

Annual Project Progress Report

Project title: Implementing Single Window for export and import operations in Turkmenistan

Award ID: 00126824

Project ID: 00120758

Implementing partner: State Customs Service of Turkmenistan

Period covered in this report: January – December 2023

Date of last Annual Report: February 02, 2023

Date of the last Project Board meeting: August 15, 2022

Date of last Quality Assurance and rating: November 8, 2021

1. Project Performance

Please state the expected Output of the Project, set indicators and corresponding CP Outcome (as per project document/AWP):

Applicable outcome from the UNDP Strategic Plan: Indicator 2.1.1. Number of policies, regulatory acts, and mechanisms developed to enhance trade capacity, promote favourable investment climate, and strengthen business environment

CP Output 2.1: Public institutions and private sector have strengthened regulatory, institutional, and human capacity for realization of diversification, digitalization, and trade promotion with focus on creation of employment opportunities, including for women and vulnerable groups

Project Output 1: Piloting of the Single window mechanism for export-import operations launched

More detailed information on Output 1 can be found in UNCTAD report, which attached to this annual report.

Output indicators:

- 1.1 Functionality of the Single window portal -30%
- 1.2 Developed components of SW prototype -30%
- 1.3 Structural, operational, and procedural changes developed by SCS и SCAs (Central bank, Ministry of Justice, MANP, MIA, CCI, MC) -30%
- 1.4 Doesn't exist in project document**
- 1.5 The SW Project Teams in the SCS and SCAs trained to operate, administer, and maintain the system – Yes
- 1.6 The SW prototype integrated with ASYCUDA, piloted and launched – 30%
- 1.7 Inter agency risk management system implemented and operated – 30 %
- 1.8 SCS and SCA management receive regular reports from SW system – 30%
- 1.9 SW ready to exchange information with other countries – 30%

Output targets:

- 1.1 The funding from the National Partner has been substantially delayed in the implementation process -30%.
- 1.2 The funding from the National Partner has been substantially delayed in the implementation process -30%.
- 1.3 The funding from the National Partner has been substantially delayed in the implementation process -30%.
- 1.4 Doesn't exist in project document**
- 1.5 The funding from the National Partner has been substantially delayed in the implementation process -30%.
- 1.6 The funding from the National Partner has been substantially delayed in the implementation process -30%.
- 1.7 The funding from the National Partner has been substantially delayed in the implementation process -30%.
- 1.8 The funding from the National Partner has been substantially delayed in the implementation process -30%.

1.9 The funding from the National Partner has been substantially delayed in the implementation process -30%.

b) Were the indicators and output achieved? Yes No Partially

c) If no or partially, please explain why?

Despite the substantially delayed in payment from the partner at the beginning of the project, thanks to the efficient and well-coordinated actions between SCS and UNCTAD we managing to narrow the gap between expected and achieved target results. Currently there is a -30%delay in implementation processes and during last project board it was agreed that project will be extended at no cost.

Project Output 2: Mechanism for coordination SW system piloting and implementation for exports and imports established

Output indicators:

2.1 Establishment of the Inter-agency Commission comprised of relevant ministries and sectoral institutions to coordinate the operation of the "Single Window for Export-Import Operations" system – 30%. Interagency commission is establish and continue its work.

2.2 Number of SW trainings organized for the SCS, SCAs and trade community – 0 (all required training has been already conducted in 2022)

2.3 User's manual and training materials on Single window – Yes

Output targets:

2.1 Achieved.

2.2 All trainings are held during previous period.

2.3 Achieved. Partially

b) Were the indicators and output achieved? Yes No Partially

c) If no or partially, please explain why?

Although the funding was delayed from the National Partner, the NP has established the Inter-agency Commission, which per indicator 2.1. included relevant ministries and sectoral institutions. 2.2 is completed and 2.3 is also partially achieved due to original delay in financing the project.

During last project board it was agreed that project will be extended at no cost.

