



Minutes of Second Project Board Meeting

Project Name: NGO Empowerment Program for Poverty Reduction (Tadamon)

Project ID: 00122656

Output IDs: 00118161, 00119715

Venue: Online

Date: 3 May 2021

Time: 13.30 pm-15.30 pm, Istanbul time

Agenda:

Time	Session
1.30	<p>General Opening by Chair:</p> <p>Gerd Trogemann, Istanbul Regional Hub Manager</p>
1.45	<p>Presentation of project progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the progress with project and budget delivery; • Action working plan until end of the 2021; <p>(Robert Pasicko, UNDP Project Coordinator for “NGO Empowerment” project)</p>
2:05	<p>Topics to clarify and discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominating Technical Steering Committee to be founded at technical level and convening more often in order to strengthen the flow of information, setting up criteria and due diligence process (as agreed in the First Project Board); • Confirming the pilot countries to focus the work later in 2021; • Tadamon Pandemic Accelerator - progress; • Partnership Engagement Event for Tadamon partners <p>(Robert Pasicko, UNDP Project Coordinator for “NGO Empowerment” project Lejla Sadiku, UNDP IRH Innovation Team Leader)</p>
2.30	<p>Discussion and inputs from Board Members</p> <p>Gerd Trogemann, Regional Hub Manager, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub</p>



	<p>Abdullah Alkulaib, Regional Specialist, UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa</p> <p>Francesca Nardini, Partnerships Specialist, UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America Countries</p> <p>Kawtar Zerouali, Innovation Specialist, UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States</p> <p>Aafreen Siddiqui, Regional Engagement Lead, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific</p> <p>Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific</p> <p>Berna Bayazit, Partnerships Team, UNDP IRH</p> <p>Lejla Sadiku, Innovation Team Leader, UNDP IRH</p> <p>Mariana Gonzales, Partnerships Adviser - International Financial Institutions, UNDP</p> <p>Khemais el Gazzah, Senior Advisor to the Director General, ISFD</p> <p>Abdi Abdullahi, Human Development Division Manager, IsDB</p>
3.00	Recommendations and conclusions

Meeting Participants

Board Members

Gerd Trogemann, Regional Hub Manager, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub - executive

Kawtar Zerouali, Innovation Specialist, UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States - beneficiary

Aafreen Siddiqui, Regional Engagement Lead, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific - beneficiary

Berna Bayazit, Partnerships Specialist, UNDP IRH - executive

Lejla Sadiku, Innovation Team Leader, UNDP IRH - executive

Khemais el Gazzah, Senior Advisor to the Director General, ISFD - supplier

Abdi Abdullahi, Human Development Division Manager, IsDB - supplier

Quality Assurance

Abusabeeb Elsadig, RBM and Q&A Specialist, UNDP IRH

Observer

Eyas Ghreiz, NGO Empowerment Program Officer, IsDB

Ismail Mohamoud Mohamed, NGO Empowerment Coordination, IsDB

Ahmed Berthe, Global Management CSOs, IsDB

Moroj Safdar, Development Specialist, IsDB

Project Team

Robert Pasicko, Alternative Finance Expert, UNDP IRH

Marina Petrovic, Alternative Finance and Technology Expert, UNDP IRH

Ben Thompson Coon, Mapping and Outreach Expert, UNDP IRH

Rawad Rizk, Crowdfunding Expert, UNDP IRH

Hajdana Rukavina, Crowdfunding and Communication Expert, UNDP IRH



General opening and introduction

'Save the Date' email for the meeting of the Project Board for the NGO Empowerment for Poverty Reduction Program were sent out by email on April 14th. The major objective of the meeting was to review and approve progress of the Project and AWP for 2021. Opening Speeches are given by Gerd Trogemann, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub Manager.

Presentation and discussion

Financial overview.

Presented Delivery in 2021 (30% of Output 1 - Preparations and mapping, and 16% of Output 2 - Capacity building and Platform development, 19% of the total).

Preparatory work:

- 29 out of the 57 OIC Member Countries have endorsed the ISDB-ISFD Program (approximately 51%). Saudi Arabia and Libya have just recently joined.
- Completion of UNDP Tadamon team in line with the Agreement. New media producer/Graphic and Website Designer and Project Associate are joining the team in May.
- Weekly online meetings are held between ISDB/UNDP, regular meetings are held with partners, CSOs, focal points and CF platforms.
- Designing efficiency gains through defining standardized processes and methodologies such as mapping and verification processes, evaluation criteria and process of selection.

