

Reporting Agency: UNDP

Country: Armenia

MONITORING ACTION AND STANDARD PROGRESS REPORT¹

No. and title: 00118363 Fostering Participatory Development in Bordering Settlements of Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor Regions / Sustainable Communities

Reporting period: January 2022-December 2022

I. I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Present project's goal, objectives, duration, theory of change, implementing partner, responsible parties, other critical information.

“Fostering Participatory Development in Bordering Settlements of Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor Regions” project (hereinafter “Project”) aims at reducing the asymmetries of territorial development of Armenia targeting sustainable development and economic integration of 34 bordering settlements in Gegharkunik (22) and Vayots Dzor (12) regions with a total population of 41,981. The Project pursues the following objectives:

Objective 1: To foster local participation in development planning and monitoring for bottom-up community development.

Objective 2: To increase economic activity in the settlements through efficient local production and processing.

Objective 3: To innovate for improved local production and management.

Duration: March 2020 - December 2022

Implementing partner: RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI)

Responsible party: United Nations Development Programme

Theory of Change: The strategy is supported by the assumptions that i) community development is possible only with the involvement of people in identifying and solving the issues which affect their lives, ii) the residents of the local communities have the willingness and interest to contribute to the wellbeing of their communities and are the main actors to bring the positive change into their community, iii) there is an abundance of local untapped potential in the communities which can be used for the local growth if revealed, developed, framed and granted enough resources, iv) the local communities can absorb innovation adopting new technologies, new mechanisms and management models for improved products, processing, and sustainable growth.

¹ GUIDELINES: The report is cumulative. It shall be well-structured and narrated in a highly aggregated strategic evidence-based language, disaggregated by years as relevant. The report is prepared by Project Coordinator and quality assured by Portfolio Lead in line with oversight function and periodicity indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc), UNDP POPP Programme and Project Management policy, and CO Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. The Project Board shall receive/endorse project results and the Workplan at least annually, and final (M&E) Report with updated RRF after project completion.

II. RESOURCES, FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION

Matrix showing project's total, annual and delivered resources and percentage by donor funds.

	Total Project Budget	Current Year (2022)			All Years Delivery as of current quarter (USD)	All Years Delivery rate as of current quarter (%)
		Annual Budget	Delivery as of current quarter (USD)	Delivery rate as of current quarter (%)		
Government of Russian Federation	2,772,277	971,575 ²	825,202	85%	2,047,143	74%
Total	2,772,277	971,575	825,202	85%	2,047,143	74%

The project has leveraged 30.314.82 USD from the public sector from the public sector as a part of 80/100 co-financing scheme.

III. RESULTS

A snapshot of higher-level results: Present/discuss results vis-à-vis UNSDCF/CPD/UNDP SP, SDG outcomes, outputs, indicators, baselines, targets in line with Project Document (Prodoc) Results Framework (RRF). Update RRF in annex.

Other important Project level achievements.

Annual Work Plan: Present in below table a snapshot of the current year's workplan (planned targets, resources, achievement status). Attach in annex the updated Multi-Year Work Plan or Annual Work Plan as relevant.

UNSDCF/CPD	Project progress
Output 1.1 Marginalized groups are empowered to gain universal access to basic services and financial and non-financial assets to build productive capacities and benefit from sustainable livelihoods and jobs.	The project has managed to create employment and income generating opportunities for 275 people (160 women, 115 men). As a result of the project 16,935 additional people (8,668 females, 8267 males) benefited from strengthened livelihoods. Overall, 57,791 people (29,684 women, 28,107 men) report the increased economic activity through the project introduced local production and processing schemes and rehabilitated infrastructure.

Component 1: Fostered local participation in development planning and monitoring for bottom-up community development.

2020

- **15 (5 women, 10 men)** residents in the settlements participated in planning/ monitoring for bottom-up community development (**10 community meetings organized**).
- **1 integrated development plan** for the settlements designed and put in practice

² The amount of the target budget is presented, which is different from the annual budget (1,547,042USD) as the latter was revised because of the risks mentioned in "RISKS, PROPOSED CHANGES TO PRODOC, HORIZON SCANNING, EVALUATION" section of the report.

2021

- **37 (18 women, 19 men)** residents in the settlements participated in planning/monitoring for bottom-up community development (**34 community meetings organized**).
- **9 integrated development plans** for the settlements designed and put in practice
- **6 local monitors** identified and trained.

2022

- **196 (132 women, 64 men)** residents in the settlements participated in planning/monitoring for bottom-up community development (**44 community meetings organized**).
- **7 integrated development plans** for the settlements designed and put in practice.
- **1 local monitor** identified and trained.

Component 2: Increased economic activity in the settlements through efficient local production and processing.

2020

- **38 people (17 women, 21 men)** received jobs and **7,382 additional people (3,785 women, 3,597 men)** benefited from strengthened livelihoods.
- **96 units of machinery and other production inputs (2 units of agricultural machinery and seedlings for 94 ha (1 ha is 1 unit))** transferred to the settlements, producing and processing groups and individual entrepreneurs.
- **48 producers/processors (43 women, 5 men)** trained in agricultural and non-agricultural production (*overall number of trainings organized trainings – 1*).
- **8 units of renovated infrastructures (8 km of street lighting (1km is 1 unit))** in place benefitting **7,593 people (3,880 women, 3,713 men)**.

2021

- **35 people (21 women, 14 men)** received jobs and **4,909 additional people (2,509 women, 2,400 male)** benefited from strengthened livelihoods.
- **10 producing/processing small-medium entity** created and supported.
- **54 units of machinery, equipment and other production inputs (36 units of small-scale production/processing units and 18 units of agricultural machinery)** transferred to the settlements, producing and processing groups and individual entrepreneurs.
- **62 producers/processors (54 women, 8 men)** trained in agricultural and non-agricultural production (*overall number of trainings organized trainings – 2*).
- **56.2 units of renovated infrastructures (10 school cafeterias, 45 ha of irrigation lines (1 ha = 1 unit), 1.2 km of street lighting (1km is 1 unit))** in place benefitting **2,093 people (1036 women, 1057 men)**.