2. Progress Reporting

Please summarize the main achievements during the project cycle:

Project Output 1:

Analysis of legislation, procedures, documents and inter-agency business-processes on control of export & import operations, as well as elaboration of recommendations on their optimization are completed. Also completed tasks are hardware requirements identification and hardware installation of the ASYCER basic module in SCS Central Office.

ASYCER basic module, testing SW portal and pilot testing of SW components at the SCS and SCAS facilities are conducted by SCS and UNCTAD staff.

Project Output 2:

Hardware requirement for SW servers are identified and optimized to meet the budget. Procurement process has completed, and devlivery of the equipment is undergoing. Inter-agency comission has been established and conducting regular meeting with all stackholders.

3. Project Risks and Issues

The project Risk Log is maintained throughout the project implementation to capture potential risks to the project and associated measures to mitigate risk. The Project Manager shall maintain and update the Risk Log and ensure that risks are identified, communicated and managed effectively.

A number of potential risks are listed below.

| Description of risk | Type and category | Risk management actions | Current situation |
|---|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| Delays in procurement of necessary ICT equipment, software and services, or procurement of ICT equipment and software that fail to meet minimum technical requirements provided by UNCTAD due to lack of funding. | Organizational | Additional specification scrutiny and consenting before placing final purchasing order. Order is completed and delivery of the equipment is undergoing. | Ongoing |
| Limitations related to COVID-19 pandemic | Operational | Adapt to remote work procedures and follow sanitary rules established by local authorities. | Complete |
| The payment from local UNDP office to UNCTAD in Geneva delayed. | Operational | Additional negotiation between financial departments of UNDP and UNCTAD is needed . | Complete |
| Inability of the SCS to respond appropriately to key administrative/operational recommendations arising from the Project of use of all available administrative levers to ensure consistent and efficient use of advanced programs and technologies | Operational | Additional coordination between SCTS, UNCTAD and UNDP | Ongoing |

| | | | |
|--|-------------|---|-----------|
| Inadequate commitment of the SCS management and other engaged ministries and sectoral institutions to proposed initiatives. | Strategic | Extensive dialog and stakeholder involvement. It is required to advocate the need for this project before the leadership of various ministries and departments and the leadership of the country | Ongoing |
| Inability of UNCTAD and/or SCS to provide skilled experts for the system prototyping, pilot testing, deployment and extension. | Strategic | Extensive dialog and all stakeholder involvement is needed. | Completed |
| Delay in transfer of sufficient Government cost sharing funding. There is a one-year delay in project execution. | Operational | Constant negotiation with implementing partner for timely transfer of funds. No cost extension of project implementation was proposed during last Project board and agreed by all parties. | Completed |

4. Lessons learned and follow-up steps (if applicable)

a) Please provide the lessons learned and further steps after the project’s closure.

Close cooperation and detailed negotiations with the National Partners and other government bodies is required to set up realistic timelines in terms of transfer of funding considering all relevant situational and operational risks.

There is certainly need for coordinating government agency to ensure smooth process of digital transformation in public sector, as well as more capacity development activities needed for public servant to develop technical skills.

5. Transfer of Assets or other related matter

a) Please state on any past or future transfer of assets made within the project cycle (Attach list of equipment, cooperation frameworks with beneficiaries, etc.)

N/A

6.Financial management

| Budget item | Total approved in 2023 (in USD) | Expenses + commitments | Budget utilization in % to planned |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Component 1 | \$1,535,099.04 | \$ 1,020,050.16 | 66% |
| Component 2 | \$1,323,194.03 | \$713,442.73 | 54% |
| Project management | \$37,345.14 | \$38,152.07 | 102% |
| Total delivery in 2023 | \$2,895,638.21 | \$1,771,644.96 | 61% |
| In % to total project budget | 77.00% | 46.78% | 46.78% |

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Date: January 16, 2024

Approved by: Akmyrat Danatarov, Programme Specialist

Date: