as private sector entities and national export promotion agencies with a focus on promoting job rich green growth has increased on the regional level).

The approved budget of the Regional output for 2021 is \$366,876 (as per December budget revision). The expenditures of the output for the reporting period amounted to \$321,723 (87,69% of the 2021 budget). The detailed breakdown can be found in the financial report.

Output 1: Cooperation between trade policy makers and implementers, as well as private sector entities and national export promotion agencies with a focus on promoting job rich green growth has increased on the regional level		
Output indicators	Targets	Progress against targets
1.1 Number of productive capacities studies that focus on environmental sustainability and job-rich growth supported and percentage of recommendations applied	Baseline:0 Final: 4 2021 AWP target: 1	Reporting period: 0 Cumulative total: 3 achieved (end of 2021)
1.2 Number of cooperation activities established between participating countries with at least 2 cooperation across activities per year	Baseline: 0 Final: 8 2021 AWP target: 2	Reporting period: 4 Cumulative total: 6 achieved (end of 2021)
1.3 Number commercial or educational linkages between Finland and participating countries supported	Baseline: 0 Final: 3 2021 AWP target: 1	Reporting period: 1 Cumulative total: 4 achieved (end of 2021)

At the regional level, the project jointly with ITC completed the works on development of the Central Asian Trade Intelligence Portal (CATI) and officially launched the portal (on 25 February 2021).⁷ The portal represents the #NextGen of online services related to trade intelligence and is aimed to enhance export potential and regional integration of Central Asian countries by providing users with essential trade intelligence information. It is accessible to companies, business ecosystems and governments in Central Asia and beyond. All economic actors will benefit from up-to-date and free online information, which is particularly critical in light of the COVID-19 economic crisis and the need to respond to changes. Access to cutting-edge trade and market intelligence allows companies to benefit from export opportunities, build strong economies, create jobs and remain ahead of the curve. Information on the portal is available in English and Russian through <https://catiportal.org/>

Table 1. CATI users' statistics in 2021

Number of users	1,495
Sessions	2,084

⁷ <https://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/undp-and-itc-launch-trade-intelligence-portal.html>

Pageviews	8,316
Pages/Session	3,99

Source: Reports from Google Analytics

The project at the regional level continued to support work of **the Central Asian Working Group on Export Promotion of Agricultural Produce from Central Asia (CAWG)** - the regional platform for collaboration in promoting international quality/food safety standards and sustainable agricultural practices. In particular, the project jointly with Hilfswerk International supported the 5th regional meeting of CAWG⁸, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan (21-22 June 2021) as well as the regional meeting of the National Technical Groups on UNECE standards (substructures of CAWG), held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan (15-16 November 2021). The main focus of discussions was introduction of amendments to current UNECE's Quality Standards taking into account priority export products exported from the region, drafting explanatory materials on fresh and dried agricultural products, discussing the strategies and plans for joint activities to implement food safety standards (incl. Global GAP) as well as UNECE Quality Standards among producers, processors and exporters of the Central Asian Region, to foster linkages of value chain actors to regional and global value chains.

The project in collaboration with UNECE, GIZ and Hilfswerk International co-organized three regional trainings on **agricultural quality and sustainable value chains**, including the 2-day regional 'Sustainable walnut quality' training⁹ (online, 7-8 September 2021) to improve knowledge and capacities of VC actors on implementation of international quality standards and facilitate cross-border trade, as well as the regional training on 'Development of effective agroclusters' systems based on international best practice' (held in Tashkent and Almaty, 18-21 October 2021) to promote efficient linkages within the value chains, innovative collaboration between value chain actors in production and marketing, and the regional training on 'Quality management systems and development of pre-export inspection services on the basis of quality standards for dried fruits and vegetables' (Tashkent, 08-12 November 2021).

The project also organized two regional **export promotion trainings** for SMEs and representatives of Central Asian Trade Support Institutions including the 2-day training program on trade promotion and export development at the 'Russian Export Center'¹⁰ (Moscow, 5-6 August 2021) and the three-day workshop on 'Global Export Strategy'¹¹ (Almaty, 20-22 September 2021).

To strengthen cooperation between women entrepreneurs of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and women's economic empowerment, the project jointly with USAID supported organizing the Business Forum "Dialogue of women entrepreneurs of Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan" (21-22 September 2021) which was attended by more than 80 businesswomen of the two countries. The event was carried out in execution of the "Roadmap for Cooperation of Women-Entrepreneurs of Central Asia in the Field of Sustainable Development", adopted on 15 June 2021 in Tashkent following the results of the International

⁸ https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/tajikistan/101003/fifth-meeting-central-asian-working-group-export-promotion-agricultural-produce-central-asia_en

⁹ <https://www.uz.undp.org/content/uzbekistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/09/improving-walnut-value-chain-for-better-quality-products--increa.html>

¹⁰ <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/07/traning-for-export.html>

¹¹ <https://www.uz.undp.org/content/uzbekistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/09/small-businesses-in-central-asia-explore-new-tools-for-export-de.html>

Forum "Economic empowerment of women for sustainable development in Central Asia and Afghanistan" within the framework of Central Asia Women Leaders Caucus. As a result of business meetings during the forum, 15 business deals between women-led enterprises of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan worth over \$13 million were made¹².

The regional level also organized online B2B meetings and contract negotiations with EU wholesale buyers in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, which resulted in signing export contracts in the amount of \$ 12 mln. and continued to foster linkages between Finland and Central Asia, including by familiarization tour and B2B meetings in Kyrgyzstan with tourism sectors actors from Finland¹³ (13-19 May 2021).

Kyrgyzstan (Output 2: Support to an enabling environment for job rich growth in Kyrgyzstan)

The approved budget of the output for 2021 is \$757,545 (as per December 2021 budget revision). The expenditures of the output for the reporting period amounted to \$611,623 (80,74% of the 2021 budget). The detailed breakdown can be found in the financial report.

Output 2: Supporting an enabling environment for job-rich growth in Kyrgyzstan		
Output indicators	Targets	Progress against targets
1.1.1 # of companies supported and specifically those led by women by the state agency for investment and export promotion through account-managed approach for export promotion and development	Baseline:0 Final: 20 (6) 2021 AWP target: 5 (1)	Reporting period: 245 (72) Cumulative total: 477 (157) achieved (end of 2021)
1.1.2 Volume increase in USD of export contracts supported by the state agency for export promotion	Baseline: 0 Final: \$5 mln 2021 AWP target: \$2 mln	Reporting period: \$1,444 mln Cumulative total: \$21,19 mln achieved (end of 2021)
1.1.3 # of B2B matches supported for project clients	Baseline: 2 Final: 12 2021 AWP target: 4	Reporting period: 4 Cumulative total: 18 achieved (end of 2021)
1.1.4 Increase in volumes of export after B2B matches supported for project clients	Baseline: 0 Final: \$1,7 mln 2021 AWP target: \$0,4 mln	Reporting period: \$1,884 mln Cumulative total: \$14,96 mln achieved (end of 2021)
1.1.5 # of export caravans undertaken for all regions of Kyrgyzstan involving the government, private, civil society (including women's movements), public sectors as well as the donor community	Baseline: 1 Final: 4 2021 AWP target: 1	Reporting period: 1 Cumulative total: 3 achieved (end of 2021)
1.1.6 # of developed and improved new service products of TSIs	Baseline: 0 Final: 25 2021 AWP target: 10	Reporting period: 4 Cumulative total: 34 achieved (end of 2021)
1.1.7 # of clients (female) benefited from new / improved service products provided by TSIs	Baseline: 0 Final: 400 2021 AWP target: 120	Reporting period: 27,720 (7,595) Cumulative total: 57,405 (17,810) achieved (end of 2021)
1.2.1 # informational guides on niche products and/or products with the highest value addition detailing the latest technological information, including cost calculation, materials used, financial products and market opportunities	Baseline: 0 Final: 5 2021 AWP target: 0	Reporting period: 0 Cumulative total: 5 achieved (end of 2021)
1.2.2 # of targeted government finance products (loans) for sustainable technologies and new green economic	Baseline: 0 Final: 3	Reporting period: 0 Cumulative total: 2 achieved (end of 2021)

¹² <https://www.uz.undp.org/content/uzbekistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/09/strengthening-cooperation-between-women-entrepreneurs-of-uzbekis.html>

¹³ Evidence source: The Final report on Familiarization tour and B2B meetings, 2021

sectors reaching at least 40% of target population, disaggregated by sex where possible	2021 AWP target: 0	2021)
1.2.3 # of linkages for new green technologies connecting the private sector in Kyrgyzstan with market leaders, potentially Finnish	Baseline: 0 Final: 8 2021 AWP target: 2	Reporting period: 3 Cumulative total: 5 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.1 # of products/VCS identified that are green and employment rich	Baseline: 0 Final: 3 2021 AWP target: 0	Reporting period: 0 Cumulative total: 3 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.2.1. % increase in productivity, in identified products/VCS through piloting, where productivity baselines will be defined during the assessment	Baseline: 0 Final: 20 2021 AWP target: 20	Reporting period: 16 Cumulative total: 16 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.2.2. % increase of market penetration of selected products	Baseline: 0 Final: 20 2021 AWP target: 20	Reporting period: 5 Cumulative total: 5 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.2.3. % increase in income of target communities, disaggregated by sex, where possible	Baseline: 0 Final: 30 2021 AWP target: 20	Reporting period: in progress Cumulative total: in progress (end of 2021)
2.1.2.4. # of new decent jobs created (incl. 50% for women)	Baseline: 0 Final: 200 2021 AWP target: 80	Reporting period: 383 (281) Cumulative total: 383 (281) achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.2.5. At least 30% of activity clients are female	Baseline: 0 Final: 40 2021 AWP target: 40	Reporting period: 38 Cumulative total: 38 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.3.1. # of women entrepreneurs reached in caravan promoting strong positive role models in Kyrgyzstan	Baseline: 0 Final: 2 2021 AWP target: 0	Reporting period: 120 Cumulative total: 501 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.3.2. # of mentorship programmes for female/youth entrepreneurs established and supported	Baseline: 0 Final: 3 2021 AWP target: 1	Reporting period: 1 Cumulative total: 2 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.3.3. # of female/youth benefitting from established programmes	Baseline: 0 Final: 30 2021 AWP target: 10	Reporting period: 112 Cumulative total: 177 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.3.4. % of trade support work completed within the project with a gender lens	Baseline: 0 Final: 100 2021 AWP target: 100	Reporting period: 100 Cumulative total: 100 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.4.1. # of farmers and SMEs benefiting from service provisions in rural areas; disaggregated by sex, where possible (no less than 30%)	Baseline: 0 Final: 600 2021 AWP target: 150	Reporting period: 465 (132) Cumulative total: 1261 (415) achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.4.2. % of productivity increase of farmers and SMEs in rural areas after receiving services;	Baseline: 0 Final: 10 2021 AWP target: 10	Reporting period: 16 Cumulative total: 16 achieved (end of 2021)

Sub-output 1.1. Enabling policies and regulations for inclusive and trade oriented private sector development

Activity 1.1. Support to market access for SMEs

In the first months of 2021, the project continued to support the Investment Promotion and Protection Agency (currently Kyrgyz Agency for Development and Investments, KADI) in providing account-managed approach to export companies (through export.gov.kg). However, in April-May the situation started to change/slow down due to the structural changes in the Cabinet (as discussed above) and the uncertainty associated with such changes. In particular, it became known that the export promotion functions will be taken away from the IPPA, which resulted in slowing down and postponement of some of the project activities related to the partnership-building with IPPA (for ex., Export Caravan has been postponed; procurement of trade/business intelligence services, such as ones provided by Euromonitor, has also been frozen).

Nevertheless, the following online services on the trade portal (export.gov.kg) have been launched with the support of the project in cooperation with GIZ and Import Promotion Desk (5 services in 2021) (1.1.6.):

- **Sector profiles (4).** 3 new reports were developed for priority products (<https://export.gov.kg/ru/for-importers/sector-profiles>):
 - Women blouses
 - Dried apricots
 - Cheese
- **Trade Fair Checker (1).** An online trade fair checker has been developed to help businesses assess their readiness to participate in international trade fairs: <https://export.gov.kg/ru/for-exporters/trade-fair/step-1>

In 2021, 27,720 clients visited the export.gov.kg – an increase by 83% compared to the same period of the last year (1.1.7). Main clients of IPPA are local exporters (63.5% of users of export.gov.kg are from Kyrgyzstan).

In 2021, through/thanks to the web-site Russian importers were able to connect with Kyrgyz producers of trout. As a result of a business meeting, 16,5 tons of fish was delivered to Russia for a total amount of \$89,190.

Table 2. Statistics on usage/traffic of export.gov.kg website in 2021

Number of users	27,720
Sessions	39,387
Pageviews	98,035
Female users, %	57.56% (7,595)
Male users, %	42.44% (5,601)

Source: Reports from Google Analytics

At the request of the IPPA, as well as the Trade Policy Department of the former MoEF, in March-April 2021, the project supported the capacity building activity for TSIs that entailed series of webinars (8) on export procedures with a focus on customs procedures¹⁴. Representatives of the following TSIs participated in the course: IPPA, MoEF, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, business association “Legprom” (textile and garment), the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, business association “JIA”, the Association of Agro-industrial Complex Development. The total number of participants – 15 (6 women). At the end of the course, participants strengthened knowledge/capacities on:

- customs legislation in Kyrgyzstan and the Eurasian Economic Union, as well as international customs legislation;
- orient themselves in legal aspects of export procedures and preparation of necessary documentation for export;
- determine the HS code of goods;
- customs clearance and control procedures;
- calculate elements of an export transaction;

¹⁴ [Завершился тренинг по организации и проведению экспортных операций из Кы... \(export.gov.kg\)](#)
[Прошел тренинг по экспорту из Кыргызстана в ЕАЭС и в третьи страны - ЦБО ТПП КР \(cci.kg\)](#)
[Развитие экспорта \(mineconom.gov.kg\)](#)

- reduce trade costs and what financial issues need to be taken into consideration during export operations; and
- pitfalls of exports and how to reduce risks associated with a foreign trade transaction.

Recognizing the important role the trade support institutions play in capacity building of the private sector, in 2021 the project continued its collaboration with the Centre for Business Education under the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CBE CCI). During the period, with the project's support CBE CCI conducted 10 training courses¹⁵ (online and offline) and finalized works on upgrading its website, which has been successfully launched (training.cci.kg). In total, 151 (105 women) representatives of the private sector participated in the courses.



B2B meetings with Russian retailers

In July 2021, at the request of the then IPPA, the project provided support to the organization of 2-day B2B meetings in Bishkek between Kyrgyz exporters and Russian retailers. The event gathered together 49 Kyrgyz companies – that represented sectors such as honey, processed fruits & vegetable, nuts, fresh fruits & vegetables, dairy, processed meat, and textile – and 5 Russian retailers (Magnit, Utkonos, Prodmassiv Sibir, Slata, and Dobrocen). Negotiations on potential contracts are ongoing and being monitored.

WorldFood Moscow Exhibition 2021

In September 2021, in collaboration with the IPPA the project supported the participation of 10 Kyrgyz food processing companies in the WorldFood Moscow 2021 International Trade Exhibition. As a result, 8 companies signed 19 contracts for exports of fruit snacks,



¹⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/trainingccikg/photos/pcb.3724414247657769/3724413954324465/>
<https://www.facebook.com/trainingccikg/photos/pcb.3782362045196322/3782338178532042/>
<https://www.facebook.com/trainingccikg/videos/3841697469262779>
<https://www.facebook.com/events/881359915780505/?ref=newsfeed>

juices, dried fruits (incl. dried apples and dried tomatoes), beans, and canned fruits/vegetables for the total amount of \$1,085,082.

Online B2B meetings with Dutch companies

In September 2021, in cooperation with the EU's BOOST project, the project organized its first exploratory online B2B meetings between Kyrgyz producers/exporters of dried fruits and nuts and Dutch buyers. 15 Kyrgyz companies and 6 Dutch companies participated in the online event. Negotiations on potential contracts are ongoing and being monitored.

Dubai Expo 2020 (Business Forum and Tourism Roadshow)

In December 2021, at the request of the project's partners - Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) and the Kyrgyz Association of Tour Operators, the project supported the organization of a business forum (in the form of B2B meetings) and a tourism roadshow (in the form of B2B meetings) at Dubai Expo 2020 in Dubai, as well as the participation of 27 Kyrgyz companies in these events. As a result of the business forum, 3 companies (2 from the honey sector and 1 meat producer) signed contracts for the total amount of \$2,620,000. As a result of the tourism roadshow, 3 Kyrgyz tourism companies signed 7 contracts with UAE-based companies for the provision of tourism services (amounts are not stipulated in the contracts but will be based on actual provision of services).



Related links:

[В Дубае стартует бизнес-форум «Кыргызстан — ОАЭ» — в нем примут участие более 100 компаний \(economist.kg\)](#)

[Азиз Аалиев: Надеюсь, что бизнесмены из Кыргызстана и ОАЭ станут надежными партнерами - VESTI.KG - Новости Кыргызстана](#)

[По итогам бизнес-форума «Кыргызстан-Объединенные Арабские Эмираты» в Дубае подписано контрактов на сумму более 3 млн. долларов \(cci.kg\)](#)

Export Caravan

In December 2021, despite the absence of the export promotion agency (IPPA), the project managed to continue the annual tradition of organizing the export-related information campaign – 'Export Caravan'. The event was held under the auspices of MEC

(the Ministry of Economy and Commerce) and was aimed at raising awareness of rural producers and exporters with respect to the latest trends, requirements and opportunities related to export. The overarching theme of the Export Caravan 2021 was **e-commerce**. In addition, Kyrgyz entrepreneurs learned about various online export tools, how to develop business plans for accessing finance, where products can be exported on preferential terms, as well as about financial services provided by the Russian-Kyrgyz Development Fund and the Guarantee Fund of the Kyrgyz Republic. The expert team of the Export Caravan 2021 included representatives from the Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Russian-Kyrgyz Development Fund, Guarantee Fund, as well as experts in the field of e-commerce and business planning.