2022

- **202 people (122 women, 80 men)** received jobs and **4,644 additional people (2,374 women, 2,270 men)** benefited from strengthened livelihoods.
- **171 producing/processing small-medium entity** created and supported.

- **966 units of equipment and other production inputs (779 units of equipment and seedings for 187 ha (1 ha is 1 unit))** transferred to the settlements, producing and processing groups and individual entrepreneurs.
- **308 producers/ processors (169 women, 139 men)** trained in agricultural and non-agricultural production (*overall number of trainings organized trainings – 15*).
- **29 units of renovated infrastructures (11 solar panels, 18 km of street lighting (1km is 1 unit))** in place benefitting **30,752 people (15,834 women, 14,918 men)**.

Component 3: Improved production and management through new technologies and innovation.

2022

- **1 new/innovative tech solutions** developed and piloted locally.

Activity/Output	Expected Annual Targets/Indicators						
	Activities	Planned 2020-22	Target reached 2020	Target reached 2021	Target reached 2022	Overall Target reached	Annual budget 2022
1. Fostered local participation in development planning and monitoring for bottom-up community development.	1. # of women, men, report increased participation in local decision-making regarding community development	3400	15	37	196	248 (7%)	
	<i>Women</i>	1,900	5	18	132	155 (8%)	
	<i>Men</i>	1,500	10	19	64	93 (6%)	
	1.1 # community meetings held by the Project	170	10	34	44	88 (52%)	
	1.2 # of integrated development plans for the settlements	34	1	9	7	17 (50%)	
	1.3 # of local monitors identified and trained	24	0	6	1	7 (29%)	
Total							\$ 57,960.00
	2.# of women, and men report the increased economic activity through the project introduced local production and processing schemes and rehabilitated infrastructure.	TBC ³	15,023	7,064	35,704	57,783	
	<i>Women</i>		7,708	3,599	18,377	29,684	
	<i>Men</i>		7,315	3,465	17,327	28,107	
	2.1 # of producing/processing entities (including non-formal groups, cooperatives, and community development funds) created and supported by the Project.	TBC ⁴	0	10	171	181	

³ Based on identified production types, applicant beneficiaries and need-based infrastructure rehabilitation.

⁴ Based on identified production types and applicant beneficiaries.

	2.2. # of training/consulting sessions held for the producers and processors	TBC ⁵	1	2	15	18	
	2.3 # of producers and processors with access to capacity building and consulting.	200	48	62	308	418 (209%)	
	<i>Women</i>	110	43	54	169	266 (242%)	
	<i>Men</i>	90	5	8	139	152 (154%)	
	2.4 Units of machinery, equipment, and other production inputs (for agricultural and non-agricultural production and processing) transferred to the settlements, producing and processing groups and individual entrepreneurs	78	96	54	966	1116 (1431%)	
	2.5 # of renovated infrastructure (including school cafeteria, collection center, demo school, irrigation, etc.)	38	8	56.2	29	93.2 (245%)	
	2.6 # of people with access to improved infrastructure with the support of the project.	17,000	7,593	2,093	30,752	40,438 (238%)	
	<i>Women</i>	9,000	3,880	1,036	15,834	20,750 (231%)	
	<i>Men</i>	8,000	3,713	1,057	14,918	19,688 (246%)	
	2.7 # of new jobs and other livelihoods generated.	200	38	35	202	277 (139%)	
	a) New jobs created for women	110	17	21	122	160 (145%)	
	b) New jobs created for men	90	21	14	80	115 (128%)	
	c) Additional females benefiting from strengthened livelihoods	9,000	3,785	2,509	2,374	8,668 (96%)	
	d) Additional males benefiting from strengthened livelihoods	8,000	3,597	2,400	2,270	8,267 (103%)	
Total							\$ 515,203.00
	3. # of women, men in the regions report awareness of and benefiting from new/improved production and management mechanisms	TBC ⁶	0	0	25	30	

⁵ Based on identified production types and applicant beneficiaries

⁶ based on the number of adapted innovative solutions.

	introduced (new technologies, innovation)						
	3.1. # of new/innovative tech solutions developed and piloted locally	3	0	0	1	1 (33%)	
	3.2. # of Hackathons organized	4	0	0	0	0	
	3.3. # of Acceleration programmes implemented	2	0	0	0	0	

Component 1: Fostered local participation in development planning and monitoring for bottom-up community development.

The Project managed to successfully launch community consultations despite the restrictions on movement imposed due to the Covid-19 outbreak. To ensure a bottom-up approach and asset-based community development, in the framework of the project:

2020

- **15 people (5 women, 10 men)** report increased participation in local decision-making regarding community development.
- **10 community meetings** were held.
- **1 integrated development plan** for the settlements were developed.

2021

- **37 people (18 female, 19 male)** report increased participation in local decision-making regarding community development.
- **34 community meetings** were held.
- **6 local monitors** were identified and trained.
- **9 integrated development plans** for the settlements were developed.

2022

- **196 people (132 women, 64 men)** report increased participation in local decision-making regarding community development.
- **44 community meetings** were held.
- **7 integrated development plans** for the settlements were developed.
- **1 local monitor** was identified and trained.

The developed integrated development plans included the following concept designs:

“Ambar” business model



The Project identified wheat production and processing as a priority direction in supporting the local livelihoods. Hence, as a holistic solution that aims to minimize the high dependency on international wheat suppliers with 50% import rates (mainly from Russia,) the Project is still designing Ambar-an innovative community development foundation in Chambarak community of Gegherakunik region. The foundation will focus on the development of the whole value chain of crop production and processing, starting from the creation of seed reserve banks up to the formation of

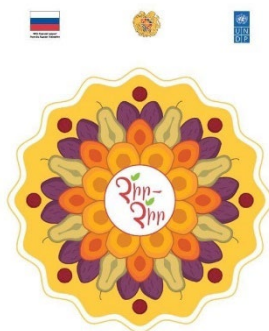
processing infrastructure and logistic centres for the cost-effective and de-centralized realization of local products. The design is finalised, the construction will start in 2023.

