

**Reporting Agency: UNDP**

**Country: Armenia**

**MONITORING ACTION AND STANDARD PROGRESS REPORT<sup>1</sup>**

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

**Reporting period:** January 2023-December 2023

**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 2023

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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 (2023)			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	709,406 <sup>2</sup>	492,745	69%	2,442,657	88%
Government of Republic of Armenia	30,315	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	2,802,592	709,406	492,745	69%	2,442,657	87%

## 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 497 people (329 women, 168 men). As a result of the project 17,788 additional people (9,092 women, 8,696 men) benefited from strengthened livelihoods. Overall, 92,277 people (47,500 women, 44,777 men) report the increased economic activity through the project introduced local production and processing schemes and rehabilitated infrastructure.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

### FLOURMILL



In the framework of Ambar Foundation logistics center<sup>3</sup>, a flour mill was constructed with the capacity 750kg per hour in Chambarak community. The construction of the flour mill is highly prioritized as there is no other flour mill in Chambarak enlarged community as well as in adjacent communities. The full operation of the flour mill will allow to produce high quality flour essentially contributing to the regional



food security and self-sufficiency benefiting thousands of people. The full operation of the flourmill with its installed machinery requires 250 KWT of electricity. However, the current capacity of the electrical network was not sufficient to provide the required power. Thus, an agreement was signed with Chambarak municipality to build a new electricity station in cooperation with "Electronic Networks of Armenia" CJSC. The new station will enable the successful operation of the flour mill, as well as will also serve the whole community benefiting about 13,121 people.

### “I CAN 2G”



“I Can 2G” innovation challenge<sup>4</sup> competition was announced during which 263 applications were received. Online meetings were held with the applicants, during which the resources, skills of the applicants as well as their sense of motivation and willingness to implement their initiatives were studied. The selected applicants took part in one-month training, during which they studied computer operation, business management, principles of marketing, finances, negotiations etc. With the

help of the trainer, the training participants developed their business plans and presented them to the commission. As a result of the commission evaluation the winning participants were selected. The commission members were Anna Gyurjyan (UNDP, head of the commission), Susanna Bagratuni (UNDP), Arman Valesyan (UNDP), attended by Vache Terteryan (RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure) and graded by Yeghiazar Danielyan (RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure). So far, the contract was signed, and co-financing started with the young entrepreneur who owns a furniture workshop.



<sup>3</sup> For more information about the foundation see page 10.

<sup>4</sup> For more information about the foundation see page 11.

With the UNDP support, the beneficiary will have the opportunity to acquire a milling machine, increasing the quality and scale of the production and expanding the services. In addition, the area will also be improved, creating safer and more comfortable working conditions.

## “SWEET HOUSE” PROJECT



In 2023, a super-small scale processing unit was created which has already got a new brand name, Sweet Rays. The brand has Facebook and Instagram pages. The founder is a woman, Srбуhi Hovhannisyаn, who was previously engaged in home-made fruit drying. The initiative<sup>5</sup> gave her an opportunity to enlarge her activities and turn it into a profitable business. Now she manages to produce about 700kg dried fruits annually.

Due to the UNDP support, she has essentially improved the techniques of fruit drying. As she stated in the past, she was using sugar to dry fruits, now she dries fruits without sugar to make it more healthy and natural. Besides, she pays special attention to the packaging of her products. To make it ecologically friendly she uses no plastic for packaging. In addition, she also strictly complies with sanitary and hygienic requirements of the industry.



Her business is in Khndzorut settlement of Zaritap community in Vayots Dzor region. The choice of the location is based on the fact that Khndzorut is a bordering location. Continuous border escalations have negative impact on the psychology and motivation of the residents there. According to the beneficiary, the project gave her an incentive to develop her business and become an example for the community that it is possible to settle down and grow in business even if there is a continuous threat for existence. Besides, her business also contributes to the economic activeness in the community as she buys fruits mainly from the local farms allowing them also to benefit from the

initiative.