The Export Caravan was held in 6 regions of the country and attracted 196 entrepreneurs (61 women, 31%). Total participants: 226 (73 women, 32%).

Related links:

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[Export Caravan 2021 to be organized in Kyrgyzstan for local entrepreneurs \(kabar.kg\)](#)

[Минэкономкоммерции совместно с ПРООН успешно завершили кампанию для предпринимателей «Караван Экспорта-2021» \(mineconom.gov.kg\)](#)

[Экспорт Кербени 2021 - YouTube](#)

Monitoring of business matching activities.

Additional results of participation of Kyrgyz companies in trade fairs and B2B meetings:

- World Food Moscow and Food Expo Qazakhstan, in 2019: the participants reported additional exports of their products for a total amount of \$1,354,709.
- B2B meetings with Nobiles in 2020: a participant reported additional exports of their products for a total amount of \$64,500.

Activity 1.2. Improved access to finance and technologies

Kyrgyzstan – Finland Tourism Roadshow. In May 2021, the project in cooperation with the Department of Tourism organized ‘Kyrgyzstan – Finland Tourism Roadshow 2021’ in Bishkek¹⁶, which entailed a 5-day familiarization tour for the Finnish delegation (13-17 May), as well as B2B meetings between Finnish and Kyrgyz tour operators (18 May). The Finnish delegation consisted of 3 Finnish tour operators, 1 representative of the Finnish travel media, as well as the Ambassador of Finland to the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic – Mrs. Soili Mäkeläinen-Buhanist.

The Roadshow was organized with a view to presenting the potential of Kyrgyzstan’s diverse natural areas for adventure, eco, ethno-cultural and historical tourism to Finnish tour operators and media, as well as establishing and strengthening business relationships between tourism companies of the two countries, finding potential local partners, and facilitating mutual understanding between the tourism industries of Kyrgyzstan and Finland. 42 participants (out of which 21 women) attended the B2B meetings representing 20 Kyrgyz travel agencies.

¹⁶ [Kyrgyzstan-Finland Tourism Roadshow – a window to Europe | UNDP in Kyrgyz Republic](#)
<https://twitter.com/UNDPFinland/status/1403306465323110401>
<https://twitter.com/undpkg/status/1406901317373730824>



As a result of the B2B meetings, three memorandums of understanding on cooperation in the tourism sector have been signed between 1) the Kyrgyz Association of Tour Operators (KATO) and the Association of Finnish Travel Industry, 2) the KATO and a Finnish travel platform called Central Asia Guide, and 3) the KATO and a Finnish travel company Kon Tiki Tours.



In 2021, the Guarantee Fund supported by the project, continued the implementation of activities, including consultations, training, development of corporate documents, aimed at introducing corporate governance systems in additional 9 companies (Temir Beton OJSC, Variant KG LLC, Altyn Kadam LLC, Talas Daamy LLC, Print Express LLC, At Bashy Azyktary LLC, Khan Burgo LLC, Glassland Company LLC, Kara Buk LLC (in total, corporate governance was introduced in 10 companies).

Furthermore, as a result of the GF's support in introducing the corporate governance system:

- Walkers KG LLC was able to further increase their production, which resulted in creating additional 26 permanent jobs;
- 7 companies were able to access loans for the total amount of \$3.2 million, which was used for expanding production and/or new production equipment.
- 2 companies started exporting: (1) Print Express exported its services to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan for the total amount of \$244,000; and (2) Khan Burgo exported beans to Turkey, Russia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia for the total amount of \$1,126,000.

Related links:

[A new production line for the assembly of double-glazed windows has been launched in Bishkek. The Guarantee Fund provided support. – ОАО "Гарантийный фонд" \(gf.kg\)](#)
[В Бишкеке запустили производство стеклопакетов \(economist.kg\)](#)

Sub-output 2. More efficient and competitive producers and processors contributing to sustainable human development

Activity 2.1.2. Higher productivity and export readiness of target products/VCs through the use of innovative technologies

Strengthening the dried fruits, berries, dried vegetables, and nuts value chain (VC).

In 2021, the project's work on strengthening the dried fruits, berries, dried vegetables, and nuts value chain (VC) has reached its active phase and included the following groups of activities that were planned based on the needs assessment conducted in 2020:

- strengthening the capacity of farmers'/forest users' groups and processing companies through trainings and technical assistance:

19 trainings on agronomy and GLOBALG.A.P. were conducted for 11 farmer groups (103 farmers (out of which 48 women). As for processing companies, 11 trainings, 15 consultations and 1 study tour were conducted for 11 companies (63 participants, out of which 30 women). During the trainings, participants learned about financial planning, marketing and sales, food safety and production technology.

- grant support (in the form of means of production) for farmers and processors:

4 farmers groups (total of 47 farmers) have been provided with various means of production to the total value of \$10,000. Such means of production included cultivators (for soil cultivation and weed control), an automated machine for cutting fruits, as well as seedlings of an intensive variety of walnut trees. 5 processing companies that have been selected for the grant support have been also handed out equipment, including semiautomatic mini-line to produce dried prunes in chocolate, a machine for fine cutting of dried fruits and nuts, a machine for peeling and cutting apples, and two fruit/vegetable drying machines that work on solar panels (total amount of \$31,865).



- providing support with respect to target products' sales and exports:

17 export contracts have been concluded by 6 AFT beneficiary processing companies (dried fruits and nuts) for the total amount of \$2,172,341. Exports markets included China, Russia, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

- introduction of international standards, such as GLOBAL G.A.P., ISO 22000, as well as HACCP:

The project supported 3 farming groups with preparatory works (trainings, technical consultations) to undergo GLOBAL G.A.P. certification audit. One agrofarm - ‘Uluk Agro’ has already undergone the certification audit and the certificate is expected to be issued in February 2022, making the farm the first agricultural farm in Kyrgyzstan to be certified on GLOBAL G.A.P. standard.

The project has supported 3 agro-processing companies with preparatory works to introduce ISO 22000 standard, one of which (Orjemil LLC, producer of dried fruits and vegetables) has received ISO 22000 certificate. Support was also provided to 1 processing company to introduce the HACCP food safety standard.

- development of training manuals for farmers and processors: various training materials have been developed for farmers and processing companies, which cover issues such as exports, pricing, organization of production process, agrotechnology of growing apples, raspberries, prunes, walnuts, and apricots.



As a result of project’s support to the dried fruits, berries, dried vegetables, and nuts value chain actors, 112 new permanent jobs (92 for women) were created.

Strengthening the adventure tourism VC.

In 2021, despite the persisting implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the country’s tourism sector, the project’s work on strengthening the VC on adventure tourism continued and included the following groups of activities:

- strengthening the capacity of actors in the tourism sector: 14 trainings on topics, such as online platforms in tourism (booking.com) and hospitality/tourism development (134 participants, out of which 99 women), and field kitchen and first medical aid (69 participants, out of which 22 women) were conducted in the target regions. In addition, a 2-day study tour to Chon-Kemin/master class on mobile shooting (how to take professional photos and videos to promote tour products) was organized for 13 tour leaders (out of which 5 women).
- promotional activities and creation of new tour products: In January 2021, with a view to promoting winter adventure tourism a familiarization tour was organized for travel bloggers/influencers from France (Reda & Neila) with a significant following on various social media platforms. Furthermore, a winter expedition and a testing of a tour product called “Wildlife photo hunting” was conducted with prominent photographers from Belgium (Beyond Borders), USA and Kyrgyzstan (OSI Kyrgyzstan). As a result of the expedition, a 12-day programme of a new tour product was developed and an agreement on sales of the new tour product through the partner travel companies of the expedition’s participants. With a view to popularizing new pilot destinations and increasing their sales, a 2-day test/fam tour was organized for 11 local tour operators around lakes in Naryn region. The following new tour products (new routes,

destinations and activities) have been developed and tested during summer 2021: active/adventure tours (horse riding tours, hiking tours, birdwatching tours); cultural tours (traditional dinners and ethno fashion shows, gastronomic tours, handicraft tours, master classes on national games, traditions and cuisine). In November 2021 the project's promotional publications on Kyrgyz Berkutchi (an eagle hunter) attracted international attention and resulted in a crew from the Netherlands coming to Kyrgyzstan to film a documentary about the national hunting Salbuurun for Netflix which will air in 2022. The project helped the filming crew to organize and facilitate the trip to Kyrgyzstan and the filming process.



During 2021, 88 new permanent jobs (51 for women), were created at supported actors and MSMEs in Adventure Tourism VC.

Related links:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/kyrgyzstanguides/permalink/1160585574365232/>

<https://www.facebook.com/355577818323684/posts/868063493741778/>

[Adventure tourism in Kyrgyzstan – through the eyes of foreigners | UNDP in Kyrgyz Republic](#)

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CKmaHYfjbV2/>

[Following a wild hunt with eagle hunters - Kyrgyzstan Tourism \(kyrgyzstan-tourism.com\)](#)

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/undp-kyrgyzstan_netflix-shot-an-episode-in-kyrgyzstan-activity-6868882664695328768-ZxkQ

[Cultural diversity of 30 countries: Netflix shoots film in Kyrgyzstan » English » www.24.kg - KYRGYZSTAN](#)

[Netflix снял фильм в Кыргызстане — о чем он. Фото - 23.11.2021, Sputnik Кыргызстан](#)

Strengthening the natural honey VC.

In 2021, the project's work on strengthening the honey VC has also reached its active phase and included the following groups of activities that were planned based on the needs' assessment conducted last year:

- strengthening the capacity of beekeepers and processing companies through theoretical and field trainings:

In total, 43 trainings were conducted during the reporting period for both new and experienced beekeepers (257 beekeepers in total, out of which 41 women). The main topics included the following categories: treatment of bees and pest control, bee products (honey, propolis, beeswax, etc.), as well as safety and quality standards for honey. Training manuals on issues that are of most interest to beekeepers have been also developed and distributed. For processing companies, 3 trainings (22 employees, out of which 13 women) and expert consultations on food safety were conducted. In October 2021, with a view to facilitate

exchange of experiences and best practices, as well as to promote a dialogue between beekeepers from different regions, the study tour was organized for beekeepers from Naryn oblast to Issyk-Kul oblast. 41 beekeepers, out of which 8 women benefited from the participation in the exercise.

- introduction of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) management system: with the view to ensuring safety and quality of honey, the project continues to support honey processing companies through provision of technical consultations on HACCP and developing action plans for introduction of HACCP in the production processes. During the reporting period, the support was provided to 3 honey processors.
- provision of beekeepers with modern means of production: In 2021, the modernization mechanism/fund has been implemented. The goal of the mechanism is to develop the capacity of local beekeeper



associations to provide technical support in relation to the modernization of its members' (beekeepers) means of production (e.g. bee houses, queen bees, honey extractors, etc.) on the basis of the members' repaying the beekeeper associations at the end of the honey harvesting season for costs incurred. During the reporting period, 35 beekeepers (both new and experienced) have received modern means of production that had been purchased based on the needs assessment conducted in 2020. The list of provided equipment includes honey-making machines, a cutting table for printing honeycombs

and an electric drive for the honey-making machine. Currently, preparations for the second round of applications are underway, which will provide more beekeepers with means of production in 2022.

- providing support with respect to target products' sales and exports: through the support of project beneficiaries' participation in international exhibitions, 4 export contracts have been concluded by 2 companies: (1) Medovaya Artel – 2 contracts to Russia for the total amount of \$182,895; (2) Amangreenfood – 1 contract to USA (for 5 years not less than 20 tons every month) and 1 to Japan (for 2021 – 200 kg for the amount of \$1,738). Accordingly, in 2021, Amangreenfood exported to Japan its first batch of 100 kg for the amount of \$878, and to USA - for the total amount of \$44,980. In addition, with the project's support, Medovaya Artel was included in the Chinese roster/register of international honey processors, which will give the Kyrgyz company the right to officially export their honey to China.

As a result of the work, the project contributed to the creation of 77 new permanent jobs for new beekeepers, including 10 for women in honey value chain.

Related link: [UNDP supports Kyrgyz beekeepers with equipment | UNDP in Kyrgyz Republic](#)

Tajikistan (Output 3: Support to an enabling environment for job rich growth in Tajikistan)

The approved budget of the output for 2021 is \$521,760. The expenditures of the output for the reporting period amounted to \$734,814.82. Over expenditure occurred due to 4 multi-year POs with 2020 budget dates, which were paid out in 2021. The project will make a downward revision of the TJK output budget for 2022 in March. The detailed breakdown of expenditures can be found in the financial report.

Output 3: Supporting an enabling environment for job-rich growth in Tajikistan		
Output indicators	Targets	Progress against targets
1.1.1 # (male/female) of civil servants of MEDT, SCISP and other state agencies with improved capacity to provide better services to the private sector	Baseline:0 Final: 210 (105) 2021 AWP target: 50 (25)	Reporting period: 0 Cumulative total: 106 (32) achieved (end of 2021)
1.1.2. # of recommendations on improving policies regulating the private sector provided to the government and integrated in policies, including those which relate to women entrepreneurship	Baseline: 0 Final: 18 2021 AWP target: 5	Reporting period: 1 Cumulative total: 49 achieved (end of 2021)
1.1.3. # of centers for the provision of state services to entrepreneurs and investors established	Baseline: 0 Final: 3 2021 AWP target: 0	Reporting period: 0 Cumulative total: 3 achieved (end of 2021)
1.1.4. # (female led) of exporters and SMEs serviced by the Centers	Baseline: 0 Final: 370 (155) 2021 AWP target: 100 (40)	Reporting period: 750 (250) Cumulative total: 1550 (650) achieved (end of 2021)
1.1.5. % of increase of export volumes of exporters serviced by the Centers	Baseline: 0 Final: 10 2021 AWP target: 10	Reporting period: 10 Cumulative total: 10 achieved (end of 2021)
1.1.6. # of the inter-ministerial WGs to improve SD centric trade and women empowering policies supported	Baseline: 2 Final: 8 2021 AWP target: 2	Reporting period: 3 Cumulative total: 11 achieved (end of 2021)
1.1.7. # of analyses for Consultative Councils' meetings on improving business climate considering gender equality supported	Baseline: 0 Final: 9 2021 AWP target: 2	Reporting period: 4 Cumulative total: 9 achieved (end of 2021)
1.1.8. # (females) of traders from bordering with KRG communities with improved knowledge on cross border trade	Baseline: 2700 Final: 650 (325) 2021 AWP target: 200 (100)	Reporting period: 210 (95) Cumulative total: 679 (287) achieved (end of 2021)
1.2.1. # of TSIs with improved and new service products	Baseline: 5 Final: 30 2021 AWP target: 0	Reporting period: 1 Cumulative total: 30 achieved (end of 2021)
1.2.2. # (female led) of SMEs benefiting from improved services	Baseline: 0 Final: 170 (70) 2021 AWP target: 50 (20)	Reporting period: 28 (1) Cumulative total: 95 (19) achieved (end of 2021)
1.2.3. # of TSIs networks established	Baseline: 1 Final: 8 2021 AWP target: 2	Reporting period: 1 Cumulative total: 8 achieved (end of 2021)
1.2.4. # of business links established between TSIs and international TSIs	Baseline: 1 Final: 6 2021 AWP target: 2	Reporting period: 2 Cumulative total: 7 achieved (end of 2021)
1.2.5. # of priorities from Export promotion and increase of competitiveness state programme (EPIC) and oblasts TDPs supported	Baseline: 0 Final: 7 2021 AWP target: 1	Reporting period: 4 Cumulative total: 11 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.1 Number of products/VCs identified that are green and employment rich	Baseline: 0 Final: 3 2021 AWP target: 0	Reporting period: 0 Cumulative total: 5 (end of 2021)
2.1.2.1. % increase in productivity of VCs members	Baseline: 0 Final: 20 2021 AWP target: 20	Reporting period: -21 Cumulative total: 21 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.2.2. % increase of market penetration of selected products	Baseline: 0 Final: 20 2021 AWP target: 20	Reporting period: 21 Cumulative total: 21 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.2.3. % of increase in income of staff target VCs	Baseline: 0 Final: 20 2021 AWP target: 20	Reporting period: 37 Cumulative total: 37 achieved (end of 2021)

2.1.2.4. # of new decent jobs created (incl. 50% for women)	Baseline: 0 Final: 300 (150) 2021 AWP target: 100	Reporting period: 148 (130) Cumulative total: 257 (204) achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.2.5. At least 40% of activity clients are female	Baseline: 0 Final: 40 2021 AWP target: 40	Reporting period: 76 Cumulative total: 76 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.3.1. Number of mentorship programmes for young female entrepreneurs established and supported	Baseline: 0 Final: 3 2021 AWP target: 1	Reporting period: 1 Cumulative total: 3 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.3.2. # of female benefitting from established programmes	Baseline: 0 Final: 380 2021 AWP target: 100	Reporting period: 588 Cumulative total: 1214 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.3.3. # of female headed SMEs supported	Baseline: 0 Final: 24 2021 AWP target: 8	Reporting period: 10 Cumulative total: 29 achieved (end of 2021)

Sub-output 1.1. Enabling policies and regulations for inclusive and trade oriented private sector development

Activity 1.1 Improved private sector related policies

At the policy level, the project continued its close collaboration with governmental entities including the State Committee on Investment and State Property Management (SCISPM), the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT), the State Export Agency, the Ministry of Justice, the State Institution “Formation and development of entrepreneurship in Tajikistan”, Administrations of Sughd and Khatlon regions and local state authorities (Khukumats) at districts level as well as with the Consultative Council on improving the business climate under President of Tajikistan.

