

Reporting Agency: UNDP

Country: Armenia

MONITORING ACTION AND STANDARD PROGRESS REPORT¹

No. and title: 00129879 / 00123410 Building Back Better Through Strengthening Resilience of Rural Communities in Ararat, Aragatsotn, Armavir, and Kotayk regions / Sustainable Communities

Reporting period: January 2022-December 2022

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

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

The project aims at supporting the socioeconomic recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic of the local communities in Ararat, Armavir, Kotayk and Aragatsotn Regions helping the rural areas build back better and strengthening their resilience against the likely recurrence of the COVID-19 or similar health crisis.

The Project's specific objectives are:

- *Increase involvement of all segments of the target communities in the recovery planning and monitoring towards building context-specific data on the community level.*
- *Strengthen food security and increase rural households' self-sufficiency by building green and resilient value chains.*
- *Help rural population, including the youth and women, cope with the adversity of COVID-19 through protecting and creating jobs, as well as income generation opportunities*
- *Support the rural settlements to restore and build back better their basic services, including primary healthcare services.*

Duration: January 2021 - December 2023

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

Responsible party: United Nations Development Programme

Theory of Change: If the Project ensures availability of context-specific data through active engagement of all the segments of the community both in recovery planning and monitoring, which will inform not only the implementation of all the Project components but will support decision making on the national, regional and local levels and the assumption that public participation helps to design measures towards recovery and crisis response, as well as solutions and nudge behaviors which are acceptable and supported by the local population, and thus are durable, holds.

AND

If based on the findings of the planning stage food security is strengthened and self-sufficiency is increased for the rural households through green and resilient value chains, and the assumption that continuity of food supply and the sustainable investment in the agricultural sector stabilizes the local economies and reduces the vulnerability to the crises holds.

AND

If the local population, including the youth and women, get access to income generation opportunities, including through job creation, protection, and capacity building for meeting the changing needs of the

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

labour market, and the assumption that the crises are more palpable on the micro- rather than on macro-level and the income restoration for the most vulnerable groups will speed up the recovery of local economies holds.

AND

If the access to basic services, including primary healthcare is facilitated through restored infrastructure, and the assumption that functional infrastructure is an important part of the response mechanism to crises and increases the efficiency of crisis response, in general, holds,

THEN the Project will contribute to the socio-economic recovery of the local communities in Ararat, Armavir, Kotayk, and Aragatsotn Regions helping the rural areas build back better and strengthening their resilience against the current COVID-19 crisis and future recurrent or similar health and socio-economic crises.

II. RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

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

	Total Project Budget	Current Year (2022)			All Years Delivery as of SPR date (USD)	All Years Delivery rate as of SPR date (%)
		Annual Budget	Delivery as of SPR date (USD)	Delivery rate as of SPR date (%)		
Government of the Russian federation	1,700,000 USD	785,550 ² USD	730,680 USD	93%	1,190,944	70%
Total:	1,700,000 USD	785,550 USD	730,680 USD	93%	1,190,944	70%

The project has leveraged 73,602 USD in cooperation with the private sector in the scope of the “My village” project as well as 5,431,620 AMD (which is approximately 13,579 USD) from the public sector as a part of 80/100 co-financing scheme.

III. RESULTS

- **A snapshot of higher-level results:** Present/discuss results vis-à-vis UNSDCF/CPD/UNDP SP, SDG outcomes, outputs, indicators, baselines, targets in line with Project Document (Prodoc) Results Framework (RRF). Update RRF in annex.
- **Other important Project level achievements.**
- **Annual Work Plan:** Present in below table a snapshot of the current year's workplan (planned targets, resources, achievement status). Attach in annex the updated Multi-Year Work Plan or Annual Work Plan as relevant.

UNSDCF/CPD	Project progress
Output 1.1 Marginalized groups are empowered to gain universal access to basic services and financial and non-financial assets to build productive capacities and benefit from sustainable livelihoods and jobs.	The project has managed to create employment and income generating opportunities for 98 people (48 women, 50 men) . As a result of the project 49,145 additional people (25,610 women, 23,535 men) benefited from improved basic services.

² The amount of the target budget is presented, which is different from the annual budget (885,061USD) as the latter was revised because of the risks mentioned in “RISKS, PROPOSED CHANGES TO PRODOC, HORIZON SCANNING, EVALUATION” section of the report.

Component 1: Increase involvement of all segments of the target communities in the recovery planning and monitoring towards building context-specific data on the community level.