“Sweet House”

In 2022, “Sweet House” project is designed for the small businesses engaged in agro-processing activities of fruits and vegetables in rural areas. “Sweet House” is about families producing sweets, dry fruits, jams, honey products etc. The mission of the project is to create super-small scale processing units by creating a new recognizable brand that will further be promoted to attract tourists interested in sweet production, testing, and buying directly from farmers. The project requires potential households to be equipped with a separate area for production, and necessary equipment. Provided that they comply with sanitary and hygienic requirements. The project was designed on basis of the “Gastro Yard”; the concept that was successfully implemented for the rural tourism development supporting the wine production as well as food serving.



“Chir-Chir” Dry Fruits



In 2022, “Chir-Chir” Dry Fruits project was developed to increase economic activity of vulnerable groups in the rural areas by strengthening the efficiency and quality of their naturally produced dried fruits and vegetables. The goal of the project is to provide technical expertise and equipment (drying nets) to start the production of dry walnut and tomatoes. These two products were selected by the expert team to create a competitive advantage over the commonly produced dry fruits of apricots, peaches, and apples. Especially dry fruits of walnuts are completely new to this region and have a very high potential to become a highly demanded product in the market. The project comprises of the following stages: open call announcement, selection of beneficiaries, training sessions, capacity assessment/exam, and provision of drying nets.

“I CAN”



«Կարնի Համայնք»
Համայնք



Developed in 2022, the project “I Can” is a youth-targeted initiative aiming to see behavioral change among youth and motivate them to engage in entrepreneurial and innovational activities. The Project targets youth (18-30 years old) currently living in 34 bordering settlements of Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor regions. “I Can” is an experimental project which is based on scientists’ psychological findings and intends to raise the belief in authority and control over own destiny on a subconscious level. It opens prerequisites for developing self-confidence and overcoming setbacks faster. The project offers a co-financing 80/20 scheme for projects not exceeding USD 10,000. The selected applicants participate in business development training on the topics related to finance, marketing, strategy development, communication, and business planning. Each training is accompanied by famous people, businessmen and social media stars. At the end of the training participants present their final projects to the committee to get the final financing decision.

“Honey-Money”

The concept of “Honey Money” was designed in 2021 to strengthen existing beekeeping practices or create new income-generating opportunities for the people interested in beekeeping. around the country. To support beekeepers and the industry, the project came up with pragmatic solutions by acquiring innovative polyurethane (PPU) beehives that could possibly boost production in the short run. PPU hives are spreading globally even though at a slow rate. They have several advantages, for instance, lightweight, heat retention, and moisture resistance, and they do not require mandatory entry in winter. In comparison with wood, PPU does not change its parameters in rain or snow. Polyurethane foam is not gnawed by mice or bees.



Thus, the project aims to equip beekeeping farms by improving beekeeping properties and implementing effective governance mechanisms to promote economic activity in communities. The initiative comprises of 5 stages: open call announcement, selection of beneficiaries, training sessions, capacity assessment/exam, and provision of hives.

“Renovation of Agricultural Machinery Pool”

Within the framework of the project “Renovation of Agricultural Machinery Pool” developed by the UNDP “Sustainable Communities” programme in 2022, agricultural machinery (e.g. grain harvesters, combine harvesters and mowing tractors, crawler and wheeled tractors) studies are carried out based on accepted applications, as a result of which agricultural machinery in need of urgent repair is selected and completely repaired to be put into operation in the bordering rural communities of Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor regions.



“My Village”

Designed in 2021, “My Village” aims to identify and co-finance new and existing small business entrepreneurs to foster productivity, renovate, and reequip innovative ideas in the agricultural sector, thus contributing to the long-term goal of self-dependency and food security in the settlements. The project co-finances business initiatives related to agricultural processing and food production. In the framework of the project the beneficiaries get professional consulting and assistance on marketing.

“Start Me Up”

The project “Start Me Up” designed in 2020 aims at production, development, promotion, and diversification of agricultural products. The project supports existing or newly created small businesses to increase their efficiency, to re-equip and re-profile them. The project co-finances innovative initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life of residents in rural communities, as well as services aimed at the development and modernization. In the framework of the project the beneficiaries get professional consulting and assistance on construction, software, and marketing.

Component 2: Increased economic activity in the settlements through efficient local production and processing.

In the framework of the component the project managed:

2020

- **15,023 (7,708 women, 7,315 men)** report the increased economic activity through the project introduced local production and processing schemes and rehabilitated infrastructure.
- To organize **1 training for 48 producers and processors (43 women, 5 men)** to strengthen stakeholders’ knowledge on dried fruit production.
- **8 kilometres central streetlight** was modified (**250 luminaries were installed**), **7,593 people (3,880 women, 3,713 men)**, benefitted from the construction of the new street lighting system. The central streetlight was modified in Chambarak, Vahan, Ttujur settlements of Gegharkunik.
- To renovate **2 agricultural machinery pool** benefiting **1,698 people**.
- To provide **52.6 tons** of seeds (barley, beans, chickpeas, potato) for **94 ha orchards**.

2021


- **7,064 (3,599 women, 3,465 men)** report the increased economic activity through the project introduced local production and processing schemes and rehabilitated infrastructure.
- To create **5** and to support **5 producing/processing entities and (including self-employed individuals)** which in it turn gave an employment and income-generating opportunities to **35 people (21 women, 14 men)**, additional **4,909 people benefiting from strengthened livelihoods (2,509 women, 2,400 men)**
- To organize **2 trainings for 62 producers and processors (54 female, 8 male)** to strengthen stakeholders’ business knowledge and agricultural crops and application of agrotechnical measures skills.
- To renovate or provide **54 units of machinery, equipment and other production inputs** for agricultural and non-agricultural purposes, which helped to automatized and facilitate many agricultural and laboratory processes, improve the quality of production.
- To renovate and re-furnish **10 school canteens** providing better hygiene conditions to **1,111 people (520 women, 591 men)**. The school canteens were in Khndzorut, Martiros, Khachik, Bardzruni and Areni settlements of Vayots Dzor region as well as Areguni, Geghamasar, Kakhakn, Shatvan and Tretuk settlements of Gegharkunik. Note: **UNDP renovated a school library in Areni settlement of Vayots Dzor region, giving an opportunity to 295 beneficiaries to study in improved and modernized library.**

- **1.2 kilometres central streetlight** was modified (**40 luminaries were installed**), **164 people** benefitted from the construction of the new street lighting system. The central streetlight was modified in Tretuk settlement of Gegharkunik.
- Irrigation water pipes were provided to the community to renovate the irrigation system (**4445 meters tube**) in the area of **45 ha** in Khachik village of Vayots Dzor region benefiting **818 people**. The new irrigation system maximized the efficiency of the used water to 95% as 60% of the irrigation water was lost during the watering through the land.