## “CHIR-CHIR” PROJECT



In the framework of “Chir-Chir” project<sup>6</sup> overall **860 nets** were distributed to **124 people (114 women, 10 men)** giving them income generating opportunities. During each season on average people can dry 20 kg fruits and vegetables. From 860 nets provided the total production input will equal to **17,200 per season. 4 trainings** were organized with the participation of **78 people (70 women, 8 men)**. During the trainings the participants were able to gain in-depth knowledge about the whole chain of dried fruit production starting from production techniques to its marketing and sale.



<sup>5</sup> For more information about the project see page 10.

<sup>6</sup> For more information about the project see page 10.

## HONEY-MONEY PROJECT



In the framework of the “Honey-Money” project<sup>7</sup>, **137 beehives** were distributed to **82 beneficiaries (33 men, 49 women)** in Chambarak and Vardenis settlements of Gegharkunik region. From each beehive it is possible to annually produce 12kg honey. Thus, **137 beehives** distributed have a



potential to produce **1644kg** honey becoming a good income generating opportunity for the beneficiaries. **3 trainings** were organized with the participation of **146 people (84 women, 62 men)**. The trainings focused on beekeeping techniques, bee illness and raising queen honey bees.

*Below more details about project results according to the components defined in the Project Document.*

### 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.

#### 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.

#### 2023

During the project board meeting held on December 21, 2022, it was decided to relocate budget of Component 1 (Foster local participation in development planning and monitoring for bottom-up community development) to Component 2 (Increase economic activity in the settlements through efficient local production and processing). In the beginning of the project, supporting communities with planning

<sup>7</sup> For more information about the foundation see page 11.

was difficult due to the limitations caused by COVID 19 (physical movement), later communities were not interested because of the start of military escalations.

## **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 seedings for 94 ha (1 ha is 1 unit))** were transferred to producing and processing groups and individual entrepreneurs.
- **48 producers/ processors (43 women, 5 men)** trained in agricultural and non-agricultural production issues (*overall number of 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 entities** 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)** were trained in agricultural and non-agricultural production (*overall number of 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

- **211 people (125 women, 86 men)** received jobs and **4,654 additional people (2,375 women, 2,279 men)** benefited from strengthened livelihoods.
- **170 producing/processing small-medium entities** 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))** were transferred to the settlements, producing and processing groups and individual entrepreneurs.
- **308 producers/ processors (169 women, 139 men)** were trained in agricultural and non-agricultural production (*overall number of 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)**.

### 2023

- **213 people (166 women, 47 men)** received jobs and **843 additional people (423 women, 420 men)** benefited from strengthened livelihoods.
- **211 producing/processing small-medium entities** created and supported.
- **1010 units of equipment and other production inputs** transferred to the settlements, producing and processing groups and individual entrepreneurs.

- **226 producers/ processors (154 women, 72 men)** trained in agricultural and non-agricultural production (*overall number of organized trainings – 9*).
- **1.1 units of renovated infrastructure (1100 meters tube of drinking water (1 km is 1 unit)** benefiting 1008 people (*509 women, 499 men*).
- **20 off grid lights luminaries (600 meters)** were installed in Chambarak community of Gegharkunik region benefiting **5,660 people (2758 men, 2902 women)**.

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

#### 2022

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

#### 2023

During the project board meeting held on December 21, 2022, it was decided to relocate budget of Component 3 (Innovate for improved local production and management) to Component 2 (Increase economic activity in the settlements through efficient local production and processing). The assessment as well as the already gained experience have shown that the initiative requires a public sector involvement, meanwhile raising a sustainability issue including the uncertainty about the management of the platform<sup>8</sup> after the end of the project. Thus, it was decided to invest the planned budget in community related activities such as alternative energy solutions and livelihood support since it is more tangible, human-centric and result oriented.