In 2022, Covid cases significantly decreased in Armenia due to mass vaccination and protection, creating a collective immune and awareness among people. In this new reality, communities were interested and engaged in restoring socio-economic losses rather than planning. In addition, continuous escalations on the borders further strengthened the communities focus of resulting socio-economic losses. In the face of it, the Project conducted several meetings with the head of communities. The consultations with them revealed other priorities that could be covered under Component 3 and 4 (described below in details). As a result, during the project steering committee meeting (held on December 21,2022) the decision was made to relocate budget from Component 1 (Design of local risk-informed COVID19 socioeconomic recovery plans, Strengthening the national crisis management information system (NCMIS) for better coordinated and targeted COVID-19 response and recovery) to Component 3 (Help rural population, including the youth and women, cope with adversity of COVID-19 through protecting and creating jobs, as well as income generation opportunities) and Component 4 (Support the rural settlements to restore and build back better their basic services, including primary healthcare services).

Component 2: Strengthen food security and increase rural households' self-sufficiency by building green and resilient agricultural value chains.

2022

1,000kg of high-quality seeds was purchased from "Scientific Center for Agriculture" CJSC to be distributed to the settlements.

The Seed Reserve Logistic Center (SRLC) concept has been developing since mid-2021. This is a new concept, and its execution requires a close collaboration of different stakeholders, government, public and private sectors. The idea assumes that SRLC will become a part of the seed reproduction value chain for the localization of the elite variety of seeds provided by the local breeding stations. The Project designed the first version of the SRLC infrastructure 2021. However, according to the Project's observations, implementing it was expensive and unrealistic. A new version was designed in 2022, the construction of which was supposed to start in 2023 first in Chambarak, Gegharkunik region. If successful, the SRLC infrastructure should have been duplicated in one of the target communities of this project. However, considering the USD depreciation as well as increase in the costs of construction materials, the budget required for the seed reserve is 2.5 times higher than envisaged by the project so it would be more appropriate to implement activities that would contribute to livelihood and infrastructure support of the communities. Thus, during the project steering committee meeting (held on December 21,2022) the decision was also made to relocate budget from Component 2 (Strengthen food security and increase self-sufficiency of rural households through building green and resilient value chains) to Component 3 (Help rural population, including the youth and women, cope with adversity of COVID-19 through protecting and creating jobs, as well as income generation opportunities) and Component 4 (Support the rural settlements to restore and build back better their basic services, including primary healthcare services.).

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

In the framework of the component, the following concept designs were used:

“I CAN”



Developed in 2022, the project “I Can” is a youth-targeted initiative aiming to see behavioral change among youth and motivate them to engage in entrepreneurial and innovational activities. The Project targets youth (18-30 years old). “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.

“My Village”

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

“Start Me Up”

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

2021

- **77 people (34 women, 43 men, among them 16 youth)** benefited from job creation and income generation.
- **13 SMEs co-financed** (among them 9 women-owned, 1 youth-owned). Among the co-financed SMEs are bakery, wine, cheese factories, a quail farm, professional cuniculture center, mushroom production etc.
- **13 SMEs benefited from capacity building** in business development skills (*the same SMEs, which are co-financed*).
- **1 extension course** aimed at developing business skills of participants, was organized (**number of participants 11 (7 women, 4 men)**).

2022

- **21 people (14 women, 7 men, among them 19 youth)** benefited from job creation and income generation opportunities.
- 3 SMEs co-financed (**among them 2 women-owned, 3 youth-owned**). The co-financed SMEs are a potter center, design and catering center as well as a sewing workshop.
- **3 SMEs benefited from capacity building** in business developing skills (*the same SMEs, which are co-financed*).
- **1 training facility in local VET institutions is being renovated and designed** benefiting 315 youth. The aim of the initiative is to creating/modern training facilities in local VET institutions that are ready to incorporate innovational features of education into their curriculums. It is planned to teach vertical gardening, green housing, mushroom growing, and so on. After a comprehensive study and collaboration with targeted communities, the Project targeted three potential institutions to work with: Agroschool in Getashen, Armavir Regional State College, Art academy in Vedi. Currently, the one in Getashen is being constructed, while the concept of the one in Vedi is being designed.



Initial design of Getashen's training center

- 4 extension courses tailored to the needs of each region (**number of participants 31 (23 women, 8 men)**). The extension courses included such topics as exhibition skills development, evaluation and business plan development as well as computer skills development.
- **21 units** of laboratory equipment was purchased for Agriculture scientific center in Armavir.