2022

- **35,704 (18,377 female, 17,327 male)** report the increased economic activity through the project introduced local production and processing schemes and rehabilitated infrastructure.
- To create **167** and to support **4 producing/processing entities** (including self-employed individuals) which in it turn gave an employment and income-generating opportunities to **202 people (122 women, 80 men)** additional **4,644 people benefiting from strengthened livelihoods (2,374 women, 2,270 men)**
- To organize **15 trainings** for **308 producers and processors (169 women, 139 men)** to strengthen stakeholders' business knowledge and to support them in further enhancing their sustainable business strategies and plans.
- To renovate or provide **966 units of machinery, equipment and other production inputs (779 units of equipment and seedings for 187 ha (1 ha is 1 unit))** for agricultural and non-agricultural purposes, which helped to automatized and facilitate many agricultural and laboratory processes, improve the quality of production.
- **18 kilometres central streetlight** was modified (**600 luminaries were installed**), **11,127 people (5748 women, 5379 men)** benefitted from the construction of the new street lighting system. The central streetlight was modified in Areni, Khachik, Yelpin, Rind and Chiva settlements of Vayots Dzor, as well as Chambarak settlement of Gegharkunik.
- **11 solar panels** were installed to cut minimum by 50 % community expenses for energy consumption including street lightening benefiting **19,625 people (10,086 women, 9539 men)** in Areni, Khachik, Yelpin, Rind, Chiva settlements of Vayots Dzor.

SUCCESS STORIES

Project: Motall Cheese	
	<p>Ruslan, a cheese producer based in Chambarak, created one kind of cheese called 'Motall'. This distinctive cheese is a pioneer in the market due to its unique technology and rich flavors. With the help of UNDP's "Sustainable Communities" programme, Ruslan refurbished and equipped his production venue and ended up signing a contract with one of the biggest supermarket chains in Armenia. Due to UNDP's contribution, he is now able to increase his production as well as collect milk from neighboring villages.</p>
Project: Beauty Salon	

	<p>Sofia provided hairdressing services for many years in Areni community but never had a venue to host her loyal customers. She visited their homes and worked her magic. Her dream has always been to open her own salon and offer a compound range of services to female community members. With the help of UNDP “Sustainable Communities” programme, Sofia acquired needed equipment for the salon and implemented construction activities. Currently, the salon is actively operating and providing hairdressing services, nail polishing and hair removal treatments.</p>
<p>Project: ZarMan development centre</p>	
	<p>“ZarMan” is a unique child development center where children have the opportunity to spend time together, engage in different activities and socialize with one another. The owner Lusine applied to “Start-Me-Up” competition to establish this center in Areni community, and together with the local authorities and UNDP funding she opened the centre. Her dream is to create equal educational opportunities for children regardless of their location and status. She strongly believes, that only through sustainable education, society can heal and prosper, walk boldly into the future.</p>

Component 3: Improved production and management through new technologies and innovation.



In 2022, “Farm to Table” concept was piloted with “954 Tastes” as an attempt to bring villages closer to the cities through introducing new marketing and sales channels. David Davtyan, a young entrepreneur, is a founder of “954 Tastes” company, which offers a value-added processing to the farm-grown products. The goal of “954 Tastes” company is to present



954 tastes from all the regions of Armenia bringing it to online and offline platforms. Currently 5 people are employed (2 males, 5 females), while over 20 farmers benefit from the project. The project gave “954 Tastes” an agricultural product dryer, refrigerators, 2 freezers, vacuum packaging machine to be able to store more product to meet the increasing market demand.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING, LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND, OTHER ASPECTS

- Indicate project’s gender marker (GEN0-3), gender mainstreaming strategy/approaches in line with corporate/CO Gender Equality Strategy, mentioning particular **gender-responsive (GEN2) or gender-transformative (GEN3)** results. If possible, GEN0-1 projects shall be revisited for upgrade.
- Present the project’s targeting strategy and application of **Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)** approach.
- Present the project’s **cross-cutting aspects and ‘enablers’** in such areas as cross-portfolio interventions, human rights-based approach, risk informed development, mainstreaming innovation, social and environmental responsiveness, user-driven design, citizen engagement, leveraging private financing.

In accordance with the gender mainstreaming approach, the project has managed to demonstrate the following gender responsive (GEN2) results.

- 155 women report increased participation in local decision-making regarding community development
- 29,684 women report the increased economic activity through the project introduced local production and processing schemes and rehabilitated infrastructure.
- 266 female producers and processors got the access to capacity building and consulting.
- 20,750 women got the access to improved infrastructure with the support of the project.
- 160 women got new job opportunities.
- 8,668 additional females benefited from strengthened livelihoods.

V. RISKS, PROPOSED CHANGES TO PRODOC, HORIZON SCANNING, EVALUATION

- **Risks, Changes to ProDoc:** *Present/discuss the current risks status and mitigation strategies. Update risks in Atlas and in attached Log. The closed risks shall remain in the list. Present changes to ProDoc necessitated by horizon scanning or other factors. Indicate all project revisions, reasons and dates.*
- **Evaluation:** *Indicate if ProDoc defines evaluation for this project. For conducted evaluations present the implementation of recommendations/management response.*

The project has encountered the following 5 main risks:

- Continuous escalations on the borders.
- Political instability
- The floating exchange rate of the Armenian Dram, the frequency of rate fluctuations.
- Covid-19 pandemic
- High expectations for the target communities versus the limited scope of the project.