The project supported the MEDT and inter-ministerial Working Group (WG) in 2020 with formulation of a new **State Export Development Programme for the period of 2021-2025** (EDP-2025) which was adopted by the Governmental Decree #169 on 30 April 2021. The programme aims at development of exports, strengthening export-oriented and import-substituting production, reducing the share of consumer goods and services in the total volume of imports, creating favourable conditions for the implementation of state foreign economic policy, increasing the competitiveness of domestic products in the domestic and foreign markets. The program has substantive pillar on COVID-19 pandemic response and actions required to rehabilitate economic situation in the country.

In 2021, the project supported implementation of 43 actions of EDP-2025 including trade policy review (for WTO), improvement and modernization of the www.export.tj site of the Export Agency of the Republic of Tajikistan, and e-commerce development (including legal regulatory and economic analysis). The economic and legal framework analysis of e-commerce development, containing over 20 policy recommendations will be presented to the President at the upcoming session of the Council in February 2022.

In February 2021 the launch ceremony of the Central Asia Trade Intelligence Portal (CATI) www.catiportal.org was conducted. The project partnered with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan to increase awareness on CATI as well as Tajikistan trade portal www.tajtrade.tj through the series of seminars in all regions of the country on existing legal regulatory requirements and procedures for exporters as well as existing internal procedures for entrepreneurs. This initiative helped the partners in implementation of EDP-2025 Action Matrix paragraph #106 “*Adaptation of information portals for Tajik exporters to modern conditions*”.



In 2021, the project continued supporting the improvement of the business climate working with the Government on supporting the State Institution “Formation and Development Entrepreneurship” (SI “FDE”) and its five regional Centers for Servicing Entrepreneurs and Investors. In particular, in the beginning of 2021 the project supported the SI FDE’s initiative in capacity building of 300 SMEs throughout the country and developing the web based automated reporting and monitoring system (CRM).

This support covered existing gaps in proper analysis and data management in the SI FDE. CRM Database

will help SI FDE properly assess demands and needs of the entrepreneurs and youth and coordinate investments coming to the SI FDE from the development partners.

During 2021 the SI FDE undertook the needs assessment among 3,000 entrepreneurs to identify demand for trainings needed to adapt to post-COVID-19 environment and improve skills. In 2021, with support of the project the SI FDE conducted over 30 trainings in all regions of the country for over 700 (288 women) entrepreneurs on various business development topics including legal aspects of doing business, marketing, financial risks, budgeting and financial analysis and business planning. The project ensured wide media coverage of this sub-project via more than 60 posts, which have been viewed by more than 80,000 viewers¹⁷.



In order to contribute towards creating an enabling environment for inclusive and trade oriented private sector development, the project continued to support the Ministry of Justice and has initiated the formulation of additional 4 bylaws stipulated under article #7 of the Law on State Services:

- Methodology for determining the costs of provision of state/public services.
- The rules of formation, terms of submission and a standard form of the report on the activities of central and local executive bodies of state power, self-government bodies of the village on the provision of state/public services.
- Rules for control over the quantity and quality of the provision of state/public services.
- Methodology for assessing the quality of the provision of state/public services.

¹⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/bizincubator.gov.tj/photos/a.2034693050167029/2623769487926046/>
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CSOOFwxDZgv/>
<https://www.facebook.com/bizincubator.gov.tj/photos/a.2034693050167029/2628370490799279/>
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CSWm7OSi0Jc/>
<https://www.facebook.com/bizincubator.gov.tj/photos/a.2034693050167029/2662378210731840/>
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CUUTT2Vs8-4/>
<https://www.facebook.com/bizincubator.gov.tj/photos/a.2034693050167029/2664532373849757/>
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CUU996CMZyp/>

In October 2021, the project supported the government with organizing the conference on ‘Modernization of public services to entrepreneurs and investors’, devoted to Entrepreneurs Day, which brought together over 200 entrepreneurs and investors to discuss the country’s business climate reform agenda, current barriers/challenges to entrepreneurial activity and private sector development, and potential measures which could contribute to business-led growth in the country.

In 2021 the project continued collaboration with the Consultative Council on Improvement of Investment Climate under the President of Tajikistan (CCIIC) and supported CCIIC in conducting the 3rd Intersession meeting, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister of Tajikistan to discuss implementation of measures to improve business and investment climate of the country.

In 2021 project continued to support **cross-border (shuttle) traders** who were affected by the pandemic, as well as escalation of tensions between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and borders closure.

The focus groups meetings were held in all bordering areas of Tajikistan and the needs of shuttle traders were identified. Based on findings of the assessment, the entrepreneurs revealed the need for support in business planning (considering the new situation and needs for changing business spheres) and marketing. Also, the entrepreneurs requested support in building technical capacities by provision of equipment and tools for starting new businesses. The project organized the series of capacity-building trainings for 210 (45% women) cross-border traders and entrepreneurs. Upon completion of the trainings, 53 business plans were developed by the participants on business and productive capacities development. The appraisal commission established to assess the business plans selected 10 business plans to be provided further support with implementation in 2022.

In 2021, UNDP continued to chair the Development Coordination Council Working Group on Regional Trade Facilitation (DCC RTF), which organized 2 working group meetings, where development partners discussed potential synergies and collaboration on provision of support to the government counterparts on issues of e-commerce development and trade digitalization.

Sub-output 1.2. Trade support institutions that provide efficient services to the private sector.

Activity 1.2. Improved access of private sector to efficient services

The work with **trade support institutions (TSIs)** continued to support engagement of TSIs in export strategies and marketing development and usage of the modern online platforms for assessing the foreign markets. In 2021, the project supported the establishment of the first non-state mobile laboratory for testing the quality of food products.

In April 2021, the laboratory was fully equipped for express testing and analyses of agricultural products for chemical, microbiological analyses, determination of moisture content and presence of dry substances, antibiotics, diastases and other analyses in honey, peanuts, apricots kernel oil, dry fruits and nuts as well as in mung beans, and other analysis, including the analyses on contamination - air pollution and radiation background of production facilities and others.



The new lab facility helps producers and exporters to assess safety and quality of products from initial stage of production till final products and reduce risks associated with returning products from exporting markets and avoid associated losses. The laboratory equipment is fully aligned to international standards and TSI (PO “MIS”) the owner of the lab, has started with provision of new services as of July 20221.

The lab conducts different types of analyses such as thermogravimetric, organoleptic, colorimetric, iodometry, spectrophotometric, refractometric and others, and during the reporting period has carried out more than 360 tests of the products (peanuts with shell and without shell, apricot kernels, dried apricots, honey), and based on the results of testing record sheets (testing certificates) the recommendations on how to improve the quality of the products were provided to the agri-producers (farmers and SMEs). The TSI (PO “MIS”) has started to work in obtaining the accreditation of the laboratory according to the ISO 17025 standard¹⁸, which will enable the laboratory to demonstrate that it operates competently and generates valid results, thereby promoting confidence in their work both nationally and internationally.

Based on the results of assessment done in terms of services provided by TSIs during 2021, 28 MSMEs (1 woman-led) were serviced by TSIs on: introduction of quality standards on ISO 22000, conducting lab analysis of the product’s quality, consultancy on labeling and certification of conformity, development of product specifications, provision of data and information on market prices of agricultural products, and etc.

In 2021, the project continued its work in supporting elaboration and promotion of UNECE quality standards, which will help Tajik producers and exporters to improve the processes of contracting with potential buyers and increase export volumes. The project supported the National Technical Group of Tajikistan on Quality Standards (Substructure of Central Asian WG) in elaboration of new UNECE quality standards for 3 target products (peanuts, apricot kernels, and dried persimmons). The newly elaborated commercial standards for peanuts, apricots kernel and dried persimmons have been presented at the [UNECE Sixty-eighth session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce \(GE.2\)](#) meeting conducted on 16 -18 June 2021. Overall, in 2021 TSIs supported by the project, developed and submitted to UNECE the following drafts of new UNECE quality standards for:

¹⁸ ISO/IEC 17025 “General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories” is the main ISO standard used by testing and calibration laboratories. In most countries, ISO/IEC 17025 is the standard for which most labs must hold accreditation in order to be deemed technically competent. This accreditation is intended for all organizations performing tests and/or calibration, including first-, second- and third-party laboratories and laboratories where testing and/or calibration forms part of inspection and product certification.

- shelled peanuts - adopted in November 2021 for a test period until November 2022
- peanuts in shells - accepted in November 2021 for a test period until November 2022
- apricot kernels - finally adopted in Geneva in November 2021
- dried persimmon - adopted in November 2021 for a test period until November 2022

In terms of establishing the networks between TSIs in the CA region, the activities planned for 2021, such as the study tours and exchange visits between counterparts were postponed and will be organized in 2022 considering the situation related with COVID-19 in the CA region. The TSIs are planning to visit Uzbekistan and conclude several MoUs to set the cooperation.

Since one of the project's main targets is creation of new decent jobs, the project focuses not only on improving the product's quality and food safety according to the international standards, but also on improving the working conditions (such as noise, lighting, air pollution of the production facilities etc.) of MSMEs employees, where women are mainly employed. In addition to the high quality of raw materials and the availability of modern equipment, the proper working conditions also directly affect the final quality of products.

Sub-output 2. More efficient and competitive producers and processors contributing to sustainable human development

Activity 2.1.2. Higher productivity and export readiness of target products/VCs through the use of innovative technologies

The project continued to provide support to the target Value Chains:

- 106 farmers (92 women), dealing with mung beans cultivation were trained on preparation of land (soil) and selection of mung beans seeds for sowing, which have been conducted in Hamadoni and Shahritus districts of Khatlon region.
- 80 farmers (52 women), dealing with apricot cultivation were trained on seasonal agricultural activities in apricot orchards, soil analysis, methodologies to combat pests and diseases in Isfara district, Sughd.
- 27 farmers (25 women) dealing with peanut cultivation trained on proper using of peanuts harvesting equipment which was provided by UNDP; and 30 farmers (15 women) dealing with peanuts cultivation in the Sughd region trained on advanced agricultural practices for growing peanuts.
- 90 beekeepers (43 women) of DRS were trained on treatment of bees and pest control, as well as safety and quality standards for honey.
- 189 employees (132 women) of 5 SME agro-processing companies (target VC actors) were trained on hygiene and sanitation requirements at production facilities, as well as requirements pertaining to documentation and record keeping for traceability of production; also 14 employees (1 women) of 6 SME agro-processing companies trained on advanced accounting (1C:Enterprise accounting software).



In 2021 based on identified needs of VCs in terms of increasing the productivity via establishing the new processing lines, the project procured and delivered the necessary technological and agricultural equipment and tools to the target VCs' SMEs and DFs for production and cultivation of the next products:

- LLC IsfaraFood (Isfara, Sughd) – equipment for production of apricot kernel oil;
 - LLC Mevai Tilloi (Isfara, Sughd) – equipment for production of snacks from dried fruits and nuts;
 - LLC Subhi Vatan (Isfara, Sughd) – equipment for production of peanut butter;
 - LLC Visol Isfara (Isfara, Sughd) – equipment for processing and packaging of mungbeans and other kind of beans;
 - Farmers dealing with apricot cultivation in Isfara (Sughd) – the agri-tools for collection of apricot harvest;
 - ADF “Ziroatparvaroni Hoji Amirov” (Mastchoh, Sughd) – equipment for peanuts harvesting and packaging.
 - Beekeepers of 4 districts of Rasht valley – beekeepers’ equipment and tools for honey production; equipment for honey processing and bottling, equipment for production of beeswax foundation, beekeepers’ inventory and tools;
- Target farmers of Khatlon region (Hamadoni and Sharitus districts) – equipment for cleaning mungbeans from shell and jute bags for packaging.

In 2021 the targeted MSMEs have started producing the new products including apricot kernel oil, snacks from dried fruits/nuts, peanut butter and 65 (47 women) new permanent jobs have been created.

During the year the project supported 3 SMEs, producing peanut butter, apricot kernel oil and dried fruits/nuts snacks with advisory/consulting services of the international food technologist on bringing production lines/processes in compliance with international food safety standards’ requirements.

The project has also supported 6 target MSMEs and Association of Dekhkan Farms, engaged in production of 5 target products in introduction and certification for international food safety standards (HACCP, ISO 22000, FSSC 22000).

During the reporting period, the following actions implemented at target MSMEs and DFs:

- The international food safety standards introduced at all targeted 5 MSMEs and 1 ADF, and 189 (70% women) employees of the targeted MSMEs and ADF trained on the requirements for sanitation and hygiene in food production facilities, basics of Requirements of Prerequisite Programs (PRPs), record keeping, Good Agricultural Practice and maintaining records in field journals, and audit forms, etc.
- The consultations on installation of new equipment provided by UNDP as per standard ISO/TS 22002-1:2009 requirements. All target SMEs made appropriate construction works and changes in the premises



Testing batch of the apricot kernel oil production at LLC IsfaraFood

and in total, the targeted companies invested to preparation of production facilities more than 582,000 TJS¹⁹ (around \$51,870).

- Elaboration of a documentation system. For SMEs the identification marks have been developed and introduced at all enterprises, and 20 registration books/logs, such as log of receipt of raw materials, log of control of open parts of the body, corrective action log, equipment maintenance log, production process control log, personnel training log and others have been developed, printed and provided to MSMEs.
- Elaboration of Technical Specifications (TS) on production processes of new products. All 5 target MSMEs and 1 ADF were supported with elaboration of technical specifications for the new products, and consequently registered in the Tajikstandart Agency's roster.
- Certification process:
 - a. International certification:
 - The external audit of ADF "Ziroatparvaroni Khohja Amirov" on Global GAP certification was conducted in November 2021 by the "DQS International" certification body (Poland) and it is expected that certificate will be obtained in the beginning of 2022.
 - Conduction of external audit of LLC IsfaraFood and LLC Mevai Tilloi on FSSC 22000 will be conducted in 2022 by the "TUV Thuringen" (Austria) certification body. Both SMEs will cover the conduction of the external certification process by their own expenses (not by project). It is expected that the targeted SMEs will receive international certificates by mid of 2022.
 - b. National certification: 3 companies were certified and got the National certificates from TajikStandard certification body on ISO 22000 (LLC Subhi Vatan and LLC Visol Isfara), and HACCP (beekeepers of Rasht (Association of honey producers of Rasht district "Khalkarf").

During 19-20 October 2021 with the purpose of promoting exports from the Sughd region as well as the target products of supported value chains, the project supported CCI of Sughd region with organizing the VII International Trade Fair 'Expo Sughd-2021' and the International Forum 'Trade and Investment opportunities of the region' in Khujand, Sugd region, which was attended by over 200 participants including business representatives from Russia and Uzbekistan²⁰. All project target SMEs exhibited their products at the fair and signed export contracts with partners from Russia and Uzbekistan (volumes will be monitored during 2022).

Regarding project activities, the supported target SMEs and ADF during 2021 have achieved the following results in comparison with 2020:

- Volume of production (in tons) decreased in average by 21% (due to decrease of production of dried fruits due to spring frost which had devastating effect on apricot harvest throughout the country);
- Volume of export (in USD) increased in average by 21%;
- Average wage of employees (in TJS) increased in average by 37%;
- Employment at the targeted MSMEs has been increased in average by 8%;
- 148 new decent jobs created at supported targeted MSMEs and ADF, out of which 130 (or 88%) for women.

¹⁹ Interim programme report on conducted activities under the sub-project "Provision consulting services to targeted VCs' stakeholders on introduction of international food safety standards", PO MIS

²⁰ https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=4807383432607926&id=100000089509173
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=345739193976167&id=100056202679946

Uzbekistan (Output 4: Support to an enabling environment for job rich growth in Uzbekistan)

The funding for Uzbekistan component (2021 – 2023) was received in June 2021. Following the approval of the multi-annual work plan for 2021-2023 in June 2021 and consultations with national partners (held during August 2021) on specific activities to be implemented in the 4th quarter of 2021 the project initiated the implementation of the country level activities as of September 2021.

The approved budget of the output for 2021 (July-December) is \$180,663 (as per December 2021 budget revision). The expenditures of the output for the reporting period amounted to \$160,173.40 (88,66% of the 2021 budget). The detailed breakdown can be found in the financial report.

Output 4: Supporting an enabling environment for job-rich growth in Uzbekistan		
Output indicators	Targets	Progress against targets²¹
1.1.1. # of recommendations on improving policies regulating the private sector provided to the government and integrated in policies, % recommendations include gender lens	Baseline:0 Final: 60 2021 AWP target: 30	Reporting period: 0 Cumulative total: 0 achieved (end of 2021)
1.1.2. # of priority actions supported of the Strategy Actions on Further Development of Uzbekistan for 2017-2020, aimed at liberalization of private sector and trade development	Baseline: 0 Final: 6 2021 AWP target: 4	Reporting period: 1 Cumulative total: 1 achieved (end of 2021)
1.1.3. # of business services optimized in government agencies involved in exports	Baseline: 0 Final: 5 2021 AWP target: 3	Reporting period: 0 Cumulative total: 0 achieved (end of 2021)
1.1.4. # of roadmaps for improving selected value chains in agriculture	Baseline: 0 Final: 6 2021 AWP target: 3	Reporting period: 0 Cumulative total: 0 achieved (end of 2021)
1.2.1 # of new clients identified and served through integrated cooperation among SME export promotion institutions	Baseline: 0 Final: 30 2021 AWP target: 20	Reporting period: 55 Cumulative total: 55 achieved (end of 2021)
1.2.2 # of linkages established between TSIs and international partners	Baseline: 0 Final: 40 2021 AWP target: 20	Reporting period: 3 Cumulative total: 3 achieved (end of 2021)
1.2.3. # of advisory services of TSIs strengthened	Baseline: 0 Final: 22 2021 AWP target: 12	Reporting period: 1 Cumulative total: 1 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.1.1 Number of products/VCs identified that are green and employment rich	Baseline: 0 Final: 4 2021 AWP target: 3	Reporting period: 1 Cumulative total: 1 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.1.2 Number of project/VCs that are green and employment rich are supported	Baseline: 0 Final: 4 2021 AWP target: 3	Reporting period: 0 Cumulative total: 0 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.2.1# of knowledge sharing events on international practices and certification (Global GAP, GHP, HACCP) at selected areas	Baseline: 0 Final: 7 2021 AWP target: 4	Reporting period: 2 Cumulative total: 2 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.2.2. % increase in productivity, where productivity baselines will be defined during the assessment	Baseline: 0 Final: 15	Reporting period: 0 Cumulative total: 0 achieved (end of 2021)

²¹ Achievement of 2021 targets are lower than expected due to funding availability as of 01 July 2021 and start of actual implementation as of September 2021 after July-August consultations with national partners on specific activities to be implemented in 2021.

	2021 AWP target: 15	2021)
2.1.2.3. % increase of market penetration (sales) of selected products / clients	Baseline: 0 Final: 15 2021 AWP target: 15	Reporting period: 0 Cumulative total: 0 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.2.4. % increase in income of target communities	Baseline: 0 Final: 20 2021 AWP target: 5	Reporting period: 0 Cumulative total: 0 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.2.5. # of new decent jobs created	Baseline: 0 Final: 150 (75) 2021 AWP target: 50 (25)	Reporting period: 0 Cumulative total: 0 achieved (end of 2021)
2.1.3.1. Number of mentorship programmes for young and female entrepreneurs established and supported	Baseline: 0 Final: 3 2021 AWP target: 1	Reporting period: 0 Cumulative total: 0 (end of 2021)
2.1.3.2. # of young / female headed SMEs supported	Baseline: 0 Final: 80 2021 AWP target: 40	Reporting period: 25 Cumulative total: 25 achieved (end of 2021)

Sub-output 1.1. Enabling policies and regulations for inclusive and trade oriented private sector development

Activity 1.1. Improved private sector related policies

The project worked to strengthen knowledge and capacities of government officials and policy makers to quality policy formulation, and the strengthening of national quality infrastructure institutions. The project organized the study tour for government officials from MIFT and the Agency on Technical Regulation to European Union (Germany, Netherlands and Latvia) during 4-8 October 2021, with the purpose to learn European reforms in development of national quality infrastructure and fostering the use of international standards and conformity assessment procedures by the private sector to add value to their products and increase competitiveness.



Activity 1.2. Access of private sector to efficient services supported through:

The project supported the Export Promotion Agency and SMEs in organizing two B2B missions to Tajikistan (on 22-25 September 2021, for 40 SMEs) and Azerbaijan (for 20 SMEs) aimed to promote exports and establish linkages and cooperation ties between trade support institutions and exporters of the countries.

As a result of meetings and negotiations, facilitated by the Export Promotion Agency of Uzbekistan and CCIs of Tajikistan and Azerbaijan, export contracts were signed for over \$22 million.



During 6-10 December 2021 the project jointly with the Export Promotion Agency organized business trip for SME exporters to EU countries on export promotion of beans and legumes. In the framework of the trip: 1) meetings and negotiations were conducted with European wholesale companies on promotion of beans and pulses from Uzbekistan (mainly sprouted mung bean); 2) requirements and technical barriers were identified in export of sprouted mung bean to European market; and 3) meeting with the European Sprouted Seeds Association's Secretariat was held to discuss export opportunities and market penetration.



The project also facilitated access of the Export Promotion Agency to trade intelligence information to enhance the agencies capacities to foresight markets and navigate for better market access.

Sub-output 2. More efficient and competitive producers and processors contributing to sustainable human development

Activity 2.1.2. Higher productivity and export readiness of target products/VCS through the use of innovative technologies

Practical support was provided for preparation and certification on "GlobalG.A.P." international standard of two export-oriented agricultural firms in Fergana region – “Qo'shtepa Bog'i Boston LLC” (produce of grapes, melons, nectarine, peaches, plums and watermelons) and “Vodil Agro Biznes” Farm (produce of apricots, raspberries). During 2022, based on monitoring activities, the project will assess the impact of the support provided on exports volumes and productivity increase of the target products.

Activity 2.1.3 Support for women entrepreneurs established through

The project supported the Businesswomen Association of Uzbekistan and 23 women entrepreneurs with showcasing their products at the international exhibition - Middle East Organic and Natural Products Expo

Dubai 2021, that was held in the United Arab Emirates during 6-8 December 2021. The exhibition was attended by over 6,000 visitors, 250 companies from 48 countries, as well as 14,000 niche buyers. During the exhibition, women entrepreneurs signed export contracts for over \$3 million.



5. Partnerships and Sustainability

Partnerships.

The project continuously explores and engages development partners as well as local stakeholders to project activities. All activities of the project on the national level are implemented in coordination with the national implementing partners of the project in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The project has established partnership with ITC to foster access of Trade Support Institutions and SMEs of the region to cutting-edge trade and market intelligence, and enhance their capacities to use available big data to foresight markets and value chain developments, which are essential to capture new opportunities and guide product diversification beyond traditional export baskets

The long-standing partnership established with UNECE, GIZ and Hilfswerk International continued to support regional cooperation initiatives, including the Central Asian Working Group on Export Promotion of Agricultural Produce (CAWG), where Central Asian public and private experts, supported by UNDP and other development partners, worked on quality standards, strategies and networking which supported better cross-border networks in the entire Central Asian region.

The project has established cooperation/partnerships with the lead women business/entrepreneurs' associations of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on activities related to supporting women entrepreneurship as well as establishment and implementation of mentorship programmes for women entrepreneurs.

Sustainability and scaling up results.

Like many development partners, UNDP has found that innovative free-standing development projects alone are not an effective vehicle for eradicating poverty at scale: they must be part of a longer-term process that can sustain learning and scaling up. Confronted with the large-scale problem of reducing rural poverty that it is mandated to address, and with the limited resources available from official development assistance (ODA), UNDP is compelled to increase the impact of investments in agriculture, trade and countries' development.

For this reason, scaling up the results of successful development initiatives is an overarching priority that directly supports the achievement of project.

To deliver on this priority, the project must be geared towards supporting all concerned actors and institutions – including rural women and men and their organizations to achieve impact at scale. This requires a shift from a project-centric approach to one that spurs change in the institutional, policy and economic environment. That is, the objective of UNDP and its projects' interventions is not only to enable project clients to work their way out of poverty in the limited time and space of a given project, but to use the positive results to inspire others and leverage policies, knowledge, social and political capital, and financial resources to bring those results to a larger scale in a sustainable manner in partnership with private, public and other development actors.

The principles of scaling up and sustainability are closely linked and feed into each other. The project continuously conducts assessments of key areas and institutional actors that will give a local initiative continuity in the absence of donor funding.

Key achievements made by output in Tajikistan:

- Establishing local ownership on the macro level. The project has established several platforms (e.g. inter-ministerial WGs) which address problems existing in the country and resolve them in a constant and independent manner. Several national level policy documents were produced and adopted by governments, which now play a role in creating enabling environment for the private sector development (State Programme on Export development for period 2021-2025, Law on state services, etc)
- Establishment of the countries' state institutions for dealing with the countries' priorities. The project facilitated creation and establishment of several state institutions such as the 'Agency on Export' under Government of Tajikistan (AE) (dealing with all aspects of export promotion and provision of services to private sector) and State institution on Formation and Development Entrepreneurship of Tajikistan (SI FDE) (dealing with provision of services to and capacity building of youth, women and private sector representatives). Both established entities are fully operational (are fully funded by governmental budget) and programmatically sustainable.
- Establishment of local ownership on meso level.
 - The project facilitated establishment of several platforms devoted to promotion of women entrepreneurship (Mentorship programme, Women platforms, Gender Tasks Force Group etc.), provision of consulting services to private sector (TSIs platform - www.consulting.tj, Quality Management Center for provision consulting services on products quality standards and mobile laboratory for testing of products) and development of startups environment.
 - The project supported several sector business associations by provision of grants and engaged them into implementation of activities devoted to VCs development. By implementation of these actions, the Business associations learned the international best practices on how-to manage grants, how-to assess the needs of VCs' actors, monitor the actions and evaluate the results.
- The project has ensured scalability of its results. e.g. the project has supported establishment of 3 Centers for servicing entrepreneurs when other development partners provided their support towards establishment of other 2 centers in Tajikistan. The total funds contributed by development partners as JICA, WB, GIZ and OSCE amounted to \$500,000.

- Best practices of AFT are replicated by other UNDP projects as well as other development partners, such as USAID and GIZ.

Key achievements of the output in Kyrgyzstan with good sustainability and scalability prospects (because they each entail a revolving mechanism) are the following:

- A mechanism that has been implemented in the honey value chain, the goal of which is to develop the capacity of local beekeeper associations to provide technical support in relation to the modernization of its members' (beekeepers) means of production (e.g. bee houses, queen bees, honey extractors, etc.) on the basis of the members' repaying the beekeeper associations at the end of the honey harvesting season for costs incurred.
- A grant provided to a public fund for the implementation of a mechanism that seeks to finance women entrepreneurs in a manner which is innovative and inclusive. The mechanism entails the provision of loans to women entrepreneurs without requiring collateral is also likely to be sustainable as it ensures that the returned funds are again distributed by the public fund to new cohorts of women entrepreneurs in future.

During the first half of 2021, the project was also able to ensure the future scalability of one of its initiatives – the Mentorship Programme for Women Entrepreneurs. Inspired by the initiative, the current implementer of the programme – the Business association JIA (association of young entrepreneurs) – is planning to implement a similar programme within the association on an ongoing basis with a focus on supporting women and young entrepreneurs.

Key achievements of the output in Uzbekistan with good sustainability and scalability prospects are the followings:

- The first B2B missions of exporters to Tajikistan and Azerbaijan, organized jointly with the Export Promotion Agency in 2021, proved to be effective due to conducted preparations works and preliminary negotiations with prospective buyers and focused elaboration of list of participants, taking into account potential of the markets. As a result, in 2022 the Agency plans to conduct a number of B2B missions, for instance to the UAE, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey;
- In Uzbekistan, there is a stable growth in mung bean production, which requires identification of the new sale markets as well as new segments for promotion of exports. In this regard, the business trip to the EU countries, held in December 2021, contributed to establishing new contacts and the identification of a new segment - market of sprouted mung beans. In 2022, the Export Promotion Agency and the Agency of Technical Regulation plan to further promote the export of sprouted mung beans to the EU market.

6. Cross-cutting objectives

Gender mainstreaming:

Gender equality is a key programming principle in all project activities. The project implements activities that explicitly support women's entrepreneurship. The specific gender lens enables the project to ensure that specific gender concerns are integrated into policy making and policy implementation e.g. gender-sensitive

analysis of development issues and proposed policy solution. At the micro level, the project ensures women are represented in the activities that aim to enhance the productive and export capacities of small businesses.

In 2021 in Kyrgyzstan, the project continued implementation of its Entrepreneur Mentorship programme for women and youth, and the Programme on improving access of women-led SMEs to affordable innovative and inclusive financing. In Tajikistan, the project continued to implement its programme in support of women entrepreneurs that includes capacity development, network, coordination and investment components. In Uzbekistan, the project will implement the dedicated programme in support of women entrepreneurs and will work on establishment of a mixed financing fund to support development of women entrepreneurship in 2022. These interventions form part of a targeted approach to work on gender equality issues under phase IV.

In Kyrgyzstan the project continued to support women/youth entrepreneurs through the following initiatives:

1. Mentorship Programme for Women Entrepreneurs.

In 2021 the project completed the one-year Mentorship Programme for Women Entrepreneurs. 89 mentees (aspiring or new women entrepreneurs) and 30 mentors (experienced entrepreneurs) successfully participated in this edition of the Mentorship programme. Key activities and achievements for the reporting period include the following:

- Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted for the mentors where they learned about the concept of mentorship, their roles and responsibilities, the objectives of the programme, how to be effective mentors, etc.
- In addition to the mentorship support provided by mentors, various online trainings were organized for mentees to expand their business skills and knowledge. The topics included business planning, marketing and sales (SMM), crisis management and how to find additional sources of financing (grants, loans, state support programs, etc.).
- 4 online (motivational) sessions that featured prominent and successful women entrepreneurs (role models) were organized for mentees.
- A short-term online “first aid” services have been launched for women entrepreneurs to cope with challenges that have been induced by the COVID-19 pandemic. The service entails provision by experts of online consultations through a dedicated Telegram channel to women entrepreneurs on legal issues, finance, and psychological support.
- The most frequently asked questions then were turned into a Telegram chat bot that is currently being finalized and will be permanently available for free.

As a result of the work with mentors, the following results were achieved: 5 mentees opened new businesses; 6 mentees expanded/improved their business (offer new services, attracted more clients, expanded production, obtained business's licenses, got their businesses registered as legal entities or obtained quality certificates); 5 mentees who opened new businesses created 66 jobs.

2. Programme on improving access of women-led SMEs to affordable innovative and inclusive financing.

During the reporting period, the programme provided affordable finance for the total amount of \$120,000 to 14 women entrepreneurs in rural areas who used it to expand their businesses. In addition, continued business

mentoring and advisory support is provided to the recipients of the financing to ensure effective use of funds and sustainability of their business models. The initiative contributed to the creation of 105 permanent jobs, out of which 78 are for women.

Related link: [Support for women - entrepreneurs within the Aid for Trade project - YouTube](#)

3. *Provision of services on capacity-building and grant support for women entrepreneurs.*

In June 2021, the project launched the additional support programme for women entrepreneurs working in the target value chains (dried fruits/nuts, honey and adventure tourism) with the view to further enhancing their production/business/export capacity through provision of tailored training and grant support in the form of means of production. Based on the needs assessment of selected beneficiaries, 18 projects have been supported in terms of means of production and equipment for the total amount of \$50,000. It included: in tourism - yurts, solar panels for yurts, horse riding equipment and furniture and lavatories for yurt camps; in dried fruits and nuts – electric cookers, compressors, equipment for workshops (washers, shelves, etc.), molding and cutting machine for dried fruit bars, cultivators for farmer groups; in honey – beehives, dispenser pumps for honey, etc. The grant support was accompanied by advisory support of the grant recipients with respect to promotional and marketing activities, diversifying their products, sales and exports, production methods and quality of products.

4. *Women Entrepreneurship Day (WED) 2021.*

The WED 2021 Forum in Kyrgyzstan took place on November 19, 2021 under the theme “Brave and creative: the 30-year path of Kyrgyz women to success”²². The high-level event – where the project was one of the main partners – gathered 450 participants and provided women entrepreneurs, including from rural areas, with a platform to network, exchange experiences, discuss common challenges and celebrate achievements. During the event, a deputy minister of economy and commerce announced the adoption of the first National Programme for Support and Development of Women's Entrepreneurship in Kyrgyzstan for 2022-2026.



²² [Women's Entrepreneurship Day was celebrated in Kyrgyzstan with the adoption of a state programme to support women in business | UNDP in Kyrgyz Republic](#)

[Глава Минэкономкоммерции поздравил женщин-предпринимательниц со Всемирным днем Женского предпринимательства \(mineconom.gov.kg\)](#)

[В помощь создающим и смелым: как власти поддержали развитие женского дела в Кыргызстане - KP.Kg](#)
[Women Entrepreneurship Day 2021 | Flickr](#)

In Tajikistan, the project has continued the dedicated programme in support of women entrepreneurs that includes capacity development, network, coordination, and investment components.

1. Mentorship Programme for Women Entrepreneurs.

In 2021 the project completed the 1st stage of the Mentorship programme²³ and achieved the following results:

- 10 best business plans out of 38 prepared business plans have been selected by Evaluation Committee and recommended for further support.
- 10 selected women have been supported by the project by provision of the necessary agricultural and processing technical equipment and tools for running their businesses.
- At the women-led businesses supported by equipment and tools, 41 new permanent jobs were created. The supported women-led businesses specialize in honey production, mungbeans cultivation, dried fruits processing and production of apricot kernels, sewing and production of bags for dried fruits processing companies, construction of fruits dryer and making snacks (sweet and salty) from peanuts.
- 3 round tables/awareness raising events devoted to the sharing of information on results achieved within the 1st stage of the Mentorship programme, positive impacts on women activities, as well as discussions of lessons learnt were conducted in Sughd, Khatlon and DRS, with participation of 109 people (87 women) representing different NGOs/POs/BAs working in the area of women entrepreneurship development.

Based on the lessons learnt of the 1st stage of the Mentorship programme and recommendations provided by women NGOs during the women platform meeting held in April 2021, the project has initiated the 2nd stage of the Mentorship programme²⁴. By the end of 2021 the following activities were implemented:

- The existing Mentorship program guidance updated and prepared in Tajik and Russian;
- 3 orientation / information workshops to promote strong and positive role models of women entrepreneurs conducted based on updated Mentorship guidance - in Tajikabad (DRS), in Bokhtar (Khatlon) and in Khujand (Sughd), with participation of 92 people (79 or 86% women).
- The 3-days ToT conducted in Dushanbe in October 2021, for 30 (22 women) selected mentors.
- The application form for participation at the second stage of the mentorship programme have been updated and disseminated through social networks (FB, Twitter), and networks of other partner

²³ <https://asiaplustj.info/ru/news/tajikistan/society/20210301/kak-selskie-zhentshini-priobretayut-naviki-predprinimatelskoi-deyatelnosti>

<https://twitter.com/MIRTAjikistan/status/1366614803100426241>

²⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/MIRTAJIKISTAN/posts/4411508955575601>

1 stage of trainings for mentees:

<https://www.facebook.com/MIRTAJIKISTAN/posts/4562095223850306>

<https://www.facebook.com/MIRTAJIKISTAN/posts/4581131015280060>

TOT for mentors:

<https://www.facebook.com/MIRTAJIKISTAN/posts/4631387100254451>

<https://www.facebook.com/MIRTAJIKISTAN/posts/4647409561985538>

2 stage of 2-days trainings for mentees:

<https://www.facebook.com/MIRTAJIKISTAN/posts/4676812355711925>

<https://www.facebook.com/MIRTAJIKISTAN/posts/4654336064626221>

organizations etc. In total 198 applications were received from potential mentees, out of which 110 mentees in targeted regions identified and mobilized (Sughd – 25, DRS -30, and Khatlon – 55).