Component 4: Support the rural settlements to restore and build back better their basic services, including primary healthcare service

2021



- 3 education facilities renovated water supply benefiting **399 people (205 women, 194 men)**. The education facilities were in the following settlements: **Zangakatun (Armavir region) and Lernarot, Agarakavan (Aragatsotn region)**.
- **21,36 kilometres central streetlight** was modified (**600 luminaries were installed**), **7,593 people** benefitted from the construction of the new street lighting system. The central streetlight was modified in Zangakatun, Deghdzut, Sis settlements of Ararat, Zarinja, Alagyaz, Agarakavan settlements of Aragatsotn region, Arevashat, Khoronk, Tandzut settlements of Armavir region, Fatan, Alapars and Karenis settlements of Kotayk region.



2022

- The crises preparedness level of **40 communities** was evaluated, while **4 healthcare facilities** were renovated benefiting **19,136 people** (10,009 women, 9,127 men). The healthcare facilities were renovated in the following settlements: **Shahumyan, Nalbandyan (Armavir region), Voskevaz (Aragatsotn region), and Nor Hachn (Kotayk region)**.
- The water supply of **6 education facilities was renovated** benefiting **1,435 people** (844 women, 591 men). The education facilities were in the following settlements: **Alapars, Mrgashen, Charentsavan (Kotayk region), Parpi, Berkarat (Aragatsotn region) and Yervandashat (Armavir region)**.
- **3 solar panels** were installed in 3 settlements benefiting **12,629 people** (6,674 women, 5,955 men). The solar panels were installed in the following settlements: Shahumyan (Armavir), Zangakatun (Ararat) and Nor Hachn (Kotayk region).



Activity/Output	Expected Annual Targets/Indicators						Annual budget 2022
	Activities	Planned 2021-2023	Target reached 2021	Target Reached 2022	Target 2023	Total Target reached	
1. Increase involvement of all segments of the target communities in the recovery planning and monitoring towards building context-specific data on the community level	1. Several women, men, youth report awareness of and engagement in the recovery planning and monitoring in their communities.	w)400 m)400 y)200	0	0	0 ³	0%	
	1.1 Number of communities with recovery plans	40	0	0	0	0%	
	1.2 Number of community resilience teams established and functioning	40	0	0	0	0%	

³ Budget from Component 1 (Design of local risk-informed COVID19 socioeconomic recovery plans, Strengthening the national crisis management information system (NCMIS) for better coordinated and targeted COVID-19 response and recovery) and Component 2 (Strengthen food security and increase self-sufficiency of rural households through building green and resilient value chains) to Component 3 (Help rural population, including the youth and women, cope with adversity of COVID-19 through protecting and creating jobs, as well as income generation opportunities) and Component 4 (Support the rural settlements to restore and build back better their basic services, including primary healthcare services.).

	1.2.1 Upgrade of Community Relationship Management (CoRM) database of the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI) is completed	Canceled	Canceled	Canceled	Canceled	Canceled	
Total							\$ 49,680.00
2. Strengthen food security and increase rural households' self-sufficiency by building green and resilient agricultural value chains.	2. a) increase in the production volume/cultivation area of the essential foods/crops in the target regions b) Number of women, men, and youth directly involved in the value chains.	a) 30% b) w-4000 m-4000 y-2000	0	0	a) 0% ⁴ b) 0	0%	
	2.1 Number of logistics centres established by the Project	2	0	0	0	0%	
Total							\$ 297,000.00
3. Help rural populations, including the youth and women, cope with the adversity of COVID-19 through protecting and creating jobs, as well as income generation	3. a) Number of women, men, and youth in the regions benefiting from job creation and income generation opportunities b) Number of youths with access to new	a) w-20 m-20 y-120 b) 70 out of women - 35	a) w-34 m-43 y-16 b) 0	a) w-14 m-7 y-19 b) 583	a) w -0 m -0 y - 40 b) 0	a) w- 48 (240%) m- 50 (250%) y- 35 (29%) b) 583 (833%)	

⁴ Budget from Component 1 (Design of local risk-informed COVID19 socioeconomic recovery plans, Strengthening the national crisis management information system (NCMIS) for better coordinated and targeted COVID-19 response and recovery) and Component 2 (Strengthen food security and increase self-sufficiency of rural households through building green and resilient value chains) to Component 3 (Help rural population, including the youth and women, cope with adversity of COVID-19 through protecting and creating jobs, as well as income generation opportunities) and Component 4 (Support the rural settlements to restore and build back better their basic services, including primary healthcare services.).

opportunities .	learning facilities						
	3.1 a) Number of SMEs co-financed by the Project b) Number of SMEs benefitting from capacity-building opportunities	a) 20 out of which women-owned SMEs-9 youth-owned SMEs-5 b) 75	a) 13 (women-owned SMEs-9, youth-owned SMEs-1) b) 13	a) 3 (women-owned SMEs-2, youth-owned SMEs-3) b) 3	a) 0 b) 0	a) 16 (80%) b) 16 (21%)	
	3.2 a) Number of training facilities created by the Project in local VET institutions b) Number of extension courses tailored to the needs of each region c) Number of career trails implemented by the Project	a) 3 b) 12 c) 15	a) 0 b) 1 c) 0	a) 1 b) 4 c) 0	a) 0 b) 3 c) 5	a) 1 (33%) b) 5 (42%) c) 0 (0%)	
Total							\$ 192,240 .00
4. Support the rural settlements to restore and build back better their basic services, including primary healthcare services.	4. Percentage of local populations in each community benefitting from improved basic services (final target in absolute figures, out of which)	5000 w-2500 m-2500	15,630 w-7950 m-7680	33,515 w-17,660 m-15,855	50%	49,145(817%) w-25,610 (1024%) m-23,535 (941%)	
	4.1 a) Number of communities, where the crisis preparedness level of the rural healthcare facilities was evaluated	a)40 b)10	a) 0 b) 0	a) 40 b) 4	a) 0 b) 5	a) 40 (100%) b)4 (40%)	

	b) Number of healthcare facilities renovated						
	4.2 a) Number of education facilities with improved water supply b) Number of communities with restored street lighting c) the total length in km of the built street lighting d) Number of public facilities benefitting from introduced risk mitigation measures	a) 15 b) 16 c) 50 km d) TBD	a) 3 b) 12 c) 21.36km d) 0	a) 6 b) 0 c) 0 d) 0	a) 3 b) 3 c) 2.5 km d) TBD	a) 9 (60%) b) 12 (75%) c) 21.36 (43%) d) 0%	
Total							\$ 272,160 .00

Success stories

Project: Mary's Food	
	<p>Mary is a talented cook from Lebanon. She moved to Armenia with her family in 2019. A few months after moving "Mary's food" was founded with the help of her children. Mary started cooking at home and selling it through her Facebook page. After overcoming the main obstacles of COVID-19 in 2021, it became clear that it was no longer possible to cook at home, and they came up with the idea to have a separate venue for production. With our support construction activities were implemented and required equipment was purchased.</p>
Project: Tesil	

	<p>Silvia and her husband moved back to Armenia and after deep research decided to establish a quail farm and offer the lowest price point for quail eggs in the Armenian market. They started off with 20 quails and now they have 10.000. With the help of UNDP, they were able to arrange all the necessary requirements, accommodation for the birds and ensured all hygienic norms are met accordingly. Now their brand “Tesil” is sold in all big supermarkets in Armenia. They work with the biggest Armenian supermarkets as exclusive customers.</p>
<p>Project: Nature Symphony</p>	
	<p>“Nature Symphony" was founded in 2017 in Surenavan. It aims to preserve the tradition of making aromatic healthy tea with herbs. Armine who is the founder of the company is a scientist with PHD, who creates every tea mixture with the mission of healing certain aspects of human body. We supported her with the construction of the laboratory as well as with acquiring essential equipment.</p>

IV. 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.

- **48 women** in the regions benefiting from job creation and income generation opportunities
- **342 young women** go the access to new learning facilities.
- **11 women-owned SMEs** were co-financed.
- **25,610** benefitting from improved basic services.

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 4 main risks:

- Political instability
- Continuous escalations on the borders
- 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.

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

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 the project changed the focus of 2022 to the youth.

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. Meanwhile these risks reveal pocket needs such as street lighting for bordering settlements that are followed up by the project.

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.

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

VI. PARTNERSHIPS, COMMUNICATION, KNOWLEDGE MATERIALS

- *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 national, and local levels.

On the national level

The project uses the accumulated experience of RTF funded projects such as Integrated Rural Development and Fostering Participatory Development in Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor with partnerships with the Government of Armenia. The Project cooperated with the Ministry of Economy, with the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure and other line ministries to ensure synergy with GoA's draft recovery plan. The component on ensuring the quality and continuity of primary healthcare services is implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Emergency Situations and involves consultations with WHO.

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 administrations of Armavir, Aragatsotn, Ararat and Kotayk regions.

Media Highlights 2021

2022

Beneficiary project showcase Link	News Coverage about the exhibition organized in Yerevan Mall Link
News Coverage Start -Me -Up “Tesil” beneficiary Link	News Coverage about Health infrastructure rehabilitation competition Link
'News Coverage About "Sustainable Communities" Programme Link	News Coverage about Arm Cheese, Start- Me-Up Beneficiary Link
News Coverage about Start-Me-Up beneficiary Link	News Coverage about Start-Me-Up beneficiary Mary's Food Link
News Coverage about "Honey Money" Project announcement Link	

2021

“My Village” Competition Announcement/ Min Economy Link	“My Village” Competition Announcement Link
Street Lights Coverage Link	“My Village” Competition Announcement Link
“Sustainable Communities” project presentation Link	“My Village” Competition Announcement Link
“Sustainable Communities” project presentation Link	Project Presentation Link
“My Village: competition announcement Link	Project Presentation Link
“Sustainable Communities” Project Presentation Link	“Solar 24” Announcement Link

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 Report	2021
---------------	------

PROJECT BOARD (PB) MEETINGS

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

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The project has completed its quality assurance scheduled in 2022.

Field visit:

Purpose of the field visit: Validation of Results

Outcomes	Update on outcomes	Outputs	Update on outputs	Reasons if progress below target	Update on partnership strategies	Recommendations and proposed action
<p>UNDAF/CPD Outcome 4: People, communities, and regions benefit from equitable economic opportunities, decent work, and sustainable livelihoods, enabled through competitiveness and inclusive green growth.</p>	<p>The project has created and scaled up models of sustainable production and processing in the target communities resulting in income raise for the households in the rural areas. All the models have been to the biggest extent inclusive targeting women, the youth and other vulnerable groups and ensuring decent jobs and comprehensive support from the stage of preparing recovery plans and building up community resilience teams to strengthening resilient agricultural value chains and creating income-generating opportunities. COVID-19 and its harmful consequences turned to be severe impediments to implementing the strategic plan of the Project fully.</p>	<p>Output 1.1 Marginalized groups are empowered to gain universal access to basic services and financial and non-financial assets to build productive capacities and benefit from sustainable livelihoods and jobs.</p>	<p>Target: w) 250 m) 250 y) 125; Actual: 0 # of women, men, youth report awareness of and engagement in the recovery planning and monitoring in their communities.</p> <p>Target: 25; Actual: 0 # of communities with recovery plans.</p> <p>Target: 25; Actual: 0 # of communities resilience teams established and financing.</p> <p>Target: 30%; Actual: 0 increase in the production volume/cultivation area of the essential foods/crops in the target regions</p> <p>Target: 3000; Actual: 0 # of women, men, youth directly involved in the value chains.</p> <p>Target: 2; Actual: 0 # of logistics centers established by the Project</p> <p>Target: a) m-15, w-15, y-70; Actual: a) m-7, w-14, y-19</p>	<p>Restrictions on movement and quarantine measures imposed due to Covid-19 pandemic</p>	<p>The project continues its close collaboration with existing stakeholders and partners through learning and continuous feedback.</p>	<p>The Project should continue to follow the high standards of equity, equality and fairness while working with its beneficiaries. So far, the Project has ensured a competitive and fair selection of beneficiaries from the private sector based on co-financing principles and social responsibility.</p>

			<p># of women, men, youth in the regions benefiting from job creation and income generation opportunities</p> <p>Target: 70; Actual: 583</p> <p># of youth with access to new learning facilities</p> <p>Target: 15; Actual: 3</p> <p># of SMEs co-financed by the Project</p> <p>Target: 50; Actual: 3</p> <p># of SMEs benefitting from capacity-building opportunities</p> <p>Target: 3; Actual: 1</p> <p># of training facilities created by the Project in local VET institutions</p> <p>Target: 9; Actual: 4</p> <p># of extension courses tailored to the needs of each region</p> <p>Target: 10; Actual: 0</p> <p># of career trails implemented by the Project</p> <p>Target: 50%; Actual: 33,515</p> <p>Percentage of local populations in each community benefitting from improved basic services (final target in absolute figures, out of which)</p>			
--	--	--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	--