Below some details of each risk mentioned above and, if available, its mitigation measures are presented.

Continuous escalations on the borders

The continuous military escalations and the consequent security risks in the bordering regions have created a lack of human resources in places and psychological crisis, which resulted in the delay of all the components of project implementation. Security risks also limit the use of agricultural lands remaining one of the main challenges for the project implementation. Meanwhile these risks reveal pocket needs such as street lighting for bordering settlements that are followed up by the project.

Political instability

The political instability in the country has negatively impacted the motivation of the beneficiaries to engage in the project activities. They are often afraid to start new initiatives not feeling secure about future developments. To mitigate this risk additional incentives are continuously provided to target community members for active involvement (such as beehives, pad nets for fruit drying etc.).

The floating exchange rate of the Armenian dram, the frequency of rate fluctuations

The financial instability imposes a risk of budget insufficiency. To tackle this issue project continuously attempts to attract additional funds from the communities and beneficiaries, establish public-private partnerships, leveraging funds with other organizations/projects operating in the region. To mitigate the risk the decision was made to sign all the contracts in the USD.

Covid-19 pandemic

A newly emerged public health risk imposed by the Covid-19 outbreak resulted in restrictions on movements and face-to-face interaction. To mitigate this risk the project has widened the scope of communication with beneficiaries and main stakeholders widely using various means of online communication such as video messages, online seminars, and trainings etc.

High expectations of the target communities versus the limited scope of the project

The limited scope of the project often does not allow to fully meet all the needs of the target communities. The constant communication with beneficiaries and participatory project planning helps to identify to prioritize their needs and focus on the most urgent ones.

No evaluation is envisaged since the project budget is below the required minimum of 3mln USD

VI. PARTNERSHIP. COMMUNICATION AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

- Present **partnership strategies**, discuss South-South/Triangular cooperation, inter-agency or other collaboration, mentioning the learning or leading roles.
- Collate in a table **knowledge and communication materials and links**. Indicate planned flagship publications and discuss their strategic importance.

In the framework of the project, partnerships are developed on the international, national, and local levels.

On the international level

The project developed a close partnership with the National Center of grain after P.P. Lukyanenko and Vavilov Institute of Plant Industry in the Russian Federation to purchase new quality seeds. In the framework of the regional project “Knowledge Management and Capacity Building in Russia-UNDP Partnership” the expert has been engaged to pilot an integrated community development plan for Chambarak community that will allow having strategic socio-economic development concept for the community with 12,443 population. In addition, the project has successfully joined the efforts with WFP for school canteen renovation.

On the national level

The project cooperates with *the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure*, which is the national implementing partner of the project and a member of the Project’s Steering Committee. In the framework of the collaboration with *the RA Government* the subvention mechanism offered by the latter is used for co-financing the infrastructure construction and rehabilitation within the communities. The project also cooperates with the RA Ministry of Economy to scale up piloted business models developed by the project. The project also cooperates with *the Scientific Center of Vegetable and Industrial Crops* for mentoring and capacity building of the producer groups in horticulture as well as *Gyumri Selection Station* for creating a wheat seed bank. The partnerships network established throughout the implementation of Climate Change Technology Accelerator (financially supported by Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development).

On the local level

The project has successfully created and maintained a close partnership with the local administrations of the target communities, and the regional administration of Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor.

Sustainable Communities Media Highlights 2022

2022

"I Can" Competition Announcement Link	News Coverage on Meeting with Gegharkunik Marzpet Link
News Coverage about "Sustainable Communities" Programme overview and initiative Link	News Coverage on “Honey Money” Project announcement Link
“Sweet House” Competition Announcement Link	"I Can" Competition Announcement Link

News Coverage on Programme activities in Syunik Link	"I Can" Competition Announcement Link
"I Can Competition" Announcement Link	Meeting with Gegharkunik Marzpet Link
Honey Money workshop announcement Link	News Article about Bee hives distribution in Vayk Link

2021

MTAD Meeting with Gegharkunik Marzpet Link	Office Gegharkunik Marz 'Sustainable Communities' project presentation Link
Armenpress Competition announcement Link	News.am Competition announcement Link
Ministry of Economy website Competition announcement Link	Newshub Article on street lights Link
Aragatsotn Marzpet Official Facebook page Street lights coverage Link	Ministry of Economy website AgroMachine competition announcement Link
Gegharkunik MTAD website AgroMachine competition announcement Link	Shoghakat Community web page AgroMachine competition announcement Link
verelq.am 'Sustainable Communities' project presentation Link	tert.am Competition announcement Link
Regional Post Armenia 'Sustainable Communities' project presentation Link	Ararat News Competition announcement Link
EJC.am Competition announcement Link	Public TV of Armenia Project launch Link
"News article about Russian Federation projects with UNDP in Armenia" Link	Verelq.am Infrastructure competition announcement Link
Russian Embassy Infrastructure competition announcement Link	Public TV of Armenia news about our all project activities Link
Sputnik Armenia Cooperation with Vavilov Scientific center Link	Public TV Armenia Solar 24 news coverage Link
Public TV Armenia Solar 24 news coverage Link	Gegharkunik Marzpetaran Official Facebook Page Solar 24 news coverage Link
Gegharkunik Marzpetaran Official website Meeting with Gegharkunik Marzpet Link	Public TV of Armenia News Coverage about Business Trainings Link
Ilurer.am Link	eco.am Link
Banks.am Link	ProNews.am Link