CSO mapping:

- 1081 CSOs are mapped (top-down), 977 CSOs are mapped bottom-up (they have signed up to the platform); and 433 CSOs are verified.
- The call for proposal attracts more CSOs. The highest number of Signups came from the 4 countries where the call for proposal was launched (besides Niger which leads in number of signups).
- Lessons learned from the mapping process and analytics on CSOs segmentation and behavior provided:(71% are non-profit organization, main fields of activities are education, poverty alleviation, youth and women empowerment and health, 10% of CSOs have a budget over 1M\$, 83.5% are new partners, main SDGs are "No poverty", "Quality education" and "Good health", main reasons for joining is to find out more about alt financing, and partnership opportunities.

Capacity Building for CSOs

- 3rd ToT to be organized in July-August 2021 for selected pilot countries.
- Call for proposals in 4 countries: Lebanon, Kazakhstan, Morocco and Indonesia resulting in 239 CSOs. Call for proposals in Turkey, Somalia and Tunisia will be out in May or June. 7 new countries calls will be out by end of the year
- The evaluation process is taking 3-4 months.



- 5 experts per country are doing the evaluation of CSOs that have applied. 102 CSOs are chosen for the training in mentioned 4 countries.
- CFA is on Kaya portal now in 3 languages: English, French and Russian.
- 1st campaigns developed in Tadamon CFA in Kazakhstan and Indonesia, they are coming out online in the next few days.

Tadamon CFA communication and visibility

- Leaflets and brochures are developed in 3 languages.
- 11,000 supporters on FB and picking up on Twitter and Instagram.
- Partners engagement event proposed date in September.
- Challenges and lessons learned: Engagement with UNDP FP and ISDB Governmental Focal Points from the start. More frequent communication needed. Avoiding bottlenecks due. Need to speed up activities as are starting with 7 new countries. The need to have the streamlined processes is emphasized to increase efficiency. Providing value and ensuring relevance. Timely and proper management decisions. Need to finalize the ISDB grants criteria and way forward.

Activities plan for 2021 (main activities, the list is not exhaustive)

- 1500 CSOs top-down, 1300 CSOs bottom up.
- Call for proposals in the three remaining countries before the summer break and initiating the CFA in Morocco before the summer break.
- Capacity building in 7 pilot countries by end of the year. 150 CSOs trained or in process of training by end of September.
- As a part of mapping activities, organizing at least 10 workshops in 10 new countries for and with governmental focal points.
- Bringing 10 new partners (crowdfunding platforms) onboard and making them visible on Tadamon.
- CFA to be translated to Arabic language.
- 40 campaigns going online by December 2021.
- Organizing at least one ToT for colleagues from new country offices.
- Preparation of "NGO Empowerment" booklets for 7 pilot countries from 2020.
- New pilot countries selection criteria based on ISDB's priorities and other criteria such as regulatory framework, strong CSOs ecosystem, UNDP country office readiness, endorsement.

Technical Steering Committee

As shared by TOR; roles are to:

- Streamline the process for pilot countries
- Streamline the connection between ISDB grants and Tadamon crowdfunding trainings and criteria for verification
- Streamline the financial reporting
- Advising on approach to partnership
- UNDP members: Berna Bayazit, Lejla Sadiku, Abusabeeb Elsadig, Robert Pasicko.
- ISDB and ISFD will share their members for the Technical Steering Committee.



Discussion:

1. **Project progress and Annual working plan** were shared with Project Board participants and presented. They are accepted from Board members. As a summary to the presentation, due to many prerequisites delaying the process, capacity building is slower than expected. Training started in three countries after the call for proposals were launched in four, and in remaining three countries it is expected to be launched by end of June. The digital Tadamon Crowdfunding Academy is finalized in three languages. Mapping results are better than expected (977 CSOs mapped bottom up).
2. Regarding the **budget for 2021**, 30% of preparations and mapping, 16% of capacity building and platform, 19% of the total is completed. Planned budget for 2021 is USD 682,000 for “NGO Empowerment”.
3. It is discussed to initiate the **mapping in the 29 countries** that have endorsed the program and to make an effort from ISDB's side to secure the government’s endorsement in the remaining countries. Ahmed mentioned that some countries complained that after their endorsement nothing happened. Abdimajid asked if it is possible to have additional resources supporting the mapping. Berna asked how can we streamline the mapping process. Ahmed emphasized on the importance of the “NGO Empowerment” booklet where main part is mapping, and which is the final product and suggested the launch of promotional these documents by H.E. ISDB President. Robert and Ismail said that the lessons learned is to involve the ISDB Government focal points from the start of the mapping exercise. Definitions of CSOs vary from one country to another. Country endorsement is mandatory before proceeding with mapping or any other activity.
4. A question was raised on how to **improve the capacity building**. Tadamon Crowdfunding Academy training is currently taking place in three countries: Lebanon, Indonesia and Kazakhstan. Morocco will start after Ramadan break. Parallel training is taking place as part of the HLA. Speeding up the process is linked to streamlining it and overcoming the bottlenecks by improving the selection, evaluation and verification process.
5. A question was raised on **how to bring additional partners onboard** as part of the resource mobilization strategy. The choice was set on organizing it in September, if COVID situation allows - maybe as a hybrid event (by having a part of the team in one place). Ahmed suggested bringing the private sector, other UN agencies, philanthropist etc to the table. The partners event in September was welcomed by all stakeholders. Aafreen suggested bringing the Rockefeller foundation onboard.
6. Regarding the **7 pilot countries to choose as pilot countries for 2021**, Ahmed requested that the member countries partnership strategy MCPS to be part of the selection criteria. A request was made to include countries from Latin America and the Caribbean’s in particular Guyana which showed interest. The selection should have a regional balance. There is also importance to bring one country from Central Asia and IRH region to ensure regional balance.
7. Ahmed suggested a **parallel approach for the grants to CSOs (parallel to capacity building process)** and the possibility of piloting it first. The process of providing a grant at ISDB is



complicated. Robert suggested piloting in one or more countries such as Lebanon, Kazakhstan and Indonesia. IsDB and UNDP teams from both sides will have additional meeting to take this forward.

8. Gerd explained that the Project Board is not a managing board but a monitoring one. The Technical Steering Committee is a mechanism to help speed up the process of quality decision making.

Recommendations and conclusions:

1. **The Annual Working Plan (AWP) for 2021 and Progress Report** are both approved.
2. **Focusing first on the endorsed countries** for 2021 pilot countries; and starting with Mapping exercise in all endorsed countries. Considering that the program can only be implemented in countries that have endorsed it, discussions should focus on and align with this principle.
3. **2021 Priority countries meeting:** there will be additional meeting organized between teams on choosing the pilot countries for 2021 and selection process (the goal is to have a regional balance). IsDB/ISFD will share the list of countries where mapping needs to be initiated by end of the year. Based on the follow up meeting, UNDP in consultation with IsDB/ISFD will finalize the list of 7 pilot countries to start with training, based on:
 - a. Countries that have endorsed the Program;
 - b. UNDP Latin and South America region – need to reach out to IsDB Regional hub to speed it up
 - c. UNDP in Europe and Central Asia – need to reach out to IsDB Regional hub to understand where targeted follow up endorsement process could happen.
4. **Technical Steering Committee:** Ahmed Berthe will send the names of the candidates, and comment/confirm the ToR provided for the Committee. Technical Steering Committee will be founded at technical level and convened more often in order to support the team, strengthen the flow of information and processes such as mapping, verification and evaluation.
5. **Partnership Engagement Meeting:** to have it September (the format TBD hybrid event in Istanbul or virtual event. Following the first Partnership Engagement meeting was in September 2019, follow up would need to be set up as an event that brings together existing partners and new potential partners.
6. **Process for IsDB Grants to CSOs:** To start with a pilot (in one of the following countries, or all three: *Lebanon, Indonesia, Kazakhstan*) and test out the process (IsDB grant/procurement); and to set it as a parallel process or to combine it with Tadamon Crowdfunding Academy.
7. **Tadamon Pandemic Accelerator:** waiting to hear the final confirmation from IsDB; IsDB is following up with their departments, and IsDB will be able to share it with UNDP in few weeks. The feedback of the Bank will be provided by mid June in principle.



Prepared by: Robert Pasicko Robert Pasicko, Project Coordinator, Istanbul Regional Hub

Cleared by: Abusabeeb Elsadig Abusabeeb Elsadig, RBM and Q&A Specialist, UNDP IRH, Istanbul Regional Hub

Cleared by: Lejla Sadiku Lejla Sadiku, Innovation Team Leader, Istanbul Regional Hub

Approved by: Gerd Trogemann Gerd Trogemann, Manager, Istanbul Regional Hub
Chairperson of the meeting