			<p>Target: 25; Actual: 40 # of communities, where the crisis preparedness level of the rural healthcare facilities was evaluated</p> <p>Target: 5; Actual: 4 # of healthcare facilities renovated</p> <p>Target: 10; Actual: 6 #of education facilities with improved water supply</p> <p>Target: 3; Actual: 0 # of communities with restored street lighting</p> <p>Target: 2.5km; Actual: 0 the total length in km of the built street lighting</p> <p>Target: TBD; Actual: 0 # of public facilities benefitting from introduced risk mitigation measures</p>			
--	--	--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	--

LESSONS LEARNED

The following main lessons were learned:

- As a result of the created socio-political situation caused by military operations, it was challenging to find suppliers and vendors within the necessary timeframe. The project has reached out to the previous suppliers with successful implementation history.
- The morale and motivation of people from the bordering regions were low to engage in project-initiated activities because of the military operations. It was decided to pause activities in direct bordering locations and prepare projects for better times.
- In the case of Solar24 intervention, it was revealed that the communities concurrently apply for UNDP co-financed street lighting projects and state subsidy programs. This results in overlapping efforts with state initiatives. Therefore, the project has decided to identify at earlier

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

Participants in the field visit:

Signature



Name

Anna Gyurjyan

Designation:

SED Portfolio Manager

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

VIII. FUTURE ACTIONS, WORK PLAN

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

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)								DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year	2021		2022		2023		FINAL		
					Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Component 1 Increase involvement of all segments of the target communities in the recovery planning and monitoring towards building context-specific data on the community level	1. of women, men, youth awareness of and engagement in the recovery planning and monitoring in their communities.	Surveys Monitoring reports Participation lists	0	2020	-w150 -m 150 -y 75	-w 0 -m 0 -y 0	-w 250 -m 250 -y 125	-w 0 -m 0 -y 0	-w 0 ⁵ -m 0 -y 0		w-400 m-400 y-200	-w 0 -m 0 -y 0	Project monitoring Survey Project records
	1.1 Number of communities with recovery plans	Field visit reports, Project reports, Recovery plans	0	2020	15	0	25	0	0		40	0	Field visits Request for information to the beneficiary communities
	1.2 Number of community resilience teams established and functioning	Meeting records	0	2020	15	0	25	0	0		40	0	Reporting Field visits project records
	1.2.1 Upgrade of Community Relationship Management (CoRM) database of the	Project Progress report	1	2020	Canceled	Canceled	Canceled	Canceled	Canceled		Canceled	Canceled	Reporting

⁵ Budget from Component 1 (Design of local risk-informed COVID19 socioeconomic recovery plans, Strengthening the national crisis management information system (NCMIS) for better coordinated and targeted COVID-19 response and recovery) and Component 2 (Strengthen food security and increase self-sufficiency of rural households through building green and resilient value chains) to Component 3 (Help rural population, including the youth and women, cope with adversity of COVID-19 through protecting and creating jobs, as well as income generation opportunities) and Component 4 (Support the rural settlements to restore and build back better their basic services, including primary healthcare services.).

	RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI) is completed												
Component 2 Strengthen food security and increase self-sufficiency of rural households through building green and resilient agricultural value chains	2. a) increase in the production volume/cultivation area of the essential foods/crops in the target regions b) Number of women, men, youth directly involved in the value chains.	Surveys Monitoring reports records of the logistics centres	0	2020	a) 10% b) w-800 m-800 y-400	a) 0% b) w-0 m-0 y-0	a)30% b) w-1200 m-1200 y-600	a) 0% b) w-0 m-0 y-0	a)0 ⁶ b) w 0 m-0 y-0		a) 30% (average) b)w-4000 m-4000 y-2000	a) 0% b) w-0 m-0 y-0	Project monitoring Project reports Surveys interviews
	2.1 Number of logistics centres established by the project	Field visit reports Project reports records of the logistics centres	0	2020	0	0	2	0	0		2	0	Field visits, interviews, surveys, project records
Component 3 Help rural population, including the youth and women, cope with the adversity of COVID-19 through protecting and creating jobs, as well as income	3. a) Number of women, men, youth in the regions benefiting from job creation and income generation opportunities b) Number of youth with access to new	Surveys Monitoring report	0	2020	a) -m 5 -w 5 -y 10 b)0	a) -m 43 -w 34 -y 16 b)0	a) -m 15 -w 15 -y 70 b) -70 out of which women - 35	a) -m 7 -w 14 -y 19 b) 583 out of which women - 342	a) 0 y-40 b)70		a) -m 20 -w 20 -y 120 b) -70 out of which women - 35	a) -m 50 -w 48 -y 35 b) -583 out of which women - 342	Project Progress report Survey