2020

Media Platform	Occasion	Link
Armenpress	News coverage about the launch of the project	https://armenpress.am/arm/news/1017520.html
Yerkir Media	News coverage about the launch of the project	https://yerkirmedia.am/hy/article/2020/06/05/10708/
Yegharkunik Marz website	News coverage about the launch of the project	http://gegharkunik.mtad.am/news/item/2020/06/03/2/
Arm Radio	News coverage about the launch of "Together" project	https://bit.ly/3gyTN9s
InterLur	News coverage about the launch of "Together" project	https://bit.ly/2QpG1LZ
Armenpress	News coverage about the launch of "Together" project	https://armenpress.am/arm/news/1025225.html
Ministry of Economy website	News coverage about the launch of "Together" project	https://mineconomy.am/page/1664
Mtad.am	News coverage about the launch of "Together" project	https://bit.ly/3aWqQEN
Analitik.am	News coverage about the launch of "Together" project	https://rb.gv/gtsrcf
Mtad.am	Start-Me-Up competition announcement	http://www.mtad.am/hy/news/item/2020/07/13/mtad13.07/
Gegharkunik MTAD	Start-Me-Up competition announcement	http://gegharkunik.mtad.am/news/item/2020/07/03/2/

VII. VALIDATION OF RESULTS (FIELD VISITS). QUALITY ASSURANCE. LESSONS LEARNED. PROJECT BOARDS. DONOR REPORTS

- Project Coordinator shall prepare and countersign with Portfolio Leads a **field visit/output verification** document (template see in annex) in line with ProDoc, POPP, and CO M&E Plan. For HACT and RP-related projects use M&E report and field visit template for programme monitoring. Risks and lessons learned shall be part of HACT/RP programmatic monitoring.
- Formulate **lessons learned** through lifetime of the project in highly strategic language.
- Present a schedule of Project Board (PB) meetings and implementation status.
- Present a schedule of donor reports and implementation status.
- Prepare **quality assurance report** in UNDP system and discuss with Portfolio Lead (assurer). For newly developing projects/outputs **Design quality assurance reports** shall be prepared, assured, and approved in the system. For ongoing project **Implementation quality assurance reports** shall be prepared once in two years. For closing projects **Closure Quality Assurance Reports** shall be prepared, assured, and approved in the system. Closure QA shall contain all evidence and approval documents (LPAC, PB minutes, final RB minutes, monitoring reports, etc).

DONOR REPORTS

Annual Progress Report	03/02/2021
Annual Progress Report	10/01/2022

PROJECT BOARD (PB) MEETINGS

Board Meeting	02/02/2021
Board Meeting	21/12/2022

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The project has completed its quality assurance ([Implementation \(undp.org\)](https://www.undp.org/implementation)) scheduled in 2021.

Field visit:

Purpose of the field visit: Validation of Results

Outcomes	Update on Outcomes	Outputs	Update on Outputs	Reasons if progress below target	Update on partnership strategies	Recommendations and proposed action

<p>UNSDCF/CPD Outcome 4: People, communities and regions benefit from equitable economic opportunities, decent work and sustainable livelihoods, enabled through competitiveness and inclusive green growth</p>	<p>The project has created and scaled up models of sustainable production and processing in the target communities resulting in income raise for the households in the rural areas. All the models have been to the biggest extent inclusive targeting women, the youth, and other vulnerable groups and ensuring decent jobs and comprehensive support from the stage of consulting to capacity building and provision of production means. All the project interventions contributed to obtaining social betterment in the targeted settlements and created intrinsic advantages and income-generating opportunities that are conducive to building a sound progressive culture in the rural areas.</p>	<p>Output 1.1. Marginalized groups are empowered to gain universal access to basic services and financial and non-financial assets to build productive capacities and benefit from sustainable livelihoods and jobs.</p>	<p>Target: 3400; Actual: 248 # of women, men, report increased participation in local decision-making regarding community development</p> <p>Target: 170; Actual: 88 # community meetings held by the Project</p> <p>Target: 34; Actual: 17 # of integrated development plans for the settlements</p> <p>Target: 24; Actual: 7 # of local monitors identified and trained</p> <p>Target: TBC; Actual: 57,791 # of women and men report the increased economic activity through the project introduced local production and processing schemes and rehabilitated infrastructure.</p> <p>Target: TBC; Actual: 181 # of producing/processing entities (including non-formal groups, cooperatives, and community development funds) created and supported by the Project.</p> <p>Target: TBC; Actual: 18 # of training/consulting sessions held for the producers and processors</p> <p>Target: 200; Actual: 418 # of producers and processors with access to capacity building and consulting.</p> <p>Target: 78; Actual: 1116 # of units of machinery, equipment, and other production inputs (for agricultural and non-agricultural production and processing) transferred to the settlements, producing and processing groups and individual entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Target: 38; Actual: 93.2 # of renovated infrastructure (including school cafeteria, collection centre, demo school, irrigation etc.)</p>	<p>Security risks of potential spillover of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to project target settlements; particularly in the bordering areas. Restrictions on movement and quarantine measures imposed due to Covid-19 pandemic</p>	<p>The project continues its close collaboration with stakeholders and partners through learning and continuous feedback.</p>	<p>The Project should focus on extensively using ICT and all the COVID safe means as well as media and social platforms to prevent the project impeding the progress toward strategic planning and for continuous need validation, stakeholder consultation, as well as engagement and inclusion in the targeted areas.</p>
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			<p>Target: 17,000; Actual 40,438 # of people with access to improved infrastructure with the support of the project.</p> <p>Target: 110; Actual 160 # of new jobs created for women</p> <p>Target: 90; Actual 115 # of new jobs created for men</p> <p>Target: 9000; Actual 8668 # of additional females benefiting from strengthened livelihoods</p> <p>Target: 8000; Actual 8267 # of additional males benefiting from strengthened livelihoods</p> <p>Target: TBC; Actual: 30 # of women, men benefiting from new/improved production and management mechanisms introduced</p> <p>Target: 3; Actual:1 new/innovative tech solutions developed and piloted locally</p> <p>Target: 2; Actual:0 # of hackathons organized</p> <p>Target: 2; Actual: 0 # of Acceleration programmes implemented</p>			
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LESSONS LEARNED

The following main lessons were learned:

- A significant number of arable lands of the target settlements couldn't be accessed for project initiatives because of the security risks created by the potential spillover of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to the bordering communities of the Gegharkunik region. The decision was made to set up inter-regional cooperation with Shirak regions for the production of wheat.
- As a result of the created socio-political situation caused by military operations, it was challenging to find suppliers and vendors within the necessary timeframe. The project has reached out to the previous suppliers with successful implementation history.
- The morale and motivation of people from the bordering regions were low to engage in project-initiated activities because of the military operations. It was decided to pause activities in direct bordering locations and prepare projects for better times.
- In the case of Solar24 intervention, it was revealed that the communities concurrently apply for UNDP co-financed street lighting projects and state subsidy programs. This results in overlapping efforts with state initiatives. Therefore, the project has decided to identify at earlier

stages of needs assessment for this intervention, those communities who won't be applying for state subsidy programs.

Participants in the field visit:

Signature 
Name Anna Gyurjyan
Designation: SED Portfolio Manager

VIII. FUTURE ACTIONS, WORK PLAN

- *Indicate upcoming key strategic interventions*
- *As indicated, attach in annex the updated Work Plan (ref. ProDoc).*

Results Framework⁷

Intended Outcome as stated in the UNDAF/Country Programme Results and Resource Framework:
<p>Output 1.1 Marginalized groups are empowered to gain universal access to basic services and financial and non-financial assets to build productive capacities and benefit from sustainable livelihoods and jobs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indicator 1.1.1: Number of jobs created in communities Baseline (2020): 1,500 (805 men; 695 women) Target (2025): 2,000 (1,050 men; 950 women) 10% increase women entrepreneurs, UNDP, annually• Indicator 1.1.2: Number of persons with improved livelihoods Baseline (2020): 28,000 (12,000 men; 16,000 women) Target (2025): 40,000 (18,000 men; 22,000 women), UNDP, annually• Indicator 1.1.3: Number of economic actors benefiting from improved productive capacities and strengthened value chains Baseline (2020): 240 Target (2025): 390 (25% women-led), UNDP, annually
<p>Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan: Output 1.1. National and sub-national systems and institutions enabled to achieve structural transformation of productive capacities that are sustainable and employment - and livelihoods-intensive,</p>
<p>Project title and Atlas Project Number: Fostering Participatory Development in Bordering Settlements of Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor Regions</p>

⁷ UNDP publishes its project information (indicators, baselines, targets and results) to meet the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards. Make sure that indicators are S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound), provide accurate baselines and targets underpinned by reliable evidence and data, and avoid acronyms so that external audience clearly understand the results of the project.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	TARGETS BY FREQUENCY OF DATA COLLECTION								DATA COLLECTION METHODS AND RISKS
			2020		2021		2022		FINAL		
			Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Component 1 Fostered local participation in development planning and monitoring for bottom-up community development.	1. # of women, men, report increased participation in local decision-making regarding community development	Surveys, Monitoring reports	1300 -700 w -600m	15 -5 w -10 m	1300 -700 w -600 m	37 -18 w -19 m	800 -500 w -300 m	196 -132w -64 m	3400 -1900 w -1500 m	248 -155w -93 m	Project monitoring
	1.1 # of community meetings held by the project	Field visit reports, Project reports, participation lists	65	10	65	34	40	44	170	88	Field visits and reporting
	1.2 # of integrated development plans for the settlements	Community development projects, project reports, the official website of the MTAI	13	1	13	9	8	7	34	17	Reporting
	1.3 # of local monitors identified and trained	Participation lists, field visit reports	10	0	10	6	4	1	24	7	Field visits, project records
Component 2 Increased economic activity in the settlements through efficient local production and processing.	2. # of women, and men report the increased economic activity through the project introduced local production and processing schemes and rehabilitated infrastructure.	Surveys Monitoring reports	TBC (based on identified production types, applicant beneficiaries and need-based infrastructure rehabilitation)	15,023	TBC	7,064	TBC	35,704	TBC	57,791	Project monitoring
	2.1 # of producing/processing entities (including non-formal groups.	Field visit reports, Project reports	TBC (based on identified production	0	TBC	10	TBC	171	TBC	181	Field visits, interviews, surveys, project records

	cooperatives, and community development funds) created and supported by the Project.	Registration certificates	types and applicant beneficiaries)								
	2.2 # of training/consulting sessions held for the producers and processors	Project reports Participation lists	TBC (based on identified needs)	1	TBC	2	TBC	15	TBC	18	Project records
	2.3 # of producers and processors with access to capacity building and consulting. Disaggregated by sex	Project reports Participation lists	20	48 -w 43 -m 5	90	62 -w 54 -m 8	90	308 -w 169 -m 139	200 -w 110 -m 90	418 -w 266 -m 152	Project records, field visits
	2.4 Units of machinery, equipment, and other production inputs (for agricultural and non-agricultural production and processing) transferred to the settlements, producing and processing groups and individual entrepreneurs	Transfer acts Project reports Field visit reports	10	96	38	54	30	966	At least 78 40 greenhouses 25 small scale production/p rocessing units - seedlings for 10 ha demonstration orchards (1 ha is 1 unit) -2 units of agro machinery (i.e. combine harvester, tractor)	1116 815 small scale production/p rocessing units - seedlings for 281 ha demonstration orchards (1 ha is 1 unit) -20 units of agro machinery (i.e. combine harvester, tractor)	Project records Field visits
	2.5 # of renovated infrastructure (including school cafeteria, collection center, demo school, irrigation, etc.)	Transfer acts Project reports Field visit reports	5	8	18	56.2	15	29	At least 38 -10 school cafeteria -10 km drinking water lines (1km is 1 unit) -10ha of irrigation	93.2 -10 school cafeteria -0 km drinking water lines (1km is 1 unit) -45 ha of irrigation	Project records Field visits