- 110 selected mentees participated at the first stage of trainings on financial literacy and learning the basics of the business planning, motivation and inspiration for organizing business activities with successful examples of women who have achieved success. Based on the results of the 1st stage of training 71 mentees (16 DRS, 37 Khatlon, 18 Sughd) have been selected for the 2nd stage of 2-days trainings.
- In total, 43 pairs “mentor – mentee” in targeted regions established (10 in Sughd, 10 in DRS, and 23 in Khatlon), and 43 business plans (10 in Sughd, 10 in DRS, and 23 in Khatlon) developed by pairs “mentor – mentees” and submitted to Evaluation Committee for further consideration. It is expected that in January 2022 the business ideas will be presented by mentees and the ECs in all regions will select and recommend at least 17 best business plans/ideas for further UNDP support.
- The implementation of the 2nd stage of mentorship programme continued and will be completed by the end of February 2022.
- In 2022 the project will support 17 best business plans by provision of necessary equipment and tools in order to help these women and girls from the remote rural areas to establish the women headed businesses.

2. *‘Women Platform’ meeting and Women Business Forum*

On 22 April 2022 the project supported the organization of the **Women platform** meeting, which is helping stakeholders to identify barriers to women entrepreneurship development and find the solutions. Representatives of 28 organizations working in the area of women’s entrepreneurship development (state agencies – SCISP/GTFG, CC on improving the Investment climate under the President of RT, 4 INGOs, 22 local NGOs) attended the meeting. During the meeting, many topics, including the current situation in the development of women's entrepreneurship in the country, cooperation and planning of the joint actions, women needs in connection with the negative impact due to COVID-19 pandemic, were discussed. During the meeting the secretary of the GTFG presented the **state Action plan to enhance support for business development among youth, women and people with disabilities for 2021-2023**, approved by the Head of the WG on the development of women's entrepreneurship (GTFG), the Deputy Chairman of the SCISP of RT. The project presented the results of the 1st stage of Mentorship programme and as it was noted by participants, this activity is timely and necessary initiative and there is a need to continue with support of women, especially in remote rural areas.

The project also supported organizing the Women Business Forum “Modern tools for women entrepreneurship development” devoted to the International Women Entrepreneurs Day, conducted in Dushanbe on 19 November 2021. The event was organized by the State Committee on Investment and State Property of RT jointly with development partners – UNDP, OSCE, EBRD and others. During the Forum the project partners also presented information and results achieved under the implemented Mentorship Programme.

In total, during the year, 718 women entrepreneurs/producers/farmers were involved in all project activities (capacity building trainings, provision of individual consultancy services, provision of technical assistance, mentorship programme etc) and in overall 77% of the project clients were women:

- 130 new jobs were created for women or 88% from total amount of jobs (148) created by the project in 2021 and employment in supported MSMEs working at target VCs increased in comparison with 2020 in average by 8% and among women staff in average by 13%
- 322 women (67% from total VC clients) improved their capacities on production of target products
- 256 women benefitted from Mentorship programme
- 10 women-led businesses were supported through provision of processing and agricultural equipment and tools under the Mentorship programme

In Uzbekistan, the project has planned implementation of the dedicated programme in support of women entrepreneurs in three regions of Fergana Valley in 2022. In 2022, the project also plans to support women economic empowerment through establishment of a mixed financing fund to support development of women entrepreneurship.

Environment

The Aid for Trade project can have an impact in pushing forward environmental objectives and transformational interventions to adapt and mitigate climate change (SDG 11, 12, 13) or fight the loss of biodiversity (SDGs 1.5, 8.4, 15). In its efforts to fulfill these endeavors, the project continues to support only green value chains - adventure tourism, natural honey, as well as mixes of dried fruits, berries, vegetables, and nuts in Kyrgyzstan, and honey, mung beans, peanut/peanut butter, dried fruits & snacks, apricot kernel oil in Tajikistan, which are also having a strong export and job creation potential.

The project implements measures to raise productivity and resource efficiency in SMEs and farms while reducing negative externalities, such as soil erosion, agro-chemical pollution, and agricultural GHG emissions. In particular, the project supports the introduction of sustainable agricultural practices and innovative resource-efficient technologies, which not only reduce the environmental footprint of production but also foster green exports.

On a macro level, the project supports the creation of enabling conditions for sustainable agriculture, including appropriate regulatory framework related to quality and food safety regulations, as well as the adoption of support mechanisms for businesses.

7. Risks and opportunities update

Kyrgyzstan:

Description	Type	Activities for treatment
President's Administration, Cabinet's, and other institutional changes (following the early presidential elections and the referendum on the political system held in January 2021), have resulted in high staff turnover within the partners of the project, which may slow down the project progress, particularly with respect to activities of the first component (supporting an enabling	Regulatory	The new structure of the government has been constituted by the Decree of the Government of 12 February 2021 №38. The project team will closely monitor the changes in key existing and new governmental partners and maintain close communication and

environment).		cooperation with them to ensure smooth continuation of the project.
<p>COVID-19</p> <p>The epidemiological situation (COVID-19) in Kyrgyzstan and trade-partner countries remains uncertain and challenging (experiencing new waves due to new COVID-19 variants, as well as low level of vaccination among the population in Kyrgyzstan), which may negatively affect the implementation of project activities and achieving indicators.</p>	<p>Operational</p> <p>Strategic</p>	<p>At the impact level, the project focuses on creating jobs and poverty reduction through the support of export promotion, women entrepreneurship, and increase the productivity of producers, SMEs in target regions.</p> <p>Due to some limitations related with field visits, the project team provides online consultations with partners and business associations on requesting/clarifying the verification docs, and project clients are monitored in terms of data, info, and results.</p>

With respect to opportunities, it should be noted that on 10 July, 2021 a Free Trade Agreement between the Eurasian Economic Union (of which Kyrgyzstan is a member) and Serbia entered into force, which will provide Kyrgyz products with duty-free access to the Serbian market for the first time. As Serbia is not yet a member of the WTO, the Agreement will become the legal basis for trade relations between the signatories, which in turn will ensure stability and predictability for Kyrgyz businesses exporting to Serbia.

Tajikistan:

Description	Type	Activities for treatment
Climate change	Environmental	<p>Due to cold weather conditions in spring of 2021 in Fergana Valley, the losses of apricot harvest ranged from 80% to 95%, depending on the growing regions. This affected availability of raw materials and export of dried apricots.</p> <p>The project started to conduct the climate change adaptation trainings and consultations to farmers.</p>

<p>Conflict along border lines and border cross points</p>	<p>Security</p>	<p>In 2021, several local conflicts between communities located in bordering areas Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan led to an armed conflict on 29 April 2021. Careful monitoring of the target geographical areas is required.</p> <p>The project managed its activities in bordering TJK-KRG areas by conduction of the assigned actions in close coordination with UNDSS, local authorities and communities. The capacity building activities for traders were conducted outside of the conflict zone.</p> <p>With the purpose to mitigate the consequences of border closure and suspension of the shuttle trading, the project implemented several activities towards supporting the traders in establishing new businesses in conflict prone areas.</p>
<p>COVID-19</p>	<p>Operational Strategic</p>	<p>Holding online meetings and usage of digital platforms are in wide use by project, however, moving online can be difficult for some project partners, especially in rural areas where farmers and some MSMEs, due to technical reasons, could not utilize it well.</p> <p>The operational issue: conducting field monitoring activities. Due to some limitations related with field visits, the project was not able directly and undependably to assess the implementation of activities. As for addressing this issue, the project has undertaken the cross-check approach when both implementer partners and project clients are monitored in terms of data, info and results with requesting the verification docs.</p> <p>Regular online meetings with contractors to inquire about the status of delivery and inform beforehand about risks/issues faced due to pandemic.</p>

Uzbekistan:

Description	Type	Activities for treatment
COVID-19	Operational Strategic	<p>Where possible, the project switched to conducting online meetings, however, faced constraints in rural areas and with farmers where connectivity is limited and/or costly.</p> <p>Taking note of the rapidly emerging trend in usage of e-commerce by exporters worldwide, the project will be putting more emphasis to capacitating TSIs and SMEs in utilizing e-commerce tools in exports.</p>

8. Key challenges/lessons learnt

The coronavirus has been disrupting some of the planned activities in Central Asia, the CIS and Europe throughout 2021. Limitations are still in place in terms of possibilities to organize exchange visits, study tours, B2B meetings, participation at various exhibitions, forums etc. Travel restrictions locally and internationally make it difficult to implement certain activities and these have to be reprogrammed for the later periods.

Lessons learnt (including from pandemic):

- Economic growth revived but largely driven by recovery in (commodity) exports
- The pandemic notwithstanding, the Central Asian countries must continue to address its other, longer-term development goals
- Creating more high productivity jobs is critical if countries wish to manage to achieve higher levels of growth, given population growth rates
- Considerable polarization remains between where jobs are created – mostly in SMEs – and where productivity is highest – mostly in capital-intensive extractive industries (SOEs and parastatals), which tend to be major export industries, but create relatively few jobs.
- Diversification has long been on the agenda in Central Asia, but urgent action is only taken with response to shocks
- Countries need to be looking at creating conditions for entrepreneurship, for the growth of smaller and more innovative firms and also for diversification of foreign investments (especially in non-resource tradables)
- Building productive capacities and innovation significantly help farmers and agro-processors to increase productivity and meet evolving demand in a sustainable way
- Value chains evolve as farmers and agro-processors diversify their production to high-value crops and higher-added value agri-food products.
- Enhancing firms’ resilience is closely linked to digital connectivity to take advantage of continuing boom in e-commerce.

9. Project monitoring

Tajikistan

The project has formulated its Monitoring framework and tools for monitoring of its activities and measuring the progress of results. The tools for measuring the progress of achievements of each project indicator were developed at the beginning of project implementation.

As per the monitoring plan, the project staff has conducted monitoring on regular basis and used following approaches:

- a) data collection from various sources including field visits and meetings with project clients and partners.
- b) collection of the verification docs and conducting the analyses.
- c) organization of the regular meetings including via established platforms for feedbacks/voices collection.
- d) reviewing the reports produced by sub-contractors
- e) conduction of the assessments.
- f) the results achieved were presented, discussed, and verified by stakeholders and project clients during regular stakeholder consultation meetings.

Kyrgyzstan

The project staff, including the new M&E specialist, has been conducting monitoring activities on a regular basis using the following means:

- a) data collection from various sources, including field visits (which the team was able to resume in 2021 after a break in 2020 due to COVID-related travel restrictions), meetings with project clients and partners, phone calls, surveys/questionnaires;
- b) collection of verification documents;
- c) reviewing reports produced by sub-contractors.

Uzbekistan

The project has formulated its Monitoring framework and tools for monitoring of its activities and measuring the progress of results. The tools for measuring the progress of achievements of each project indicator were developed at the beginning of project implementation.

As per the monitoring plan, the project staff will conduct monitoring on regular basis and will use following approaches:

- a) data collection from various sources including field visits and meetings with project clients;
- b) collection of the verification docs and conducting the analyses;
- c) organization the regular meetings including via established platforms for feedbacks/voices collection;
- d) reviewing the reports produced by sub-contractors;
- e) conduction of the assessments.

10. Resources and budget

The total projected budget for 2018-2023 is EUR 6,151,697.79²⁵. Total expenditure until the end of 2021 is \$4,628,868.6 (equivalent to EUR 3,983,095.11) which equals to 64.75% of the total budget in EUR.

²⁵ The budget consists of EUR 6,014,676 as per the project document and EUR 137,021.79 of Phase III unspent funds equivalent to \$161,012.68 at exchange rate USD/EUR 0.851 transferred to Phase IV (Regional component) to support to

The funding for Uzbekistan component (2021 – 2023) was received in June 2021. Following the approval of the multi-annual work plan for 2021-2023 in June 2021 and consultations with national partners (held during August-September 2021) on specific activities to be implemented in the 4th quarter of 2021, the project initiated the implementation of the country level activities as of September 2021.

The table below indicates overall expenditure per country:

Output	Total Budget (EUR)	EXP 2018 (USD)	EXP 2019 (USD)	EXP 2020 (USD)	EXP 2021 (USD)	Total Expenditure (USD)	Total Expenditure (EUR) ²⁶	EXP ratio (EUR)
Tajikistan	2,049,840.00	198,257.96	595,013.68	558,994.74	734,814.82	2,087,081.2	1,795,912.76	87.61%
Kyrgyzstan	2,050,000.00	143,198.40	468,365.50	607,451.22	613,650.72	1,832,665.84	1,576,990.86	76.93%
Regional	837,181.79	0	26,412.68	199,225.15	323,310.33	548,948.16	472,364.47	56.42%
Total (without UZB)	4,937,021.79	341,456.36	1,089,791.86	1,365,671.11	1,671,775.87	4,468,695.2	3,845,268.09	77.89%
Uzbekistan	1,214,676.00	-	-	-	160,173.40 ²⁷	160,173.40	137,827.6	11.35% of total budget (as the project started activities in September 2021); 88,66% of 2021 budget
Total (with UZB)	6,151,697.79	341,456.36	1,089,791.86	1,365,671.11	1,831,949.27	4,628,868.6	3,983,095.72	64.75%

A detailed breakdown can be found in the financial report.

11. Annexes

Results-based progress monitoring (based on the project's logical framework and annual work plan and reporting).

increase business linkages between Finland and participating countries and for other activities as per the November 2020 board decision.

²⁶ Average exchange rate USD/EUR 0.86049 was applied for conversion.

²⁷ The approved budget of Uzbekistan output for 2021 (July-December) is \$180,663. The expenditures of the output for the reporting period amounted to \$160,173.40 (88,66% of the 2021 budget)

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)										
			Value	Year	July- Dec 2018 Targets	July- Dec 2018 Results	2019 Targets	2019 Results	2020 Targets	2020 Results	2021 Targets	2021 Results	Jan - June 2022 Targets	Jan - June 2022 Results	Final
Output 1 Cooperation between trade policy makers and implementers, as well as private sector entities and national export promotion agencies with a focus on promoting job rich green growth has increased on the regional level	1.1 Number of productive capacities studies that focus on environmental sustainability and job-rich growth supported and percentage of recommendations applied	Reports produced 2019: KGZ and TJK VC study jointly with KGZ and TJK 2020: Brief on megatrends 2021: 0 (research on decent jobs and informality in CA initiated)	0	2017	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	0		4
	1.2 Number of cooperation activities established between participating countries with at least 2 cooperation across activities per year	2019: 1. CATI 2. Regional conference on productive capacities 2021: 1. Annual (5 th) regional meeting of Central Asian Working Group (CAWG) on Export Promotion of Agroproduce 2. Launch of CATI portal 3. Business Forum "Dialogue of women entrepreneurs of Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan" (21-22 September 2021) 4. 3 regional trainings on agricultural quality and sustainable value chains 5. 2 regional trade and export promotion trainings for SMEs and representatives of CA Trade Support Institutions	0	2017	2	0	2	2	2	0	2	5	0		8
	1.3 Number commercial or educational linkages between Finland and participating countries supported	Contracts/agreements 2019: University of Eastern Finland on quality management systems 2020: B2B tourism sectors (ongoing) 2021: Fam tour and B2B tourism sector	0	2017	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	1	1		3

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)										DATA COLLECTION METHODS & EVIDENCE
			Value	Year	July- Dec 2018 Targets	July- Dec 2018 Results	2019 Targets	2019 Results	2020 Targets	2020 Results	2021 Targets	2021 Results	Jan -June 2022 Targets	Final	
Output 2 Supporting an enabling environment for job-rich growth in Kyrgyzstan through 1.1 Enabling policies and regulations for inclusive and trade oriented private sector development; 1.2 Trade support institutions that provide efficient services to the private sector. 2. More efficient and competitive producers and processors contributing to sustainable human development	1.1. Support to market access for SMEs														
	1.1.1 # of companies supported and specifically those led by women by the state agency for investment and export promotion through account-managed approach for export promotion and development (SDG 5.5, 17.11.1, 9.3.1.,8.1.1)	State agency reports (IPPA) <i>Participants of Export Caravan 2021: 196 (61)</i> <i>Participants of B2B meetings between Kyrgyz exporters and Russian retailers: 49 (11)</i>	0	2017	2	4 (2)	5(2)	7 (1)	5(2)	221 (82)	5(1)	245 (72)	3 (1)	20 (6)	Project progress reports, Customer assessment
	1.1.2 Volume increase in USD of export contracts supported by the state agency for export promotion (SDG 8.1.1, 17.11.1)	State agency reports (IPPA) <i>Results of participation of Kyrgyz companies in trade fairs, such as World Food Moscow and Food Expo Qazakhstan, in 2019, as well as export contract/delivery of trout to Russia</i>	0	2017	0	0	1 mln	18.045	1.5 mln	1.705	2 mln	1.444 mln	0.5 mln	5 mln	Project progress reports Customer assessment
	1.1.3 # of B2B matches supported for project clients (SDG 8.1.1, SDG 17.11.1)	State agency reports (IPPA) <i>- B2B meetings between Kyrgyz exporters and Russian retailers;</i> <i>- WorldFood</i>	2	2017	0	1	2	7	4	6	4	4	2	12	Project progress reports Customer assessment

		<p><i>Moscow Exhibition 2021;</i> <i>- Online B2B meetings with Dutch companies;</i> <i>- Dubai Expo 2020 (Business Forum and Tourism Roadshow)</i></p>													
1.1.4	Increase in volumes of export after B2B matches supported for project clients (SDG 8.1.1, SDG 17.11.1)	<p>State agency reports (IPPA)</p> <p><i>Results of participation of Kyrgyz companies in trade fairs, such as:</i></p> <p><i>- World Food Moscow and Food Expo Qazakhstan, in 2019 (\$1,354,709)</i></p> <p><i>- B2B meetings with Nobiles (exports in 2021): \$64,500</i></p> <p><i>- WorldFood Moscow 2021: \$464,455</i></p>	0	2017	0	0.067	0	12.99	0.3 mln	0.0198*	0.4 mln	1.884 mln	1 mln	1.7 mln	Project progress reports Customer assessment
1.1.5	# of export caravans undertaken for all regions of Kyrgyzstan involving the government, private, civil society (including women's movements), public sectors as well as the donor community (SDG 17.11.1, 9.3.1)	State agency reports.	1	2017	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	4	Feedback forms of clients Monitoring reports

1.1.6 # of developed and improved new service products of TSIs (SDG 8.1.1, 17.11.1)	State agency reports and web-site (export.gov.kg)	0	2017	5	6	10	12	0	12	10	4	0	25	TSIs reports Assessment of TSIs
1.1.7 # of clients (women) benefited from new / improved service products provided by TSIs (SDG 5.5, 8.1.1, 9.3.1)	State agency reports <i>Data of Google Analytics on usage of the IPPA's web site export.gov.kg</i>	0	2017	30	0	70	8519 (1696)	100	15166 (8519)	120	27720 (7595)	80	400	TSIs reports Assessment of TSIs
1.2. Improved access to finance and technologies														
1.2.1 # informational guides on niche products and/or products with the highest value addition detailing the latest technological information, including cost calculation, materials used, financial products and market opportunities (SDG 2.3.1, 2.4.1, 9.3.1, 15.3.1)	Report on "Analysis of green products value chain and Export opportunities in Kyrgyzstan" to be completed (Euromonitor)	0	2017	0	0	2	4	3	1	0	0	0	5	Project progress report Monitoring reports
1.2.2 # of targeted government finance products (loans) for sustainable technologies and new green economic sectors reaching at least 40% of target population, disaggregated by sex where possible (SDG 2.3.1, 2.3.1, 2.4.1,	In progress, staff member involved once codified, codification number will be provided	0	2017	0	0	2	2 (in process of development)	1	0*	0	0	0	3	Project progress report Feedback forms of clients Monitoring reports

9.3.1, 15.3.1,)															
1.2.3 # of linkages for new green technologies connecting the private sector in Kyrgyzstan with market leaders, potentially Finnish (SDG 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1, 17.11.1)	Data collected from the Kyrgyz Association of Tour Operators that participated in B2B between Finnish and Kyrgyz tour operators in May 2021	0	2017	2	1	2	0	2	1	2	3	0	8	Project progress report Monitoring reports	
2.1.1. Support to establishing or developing green niche products and VCs that are employment rich and have high productivity and market potential															
2.1.1 # of products/VCs identified that are green and employment rich (SDG 2.3.1, 2.3.1, 2.4.1, 8.5.2, 10.2.1, 15.3.1)	Report on "Analysis of green products value chain and Export opportunities in Kyrgyzstan" (Euromonitor)	0	2017	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	Assessments	
2.1.2. Higher productivity and export readiness of target products/VCs through the use of innovative technologies															
2.1.2.1. % increase in productivity, in identified products/VCs through piloting, where productivity baselines will be defined during the assessment (SDG 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1, 8.5.2)	Statements of VCs members: <u>Disaggregation:</u> Honey VC: Beekeepers: 34% Processing companies: 27% Average: 30.5% Dried fruits/vegetables and nuts VC: Farmers: -25 % (bad harvest because of frosts in spring) Processing companies: 27% Average: 1%	0	2020	0	0	10	0	20	0*	20	16	20	20	Assessments of the productivity levels Client feedback forms	

		<p>Average for both VCs: 16%</p> <p>Tourism VC: Sales were taken as a proxy to production because of services nature of the VC: increase – 741% (because the baseline in 2020 was very low due to COVID's impact on the sector)</p>														
	2.1.2.2. % increase of market penetration of selected products (SDG 2.3.1, 2.4.1, 17.11.1)	<p>Statements of VCs members</p> <p><i>Average of VCs' exports (value in USD, except for tourism) disaggregated as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Honey VC: -14% - Dried fruits, vegetables and nuts: 24% - Tourism (quantity of foreign clients served): 694% (because 2020's baseline was very low due to COVID-19) 	0	2020	0	0	5	0	10	0*	20	5 (without tourism) 235 (with tourism)	20	20	Assessments Trade contracts	

2.1.2.3. % increase in income of target communities, disaggregated by sex, where possible (SDG 2.3.2, 5.5)	Income sheets	0	2017	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	20	Data for 2021 will be collected in spring 2022	10	30	Quality assessments Client feedback forms
2.1.2.4. # of new decent jobs created (incl. 50% for women) (SDG 8.5.2, 5.5)	<p>Employment documents</p> <p><i>60% of jobs are for women (383/231).</i></p> <p><u>Honey VC:</u> <i>in total 78 permanent jobs, out of which 8 for women (13%) disaggregated as follows:</i> <i>- Seasonal: 155 new beekeepers in total (20 for women).</i></p> <p><u>Dried fruits, vegetables and nuts VC:</u> <i>in total 112 permanent jobs, out of which 92 for women (82%) disaggregated as follows:</i> <i>- Permanent: 56 in total (34 for women)</i> <i>- Seasonal: 111 in total (116 for women)</i></p> <p><u>VC Tourism:</u></p>	0	2020	0	0	20	0	50	0	80	383 (231)	50	200	Monitoring reports	

		<p><i>in total 88 permanent jobs, out of which 51 for women (58%) disaggregated as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permanent: 45 in total (28 for women) - Seasonal: 86 in total (45 for women) <p><u>Access to finance for women-entrepreneurs:</u></p> <p><i>in total 105 permanent jobs, out of which 78 for women (74%) disaggregated as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permanent: 60 in total (43 for women) - Seasonal: 90 in total (70 for women) <p><i>*It should be noted that these numbers do <u>not</u> include 66 jobs created within the Mentorship Programme, and 26 permanent jobs created within Corporate Governance Programme.</i></p>													
	2.1.2.5. At least 30% of activity clients are women (SDG 5.5)	<p>VCs members' statements on staff</p> <p>Capacity building</p>	0	2020	40	0	40	0	40	100	40	38	40	40	Monitoring reports

		<p><i>in three target VCs (without double counting):</i> Farmers from Honey and Dried fruits, vegetables and nuts VCs: 360 in total (89 women) SMEs from three VCs: 276 in total (154 women). <i>*It should be noted that numbers are “dragged down” by the Honey VC because despite the project’s efforts it is still mostly a man dominated sector.</i></p>														
2.1.3 Support for women and/or youth entrepreneurs established through																
2.1.3.1. # of women entrepreneurs reached in caravan promoting strong positive role models in Kyrgyzstan (SDG 5.5)	Assessment report of caravans 2019 Reports on entrepreneurship mentorship program	0	2017	0	0	1	206	1	175	0	120	0	2	Project progress report		
2.1.3.2. # of mentorship programmes for women/youth entrepreneurs established and supported (SDG 5.5)	Assessment report of mentoring programme 2019 Reports on entrepreneurship mentorship program	0	2017	0	0	1	1	1	0*	1	1	0	3	Client feedback forms		

2.1.3.3. # of women/youth benefitting from established programmes (SDG 5.5)	Assessment report Women-led SMEs/farmer groups that benefitted from: <i>The Mentorship Programme (mentees that successfully completed the programme), Access to Inclusive Finance Programme and Grant Support Programme</i>	0	2017	0	0	10	60	10	5	10	112	0	30	Client feedback forms
2.1.3.4. % of trade support work completed within the project with a gender lens (SDG 5.5)	Project progress report internal assessment. Criteria developed	0	2017	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	Project progress report Feedback forms of clients Monitoring reports
2.1.4 Better service provision in rural areas for SME exports through capacity development														
2.1.4.1. # of farmers and SMEs benefiting from service provisions in rural areas; disaggregated by sex, where possible (no less than 30%)	Project progress report	0	2017	0	0	150	0	150	796 (283)	150	465 (132)	150	600	Feedback forms of clients
2.1.4.2. % of productivity increase of farmers and SMEs in rural areas after receiving services;	Project progress report <u>Disaggregation:</u> Honey VC: <i>Beekeepers: 34% Processing</i>	0	2020	0	0	5	0	5	0*	10	16	10	10	Monitoring reports

		<p>companies: 27% Average: 30.5%</p> <p>Dried fruits/vegetables and nuts VC: Farmers: -25 % (bad harvest because of frosts in spring) Processing companies: 27% Average: 1%</p> <p>Average for both VCs: 16%</p> <p>Tourism VC: Sales were taken as a proxy to production because of services nature of the VC: increase – 741% (because the baseline in 2020 was very low due to COVID's impact on the sector)</p>													
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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)										DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS	
			Value	Year	July-Dec 2018 Targets	July-Dec 2018 Results	2019 Targets	2019 Results	2020 Targets	2020 Results	2021 Targets	2021 Results	Jan -June 2022 Targets	Final		
Output 3 Supporting an enabling environment for job rich growth in Tajikistan through 1.1 Enabling policies and regulations for inclusive and trade		1.1 Improved private sector related policies														
	1.1.1 # (man/woman) of civil servants of MEDT, SCISP and other state agencies with improved capacity to provide better services to the private sector	2018:1. LoP of training on rationale, functional analysis and capacity building related to establishing service centers for entrepreneurs (SC FDE) and investors from 17 - 21. 12. 2018 2019: 2 surveys	0	2017	30 (15)	31 (9)	50 (25)	66 (22)	50 (25)	9 (1)	50 (25)	0	30 (15)	210 (105)	Assessments LoP verified by state agencies Project progress reports	

oriented private sector development; 1.2 Trade support institutions that provide efficient services to the private sector. 2. More efficient and competitive producers and processors contributing to sustainable human development Gender marker: GEN 2	1.1.2. # of recommendations on improving policies regulating the private sector provided to the government and integrated in policies, including those which relate to women entrepreneurship (SDG 8.1.1)	2018: 1. Decision of CC meeting dated by 7th of December 2018 2019: 1. Charter of the AWEKR approved on 30.04.2019 Decree/Registration # 0277288 2. Charter of State Institution "Formation and development of entrepreneurship" registered on 10.04.2019 with #0210026915 and 0281066 3. Government Decree #624 on establishing the State Institution for the "Formation and Development of Entrepreneurship" (SC FDE) and its Centers for Servicing Entrepreneurs and Investors was adopted on 31 December 2018	0	2017	2	4	3	26	5	18	5	1	3	18	Project progress reports Reports/protocols from WGs and state agencies	
	1.1.3. # of centres for the provision of state services to entrepreneurs and investors established (SDG 8.1.1, 17.11.1)	2019: 1. Decree on establishment of State Center for the "Formation and Development of Entrepreneurship" adopted on 31.12.2018 2. Charter of State Institution "Formation and development of entrepreneurship", registered on 10.04.2019 with #0210026915	0	2017	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	Monitoring reports Decreases from concerned state agencies
	1.1.4. # (women led) of exporters and SMEs serviced by the Centres (SDG 5.5)	Registration books of Centres	0	2017	0	0	20 (8)	0	50 (25)	800 (400)	100 (40)	750 (250)	200 (80)	370 (155)	Feedback forms of clients Monitoring reports	
	1.1.5. % of increase of export volumes of exporters serviced by the Centres (SDG 8.1.1, 17.11.1)	Registration books of Centres Reports from exporters	0	2017	0	0	5	0	5	0	10	10	10	10	Feedback forms of clients Monitoring reports	
	1.1.6. # of the inter-ministerial WGs to improve SD centric trade and women empowering policies supported (SDG 5.5)	2018: 1. LoP of WG on Establishing the Single Centres for Servicing Entrepreneurs and Investors in the Tajikistan dated 26.11.2018 2. Minutes and LoP of WG on Development of TDP of Khatlon region dated 23.11.2018 3. LoP and work plan of WG on Improving business climate in Khatlon region with consideration of gender equality dated 11.09.2018 2019: 1. Decision on establishing a WG on Elaboration of Law on State Services dated 18.03.2019 2. Minutes of WG Meeting on establishment of the Association of Women entrepreneurs of Khatlon region dated 30.04.2019 3. Meeting notes of the WG on development of REDP of Khatlon region 2020: WG protocols	2	2017	2	3 36 (8)	2	2 26 (7)	2	3	2	3	0	8	Project progress report WGs protocols and reports	

<p>1.1.7. # of analyses for Consultative Councils' meetings on improving business climate considering gender equality supported (SDG 5.5)</p>	<p>2018: 1. Consultative Council of Khalon region meetings minutes dated on 11.09.2018 2. Decision of CC meeting dated 7th of December 2018</p> <p>2019: 3. Decree №1 18.09.2019 adoption of recommendations and instructions for their implementation; 4. Decree №286 10.06.2019 adoption of Regional Entrepreneurship Development Programme (REDP) for Khatlon region;</p> <p>2021: - Conducted legal and institutional analysis of state services in accordance with the current regulatory legal acts of the Republic of Tajikistan (Strategies, Programs, Concepts, Laws of the Republic of Tajikistan, decrees of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, decrees of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, orders of ministries and departments, etc.); - Conducted an overview of trends and development of foreign markets for the period 2021-2025 - Conducted analysis of the current export situation and export structure of Tajikistan with identification of the main export-oriented industries and goods with competitive advantages in foreign markets. - Conduct study on the existing possibilities of state support in the field of export promotion including sectoral state programs and strategies, budget, etc</p>	0	2017	1	1	2 (47 total, 36 women)	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	9	Reports from Consultative Councils
<p>1.1.8. # (women) of traders from bordering with KRG communities with improved knowledge on cross border trade (SDG 5.5)</p>	<p>2018: LoPs of trainings in Isfara and Gafurov districts dated by 22-28th of Nov. 2018 2019: LoPs of trainings on: "Transporting items by individuals and the procedures for their customs clearance", "Taxation rules of private entrepreneurs operating on the basis of a patent or certificate", "Review of the related legal normative documents" dated on 2-5th of May and 21-22 of June 2019</p> <p>2020: monitoring report and feedback forms of participants from trainings. Uzbekistan/KRG border.</p>	270 0	2017	50 (25)	73 (29)	100 (50)	183 (78)	100 (50)	213 (85)	200 (100)	210 (95)	200 (100)	650 (325)	Project progress report Feedback forms of clients Monitoring reports	
<p>1.2. Improved access of private sector to efficient services through:</p>															

1.2.1. # of TSIs with improved and new service products (SDG 8.1.1, 9.3.1, 17.11.1)	<p>2018:</p> <p>1. LoP of trainings on Trade Map and Market Access Map (9)</p> <p>2. LoP of trainings on ISO 9001:2015 (11)</p> <p>2019: LOP of the training on EAEC technical regulations (11 TSIs), dated on 16-18 October 2019 and 29-30 October 2019</p> <p>2020: LOP of the training on Trade Map and Market Access Map (6 TSIs), conducted on 16-18 September 2020</p> <p>2021:</p> <p>New services on conduction of express lab analysis of selected VCs products (dry fruits, apricots kernel oil, honey, mungbeans, peanuts) established in PO MIS through provision of lab equipment and tools, and the PO MIS start to provide new services to the target clients</p>	5	2017	10	12	10	11 (1)	10	6	0	1	0	30	TSIs reports Assessment of TSIs
1.2.2. # (women led) of SMEs benefiting from improved services (SDGs 9.3.1, 8.5.2)	<p>2018:</p> <p>Product profiles developed for SMEs by representatives of 1) LLC "Harif", 2) LLC "Rushd", 3) AESC/TEPC, 4) MAPEST, 5) PO "Markazi idorakunii sifat", 5) CCI of Sughd Region, 7) LLC "Mushovir", 8) LLC "Business Consulting", 9) LLC "Apricot and Co", 10) LLC "Isfara Food", 11) LLC "Oro Isfara" Feedback received from 12) PO "MIS" face to face survey</p> <p>2019:</p> <p>1) Feedback received from PO "MIS" and LLC "ISD Consulting" through email</p> <p>2) Reports from participating TSIs and verification (sample) by project</p> <p>2020: phone interviews with respective TSIs and SMEs, reports/information (by email) of TSIs</p> <p>2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PO MIS provided consulting services to MSMEs on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) start to provide consulting services on introduction of International standard on ISO 22000 to the LLC "Sardor 2008", Tursunzade (production of snacks "Simba" - potato chips, corns, sunflower seeds, croutons) and expected that by the end of 2021 full range of consultation to be provided and on next 2022 the company will get a national certification. 2) PO Azamat, Lyakhsh, DRS (woman led) production of cheese, on updating the design of the trade label of the product which includes product labeling, storage conditions and shelf 	0	2017	10 (5)	12 (0)	20 (10)	14 (3)	40 (15)	41 (15)	50 (20)	28 (1)	50 (20)	170 (70)	Project progress report Feedback forms of clients Monitoring reports

