

MEETING MINUTES

2nd Steering Committee Meeting of the Mozambique Recovery Facility

Date	05 March 2021
Venue	Zoom meeting
Time	10:00 – 12:04 PM
Participants	34 people (<i>see annex 1</i>) Members: Government's Reconstruction Cabinet (GREPOC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), European Union Delegation, Embassies of Canada, China, Finland, India (excused), the Netherlands and Norway. Observers: ILO, UN-Habitat (excused), UN Women, WFP

Annexes

1. Attendance List
2. Meeting Agenda
3. Presentation of Recovery Facility Main Achievements
4. Revised 2021 Annual Work Plan
5. Background Information and Financial Contributions to Date
6. Videos on Mozambique Recovery Facility

Introduction

The meeting was opened by the meeting facilitator Mr. Francisco Roquette, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative for Programmes and Operations (DRR (P/O)). He welcomed members to the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting of Mozambique Recovery Facility and acknowledged the presence of donor partners by inviting them for introductions (*see list of participants in annex 1*). Then, he briefly presented the meeting agenda with minor adjustments (*see annex 2*).

Agenda Point 1: Opening Remarks by GREPOC and EU Delegation

Mr. Francisco Pereira, Executive Director of the Reconstruction Cabinet (GREPOC), recalled the background of the Mozambique Recovery Facility (MRF) signature and mentioned tendering processes and preliminary work conducted in 2020 by GREPOC. He highlighted that an increase in recovery efforts is expected in 2021 and suggested a high-level meeting with partners to review the status of implementation of recovery interventions in Mozambique. He stressed the need for a strengthened relationship between GREPOC and local bodies and the importance of Building Back Better. He reaffirmed the importance of speeding up the recovery process as Mozambique is often hit by extreme weather events.

Ms. Isabel Faria de Almeida, Head of Cooperation at European Union (EU) Delegation, recognized the achievements and coordination efforts of UNDP and GREPOC through the Recovery Facility program and the importance to keep building up from this work. She highlighted the urgent needs of the most vulnerable population, particularly women, who play an important role in their communities, and the high

expectations to deliver recovery response in line with Building Back Better standards. She reminded that EU took part in 2019 cyclone early response and that it is the major contributor of Mozambique Recovery Facility. Additionally, she thanked GREPOC for the joint EU-UNDP field mission to MRF activities in late 2020. She encouraged MRF to focus on sound implementation of its initial goals and to keep sharing program results to mobilize more resources.

Agenda Point 2: Presentation of MRF Main Achievements to Date

Mr. Ghulam Sherani, MRF Program Manager, presented a quick overview of program objectives, pillars and outputs and a progress update, with cumulative figures on MRF main achievements in 2019 and 2020 (see Annex 3).

Summary of key achievements:

Activity (2019-2020)	Figures	Remarks
Households assisted by MRF	174,501	corresponding to 872,505 people.
Heads of households who benefited from temporary employment	156,143	corresponding to 780,715 people
People supported with skills trainings and/or start-up kits for self-employment.	23,497	58% women
Horticultural plantation in greenhouses to allow production in all seasons	17,600 m ²	
Soil prepared for agricultural farming	1,361 hect.	
Tree seedlings nursed and planted to ensure reforestation, prevent soil erosion for the longer-term, support social welfare, and provide native fruits particularly to women who depend on them for livelihood.	246,000	Planted in 17,500 m ²
Handwashing stations established, including some made from local material for community and/or individual HHs in the context of Covid 19 response	17,000 units	Including 7,893 rural latrines
Community productive schemes activated (agricultural plots, fishponds, drainage canals, others).	11,700	
Households who participated in Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA).	11,000	57% women
8,500 m ³ of drainage canals cleaned which help reduce disaster risk		
Community access roads rehabilitated	960.8 km	
Solid waste collected;	151,000 tons	
Solid waste recycled into composting;	3,808 m ³	

Composting cages and garbage baskets provided	31,927	
Houses rehabilitated	600	30% progress from total target
Houses Reconstructed (mostly located in Dondo)	520 houses	50% progress from total target.
Community market blocks	7	70% progress from total target
Reconstruction of schools	9	60% progress from total target
Rehabilitation of public buildings	4	30% progress from total target

Additionally, a short video was presented to allow Steering Committee members to practically see the results of activities presented above and to relate the figures with the action on the ground. For the interest of time, the session of questions and answers was conducted after the presentation of the 2021 Annual Work Plan (agenda point 3).