									lines (1ha is 1 unit) -1 collection center - 1 construction for agro machinery pool -6 km of street lighting (1km is 1 unit)	lines (1ha is 1 unit) -0 collection center - 0 construction for agro machinery pool - 11 solar panels -27.2 km of street lighting (1km is 1 unit)	
	2.6 # of people with access to improved infrastructure with the support of the project, disaggregated by sex.	Field visit reports Project progress reports questionnaires	150	7,593 -3,880 w -7,313 m	8400	2,093 -1036w -1057m	8450	30,752 -15,834w -14,918 m	17,000 c-w 9000 d -m 8000	40,438 -20,750w -19,688 m	Monitoring visits Surveys
	2.7 # of new jobs and other livelihoods generated, disaggregated by sex. a) New jobs created for women b) New jobs created for men c)Additional females benefiting from strengthened livelihoods d)Additional males benefiting from strengthened livelihoods	Field visit reports Project progress reports questionnaires	a) 20 b) 20 c) 150 d) 150	a)17 b) 21 c) 3,785 d) 3,597	a) b) 90 c) d) 8400	a)21 b)14 c) 2509 d) 2400	a) b) 90 c) d) 8450	a)122 b) 80 c) 2374 d) 2270	a-w 110 b-m 90 c-w 9000 d -m 8000	a)160 b) 115 c) 8,668 d) 8,267	Monitoring visits Surveys
Component 3 Improved production and management through new	3. # of women, men in the regions report awareness of and benefiting from new/improved production and management	Surveys Monitoring report	TBC (based on the number of adapted innovative solutions)		TBC		TBC	25	TBC	30	Project monitoring

technologies and innovation	mechanisms introduced (new technologies, innovation)										
	3.1. # of new/innovative tech solutions developed and piloted locally	Project reports, UNDP website	0	0	3	0	0	1	3	1	Project Progress Reports
	3.2. # of Hackathons organized	Project reports, UNDP website	2	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	Project Progress Reports, media channels
	3.3. # of Acceleration programmes implemented	Project reports, UNDP website	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	Project Progress Reports, media

ANNUAL/MULTIYEAR WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FROM PRODOC ⁸⁹

All anticipated programmatic and operational costs to support the project, including development effectiveness and implementation support arrangements, need to be identified, estimated and fully costed in the project budget under the relevant output(s). This includes activities that directly support the project, such as communication, human resources, procurement, finance, audit, policy advisory, quality assurance, reporting, management, etc. All services which are directly related to the project need to be disclosed transparently in the project document.

⁸ Cost definitions and classifications for programme and development effectiveness costs to be charged to the project are defined in the Executive Board decision DP/2010/32

⁹ Changes to a project budget affecting the scope (outputs), completion date, or total estimated project costs require a formal budget revision that must be signed by the project board. In other cases, the UNDP programme manager alone may sign the revision provided the other signatories have no objection. This procedure may be applied for example when the purpose of the revision is only to re-phase activities among years.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year			RESPON SIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		2020	2021	2022		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
Component 1: <i>Fostered local participation in development planning and monitoring for bottom-up community development</i> <i>Gender marker: GEN 2</i>	1 Activity: Launch a participatory exercise for development planning of the target border settlements.	43,200	43,200	43,200	UNDP	RUS GOV	Contractual Services/Individuals	108,000
							Travel	12,000
							Foreign Exchange Currency Loss	0
							Facilities and Administration	9,600
	1.2 Activity: Identify and form local monitoring groups for strengthened local ownership and increased accountability.	16,200	15,876	14,760	UNDP	RUS GOV	Local consultants	13,367
							Contractual Services/Companies	30,000
							Facilities and Administration	3,469
	Sub-Total for Output 1							
Component 2: <i>Increased economic activity in the settlements through efficient local production and processing.</i> <i>Gender marker: GEN 2</i>	2.1 Activity: Conduct analysis for identification of production and processing opportunities in each settlement.	21,600	37,800	27,000	UNDP	RUS GOV	Local consultants	20,000
							Contractual Services/Companies	60,000
							Facilities and Administration	6,400
	2.2 Activity: Form producing and processing groups, and identify the individual producers in the target settlements.	33,480	33,480	33,480	UNDP	RUS GOV	Contractual Services/Individuals	84,000
							Travel	9,000
							Facilities and Administration	7,440
	2.3 Activity: Provide sectoral and need-based capacity-building to the producing/processing groups and individuals	6,264	60923	54,000	UNDP	RUS GOV	Local consultants	15,800
							Contractual Services/Companies	96,410
Facilities and Administration							8,977	

	2.4 Activity: Provide access to the local producers and processing entities to machinery, equipment, and other inputs for increased agricultural (non-agricultural) production and processing.	216,000	243,000	216,000	UNDP	RUS GOV	Equipment and Furniture	325,000
							Materials and Goods	300,000
							Facilities and Administration	50,000
	2.5. : Build and renovate the community infrastructure for improved livelihoods at the local level	174,960	441,817	184,723	UNDP	RUS GOV	Local Consultants	9,000
							Contractual Services/Individuals	108,000
							Travel	9,000
							Contractual Services/Companies	524,000
							Materials and Goods	92,130
							Facilities and Administration	59,370
	Sub-Total for Output 2							1,784,527
Component 3: Improved production and management through new technologies and innovation.	3.1. Activity: Develop and pilot innovative tech solutions for product and process improvement.	95,040	102,978	0	UNDP	RUS GOV	Management Cost	6,000
							Local Consultants	37,000
							Contractual Services/Individuals	75,000
							Travel	2,800
							Contractual Services/Companies	60,000
							Audio Visual&print. Pod costs	1,050
							Workshops	1,500
							Facilities and Administration	14,668
	Sub-Total for Output 3							198,018
Project Implementation: 4 Activity		221,736	190,243	201,317	UNDP	RUS GOV	Programme Management Cost	45,000
							Local Consultants	4,600

							Contractual Services/individuals	312,000	
							Travel	12,000	
							Equipment and Travel	6,000	
							Contractual Services-Companies	1,753	
							Materials and Goods	15,000	
							Communication and Audiovisual	17,100	
							Supplies	2,253	
							Rental and Maint. Premises	30,300	
							Rental and Maint. of Info-Tech Eq	8,400	
							Rental and Maint other equipment	8,100	
							Audit fee	10,000	
							Audiovisual and Printing/Production	15,000	
							Miscellaneous	45,000	
							Training, Workshop, and Conferences	6,000	
							Vehicles-Budget	29,361	
							Facilities and Administration	45,429	
	Sub-Total for Output 4							613,296	
Outputs Total									2,566,924
GMS Total									205,353
TOTAL									2,772,277