Activity/Output	Activities	Expected Annual Targets/Indicators					Overall Target reached	Annual budget 2023
		Planned 2020-22	Target reached 2020	Target reached 2021	Target reached 2022	Target reached 2023		
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	0	248 (7%)	
	<i>Women</i>	1,900	5	18	132	0	155 (8%)	
	<i>Men</i>	1,500	10	19	64	0	93 (6%)	
	1.1 # community meetings held by the Project	170	10	34	44	0	88 (52%)	
	1.2 # of integrated development plans for the settlements	34	1	9	7	0	17 (50%)	
	1.3 # of local monitors identified and trained	24	0	6	1	0	7 (29%)	
<b>Total</b>								\$ 0
	2.# of women, and men report the increased economic activity through the	TBC <sup>9</sup>	15,061	7,099	35,925	34,192	92,277	

<sup>8</sup> In 2022, “Farm to Table” concept was piloted with “954 Tastes” online platform as an attempt to bring villages closer to the cities through introducing new marketing and sales channels.

<sup>9</sup> Based on identified production types, applicant beneficiaries and need-based infrastructure rehabilitation.

	project introduced local production and processing schemes and rehabilitated infrastructure.							
	<i>Women</i>		7,725	3,620	18,503	17,652	47,500	
	<i>Men</i>		7,336	3,479	17,422	16,540	44,777	
	2.1 # of producing/processing entities (including non-formal groups, cooperatives, and community development funds) created and supported by the Project.	TBC <sup>10</sup>	0	10	170	211	391	
	2.2. # of training/consulting sessions held for the producers and processors	TBC <sup>11</sup>	1	2	15	9	27	
	2.3 # of producers and processors with access to capacity building and consulting.	200	48	62	308	226	644 (322%)	
	<i>Women</i>	110	43	54	169	154	420 (382%)	
	<i>Men</i>	90	5	8	139	72	224 (249%)	
	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	1013.4	2129 (2730%)	
	2.5 # of renovated infrastructure (including school cafeteria, collection center, demo school, irrigation, etc.)	38	8	56.2	29	1.70	94.9 (250%)	
	2.6 # of people with access to improved infrastructure with the support of the project.	17,000	7,593	2,093	30,752	32,910	73,348 (431%)	
	<i>Women</i>	9,000	3,880	1,036	15,834	16,909	37,659 (418%)	
	<i>Men</i>	8,000	3,713	1,057	14,918	16,001	35,689 (446%)	
	2.7 # of new jobs and other livelihoods generated.	200	38	35	211	213	497 (249%)	
	a) New jobs created for women	110	17	21	125	166	329 (299%)	
	b) New jobs created for men	90	21	14	86	47	168 (187%)	

<sup>10</sup> Based on identified production types and applicant beneficiaries.

<sup>11</sup> Based on identified production types and applicant beneficiaries



	c)Additional females benefiting from strengthened livelihoods	9,000	3,785	2,509	2,375	423	9,092 (101%)	
	d)Additional males benefiting from strengthened livelihoods	8,000	3,597	2,400	2,279	420	8,696 (109%)	
<b>Total</b>								\$ 564,388.78
	3. # of women, men in the regions report awareness of and benefiting from new/improved production and management mechanisms introduced (new technologies, innovation)	TBC <sup>12</sup>	0	0	25		25	
	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

<sup>12</sup> based on the number of adapted innovative solutions.

- **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 has designed 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

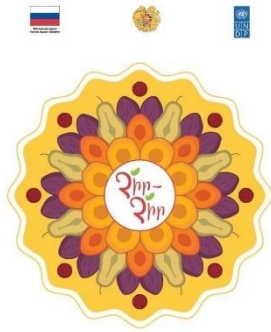
processing, starting from the creation of seed reserve banks up to the formation of processing infrastructure and logistic centres for the cost-effective and de-centralized realization of local products. In 2023, a flour mill was constructed with the capacity 750kg per hour.

### “SWEET HOUSE” PROJECT

In 2022, “Sweet House” project was 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” PROJECT



In 2022, “Chir-Chir” 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” INNOVATION CHALLENGE



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 innovation 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” PROJECT

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, 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 beehives.

## “RENOVATION OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY POOL” PROJECT

In 2022, the UNDP "Sustainable Communities" programme developed “Renovation of Agricultural Machinery Pool” project. In the frameworks of the initiative, assessment of agricultural machinery mentioned in the accepted applications (e.g. grain harvesters, combine harvesters and mowing tractors, crawler and wheeled tractors) is conducted. As a result of the assessment, 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” project 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” PROJECT

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.

