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“Fostering Participatory Development in Bordering Settlements of Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor Regions” Project LPAC Meeting Notes

December 6, 2019

Participants

Mihaela Stojkoska, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative

Dmitry Stepanov, Counsellor of the Embassy of the Russian Federation to Armenia

Ashot Arushanyan, Head of Department of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure

Varduhi Mnatsakanyan, Gegharkunik Marzpetaran (head of Development Projects)

Gegham Margaryan, Vayots Dzor Marzpetaran (head of Agricultural projects, a.i.)

Anna Gyurjyan, Manager of Socio-Economic Portfolio, UNDP Armenia

Tatevik Koloyan, Manager of Innovation Portfolio, UNDP Armenia

Armen Martirosyan, Manager of Environmental Portfolio, UNDP Armenia

Armen Tiraturyan, Project Manager of Integrated Support to Rural Development Project, UNDP Armenia

Gayane Manvelyan, Junior Expert/Assistant, Integrated Support to Rural Development Project, UNDP Armenia

Dianna Areyan, Programme Associate, UNDP Armenia

Louise Skarvall, SDG Liaison Officer

Ms. Stojkoska greeted the participants and opened the meeting with words of gratitude to national partners, particularly the MTAI and the regional administration of Vayots Dzor and Gegharkunik, as well as the donor, The Russian Federation represented by the Embassy of RF in Armenia. She highlighted that the project is going to be a part of established partnership between UNDP and the Russian Federation, and the results which have been achieved so far are significant from the perspective of accomplished work within the scope of Tavush and Tourism projects. She stressed that the triangular partnership engaging not only the donor and UNDP, but the local population, as well, is the most important aspect of the project ensuring sustainability and ownership.

Mr. Stepanov added that the project is the continuation of Tavush project, still it is clear that the project will need to openly communicate with the target communities to clearly identify the sub projects and design the cooperation schemes with the beneficiaries, including the youth.

Mr. Tiraturyan briefly presented the objective, activities, the intervention logic and theory of change of the project, highlighting its participatory, comprehensive, integrated and inclusive nature.

Mr. Arushanyan mentioned that the Project is line with the Territorial Development Strategy of Armenia for 2019-2029.

Ms. Mnatsakanyan pinpointed to the possibility of linking the producing parents to the school feeding scheme within the scope of the project.

Mr Arushanyan, Mr. Margaryan and Ms. Mnatsakanyan requested more details about the co-financing and the support to individual farmers.

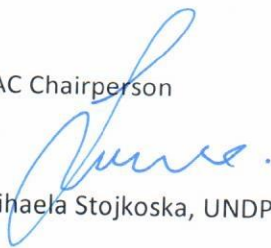
Mr. Tiraturyan explained that the co-financing is a precondition for all types of support provided by the Project both to groups, individuals and communities, and has proved as an important mechanism of ownership. In the meantime, he explained that the heavy agricultural machinery will be provided only for collective/community use, while the individuals are entitled to equipment and machinery for small-scale production and processing.

Mr. Margaryan added that the project is needed in the bordering communities, which are quite often left out of investment projects and initiatives. This has created a chronic lack of funding and investments in these areas. He expressed hope that the participatory nature and the co-financing scheme of the project will allow to achieve sustainability. In the meantime, Mr. Margaryan identified some entry points for the Project, for example 2.5 km of open pipeline irrigation network in Sers which will allow to irrigate 15 ha of land through gravity flow. Grinding and packaging equipment will contribute to value addition or the herb collecting households in Aznvaberd community and may even allow to supply to the army.

Ms. Mnatsakanyan added that they particularly look forward to infrastructure rehabilitation interventions.

Ms. Stojkoska highlighted that for UNDP implementation is an iterative learning process, and the discussion offered a good start for collecting intelligence about the needs and expectations of bordering communities in Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor. She thanked all the participants and wished successful implementation to the project.

PAC Chairperson

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mihaela', is written over the typed name.

Mihaela Stojkoska, UNDP DRR