		<p>life of products which have been printed and now used for products, and on preparation of documents for getting certificate of conformity from Tajik Gosstandard based on the GOST 32263-2013. As a result, the producer starts to sell their product in shops of Dushanbe.</p> <p>3) LLC "Fruit Valley", Isfara (dried fruits processor) on development of product specification for compote mixture and dried apples, which will be used for promotion of products. As a result, the company provided the developed specification to its customers in Belarus, Turkey and Germany and concluded agreement for supplying of products.</p> <p>4) LLC "Harif", B.Gafurov, Sughd on implementation of FSSC 22000 certification, which plans to launch a production of shock freezing of fruits and the introduction of GLOBALGAP standard on the subsidiary farm of this LLC for growing berries and seedlings. Implementation started in December 2021 and expected completion in September 2022</p> <p>5) 2 SMEs - started to provide consulting services to 2 companies in UZB – 1) LLC Food Agro Uzbekistan (export of dried fruits) on conduction of FSSC 22000 certification (started in November 2021 and it is expected that services will be completed in November 2022) and 2) LLC Red Pack Uzbekistan (export of fresh and dried honey melons) on introduction of UNECE standards for fresh and dried melons (started in October 2021 and will be completed in May 2022).</p> <p>6) 21 MSMEs (6 processing SMEs, 14 DFs and 1 association of beekeepers of Rasht district) on lab analyses of the quality of products by the established in PO MIS mobile laboratory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PO "Neksigol Mushovir" signed a contract with the Credit Information Bureau of Tajikistan (https://cibt.tj) for provision of services for 1 year and will provide data and information on market prices of agricultural products and means of agri production. 													
1.2.3. # of TSIs networks established (SDGs 9.3.1)	<p>2018:</p> <p>1. Meeting minutes and LoP dated Dec. 5, 2018</p> <p>2019:</p> <p>1. A memorandum on establishing platform/network between local TSIs signed on 24.04.2019.</p> <p>2. E platform for TSIs www.consulting.tj</p>	1	2017	2	1	2	3	2	3	2	1	0	8	Project progress report Monitoring reports	

		<p>created</p> <p>3. MoC between 11 TSIs of TJK and 8 TSIs of KGZ signed on 08 August 2019.</p> <p>2020:</p> <p>Copies of MOU on cooperation between AAT and (1) CCI of Termez region of Uzbekistan, (2) Business consulting company "Huahe International" (China) and (3) Economic Federation of SUAR of China "Silk way"</p> <p>2021:</p> <p>PO Neksigol Mushovir concluded an agreement with the PE Jamshed Abdujalilov on joint cooperation in provision of services for the design and installation of drip irrigation systems (the copy of agreement)</p>														
1.2.4. # of business links established between TSIs and international TSIs	<p>2019:</p> <p>1. PO MIS concluded MOU with SGS (Uzb)</p> <p>2. PO MIS agreement with Certifying Body "Cert International"</p> <p>3. PO MIS collaboration with "Unison Group" (KGZ)</p> <p>2020:</p> <p>PO MIS provided services for external audits for 2 companies from Uzbekistan – to OJSC "Crafers" (confectionery production) on ISO 22000 jointly with "Cert International" (UZB) and to LLC "Syrdaryo Universal Oina" (glass production) on FSSC 22000 jointly with SGS (UZB).</p> <p>2021:</p> <p>PO MIS concluded 2 agreements on cooperation with 1) DQS International (Poland) on cooperation in the area of certification on food safety standards and 2) LLC ABM Group (KGZ) on cooperation in the area of attraction of technologist to TJK and provision of consulting services by PO MIS in UZB, KGZ and KAZ (copy of agreements)</p>	1	2017	0	0	2	3	2	2	2	2	0	6	Project progress report Monitoring reports		
1.2.5. # of priorities from Export promotion and increase of competitiveness state programme (EPIC) and oblasts TDPs supported (SDG 17.11.1)	<p>2018:</p> <p>1) Priority #5.5. "Training of exporters on positioning in markets, finding new niches and negotiation skills"</p> <p>2) Elaboration TDP of Khatlon region for the period 2019-2021</p> <p>2019:</p> <p>1) Priority 1.3. "Conducting studies on review of the existing regulatory and legal framework, including amendment to Customs and Tax Codes of RT"</p> <p>2) Priority 1.9. "Improving business environment and investment climate for export development and competitiveness"</p>	0	2017	2	2	2	4	2	1	1	4	0	7	Project progress report Monitoring reports Reports from state agencies and oblast administration		

		<p>enhancement through improved interaction of authorities and private sector within PPP, revitalization of regional and local Consultative Councils"</p> <p>3) Priority 2.5 "Minimizing number of documents, time and costs required to complete procedures by FEA participants"</p> <p>4) Priority 9.3. "Assistance in exhibition and fairs</p> <p>2020:</p> <p>1) Priority 1.3. Regulatory Impact Assessment of the Law on State Services.</p> <p>2). Priority 1.9. Decree #286 from 10.10.19 from Khatlon Khukumat on adoption of Regional Entrepreneurship Development Programme of Khatlon Region. Decree #1 from 18.09.19 from the Session of CC of Khatlon on adoption of recommendations. Reports by IC. LOP's from the WG meetings. WG meetings protocols and pictures.</p> <p>3). Priority 2.5. Elaborated 1st National Trade Portal www.taitrade.tj.</p> <p>2021:</p> <p>Priority 1.3. (Conducting studies on review of the existing regulatory and legal framework, including amendment to Customs and Tax Codes) – Conduct economic analysis of state services, Conduct legal and institutional analysis of state services, conducted economic and legal framework analysis of the e-commerce development in Tajikistan.</p> <p>- Priority 1.9 (Improving business environment and investment climate for export development and competitiveness enhancement through improved interaction of authorities and private sector within PPP, revitalization of regional and local advisory councils) – Supported Secretariat of the Coordinating committee on facilitation of trade procedures. Consultative Council for improving investment climate of Tajikistan supported and 2 analysis on improving business environment conducted for the Session of Consultative Council under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan.</p> <p>- Priority 3.8 (Development of forms and methods of cross-border and transit trade) – supported through improving knowledge of 277 (112) (females) traders from bordering with KRG and UZB communities on business development, marketing and accounting.</p> <p>- Priority #5.5 (Assistance to export-oriented companies in development and implementation of export and marketing strategies). Conducted trainings for entrepreneurs within SI FDE.</p>																		
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		2.1.1 Support to establishing or developing green niche products and VCs that are employment rich and have high productivity and market potential													
2.1.1 Number of products/VCs identified that are green and employment rich (SDG 2.3.1, 2.3.1, 2.4.1, 8.5.2, 10.2.1, 15.3.1)	2019: Report on "Analysis of green products value chain and Export opportunities in Tajikistan" (Euromonitor)	0	2017	3	0	0	5/(3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	Assessments
		2.1.2. Higher productivity and export readiness of target products/VCs through the use of innovative technologies													
2.1.2.1. % increase in productivity of VCs members (SDG 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1, 8.5.2)	<p>2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LLC Isfara Food productivity increased by 55% (production volume 517 tons) • LLC Oro Isfara productivity increased by 11 %, (production volume 2500 tons) • LLC Mevai Tilloi by 17% (production volume 129 tons) • CJSC Apricot and Co productivity increased by 66% (production volume 540 tons) • PE Haidarov - by 67% (production volume in 2019 5 tons, annual sales volume 160 000 TJS or \$16,505; 10% of sales export, 90% domestic) <p>2020:</p> <p>Data provided by target SMEs and IPs reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LLC Isfara Food productivity increased by 283% (production volume in 2020 - 1980.7 tons) • LLC Mevai Tilloi productivity increased by 56% (production volume 201 tons) • LLC Subhi Vatan productivity increased by 64 %, (production volume 265 tons) • LLC Visol Isfara productivity increased by 81 %, (production volume 650 tons) • PE Haidarov - productivity increased by 134% (production volume 11.5 tons) • LLC Oro Isfara productivity increased by 11% (production volume in 2020 - 2780 tons) <p><i>Sub-total on processing SMEs - productivity at target processing SMEs increased in average by 60% to 2019</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mungbeans producers/farmers of Shaartuz and Hamadoni districts productivity increased by 48% (production volume in 2020 - 60 tons) • Peanuts producers in Mastchoh district productivity increased by 72% (production volume in 2020 - 476 tons) • Beekeepers of 4 districts in Rasht valley productivity decreased by 89% (production volume in 2020 - 14 tons only). The low production of the honey is due to the cold and rainy summer this year in the target regions which also reflected in decreasing of their incomes <p><i>Sub-total on farmers/beekeepers: in average increased by 24% to 2019</i></p>	0	2017	0	0	10	43	15	56	20	-21	20	20	Assessments of the productivity levels Client feedback forms	

	<p>Total: the productivity of the supported target VCs members increased in average by 56% to 2019</p> <p>2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LLC Isfara Food productivity decreased by 27% (production volume in 2021 - 1438 tons) • LLC Mevai Tilloi productivity increased by 20% (production volume in 2021 - 242 tons) • LLC Visol Isfara productivity decreased by 46 %, (production volume on 2021 - 350 tons) • LLC Subhi Vatan productivity increased by 8 %, (production volume in 2021 - 287 tons) • PE Haidarov - productivity increased by 48% (production volume in 2021 - 17.3 tons) • LLC Oro isfara productivity decreased by 29% (production volume in 2021 - 1980 tons) <p>Sub-total on processing SMEs (dryfruits and nuts) – productivity at target processing SMEs decreased in average by 27%; decrease in production of the dry fruits is due to the poor harvest season for apricots (frost during apricot blossoming in spring) in the target region which also reflected in decreasing of the export volume</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mungbeans producers/farmers of Shaartuz and Hamadoni districts productivity increased by 16% (production volume in 2021 - 69.3 tons) • Beekeepers of 4 districts in Rasht valley productivity increased by 2.4 times (production volume in 2021 - 48.05 tons). • Peanuts producers in Mastchoh district productivity increased by 34% (production volume in 2021 - 638 tons) <p>Sub-total on farmers/beekeepers – productivity of target farmers increased in average by 37%;</p> <p>In total: the productivity of the supported target VCs members decreased in average by 21% (Decreasing of productivity in compare with 2020 due to poor harvest season for fruits (losses of apricots harvest due to the frost in spring of 2021)</p>														
2.1.2.2. % increase of market penetration of selected products (SDG 2.3.1, 2.4.1, 17.11.1)	<p>% increase of market penetration of selected products = volume in USD of AFT project's clients export in 2019 compared to AFT project's clients export in USD in 2018.</p> <p>As per statements of companies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LLC IsfaraFood - total export volume in 2019 - 517 tons, sales/export 7 216 000 TJS/ \$744,378; Export markets - Russia, KAZ, USA • LLC Oro Isfara - total export volume in 2019 	0	2017	0	0	5	186	10	40	20	21	20	20	20	Assessments Trade contracts

- 2300 tons, sales/export 23 000 000 TJS/\$2,372,602; Export markets - Russia, KAZ, Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia

- LLC Mevai tilloi - total export volume in 2019 120 tons, 3 394 000 TJS/ \$350,113. Export markets - Russia. KAZ, USA
- CJSC Apricot and Co - total volume of dry apricots export in 2019 540 tons, 3 750 000 TJS/ \$376,837. Export markets - Kazakhstan and China (new)
- PE Haidarov - total export volume of peanuts 0.5 tons; 12000 TJS/\$1,240/ Export markets – KGZ

2020: Data provided by target SMEs:

- LLC Isfara Food - total export volume in 2020 - 1855.2 tons, sales/export 14 950 000 TJS/\$1,393,965; Export markets - Russia, KAZ, USA, EU -Latvia (new)
- LLC Mevai Tilloi total export volume in 2020 - 180 tons, sales/export 7 028 600 TJS/\$622,000; Export markets - Russia, KAZ
- LLC Subhi Vatan total export volume in 2020 - 265 tons, sales/export 2 472 450 TJS/\$218,801; Export markets - KAZ, Turkey, Germany and KGZ
- LLC Visol Isfara total export volume in 2020 - 650 tons, sales/export 5 479 500 TJS/\$484,912; Export markets - Russia, KAZ
- PE Haidarov - total export volume in 2020 - 0.5 tons, sales/export 15 000 TJS/\$1,327; Export market - KGZ
- LLC Oro Isfara - total export volume in 2020 - 2590 tons, sales/export 27732491 TJS/\$2,674,300; Export markets - Russia, KAZ, Ukraine

2021:

- LLC Isfara Food - total export volume in 2021 - 1438 tons, sales/export 19 320 000 TJS/\$1,709,735; Export markets - Russia, KAZ, USA, Belarus
- LLC Mevai Tilloi total export volume in 2021 - 2016 tons, sales/export 9,288,148 TJS/\$821,960; Export markets - Russia, KAZ, USA
- LLC Visol Isfara total export volume in 2021 - 350 tons, sales/export 3,100,000 TJS/\$271,930; Export markets - Russia, KAZ
- LLC Subhi Vatan total export volume in 2021 - 287 tons, sales/export 5,208,959 TJS/\$456,926; Export markets - Turkey, Belarus, Russia, Ukraine
- PE Haidarov - total export volume in 2021 - 1.2 tons, sales/export 36,000 TJS/\$3,185; Export market - KGZ
- LLC Oro isfara - total export volume in 2021 -1750 tons, sales/export 36,855,000 TJS/\$3,250,000; Export market - RUS, KAZ, UKR

2.1.2.3. % of increase in income of staff target VCs (SDG 2.3.2, 5.5)	<p>2019: Income sheets 2020: Data provided by the targeted VCs clients, project calculation</p> <p>An average monthly payroll budget of the staff of supported SMEs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LLC Isfara Food – increased by 27% • LLC Mevai Tilloi – increased by 32% • LLC Subhi Vatan - increased by 34% • LLC Visol Isfara – increased by 33% • PE Haidarov – increased by 47% • LLC Oro Isfara – increased by 18% • Mungbeans producers/farmers of Shaartuz and Hamadoni average income increased by 3% • Peanuts producers in Mastchoh district ADF Hoja Amirov average income increased by 52% • Beekeepers of 4 districts of Rasht valley average income decreased by 33%, due to low honey production in 2020 (cold summer/climate change). The income from honey is due to selling the honey of pervious years <p>2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LLC Isfara Food increased by 25% • LLC Mevai Tilloi - by 36% • LLC Subhi Vatan - by 34% • LLC Visol Isfara - by 32% • PE Haidarov - by 25% • LLC Oro Isfara - by 53% <p>Sub-total on dry fruits and nuts processors increases - 36%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mungbeans producers/farmers of Shaartuz and Hamadoni average income from mungbeans harvest increased by 8% • Beekeepers of 4 districts in Rasht valley average income increased by 11%, • Peanuts producers in Mastchoh district ADF Hoja Amirov average income from peanuts cultivation increased by 60% <p>Sub-total on farmers - increased by 38%</p> <p>In total: the average income of the staff of supported target VCs increased in average by 37%</p>	0	2017	0	0	5	28	10	13	20	37	20	20	Quality assessments Client feedback forms
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<p>2.1.2.4. # of new decent jobs created (incl. 50% for women) (SDG 5.5, 8.5.2)</p>	<p>2019: Staff sheets 2020: Staff sheets/data provided by the targeted SMEs, IPs report</p> <p>2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 (5 women) new permanent jobs created under the Grant with AAT - (OECD 10/5) • 14 (6 women) jobs (8/4 permanent jobs - for workshop on beekeeping tools production (4/2), and honey processing workshop (4/2), and 6/2 seasonal - for beeswax foundation production (2/0) and honey processing (4/2) workshop) created under the Grant with IPO Surkhob - (OECD 10/5) • 50 (42 women) jobs created (40/32 permanent jobs and 10/10 seasonal jobs) at targeted SMEs under the Grants with MAPEST - (OECD 45/37) • 20 (19 women) jobs created (10/9 permanent jobs and 10/10 seasonal jobs) at LLC IsfaraFood - (OECD 15/14) • 10 (8 women) jobs created (10/8 permanent jobs) at LLC Mevai tilloi - (OECD 10/8) • 10 (8 women) jobs created (10/8 permanent jobs) at LLC Subhi vatan - (OECD 10/8) • 10 (7 women) jobs created (10/7 permanent jobs) at LLC Visol isfara - (OECD 10/7) • 62 (62 women) jobs created (22/22 permanent jobs and 40/40 seasonal jobs) at LLC Oro isfara - (OECD 35/35) • 12 (12 women) jobs created (2/2 permanent jobs and 10/10 seasonal jobs) at PE Haidarov - (OECD 7/7) • 68 (68 women) jobs created (14/14 permanent jobs and 54/54 seasonal jobs) at 10 supported mentees - (OECD 41/41) <p>In total, 216 (195 or 90% women) permanent and seasonal jobs created by supported VC clients Total: as per OECD calculation - 148 (130 or 88% women) jobs created</p> <p>All official jobs (number of seasonal jobs recalculated to permanent jobs as per OECD methodology)</p>	0	2017	0	0	20	19 (19) 10 (10) seasonal	80	90	100	148 (130)	100	300 (150)	Monitoring reports
<p>2.1.2.5. At least 40% of activity clients are women (SDG5.5)</p>	<p>2019: Statement of representative of LLC "Oro-Isfara", LLC "Golden Fruit"</p> <p>2020: IPs report, LOPs of trainings</p> <p>Trainings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 farmers dealing with peanuts cultivation trained on Global G.A.P. quality standard for agricultural products and improved their knowledge and skills on this topic by 43%; • 18 dried fruits farmers/processors, 8 of them are women (or 44%) trained on diseases and pests of the fruit crops and disease prevention and control in Isfara and improved their 	0	2017	40	0	40	45	40	78	40	76	40	40	Monitoring reports