#### 2020

- **15,061 (7,725 women, 7,336 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 (871 women, 827 men)**.
- To provide **52.6 tons** of seeds (barley, beans, chickpeas, potato) for **94 ha orchards**.

#### 2021

- **7,099 (3,620 women, 3,479 men)** report the increased economic activity through the project introduced local production and processing schemes and rehabilitated infrastructure.
- To create **5** and to support **10 producing/processing entities**<sup>13</sup>(including self-employed individuals).
- **35 people (21 women, 14 men)** employment and income-generating opportunities, additional **4,909 people benefited from strengthened livelihoods (2,509 women, 2,400 men)**. The mentioned people benefited from **10 created/supported producing/processing entities, 18 renovated machinery pools and seed planting activities**.
- To organize **2 trainings** for **62 producers and processors (54 women, 8 men)** to strengthen participants' knowledge on agricultural crops and on application of agrotechnical measures.
- 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 437 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**) covering **45 ha area** in Khachik village of Vayots Dzor region benefiting **818 people (428 women, 390 men)**. 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

- **35,925 (18,503 women, 17,422 men)** report the increased economic activity through the project introduced local production and processing schemes and rehabilitated infrastructure.
- To create **166** and to support **170 producing/processing entities**<sup>14</sup> (including self-employed individuals) which in turn gave an employment and income-generating opportunities to **211 people (125 women, 86 men)** additional **4,654 people benefiting from strengthened livelihoods (2,375 women, 2,279 men)**. The mentioned people benefited from the mentioned created/supported entities, **distributed 321 beehives, 400 drying nets, 57.9 tons provided seeds and 28 units of agricultural machinery**,
- To organize **15 trainings** for **308 producers and processors (169 women, 139 men)** to strengthen beneficiaries' 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 automatize 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

<sup>13</sup> Overall, 10 producing/processing entities were supported, of which 5 were newly created.

<sup>14</sup> The number includes the same 166 created and 4 more entities supported.


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 and Chambarak, Vahan, Ttujur settlements of Gegharkunik region.


## 2023

- **34,192 (17,652 women, 16,540 men)** report the increased economic activity through the project introduced local production and processing schemes and rehabilitated infrastructure.
- To create **211** and to support **211 producing/processing entities<sup>15</sup>** (including self-employed individuals) which in its turn gave an employment and income-generating opportunities to **213 people (166 women, 47 men)**, additional **843 people benefiting from strengthened livelihoods (423 women, 420 men)**. The people benefited from **provided 860 drying nets, 146 beehives, co-financed furniture workshop and created “Sweet House” initiative**.
- To organize **9 trainings** for **226 producers and processors (154 women, 72 men)** to make them specialized in dried fruits and vegetables production and business development.
- To renovate or provide 1010 units of machinery, equipment, and other production inputs (**4 units of equipment to produce dried fruits and vegetables, 860 drying nets, 146 beehives**).
- **1.1 km (1km is 1 unit) of drinking water pipelines** were installed giving an opportunity to supply clean drinking water to **1008 people (499 men, 509 women)** in Khachagyugh settlement of Gegharkunik region.
- **0.6 kilometers** central streetlight was modified (**20 luminaries were installed**), **5,660 people (2902 women, 2758 men)** benefitted from the construction of the new street lighting system. The central streetlight was modified in Chambarak settlement of Gegharkunik.
- A flour mill was constructed in Chambarak enlarged community of Gegharkunik region to produce high-quality flour benefiting **13,121 (6749 women, 6372 men)**.
- The **Electricity Network** was modified in Chambarak enlarged community giving the opportunity to have empowered electricity supply to **13,121 (6749 women, 6372 men) beneficiaries**.


## SUCCESS STORIES

<p><b>“Motall” Cheese</b></p>	
	<p>Ruslan, a cheese producer based in Chambarak, created a new 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 for his cheese production.</p>
<p><b>Beauty Salon</b></p>	


<sup>15</sup> The same 211 entities created and supported.