⁶ Budget from Component 1 (Design of local risk-informed COVID19 socioeconomic recovery plans, Strengthening the national crisis management information system (NCMIS) for better coordinated and targeted COVID-19 response and recovery) and Component 2 (Strengthen food security and increase self-sufficiency of rural households through building green and resilient value chains) to Component 3 (Help rural population, including the youth and women, cope with adversity of COVID-19 through protecting and creating jobs, as well as income generation opportunities) and Component 4 (Support the rural settlements to restore and build back better their basic services, including primary healthcare services.).

generation opportunities	learning facilities												
	3.1 a) Number of SMEs co-financed by the Project b) Number of SMEs benefitting from capacity-building opportunities	Project reports Success stories Media coverage	0	2020	a) 5 -women-owned- 2 - youth-owned -1 b) 25	a) 13 b) 13	a) 15- women- owned SMEs 7 - youth- owned SMEs 3 b) 50	3- women- owned SMEs, 3 - youth- owned b) 3	a)0 b)0		a)20 -women- owned SMEs 9 - youth- owned SMEs 5 b) 75	a)16 -women- owned SMEs 11 - youth- owned SMEs 4 b) 16	Project Progress Reports Media Beneficiary interviews
	3.2 a) Number of training facilities created by the Project in local VET institutions b) Number of extension courses tailored to the needs of each region c) Number of career trails implemented by the Project	Project reports Designed curricula	0	2020	0 b) 0 c) 0	a) 0 b) 1 c) 0	a) 3 b) 9 c) 10	a) 1 b) 4 c)0	a) 0 b) 3 c) 5		a) 3 b) 12 c) 15	a) 1 b) 5 c) 0	Project Progress Reports
Component 4 Support the rural settlements to restore and build back better their basic services, including primary healthcare services.	4. Percentage of local populations In each community benefitting from improved basic services (final target in absolute figures, out of which)	Project reports Media coverage	0	2020	50%	15,630	50%	33,515	50%		-5000 m-2500 w-2500	49,145 m- 25,610 w- 23,535	Reporting Media tours
	4.1 a) Number of communities, where the crisis preparedness level of the	Project reports Survey	0	2020	a) 15 b) 0	a) 0 b) 0	a) 25 b) 5	a) 40 b) 4	a)0 b) 5		a) 40 b) 10	a) 40 b) 4	Reporting Survey

	rural healthcare facilities was evaluated b) Number of healthcare facilities renovated												
4.2	a) Number of education facilities with improved water supply b) Number of communities with restored street lighting c) the total length in km of the built street lighting d) Number of public facilities benefitting from introduced risk mitigation measures	Project reports Beneficiary feedback Field visit reports	0	2020	a)2 b) 1 c)1km d) TBD based on the assessment results	a) 3 b) 12 c) 21.36 km d) 0	a)10 b) 3 c) 2.5 km d)	a)6 b) 0 c) 0 km d)	a)3 b) 3 c)2.5 km d)		a)15 b) 16 c) 50 km d) TBD	a)9 b) 12 c) 21.36 km d) TBD	Reporting Interviewing Field visits

ANNUAL/MULTIYEAR WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FROM PRODOC 78

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year			RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		2021	2022	2023		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
Component 1: Increase involvement of all segments of the target communities in the recovery planning and monitoring towards building context-specific data on the community level Gender marker: GEN 2	.1 Activity: Design Local risk-informed COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery plans through community participatory consultations	32400	32400	0	UNDP	RUS GOV	Contractual Services/Individuals	22000
							Local Consultants	16000
							Contractual Services/Companies	16000
							Travel	6000
							Facilities and Administration	4800
	1.1.2 Activity: Mobilize and train a community resilience team to support the implementation of the local risk-informed COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery plans	4320	17280	0	UNDP	RUS GOV	Local consultants	7000
							Contractual Services/Companies	13000
							Facilities and Administration	1600
	Subtotal for Output 1.1							86,400
	1.2.1 Upgrade Community Relationship Management (CoRM) database of the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI)	21600	0	0	UNDP	RUS GOV	Local Consultants	5000
Contractual Services/Companies							15000	
Facilities and Administration							1600	

⁷ 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

⁸ 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.

	Sub-Total for Output 1.2							21,600
<p>Component 2: Strengthen food security and increase self-sufficiency of rural households through building green and resilient agricultural value chains</p> <p>Gender marker: GEN 2</p>	2.1.1 Activity: Conduct feasibility studies of establishing local agricultural value chains.	10800	0	0	UNDP	RUS GOV	Local consultants	10000
							Facilities and Administration	800
	2.1.2 Activity: According to the recommendations of the feasibility study establish a logistics centre for the agricultural value chains (including construction, equipment, machinery, furniture)	64800	270000	43200	UNDP	RUS GOV	Contractual Services/Companies	300000
							Equipment and Furniture	50000
							Facilities and Administration	28000
	2.1.3 Activity: Set up the managerial structure of the logistics centre	10,800	10,800	0	UNDP	RUS GOV	Local consultants	20000
							Facilities and Administration	1600
	2.1.4 Activity: Provide need-based (operational, managerial, marketing, technical and technological) training (with involvement of the Russian expertise) to both the primary producers and the staff of the logistics centre	0	16,200	5400	UNDP	RUS GOV	Local Consultants	20000
							Facilities and Administration	1600
	Sub-Total for Output 2.1							432,200

Component 3: Help rural population, including the youth and women, cope with the adversity of COVID-19 through protecting and creating jobs, as well as income generation opportunities.	3.1.1. Activity: Design, roll out open calls and provide co-financing to the winning SMEs							15000	
		83160	115560	71280	UNDP	RUS GOV	Contractual Services/Individuals		
							Travel	5000	
							Contractual Services/Companies	230000	
							Facilities and Administration	20000	
	3.1.2 Based on the approved batch of applications, offer need-based capacity-building to the beneficiary SMEs under each call	5400	16200	10800	UNDP	RUS GOV	Local consultant	30000	
							Facilities and Administration	2400	
	Sub-Total for Output 3.1								302,400
	3.2.1 Activity: Rapid Path to Reskilling: Enhance rapid reskilling capacity in the regions by strengthening local VET institutions								
		6480	52920	30240	UNDP	RUS GOV	Local Consultants	5000	
						Contractual Services/Individuals	18 000		
						Contractual Services/Companies	60000		
						Facilities and Administration	6400		
3.2.2 Activity: Career Trail for Youth. Create a web platform (Kolbaltern)	10800	7560		UNDP	RUS GOV	Local Consultant	5000		

	to connect local youth with entry-level employment opportunities in Armenia and globally and to run pilot batches of Career Trail in the four target regions			0				Contractual Services/Companies	12000
								Facilities and Administration	1600
	Sub-total for Output 3.2								108,000
Component 4: Support the rural settlements to restore and build back better their basic services, including primary healthcare services.	4.1.1 Activity: Implement comprehensive evaluation of the crisis preparedness level of the rural healthcare facilities, particularly in the context of COVID-19 (Year 1)	10800	10800	0	UNDP	RUS GOV	Contractual Services/Companies	20000	
							Facilities and Administration	1600	
	4.1.2 Activity: Renovate and refurbish some of the most vulnerable local healthcare facilities in the target communities	27000	86400	16200	UNDP	RUS GOV	Contractual Services/Companies	100000	
							Materials and Goods	20000	
							Facilities and Administration	9600	
	Sub-total for Output 4.1								151,200
	4.2.1 Activity: Restore internal water supply system in the local schools or/and kindergartens	25920	92880	43200	UNDP	RUS GOV	Travel	5000	
Local Consultants							10000		
Contractual Services/Companies							135000		
Facilities and Administration							12000		

4.2.2 Activity: Build energy-efficient street lighting systems and introduce renewable energy solutions for community safety and resilience	32400	49680	25920	UNDP	RUS GOV	Travel	5000	
						Local Consultants	10000	
						Contractual Services/Companies	50000	
						Materials and Goods	35000	
						Facilities and Administration	8000	
	4.2.3 Activity: Introduce risk mitigation measures into infrastructure rehabilitation interventions	10800	32400	10800	UNDP	RUS GOV	Contractual Services/Companies	15000
							Materials and Goods	35000
							Facilities and Administration	4,000
	Sub-total for Output 4.2							324,000
	Project Implementation: 5 Activity				UNDP	RUS GOV	Programme Management Cost	15000
Contractual Services/individuals							78000	
Travel							15000	
Equipment							13000	
Communication and Audiovisual							40000	
Supplies							3974	
Rental and Maint.Premises							15000	
Miscellaneous							27000	
Training, Workshop and Conferences							5000	
Vehicles-Budget							42100	

						Facilities and Administration	20328	
	Sub-Total for Output 5							274,400
Outputs Total							1,574,074	
GMS Total							125,926	
TOTAL							1,700,000	