		<p>knowledge by 54%;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 farmers, dealing with mung beans cultivation trained on preparation of land (soil) and mung beans sowing, which have been conducted in Hamadoni district of Khatlon region; • 15 beekeepers, out of them 5 women (or 33%) trained on development of beekeeping in the Rasht Valley and the creation of new bee families, conducted in Rasht district of DRS • 204 staff (161 women or 79%) of the 30 SMEs improved their knowledge on PRP requirements, Fire safety, Global GAP, financial accounting, taxes and taxation, products costs calculation, etc through the provision of individual consultancy services by PO MIS • 54 women farmers (in total) dealing with peanuts cultivation trained in Mastchoh district: 29 farmers on Global G.A.P. quality standard for agricultural products and improved their knowledge and skills on this topic by 47%, and 25 farmers on practice of efficient collecting and storing the peanuts and improved their knowledge and skills on this topics by 48%; The trainings conducted specially for women due to the traditional culture and mentality in this region which not allowed women to attend the event jointly with men. • 18 farmers (16 or 89% women) dealing with apricots cultivation in Isfara trained on Global G.A.P. quality standard for agricultural products and improved their knowledge and skills on this topic by 54%; • 7 people (1 female), staff of the 3 target processing SMEs in Isfara additionally received individual consultancy services on such topics as consultations on label design and marking of finished products, on technical equipment and layout of production facilities and business planning and financial modeling • 57 farmers (out of which 47 or 82% are women) dealing with mungbeans cultivation in Khatlon region trained on: 17 farmers (12 or 71% are women) on preparation of land (soil) and mung beans sowing, and 40 farmers (35 or 88% are women) on mungbeans diseases and pests and the method of control/fighting with them and in general the knowledge and skills of farmers improved in average by 43.5% • 39 beekeepers (all women) in Rasht valley (Lyakhsh, Sangvor, Tojikobod) trained on Honey analysis procedures and obtaining of a veterinary certificate and improved their knowledge and skills on this topic by 42% • 15 people (5 or 33% are women), staff of the 6 TSIs (Export Agency, FDE BI, NAMM, UPCT, CCI of RT and ISD Consulting) trained on Trade Map and Access Map tools 																	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 women trained on how to start their own business in Khatlon (20) and Sughd (20) • 82 people (64 or 78% are women) participated at orientation workshops to promote of positive and strong women-role models in Khatlon (23/22) Lyakhsh (29/19) and Sughd (30/23). Without double counting, in total 62/48 (77%) people attended the workshops • 21 potential mentors (17 or 81% are women) participated at TOT for mentors on principles, methods of mentoring. The mentors have been selected from the participants participated at 3 orientation workshops • 73 potential mentees (all women) participated at 3-days trainings for mentees in all targeted districts. <p><i>Sub-Total on trainings and capacity building events: 583 (470 women or 83%) trained (without double counting)</i></p> <p>Jobs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 jobs (all for women) created at targeted SMEs • 57 jobs (22 or 39% women) created under the Grant Programs AAT <p><i>Sub-total on jobs: 90 (55 or 61% women) jobs created</i></p> <p>Total: 673 (525 or 78% are women)</p> <p>2021:</p> <p>Trainings and capacity building events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 farmers (27 women or 90%), dealing with mung beans cultivation trained on preparation of land (soil) and selection of mung beans seeds for sowing, which have been conducted in Hamadoni and Shahritus districts of Khatlon region and improved their knowledge in average by 42% • 42 farmers (26 women or 62%), dealing with apricot cultivation trained on seasonal agricultural activities in apricot orchards, in Isfara district, Sughd and enhanced their knowledge and skills on this topics in average by 40% • 10 people (all female), staff of the 3 target processing SMEs in Isfara and 1 ADF in Mastchoh additionally received individual consultancy services on fire safety on workplace • 27 farmers (25 women or 93%) dealing with peanut cultivation participated at the training (Open field day), and learned the proper using of peanuts harvesting equipment • 76 farmers (65 women or 90%), dealing with 																		
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		<p>mung beans cultivation trained in Hamadoni and Shahritus districts of Khatlon region and improved their knowledge in average by 38%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 farmers (15 women or 50%), dealing with peanuts cultivation trained in Mastchoh district of Sughd region and improved their knowledge in average by 34% • 38 farmers (26 women or 68%), dealing with apricots cultivation trained in Isfara district of Sughd region and improved their knowledge in average by 39% • 90 beekeepers (43 women or 48%) trained in Rasht, Lyakhsh, Tojikobod and Sangvor districts of DRS and improved their knowledge in average by 35% • 189 employees (132 women or 70%) of the selected 5 SMEs on the requirements for sanitation and hygiene in food production, basic Requirements of Prerequisite Programs (PRPs), record keeping and filling out journals and 1 ADF trained on Good Agricultural Practice and maintaining records in field journals, and audit forms etc • 14 employees (1 woman or 7%) of the selected 6 SMEs and 1 ADF trained on using of software 1C Enterprises 8.3 requirements • 30 people (23 women or 77%) participated at the TOT for mentors • 110 people (all women) participated at the 2 stages trainings for mentees in Khatlon, Sughd and DRS (Rasht) • 3 employees (0 women) of LLC IsfaraFood trained on the technology of production of apricot kernel oil • 4 employees (0 women) of LLC Subhi Vatan trained on the technology of production of peanuts butter <p>Trainings and capacity building events: in total, 693 (503 women or 73%) trained and without double counting 620 (455 women or 73%)</p> <p>New Jobs: Sub-total on jobs: 148 (130 or 88% women) jobs created (OECD)</p>														
			2.1.3 Support for women entrepreneurs established through													
	<p>2.1.3.1. Number of mentorship programmes for young women entrepreneurs established and supported (SDG5.5)</p>	<p>2019: Report on "Support to women entrepreneurship in Tajikistan"</p> <p>2020: IP report Mentorship programme developed and being implemented</p> <p>2021: • The implementation of mentorship programme continues and will be</p>	0	2017	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	3	Client feedback forms	

		<p>completed in February 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing Mentorship program guidance updated and prepared in Tajik Russian 3 orientation / information workshops to promote strong and positive role models of women entrepreneurs conducted based on updated Mentorship guidance - in Tajikabad (DRS) on 24 August 2021, in Bokhtar (Khatlon) on 26 August 2021 and in Khujand (Sughd) on 31 August 2021, with participation of 92 people (79 or 86% women). The application form for participation at the second stage of mentorship programme have been updated and disseminated through social networks (FB, Twitter), other partner organizations etc. In total 198 application received, out of which 110 mentees in targeted regions identified and mobilized (Sughd – 25, DRS -30, and Khatlon – 55). The 3-days ToT conducted in Dushanbe on 28-30 October 2021, for 30 (22 women) selected mentors. The List of mentors successfully passed evaluation provided and signed by every mentor the statement on ethics and safeguard measures provided. The list of mentors selected by Evaluation Committee provided. The EC formed in all 3 regions (Sughd, DRS and Khatlon). The first stage of trainings for 110 selected mentees conducted on financial literacy, choosing the right direction for business and learning the basics of the business planning, motivation and inspiration for organizing business activities with successful examples of women who have achieved high results in entrepreneurship and based on the results of this trainings the most active, and with a good business ideas potential mentees will be selected for participation at the second stage of trainings. Capacity building trainings for mentees on entrepreneurship, business planning and development issues conducted. Based on the results of the 1 stage of training on financial literacy, choosing the right direction for business and learning the basics of the business planning, etc. conducted for 110 mentees, 70 mentees (16 DRS, 37 Khatlon, 17 Sughd) have been selected for the 2nd stage of 2-days trainings, which have been conducted in all regions during 3 – 11 November 2021. In total, 43 pairs “mentor – mentee” in targeted regions established (10 in Sughd, 10 in DRS, and 23 in Khatlon). 43 business plans (10 in Sughd, 10 in DRS, and 23 														
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		<p>in Khatlon) developed by pairs “mentor – mentees” and submitted to Evaluation Committee for further consideration. It is expected that in January the business ideas will be presented by mentees and the EC will select and recommend at least 17 best business plans/ideas for further support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per result of the 1st stage of the Mentorship programme, 10 best business ideas selected and supported through provision of necessary equipment and tools for running business (Grants) for the total amount of \$48,875 													
	<p>2.1.3.2. # of women benefitting from established programmes (SDG 5.5)</p>	<p>2019: 1) LoPs of workshops dedicated to the improvement and support for women entrepreneurship in Tajikistan, dated 21.02.2019, and 23.01.2019; 2) LoP of study tour of women NGOs to Sughd region 19 - 23 June 2019 3) LoP of study tour of women entrepreneurs and NGOs to Namangan (UZB) and Osh (KGZ) on 06-12 October 2019; 4) LoP of training conducted for women on sewing and cutting school uniforms 11-20 June 2019 organized by PO "Bonuvoni Fardo" 5) LoP of master classes for the production of confectionary products organized by PO Azam through Grants (IP report) 6) LOP of seminars on mung beans production organized by PO Elyor, dated on 03/10/19, 04/10/19, 20/11/19, 28/11/19, 10/12/19, 16/12/19; 7) LoP of study tour to Surkhandarya region (UZB) on 20-21/09/2019, organized by PO Elyor to study experience on mug beans production.</p> <p>2020: IPs report, Capacity building events LOPs: • 161 women staff of the 30 MSMEs improved their knowledge on PRP requirements, Fire safety, Global GAP, financial accounting, taxes and taxation, products costs calculation, etc. through provision of individual consultancy services by PO MIS • 47 women – farmers dealing with dried fruits in Isfara and peanuts in Mastchoh of Sughd region trained on diseases and pests of the fruit crops and disease prevention and control, and on Global G.A.P. quality standard for agricultural products; • 78 women - farmers dealing with mungbeans cultivation in Khatlon region and women beekeepers in 4 districts of Rasht valley trained on preparation of land (soil) and mung beans sowing, and mungbeans diseases and pests and the method of control/fighting with them; on development of beekeeping in the Rasht Valley and the creation of new bee families in Rasht</p>	0	2017	20	68	60	142	100	416	100	588	100	380	Client feedback forms

		<p>district of DRS; on Honey analysis procedures and obtaining of a veterinary certificate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 women trained on how to start their own business in Khatlon (20) and Sughd (20) • 17 potential women mentors participated at TOT for mentors on principles, methods of mentoring. The mentors have been selected from the participants participated at 3 orientation workshops • 73 potential mentees (all women) participated at 3-days trainings for mentees in all targeted districts. <p>Total, 416 women benefitted from project activities</p> <p>2021:</p> <p>Capacity Building events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 women-farmers, dealing with mung beans cultivation trained on preparation of land (soil) and selection of mung beans seeds for sowing, which have been conducted in Hamadoni and Shahritus districts of Khatlon region • 26 farmers, dealing with apricot cultivation trained on seasonal agricultural activities in apricot orchards, in Isfara district, Sughd and enhanced their knowledge • 10 women, staff of the 3 target processing SMEs in Isfara and 1 ADF in Mastchoh additionally received individual consultancy services on fire safety on workplace • 25 farmers dealing with peanut cultivation participated at the training (Open field day), and learned the proper using of peanuts harvesting equipment • 87 women representing different NGOs working on women entrepreneurship development issues in Sughd, Khatlon and DRS participated on the 3 round tables/awareness raising events devoted to the sharing of information on results of mentorship programme and positive impacts on women activities, as well discussion of lessons learnt issues • 65 farmers, dealing with mung beans cultivation trained in Hamadoni and Shahritus districts of Khatlon region • 15 farmers, dealing with peanuts cultivation trained in Mastchoh district of Sughd region • 26 farmers, dealing with apricots cultivation trained in Isfara district of Sughd region • 43 beekeepers trained in Rasht, Lyakhsh, Tojikobod and Sangvor districts of DRS • 132 employees of the selected 5 SMEs on the requirements for sanitation and hygiene in food production, basic Requirements of Prerequisite Programs (PRPs), record keeping and filling out journals and 1 ADF trained on 																		
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		<p>Good Agricultural Practice and maintaining records in field journals, and audit forms etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 employees of the selected 6 SMEs and 1 ADF trained on using of software 1C Enterprises 8.3 requirements • 79 women participated at the orientation workshops • 23 women participated at the TOT for mentors • 110 women participated at the two stages trainings for mentees in Khatlon, Sughd and DRS (Rasht) <p>In total, 669 women or 588 women (with double counting adjustments) participated in capacity building events organized by the project and benefitted from established programme.</p>														
	2.1.3.3. # of women headed SMEs supported (SDG 5.5)	<p>2019: Agency for Statistics and its branches in the regions</p> <p>2020: Project progress report Monitoring reports IPs reports</p> <p>2021: 10 women lead businesses supported by provision processing and agriculture equipment and tools.</p>	0	2017	2	0	6	4	6	15	8	10	2	24	Project progress report Feedback forms of clients Monitoring reports	

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)							DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS	Progress	
			Value	Year	2021 Targets	2021 Results	2022 Targets	2022 Results	2023 Targets	2023 Results	Final			
Output4: Supporting an enabling environment for trade and private sector development in Uzbekistan through 1.1 Enabling	1.1 Improved private sector related policies													
	1.1.1. # of recommendations on improving policies regulating the private sector provided to the government and integrated in policies, % recommendations include gender lens (SDG 9.3.1)	Government decrees, regulations	0	2019	30 100%	0	15 100%		15 100%		60 100%	Project progress reports; International rankings		

policies and regulations for inclusive and trade oriented private sector development; 1.2 Trade support institutions that provide efficient services to the private sector.	1.1.2. # of priority actions supported of the Strategy Actions on Further Development of Uzbekistan for 2017-2020, aimed at liberalization of private sector and trade development (SDG 9.3.1)	Government decrees, regulations	0	2019	4	1	1		1		6	Project progress reports Reports/protocols from WGs and state agencies	2021: The project supported quality policy formulation, and the strengthening of national quality infrastructure to increase export competitiveness
	1.1.3. # of business services optimized in government agencies involved in exports (SDG 9.3.1, 17.11.1, 8.1.1)	Government regulations, agencies' regulations on service provision	0	2019	3	0	1		1		5	Monitoring reports Regulations of concerned state agencies	
	1.1.4. # of roadmaps for improving selected value chains in agriculture (SDG 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 8.1.1, 9.3.1)	Project progress report	0	2019	3	0	2		1		6	Monitoring reports Regulations of concerned state agencies	
	1.2. Access of private sector to efficient services supported through:												
1.2.1 # of new clients identified and served through integrated cooperation among SME export promotion institutions (SDG 17.11.1)	Assessment reports	0	2019	20	55	10		0		30	TsIs reports Assessment of TsIs Feedback forms of clients	2021: - Agency for export promotion jointly with CCI Azerbaijan organized B2B mission of 20 Uzbek producers to AZR. Export contracts signed for \$13,5 mln. - Agency for export promotion jointly with CCI Tajikistan organized B2B mission of 35 Uzbek producers to TJK. Export contracts signed for \$8,72 mln.	

	1.2.2 # of linkages established between TSIs and international partners (SDG 17.11.1)	Reports of TSIs	0	2019	20	3	10		10		40	Project progress report Feedback forms of clients Monitoring reports	2021: 3 linkages established between Agency for export promotion with CCI Azerbaijan and CCI Tajikistan, as well as the European Sprouted Seeds Association
	1.2.3. # of advisory services of TSIs strengthened	Assessment reports	0	2019	12	1	5		5		22	TSIs reports Assessment of TSIs Feedback forms of clients	2021: -Support with access of Export Promotion Agency to trade intelligence information to enhance the agencies capacities to foresight markets and navigate for better market access
2. More efficient and competitive producers and processors which will contribute to sustainable human development	2.1.1 Support to establishing or developing green niche products and VCs that are employment rich and have high productivity and market potential												
	2.1.1.1 Number of products/VCS identified that are green and employment rich (SDG 2.3.1, 2.3.1, 2.4.1, 8.5.2, 10.2.1, 15.3.1)	Project progress report	0	2019	3	1	3		0		4	Assessments	2021: As a result of the business trip conducted to EU on December 6-10 promotion of sprouted beans from UZB was identified as a promising for development
	2.1.1.2 Number of project/VCS that are green and employment rich are supported(SDG 2.3.1, 2.3.1, 2.4.1, 8.5.2, 10.2.1, 15.3.1)	Assesemnt reports	0	2019	3	0	1		0		4	Feedback forms of clients	
	2.1.2 Higher productivity and export readiness of target products/VCS through the use of innovative technologies												
2.1.2.1# of knowledge sharing events on international practices and certification (Global GAP, GHP, HACCP) at selected areas (SDG 2.3.1)	Project progress reports	0	2019	4	2	2		1		7	Project progress reports	2021: 2 agrocompanies in Fergana region supported with implementation of Global GAP international standart in agricultural practices/production and further certification	

2.1.2.2. % increase in productivity, where productivity baselines will be defined during the assessment (SDG 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 8.1.1)	Statements of VCs members	0	2019	15	0	15		15	15	Assessments of the productivity levels Client feedback forms	
2.1.2.3. % increase of market penetration (sales) of selected products / clients(SDG 2.3.1, 2.4.1, 17.11.1)	Statements of VCs members	0	2019	15	0	15		15	15	Assessments Trade contracts	
2.1.2.4. % increase in income of target communities (SDG 2.3.2, 5.5)	Income sheets	0	2019	5	0	10		20	20	Quality assessments Client feedback forms	
2.1.2.5. # of new decent jobs created (incl. 50% for women) (SDG 8.5.2, 5.5)	Employment documents/Staff sheets	0	2019	50 (25)	0	50 (25)		50 (25)	150 (75)	Monitoring reports	
2.1.3 Support for women entrepreneurs established through											
2.1.3.1. Number of mentorship programmes for young and female entrepreneurs established and supported (SDG 5.5)	Assessment report	0	2019	1	0	1		1	3	Client feedback forms	
2.1.3.2. # of young / female headed SMEs supported (SDG 5.5)	TSI, Women's Committee reportss	0	2019	40	25	20		20	80	Project progress report Feedback forms of clients Monitoring reports	2021: - 23 women entrepreneurs and 2 representatives of Business Women Association were supported with participation at Organic and Natural Products Expo Dubai 2021 on December 4-9, 2021. Export contracts signed for \$3,0 mln.