	<p>For many years Sofia has provided hairdressing services in Areni settlement but never had a venue to serve her loyal customers. She visited customers' houses and worked her magic. Her dream was always to open her own beauty 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, nail polishing and hair removal services.</p>
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**ZarMan development centre**



	<p>"ZarMan" is a unique child development center where children have an opportunity to spend time together, engage in different activities and socialize with each other. Lusine, the owner of the center, applied to "Start-Me-Up" competition to establish this center in Areni community. 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>
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**Khudoyan Winery**

	<p>The project founded "Khudoyan Winery" is located in Yelpin settlement of Vayots Dzor region. The founder of the business is a man who was previously engaged in home-based wine making. The project gave him the opportunity to enlarge his wine-producing activities and turn it into a profitable business. Now he manages to produce about 2 tons of wine annually. By the help of the project, he acquired essential supplies and equipment necessary for large-scale procurement, contributing to the expansion of the small rural business.</p>
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**SUCCESS HIGHLIGHTS**

<p><b>Access to Water</b></p>	<p>This project has significantly improved the quality of life for the residents of Khachik settlement by ensuring a reliable supply of clean water. Access to water is vital for the well-being and health of the community, and this initiative has successfully addressed this crucial need.</p>
	
<p><b>Enhancement of Street Lighting</b></p>	

	<p>The upgraded street lighting system played a pivotal role in enhancing safety and visibility in the target communities, positively impacting the lives of residents. Improved lighting not only ensures safer streets but also contributes to a more secure and inviting environment.</p>
<p><b>Solar Empowerment</b></p>	
	<p>Installation of solar power in 11 target communities has not only significantly reduced their energy costs but also contributed to sustainable and environmentally friendly energy practices. This initiative relieved the financial burden of the community, as well as showcased a commitment to renewable energy, benefitting both women and men equally in these settlements.</p>
<p><b>Hygiene-friendly education</b></p>	
	<p>The initiative has significantly improved hygiene conditions for 1,111 individuals in 10 community schools. The canteens in Khndzorut, Martiros, Khachik, Bardzruni, and Areni in Vayots Dzor, along with Areguni, Geghamasar, Kakhakn, Shatvan, and Tretuk schools in Gegharkunik, have been renovated, ensuring better, cleaner environments for students and staff.</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, 3 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.
- **47,500** women report the increased economic activity through the project introduced local production and processing schemes and rehabilitated infrastructure.
- **420** female producers and processors got an access to capacity building and consulting.
- **37,659** women got an access to improved infrastructure with the support of the project.
- **329** women got new job opportunities.
- **9,092** 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:

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

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

### **Large flow of forcibly displaced Armenians**

The September 19, 2023, military escalation resulted in heavy human losses and casualties, forcibly displacement of thousands of Karabakh Armenians, who fled to the Republic of Armenia. This made the project management to shift from annual plans and targets to the emergency response actions based on the urgent needs of those people. This decision slowed down the speed of the planned actions to a certain extent. To compensate it, the program management is going to request for **another non-cost one-year extension** during the upcoming board meeting in November.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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 allowed to have a 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**

2023

"I Can" project competition announced <a href="#">Link</a>	Sewing training presentation <a href="#">Link</a>
"Chir Chir" project training presentation <a href="#">Link</a>	
"Mushroom" project announcement <a href="#">Link</a>	
"I Can" project competition final assessment <a href="#">Link</a>	

2022

"I Can" Competition Announcement <a href="#">Link</a>	News Coverage on Meeting with Gegharkunik Marzpet <a href="#">Link</a>
News Coverage about "Sustainable Communities" Programme overview and initiative <a href="#">Link</a>	News Coverage on "Honey Money" Project announcement <a href="#">Link</a>
"Sweet House" Competition Announcement <a href="#">Link</a>	"I Can" Competition Announcement <a href="#">Link</a>
News Coverage on Programme activities in Syunik <a href="#">Link</a>	"I Can" Competition Announcement <a href="#">Link</a>
"I Can Competition" Announcement <a href="#">Link</a>	Meeting with Gegharkunik Marzpet <a href="#">Link</a>
Honey Money workshop announcement <a href="#">Link</a>	News Article about Bee hives distribution in Vayk <a href="#">Link</a>