Agenda Point 3: Presentation of 2021 Annual Work Plan for Approval

Mr. Ghulam Sherani presented the 2021 Annual Work Plan, budgeted at US\$ 15 million (see Annex 4).

He presented an overview on the planned activities as below.

Pillar 1 – Livelihood Recovery and Women Economic Empowerment is budgeted at US\$ 3.7 million.

Main targets are to:

- Resilient livelihoods and women economic empowerment support to 30,000 heads of households.
- Provide skills trainings and start-up kits to 3,500 heads of households for self-employment.
- Establish and ensure operationalization of 250 village savings and loan associations (VSLA).
- Ensure that 300 affected Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) receive assistance in the form of micro grants, market access and mentoring in business management.
- Assess and strengthen the capacity of two vocational training centers.
- Facilitate business registration of women's groups.

Pillar 2 – Resilient Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Housing and Community Infrastructure is budgeted at US\$ 8.9 million. Main targets are to:

- Rehabilitate seven government buildings (five ongoing and two new).
- Complete the rehabilitation of 600 houses.
- Construct 770 houses (520 ongoing and 250 new).
- Construct/Rehabilitate 15 (nine ongoing and six new) community facilities.
- Construct/Rehabilitate eight (four ongoing and four new) community productive infrastructures.

Pillar 3 – Strengthening of GREPOC's Institutional Capacity is budgeted at US\$ 655,000. With the main target of increasing GREPOC's technical and operational capacity to implement its mandate.

At the end of the presentation, the UNDP MRF manager informed that some of the targets in the 2021 work plan have been reduced due to reduced annual funding. The multi-year Workplan plan envisioned a

total of US\$ 20 million. With the addition of about US\$ 2 million mobilized from the UNDP internal resources, the 2021 plan total budget amounts to US\$ 15 million.

Ms. Nariess Saldane, UNDP Resident Representative thanked everyone for participating in the Steering Committee meeting in the challenging context of COVID-19 restrictions, two years after 2019 cyclones and new climate shocks, and the insecurity in the North and Central regions. She highlighted the meeting as an opportunity to reflect about the progress made and lessons learned and to look at what still needs to be done to accelerate recovery and to achieve the 5-year targets. Furthermore, she displayed key results that reveal the progress achieved by the MRF in numbers and re-affirmed that achievements proved the MRF to be a fully-fledged mechanism to deliver results as committed, yet in a very complex context.

Agenda Point 4: Session of Questions and Answers

Ms. Nadia Adriaõ, Senior Coordinator at the Government's Reconstruction Cabinet, presented some achievements under Pillar 3 of MRF – Support to GREPOC, which are in summary: virtual consultation forums activated at national and provincial levels to strengthen multi-sectoral dialogue with participation from technical partners, Shelter and Education clusters, state secretariats, governors, municipality representatives and district administrators. She further mentioned the contribution made by the MRF to strengthen of GREPOC - namely, improved technical capacity for monitoring and evaluation, visits to construction sites made regularly, new offices established in Cabo Delgado (Pemba) and Manica provinces to strengthen operational and coordination capacity.

Mr. Ricardo Rossi, Resilience and Climate Change Team Leader at EU Delegation congratulated the MRF team for the presentations, videos produced, and impressive results achieved to date. He noted that the European Union has contributed with over 50% of the MRF resources and emphasized the importance of addressing the overall recovery framework based on a more constructive narrative. He also stressed the need for more in-depth discussions in 2021 to better align expectations, maximize impact and ensure efficient use of the budget allocated for recovery. He encouraged UNDP, in coordination with GREPOC, to redouble resource mobilization efforts relying on *post-cyclone recovery, Building Back Better* and *climate change adaptation* as topics of interest for partnering.

Mr. Eduardo Vieira, Chief Technical Advisor of ILO Mozambique/MozTrabalha Program, introduced himself and expressed the relevance and synergies of the MRF activities with the ongoing ILO interventions in various areas including construction skills and techniques, and MSMEs capacity building including agriculture value chain in particular. He expressed ILO's interest in strengthening synergies and collaborate with UNDP in areas of relevance and strength.

- Mr. Francisco Roquette highlighted the MRF productive partnership with ILO in the area of MSME re-activation and recovery in Belra, also affirming UNDP's interest in continuing the collaboration.

- Mr. Ghulam Sherani added that MRF team has worked very closely with ILO, who also shares the office with UNDP in Beira. This provides a great opportunity for working together and sharing ideas on daily bases.

Mr. Zefanias Chitsungo, Urban Planning Specialist at the Reconstruction Cabinet affirmed that housing is a complex area since resources are not enough to reach targets. He highlighted that the Government's Post-Cyclone Housing Program (*Programa de Alojamento Pós-Ciclones - PALPOC*, in Portuguese) was approved in 2020 with support from partners, fostering a harmonized approach to housing construction in Mozambique. The document is expected to be further disseminated.

Mr. Boaventura Veja, Women Economic Empowerment Officer at UN Women, highlighted UNWOMEN's technical assistance to GREPOC by recruitment of a gender specialist based at GREPOC's office in Beira. He also appreciated and informed the meeting about the partnership between UN-WOMEN and the MRF in the context of livelihood interventions (agriculture) and promotion of small business to foster recovery of vulnerable women groups.

- Mr. Francisco Roquette reiterated that since 2019 UN-WOMEN is a partner to the MRF and UNDP looks forward for further discussing collaboration between the two agencies for effective recovery of vulnerable women.

Ms. Eva Alarcon, Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Cooperation at Finland Embassy, inquired about geographical focus of future activities and how COVID-19 has been considered into 2021 activities. She also commented on some budget discrepancies between available funds and budgeted funds in the contribution from Canada, which would need to be corrected.

- Mr. Ghulam Sherani clarified that throughout the implementation in 2020, the MRF team and partners strictly followed the COVID-19 preventive measures advised by the Government of Mozambique and WHO. Additionally, the MRF provided assistance to the communities through advocacy, provision of handwashing stations and masks, observation of social distancing by disaggregating community members into smaller groups and organizing discussions and sessions outdoor. These measures and recommendations of the Ministry of Health and WHO will continue to be strictly followed during the implementation of 2021 activities.
- On the discrepancies between the proposed budget and the available resources he clarified that these will be adjusted. In 2021 MRF will expand the activities to other Idai and Kenneth affected provinces with priority to Manica, which was also affected by the cyclone Eloise.

Agenda Point 5: Perspectives and Next Steps

Ms. Nariess Saidane started by recognizing GREPOC's stronger role in coordinating the recovery agenda. As far as the MRF financing is concerned, she acknowledged donor partners who had filled in the funding gaps and addressed the importance of undertaking a common reflection on emerging financial needs for

recovery, as the country is frequently affected by climatic events, compounded by COVID-19 and by the insecurity situation in the northern part of the country. As the recovery ambitions will remain high in the country, she highlighted the Recovery Facility as an efficient mechanism with proven capacity to help deliver the recovery agenda through an integrated package of interventions that promote recovery, while also investing in resilience building in the mid to long-term.

She also indicated that resource mobilization will be key. The MRF has been counting on donor partners' contributions and, complementarily, on UNDP regular resources, especially for interventions in Cabo Delgado where beneficiaries are displaced due to both the impact of Cyclones and the increased violence. She proposed further discussions to prepare a joint visit in 2021 under GREPOC's leadership and noted that a more formal approval of the Annual Work Plan would be important to ensure smooth implementation and to report back on results in 2021.

Agenda Point 6: Closing Remarks

Mr. Francisco Pereira thanked all participants and affirmed that a collective analysis is fundamental to increase the level of assistance to recovery efforts and for a realistic allocation of a budget to fulfill priority needs. He announced a technical meeting on the 12th (March) with entities involved in the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment – World Bank, European Union, UNDP (UN), African Development Bank to discuss the status of implementation of recovery efforts, collaboration amongst partners and synergies in support of government efforts to fast track recovery. .

At 12:04 PM, the facilitator, Mr. Francisco Roquette concluded the 2nd Meeting of the Steering Committee by confirming the approval of the 2021 annual work plan (after required adjustments based on comments from SC meeting members) with no further questions by members. He thanked all participants and acknowledged the great efforts of Recovery Facility team.

Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks to the following Mozambique Recovery Facility donor partners:

- Canada High Commission
- China Embassy
- European Union Delegation
- Finland Embassy
- India Embassy
- Norway Embassy
- The Netherlands Embassy

Signatures

<p>Government</p>  <p>Francisco Pereira Executive Director, GREPOC</p> <p>Date: 26/03/2021</p>	<p>UNDP</p>   <p>Francisco Roquette Deputy Resident Representative (Programme & Operations), UNDP</p> <p>Date: 26/03/2021</p>
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