2021

MTAD Meeting with Gegharkunik Marzpet <a href="#">Link</a>	Office Gegharkunik Marz 'Sustainable Communities' project presentation <a href="#">Link</a>
Armenpress Competition announcement <a href="#">Link</a>	News.am Competition announcement <a href="#">Link</a>
Ministry of Economy website Competition announcement <a href="#">Link</a>	Newshub Article on street lights <a href="#">Link</a>
Aragatsotn Marzpet Official Facebook page Street lights coverage <a href="#">Link</a>	Ministry of Economy website AgroMachine competition announcement <a href="#">Link</a>
Gegharkunik MTAD website AgroMachine competition announcement <a href="#">Link</a>	Shoghakat Community web page AgroMachine competition announcement <a href="#">Link</a>
verelq.am 'Sustainable Communities' project presentation <a href="#">Link</a>	tert.am Competition announcement <a href="#">Link</a>
Regional Post Armenia	Ararat News

'Sustainable Communities" project presentation <a href="#">Link</a>	Competition announcement <a href="#">Link</a>
EJC.am Competition announcement <a href="#">Link</a>	Public TV of Armenia Project launch <a href="#">Link</a>
"News article about Russian Federation projects with UNDP in Armenia" <a href="#">Link</a>	Verelq.am Infrastructure competition announcement <a href="#">Link</a>
Russian Embassy Infrastructure competition announcement <a href="#">Link</a>	Public TV of Armenia news about our all project activities <a href="#">Link</a>
Sputnik Armenia Cooperation with Vavilov Scientific center <a href="#">Link</a>	Public TV Armenia Solar 24 news coverage <a href="#">Link</a>
Public TV Armenia Solar 24 news coverage <a href="#">Link</a>	Gegharkunik Marzpetaran Official Facebook Page Solar 24 news coverage <a href="#">Link</a>
Gegharkunik Marzpetaran Official website Meeting with Gegharkunik Marzpet <a href="#">Link</a>	Public TV of Armenia News Coverage about Business Trainings <a href="#">Link</a>
Ilurer.am <a href="#">Link</a>	eco.am <a href="#">Link</a>
Banks.am <a href="#">Link</a>	ProNews.am <a href="#">Link</a>

2020

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

## 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
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Annual Progress Report	10/01/2022
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## PROJECT BOARD (PB) MEETINGS

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

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

The project has completed its quality assurance ([Implementation \(undp.org\)](#) 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
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	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.	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><b>Target: 3400; Actual: 248</b> # of women, men, report increased participation in local decision-making regarding community development</p> <p><b>Target: 170; Actual: 88</b> # community meetings held by the Project</p> <p><b>Target: 34; Actual: 17</b> # of integrated development plans for the settlements</p> <p><b>Target: 24; Actual: 7</b> # of local monitors identified and trained</p> <p><b>Target: TBC; Actual: 92,277</b> # of women and men report the increased economic activity through the project introduced local production and processing schemes and rehabilitated infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Target: TBC; Actual: 391</b> # of producing/processing entities (including non-formal groups, cooperatives, and community development funds) created and supported by the Project.</p> <p><b>Target: TBC; Actual: 27</b> # of training/consulting sessions held for the producers and processors</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	The project continues its close collaboration with stakeholders and partners through learning and continuous feedback.	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><b>Target: 200; Actual: 644</b> # of producers and processors with access to capacity building and consulting.</p> <p><b>Target: 78; Actual: 2129</b> # 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><b>Target: 38; Actual: 94.9</b> # of renovated infrastructure (including school cafeteria, collection centre, demo school, irrigation etc.)</p> <p><b>Target: 17,000; Actual 73,348</b> # of people with access to improved infrastructure with the support of the project.</p> <p><b>Target: 110; Actual 329</b> # of new jobs created for women</p> <p><b>Target: 90; Actual 168</b> # of new jobs created for men</p> <p><b>Target: 9000; Actual 9092</b> # of additional females benefiting from strengthened livelihoods</p> <p><b>Target: 8000; Actual 8696</b> # of additional males benefiting from strengthened livelihoods</p> <p><b>Target: TBC; Actual: 25</b> # of women, men benefiting from new/improved production and management mechanisms introduced</p> <p><b>Target: 3; Actual:1</b> new/innovative tech solutions developed and piloted locally</p> <p><b>Target: 4; Actual:0</b> # of hackathons organized</p>			
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			Target: 2; Actual: 0 # of Acceleration programmes implemented			
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## PLANS FOR 2024

In 2024 the following activities are planned.

- ***To install street workout equipment in 3 settlements*** contributing to healthy lifestyle of local population.
- ***To provide 5 greenhouses*** to ensure income-generating opportunities of the beneficiaries. To help the beneficiaries to better master agricultural skills ***a greenhouse training will also be organized.***
- It is planned to open ***5 more Sweet houses*** to continue supporting regional SMEs.
- ***1 “Honey-Money” training*** is going to be organized on beekeeping practices ***with about 50 participants, who will also get beekeeping equipment to get income generating opportunities.***
- To organize ***2 training on mushroom production skills. In addition, 10 sets of equipment for mushroom production*** will be provided to the training participants to help them to start a new business or expand their businesses.
- ***10 km drinking water pipes*** is going to be installed in 5 target settlements to provide permanent water supply to the population.

## LESSONS LEARNED

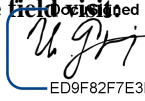
The following main lessons were learned:

- 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.

- The large inflow of forcibly displaced Karabakh Armenians had a significant impact on the previously identified needs of the target communities. Thus, the project team engaged in the reevaluation of those needs via frequently organized field trips. The reevaluation proved that more should be done for livelihood support since it is more tangible, human-centric and result oriented.

**Participants in the field visit** conducted by:

Signature



ED9F82F7E3D64B7...

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 Framework<sup>16</sup>

<p><b>Intended Outcome as stated in the UNDAF/Country Programme</b></p> <p><b>Results and Resource Framework:</b></p>
<p><b>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.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Indicator 1.1.1:</b> 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</li> <li>• <b>Indicator 1.1.2:</b> 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</li> <li>• <b>Indicator 1.1.3:</b> Number of economic actors benefiting from improved productive capacities and strengthened value chains Baseline (2020): 240 Target (2025): 390 (25% women-led), UNDP, annually</li> </ul>
<p><b>Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan: Output 1.1.</b> 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><b>Project title and Atlas Project Number: Fostering Participatory Development in Bordering Settlements of Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor Regions</b></p>

<sup>16</sup> 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		2023		FINAL		
			Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
<b>Component 1</b> 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	<b>15</b> <b>-5 w</b> <b>-10 m</b>	1300 -700 w -600 m	<b>37</b> <b>-18 w</b> <b>-19 m</b>	800 -500 w -300 m	<b>196</b> <b>-132w</b> <b>-64 m</b>	<b>0</b> -0 w -0 m	<b>0</b> -0 w -0 m	3400 -1900 w -1500 m	<b>248</b> <b>-155w</b> <b>-93 m</b>	Project monitoring
	1.1 # of community meetings held by the project	Field visit reports, Project reports, participation lists	65	<b>10</b>	65	<b>34</b>	40	<b>44</b>	0	0	170	<b>88</b>	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	<b>1</b>	13	<b>9</b>	8	<b>7</b>	0	0	34	<b>17</b>	Reporting
	1.3 # of local monitors identified and trained	Participation lists, field visit reports	10	<b>0</b>	10	<b>6</b>	4	<b>1</b>	0	0	24	<b>7</b>	Field visits, project records
<b>Component 2</b> 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 infrastru	<b>15,061</b>	TBC	<b>7,099</b>	TBC	<b>35,925</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>34,192</b>	TBC	<b>92,277</b>	Project monitoring

			cture rehabilitation)										
	<b>2.1 # of producing/processing entities (including non-formal groups, cooperatives, and community development funds) created and supported by the Project.</b>	Field visit reports, Project reports Registration certificates	TBC (based on identified production types and applicant beneficiaries)	<b>0</b>	TBC	<b>10</b>	TBC	<b>170</b>	200	<b>211</b>	TBC	<b>391</b>	Field visits, interviews, surveys, project records
	<b>2.2 # of training/consulting sessions held for the producers and processors</b>	Project reports Participation lists	TBC (based on identified needs)	<b>1</b>	TBC	<b>2</b>	TBC	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	TBC	<b>27</b>	Project records
	<b>2.3 # of producers and processors with access to capacity building and consulting. Disaggregated by sex</b>	Project reports Participation lists	20	<b>48</b> -w 43 -m 5	90	<b>62</b> -w 54 -m 8	90	<b>308</b> -w 169 -m 139	226	<b>226</b> -w 154 -m 72	200 -w 110 -m 90	<b>644</b> -w 420 -m 224	Project records, field visits
	<b>2.4-1 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</b>	Transfer acts Project reports Field visit reports	10	<b>96</b>	38	<b>54</b>	30	<b>966</b>	1013	<b>1013.4</b>	<b>At least 78</b> 40 greenhouses 25 small scale production/p processing units - seedlings for 10 ha demonstration orchards (1 ha is 1 unit) -2 units of agro	<b>2129</b> <b>1825</b> small scale production/pr ocessing units - seedlings for <b>281</b> ha demonstration orchards (1 ha is 1 unit) <b>-20</b> units of agro machinery (i.e. combine	Project records Field visits

											machinery (i.e. combine harvester, tractor	harvester, tractor	
	2.4-2 # 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	1	1.7	At least 38 -10 school cafeteria -10 km drinking water lines (1km is 1 unit) -10ha of irrigation lines (1ha is 1 unit) -1 collection center - 1 construction for agro machinery pool -6 km of street lighting (1km is 1 unit)	94.9 -10 school cafeteria -1.1 km drinking water lines (1km is 1 unit) -45 ha of irrigation lines (1ha is 1 unit) -0 collection center - 0 construction for agro machinery pool - 11 solar panels -27.8 km of street lighting (1km is 1 unit)	Project records Field visits
	2.5 # 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	32,000	32,910 -16,909 w -16,001 m	17,000 c-w 9000 d -m 8000	73,348 -37,659 w -35,689 m	Monitoring visits Surveys
	2.6 # of new jobs and other livelihoods generated, disaggregated by sex.	Field visit reports Project progress reports	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)125 b) 86 c) 2375 d) 2279	a) b) 200 c) d) 800	a)166 b) 47 c) 423 d) 420	a-w 110 b-m 90 c-w 9000 d -m 8000	a)329 b) 168 c) 9092 d) 8696	Monitoring visits Surveys

	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	questionnaires											
<b>Component 3</b> Improved production and management through new technologies and innovation	3. # of women, men in the regions report awareness of and benefiting from new/improved production and management mechanisms introduced (new technologies, innovation)	Surveys Monitoring report	TBC (based on the number of adapted innovative solutions)	0	TBC	0	TBC	25	0	0	TBC	30	Project monitoring
	3.1. # of new/innovative tech solutions developed and piloted locally	Project reports, UNDP website	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	Project Progress Reports
	3.2. # of Hackathons organized	Project reports, UNDP website	2	0	2	0	0	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	0	0	2	0	Project Progress Reports, media

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## ANNUAL/MULTIYEAR WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FROM PRODOC <sup>1718</sup>

*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.*

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<sup>17</sup> 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

<sup>18</sup> 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
<b>Component 1:</b> <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							<b>176,436</b>	
<b>Component 2:</b> <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	
		<b>Sub-Total for Output 2</b>							<b>1,784,527</b>
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	
		<b>Sub-Total for Output 3</b>							<b>198,018</b>
<b>Project Implementation: 4 Activity</b>		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
						<b>Sub-Total for Output 4</b>	<b>613,296</b>
<b>Outputs Total</b>							<b>2,566,924</b>
<b>GMS Total</b>							<b>205,353</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>							<b>2,772,277</b>