2030 Agenda Sub-Fund – UNDESA

Progress Report

Project title	Addressing COVID-19 and Sustainable Investments along the Belt and Road by Strengthening Partner Countries' Capacities and Establishing a Network of Sustainable Investment Promotion (SIP) Facilities with Serbia as an Early Pilot
Project Reference no.	PDF-SDG-2020-02
Duration of project	October 15, 2021 - October 14,2023
Lead UN entity	UNDP
Partner implementing entities	General Secretariat of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, Council for Cooperation with Russia and China of the Republic of Serbia, Serbian Development Agency
Reporting period	October 15, 2021- March 30, 2022
Project Total budget (a):	$ 999,646.54 total project budget; UNDP CO Serbia: $ 971,619.06
Expenditures to date (b):	$ 128,682.05
Utilization rate (b/a):	13 %
Important issues (ONLY bullets -narrative in the relevant sections below)	• **Successful implementation of Inception Phase,** resulting in a defined strategy for project activity initiation and agreed project timeline with national partners. • **First cluster activities were successfully initiated** and are progressing as planned. • **Second cluster activities were successfully initiated** and the **First Sustainable Investment Promotion Forum was successfully held as a hybrid event,** on March 21, 2022, at the Serbian Pavilion at Dubai EXPO, in the United Arab Emirates; and via Zoom.

1. SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

The *Addressing COVID-19 and Sustainable Investments along the Belt and Road by Strengthening Partner Countries' Capacities and Establishing a Network of Sustainable Investment Promotion Facilities with Serbia as an Early Pilot* (SIP Project) began implementation on October 15, 2021. In a little less than the first six months of project implementation, the following achievements have been made:

- **Successful implementation of Inception Phase,** during which the UNDP team organized a number of successful consultative meetings with the main national partners and stakeholders. The meetings defined the strategy for initiation of project activities and helped to identify the technical steps to be undertaken (i.e. sequencing of the activities, identification of the consultants, drafting the ToRs, selecting the means of implementation and procurement methods to be used, defining the timeframe, etc.). The Initiation phase ended December 31, 2021 and the UNDP team submitted the Inception Phase Report.

- **First cluster activities successfully initiated,** as the team has in coordination with the national partners drafted and published the Terms of references (TORs) for the implementation of the following activities:
    - **Post-COVID-19 SDG Investor Map**,
    - **Impact assessment study of COVID-19 on enterprises**, and
    - **legal advisory service.**

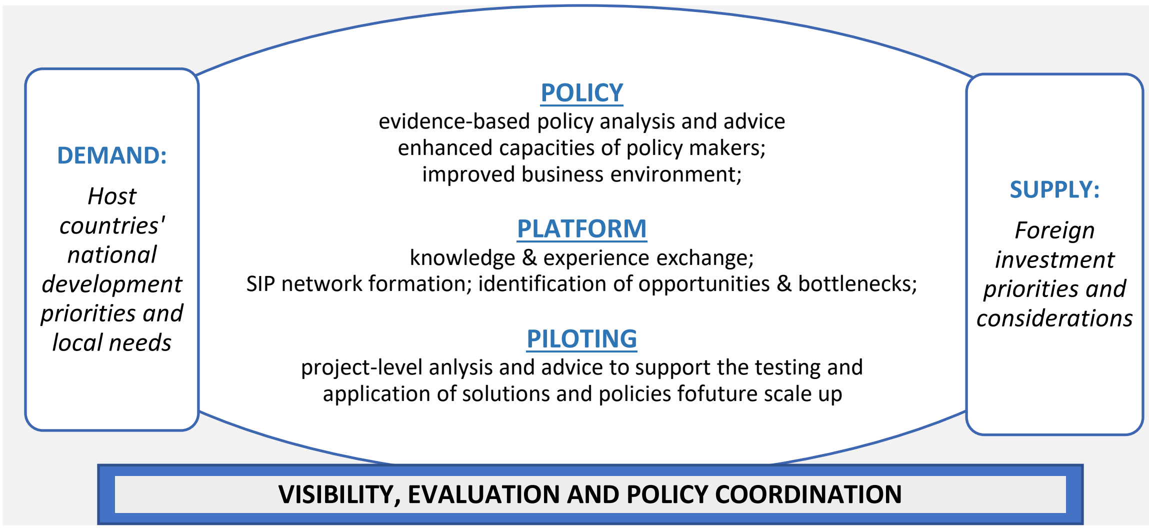
  The contracting procedures for the developed TORs are ongoing.
- **Implementation of Second cluster activities has begun,** with the
    - the first **Sustainable Investment Promotion (SIP) Forum was successfully held** as a hybrid event, with the live forum taking place in March 21, 2022, at the Serbian Pavilion at Dubai EXPO, in the United Arab Emirates, as well as being available online to participants, globally, via Zoom. The event was organized jointly with the Government of the Republic of Serbia with a total of 100 participants. In the reporting period the event has generated interest on sustainable investment from seven companies.

2. REVIEW OF PROGRESS

The Project

Through policy engagement, platform building, and piloting projects, the SIP Project in Serbia aims to improve the country's overall investment climate to attract and sustain foreign investments that counteract the impact of COVID-19 on economic and social sustainability of development in the country. This will be done through strengthening the relevant institutional frameworks and further developing capacities.

The overarching short-term goal is to provide a multilateral framework of cooperation to leverage sustainable investment opportunities in response to the immediate aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, which will show early and positive results, bridge communication gaps, and ensure that foreign investments complement existing programs and local stakeholders are fully engaged. The program will first focus on the positive early results in Serbia and is expected to generate: i) concrete, relevant and effective modalities for setting up an effective SIP facility; and ii) concrete lessons for what areas to focus on to maximize impact and what approaches work the best (and which ones do not).



The intermediate and long-term goals are to improve overall investment cooperation and conditions towards a sustainable, forward-looking path, and to anchor the investment promotion approach in well-structured, local institutions that embody local needs and development priorities of partner countries.

The SIP Project began on October 15, 2021, with the Inception period lasting until December 31, 2021.

During the Inception Period, the UNDP team held a series of consultative meetings with the main national partners (including with **Mr. Danijel Nikolic**, Assistant Secretary General, Government of Serbia; **Mr. Danilo Cicmil**, Investments Advisor to the President of the Republic of Serbia,) and with **Ms. Sara Lisa Orstavik** and **Mr. David Mueller** from the UNDP New York SDG Impact Team (to initiate Activity 1.2 SDG Investor Map), consultants **Ms. Hajdana Glomazic** and **Mr. Goran Opacic** (to discuss the initiation of the Activity 1 - COVID-19 Impact Assessment on Enterprises)

The Project's Kick-Off Meeting was organized on December 6th, 2021, with **Mr. Danijel Nikolic,** Assistant Secretary General, Government of Serbia, **Mr. Pavle Basic,** National Council for Coordination of Cooperation with the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, and **Mr. Bojan Lalic,** Director, Belt and Road Institute in Serbia.

The topics discussed were related to the presentation of the SIP project details (background, overall objective, project purpose, activities, results, outcomes), intervention logic, risks and plan for the commencement of activities, as well as initiation plan of all activities from Outcome 1 (Policy) and Outcome 2 (Platform).

After discussions, it was agreed that for **first cluster of activities** (Outcome 1),:

- 1) Activity 1.1 - COVID-19 Impact Assessment on Enterprises – the timeline and implementation strategy were discussed and agreed.

- 2) Activity 1.2 - SDG Investor Mapping was presented by the UNDP team and the implementation of the activity through the SDG Investor Mapping specialists from UNDP HQ Impact Unit. They explained the procedures and benefits of the mapping.
- 3) Activity 1.3 - Legal Advisory Service – a timeline for activity implementation was agreed and the dynamics for the engagement of consultants/companies that will provide support in aligning legal frameworks within the Open Balkans initiative.
- **The second cluster of activities** (Outcome 2 – Platform) consists of the organization of different events (high-level political dialogues, investment forums, knowledge exchange visits, etc.) which are strongly connected and could be possibly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was proposed to open this cluster with the organization of an Investment Forum in Dubai (March 2022), to leverage the existing infrastructure built for EXPO 2020 (Dubai, October 2021–March 2022), where Serbia has its own pavilion. National partners agreed to create an appropriate proposal for the event.
- **The third cluster** (Outcome 3 – Pilot) will be revisited and initiated in Q3 2022.

The meetings defined the strategy for initiation of project activities and helped to identify the technical steps to be undertaken (i.e. sequencing of the activities, identification of the consultants, drafting the ToRs, selecting the means of implementation and procurement methods to be used, defining the timeframe, etc.).

Table 1 – Review of Indicators of Achievement

INDICATOR as approved	BASELINE at the start of the project	INDICATOR OF ACHIEVEMENT at time period of reporting (DO NOT REPEAT ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION)	Comments
EO1			
IA 1.1 An impact assessment study of COVID-19 on enterprises, and its outcome to be developed into an assessment report summarizing key findings with relevant case studies/best practices included.	No available impact assessment of COVID-19 on business.	*Initiated.* *10% of activity completed.* *Sets of meetings with possible consultants held.* *Two TORs were developed - National Consultant for the Public Opinion Survey and Consultant for the Assessment of Public Perception – Focus Groups. Findings of the public opinion poll and focus group discussions will be cross-referenced for the overall analysis. The consultants for delivering the activity have been identified and their contracting is ongoing.*	*The implementation of this activity is on time and is progressing as planned.*
IA 1.2 A Post-COVID-19 SDG Investor Map to highlight business opportunities as well as potential social and economic benefits of foreign investments in priority sectors, subsectors, sub-regions and, more gradually, proven business models to	No post- COVID-19 SDG investor map for Serbia available.	*Initiated.* *25% of activity completed.* *The UNDP team has engaged with the UNDP HQ SDG Impact Team*	*The implementation of this activity is on time and is progressing as planned.*

safeguard social security and stimulate economic growth in Serbia after the COVID-19 crisis.		*which has provided the SGD mapping Methodology in March.* *Sets of meetings with possible consultants have been held to identify potential contractors for this activity.* *In communication with the national partners, TORs for independent consultants have been developed and contracting procedures ongoing.*	
IA 1.3 Legal advisory service to the Serbian government to align its national legislations and investment policies with Albania and North Macedonia at first, so as to enable the free movement of goods, services, people and capital (i.e., EU principles of "four freedoms") in the Western Balkans, facilitating cross-border transport and trade, and improving the general business environment to attract and sustain foreign investments on both national and regional levels after the COVID-19 crisis.	Legal advisory services are not available for national governments to algin legislation and policies and enable the EU "Four Freedoms" in the Western Balkans.	*Initiated. Two TORs developed. Pending approval from national partners, upon which contracting procedures will be started.* *10% of activity completed.*	*The implementation of this activity is on time and is progressing as planned.*
EO2 Platform Enhanced knowledge, information exchange and communication on foreign investment opportunities, fostered knowledge and experience sharing on investment-led employment stimulation and economic growth after COVID-19, and an established learning and capacity development network among the SIP			

pilot countries towards presenting investment policy as well as governance solutions to counteract the impact of COVID-19 on economic and social sustainable development in Serbia.			
IA 2.1 Two sets of annual SIP events with participation from all countries investing in Serbia, held in Serbia and abroad (i.e., High-level Policy Dialogue and Sustainable Investment Promotion Forum) for increasing the awareness and forging mutual understandings among targeted regional cooperation stakeholders (e.g. Western Balkans, EU, Central Asia, etc). The aim is to identify how to advance sustainable investments in support of Serbia's post-crisis recovery; as well as gaps, lessons learned, and pathways to advance sustainable investment in Serbia and beyond with a specific focus on enterprises most affected by COVID-19.	No annual SIP events with participation from all countries investing in Serbia, held in Serbia and abroad.	*50% of activity completed., as one of the two planned events has been held in the reporting period,* *The first event was held as planned, in Q1, in Dubai UAE, during the 2020 Expo.* *The event was held in hybrid format, in person at the Serbian Pavilion at the Expo, and online via Zoom.* *The event focused on introducing new sustainable investments, aligned with the principles and practices of economic, social and environmental sustainability, which assist countries to overcome critical development gaps and achieve the SDGs at the country level faster.* *A total of 114 participants were registered (70 in person, 44 via Zoom).* *The forum has thus far resulted in seven (7) companies and potential investors expressing interest in more detailed meetings and talks on potential investment (namely: Eurowatt, BDR Thermea Group, China Huadian Hong Kong Company*	*The implementation of this activity is on time and is progressing as planned.*

		Limited, Eavor; Green Horizon Renewables, AMSteel and Port Development Company)	
IA 2.2 Two knowledge and information exchange visits to facilitate learning and experience sharing among all partner countries, enhance understanding and institutional capacities in Serbia's post-crisis recovery, with a focus on investment-driven employment stimulation and economic growth. Field trip to selected projects, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) or enterprises will be organized.	No knowledge and information exchange visits organized to facilitate learning and experience sharing among all partner countries.	*Planned for the next period.* *Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, plans need to be re-visited and adjusted with national partners.*	*Elections in Serbia in April 2022 may affect the planning of the implementation of these activities.*
IA 2.3 An online SIP One-Stop Platform to inform and encourage sustainable investments that facilitate local needs to match investment opportunities from all interested nations after COVID-19, reducing transaction costs on project identification and screening; that enhance online learning and capacity development; and that provide easy access to analysis	An online SIP One-Stop Platform not available.	*No activities were planned for implementation in this reporting period.*	*Preparatory activities to commence in Q2 2022.*

and measures for project de-risking and assessment with focus on social, environmental and governance aspects.			
EO3 **<u>Pilot:</u>** Learn from and showcase to relevant actors a mini-pilot of successful practices on how sustainable investment and business approaches can support post-crisis recovery and can be further scaled up and/or replicated in Serbia and possibly other SIP pilot countries.			
IA3.1 A pilot online training curriculum package designed for most affected enterprises (especially SMEs) with a focus on sustaining and upgrading their business after COVID-19, to enhance enterprises' awareness and ability to economically and socially sustain their business, and thus to increase the resilience and inclusiveness of the labor market in Serbia after COVID-19.	No training package available.	*To be initiated in Q3 2022* *In this period, communication with national partners was continued to confirm the content and modality of training.*	*As was decided at the Kick-off meeting with national partners, this activities will be revisited and initiated in Q3 2022.*
IA 3.2 Pilot online training curriculum and cash funding provided, with **three successful practices** (e.g. rapid adjustment of business strategy, innovative business models, social safety net for	No successful practices available to be disseminated.	*To be initiated in Q3 2022* *In this period, communication with national partners was continued to confirm the content and modality of training.*	*As was decided at the Kick-off meeting with national partners, this activities will be revisited and initiated in Q3 2022.*

vulnerable employees) summarized and adequately disseminated to demonstrate best practices and lessons learned.			

Table 2 – Review of Activities/Outputs

Outputs/Activities	Status	Comment
O.1.1 **Output 1.1** Depending on the evolution of the pandemic, prepare and launch an **impact assessment study of COVID-19 on enterprises** in Serbia to assess the short-term and mid/long-term impact of COVID-19 on these enterprises, the support needed by them, and the impact on their ability to implement sustainable investment in the country; to identify potential opportunities, gaps, and priority areas for recovery to inform follow-up programme actions including critical "building back better" aspects; and to produce an assessment report summarizing key findings with relevant case studies/best practices included. The knowledge product is planned to be started in Q4 of the first year, and to be launched by Q1 of the second year, with a consultation / review meeting included in the half-day launch event, tentatively to invite about 100 participants. A team of senior national and international experts will be convened for drafting,	☐Not yet started ☒ In progress ☐Completed (indicate month & year) ☐ Cancelled ☐ Delayed	This Output is one of the key knowledge products that this project will deliver. It is unique, and has not been performed in Serbia to date. Information gathered at the Kick off meeting and meetings held during the inception period provided insights for the UNDP team for the selection of the methodology to be used for the survey, provided input and information needed for the development of ToRs. A timeline for the engagement of the consultants and activity implementation was agreed: the TOR development was scheduled for Q1, to be followed by consultant engagement. It was agreed with the national partners that Survey itself would not be conducted before the elections, having in mind that elections at all levels (national, local, presidential) are scheduled for April 2022.All activities under this Output are on time and are being implemented as planned. The first set of TORs have been drafted in cooperation with national partners and the contracting is in progress.

based on both desk writing and field visits (if situation allows).		
O. 1.2 Building upon the findings of the SDG Impact[1] initiative, develop a **Post-COVID-19 SDG Investor Map**, a targeted platform of country-level data that highlights business opportunities as well as potential social and economic benefits of foreign investments in priority sectors, subsectors, sub-regions and, more granularly, proven business models to safeguard social security and stimulate economic growth in Serbia after the COVID-19 crisis. A team of senior national and international experts will be convened for drafting, based on both desk writing and field visits (if situation allows). The SDG Investor Map is planned to be started in Q4 of the first year, and to be launched in Q4 of the second year.	☐Not yet started ☒ In progress ☐Completed (indicate month & year) ☐ Cancelled ☐ Delayed	The activities under this Outcome are on time and are being implemented as planned. The team will be using the Methodology for SDG Investor Map Development provided by the UNDP HQ SDG Impact Unit. An SDG Investor Map is a market intelligence product produced by UNDP Country Offices (COs) The SDG Investor Maps provide the insight and tools needed by the private sector to increase their investments towards the SDGs. They are created using an established methodology which combines secondary data research (on the existing development needs, policy priorities, and market opportunities) with interviews and discussions with public and private sector stakeholders to verify findings. The findings of the SDG Investor Maps are synthesized in an Excel template and uploaded to the SDG Investor Platform, which allows investors to use extensive functionality to search for market intelligence. Cooperation with the UNDP HQ Impact Unit has been established and they have provided the Methodology for SDG Investor Map Development. According to the planned timeline, it should be developed by end of 2022.

[1] SDG Impact is a UNDP initiative focused on eliminating barriers and driving integrity for SDG-enabling investment at scale. It consists of three pillars: 1) Impact Management, with practice standards, tools for impact measurement and certification with an SDG Impact Seal; 2) Impact Intelligence, with country-level data on SDG-enabling investment; 3) Impact Facilitation.

		The first set of TORs have been drafted in cooperation with national partners and the contracting is in progress.
O. 1.3 In line with Serbian national strategies on foreign investment, provide **legal advisory service** to the Serbian government to align its national legislation and investment policies with countries in the region as to enable the free movement of goods, services, people and capital (along the EU principles of "four freedoms") in the Western Balkans[2], facilitating cross-border transport and trade, and improving the general business environment to attract and sustain foreign investments at both national and regional levels after the COVID-19 crisis. A team of senior legal experts will be convened for drafting, based on both desk writing and field visits (if situation allows). This activity is planned to be completed by Q2 of the third year.	☐Not yet started ☒ In progress ☐Completed (indicate month & year) ☐ Cancelled ☐ Delayed	Although this activity is planned to be completed by Q2 of 2023 the UNDP team have engaged with national partners on it. As per the timeline agreed at the Kick-off meeting, this activity was initiated in Q1 2022. Two TORs were developed with the national stakeholders: one for support in progress monitoring and the other for trade facilitation, both of which are in the process of contracting.
O. 2.1 Based on the findings of the impact assessment of COVID-19 on enterprises (O. 1.1) and the legal advisory services on enabling "four freedoms" (O. 1.3), organize **High-level Policy Dialogue** among relevant stakeholders	☐Not yet started ☒ In progress ☐Completed (indicate month & year) ☐ Cancelled ☐ Delayed	This output is a cumulative output of the sub-outputs below. Activities under this output have been initiated and are in progress, as noted below under O. 2.1.1

[2] https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/policy/common-regional-market_en#:~:text=The%20Common%20Regional%20Market%20represents,privileged%20relation%20with%20the%20EU.

from Serbia, and other partner countries to facilitate exchanges, forge mutual understandings, identify opportunities, bottlenecks as well as pathways to advance sustainable investment in Serbia in support of its post-crisis recovery after COVID-19.		
O. 2.1.1 **First High-level Policy Dialogue**, aiming to exchange understanding, knowledge and practices on how to advance sustainable investment in Serbia supporting its post-COVID-19 recovery, and to jointly develop a comprehensive Action Plan among cross-sector stakeholders on facilitating sustainable investment from all sources in Serbia, and creating an enabling environment for regional cooperation (e.g. Western Balkans, EU, Central Asia, etc.) on investment and trade. Tentatively to invite about 80 participants from Serbia, Asia and other partner countries, with a specific focus on central and local governments, investment bureaus, private sector partners, financial institutions, overseas chambers, local commercial associations as well as development agencies. A field trip visit to selected projects (completed or ongoing), SEZs, industry parks or enterprises around Belgrade will also be planned, as to facilitate first-hand knowledge and experience sharing between participants and in-site managers on opportunities, challenges and solutions.	☐Not yet started ☒ In progress ☐Completed (indicate month & year) ☐ Cancelled ☐ Delayed	Activities under this sub-output have been initiated and are in progress. Implementation has been cautious due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and national governments introduced measures (often restriction to movement and travel) to counter its effects locally. The UNDP team in cooperation with national partners has been identifying and implementing solutions to maximize impact while keeping in line with measures introduced to curb the COVID-19 impact. The dialogue is currently planned to be held in Q3 of the third year. As noted in the Project Document, depending on the evolution of the pandemic, the timing and format (e.g., teleconference) of the proposed activity may be further adjusted.
O 2.1.2 **Final High-level Policy Dialogue**, summarizing programme results and outcomes, contribution to	☒Not yet started ☐ In progress	As initially planned and agreed with national partners, the first event was supposed to be held in China, as a high level policy dialogue. With the introduction of counter pandemic measures by the Chinese

post-crisis recovery, and consolidating best practices and lessons learned for future SIP programme expansion in other partner countries. The high-level dialogue tentatively plans to invite about 50 key policy makers, technical experts, enterprises and other relevant stakeholders from Serbia, Asia and other partner countries for in-depth discussion.	☐Completed (indicate month & year) ☐ Cancelled ☐ Delayed	government, it was decided to put on hold the implementation and to revisit this initiative in Q2 2022.
O. 2.2 Facilitate sustainable investment cooperation through **Sustainable Investment Promotion Forums**, with the aim to support the promotion, actualization, sustaining and upgrading of foreign investment from all interested nations in Serbia with a specific focus on enterprises most affected by COVID-19.	☐Not yet started ☒ In progress ☐Completed (indicate month & year) ☐ Cancelled ☐ Delayed	This output is a cumulative output of the sub-outputs below. As planned, the first set of activities under this output have been completed (under o.2.2.1. below). The second is planned for Q1 2023.
O. 2.2.1: **First Sustainable Investment Promotion Forum**, convening about 100 private and public stakeholders from Serbia, Asia and other partner countries to meet, exchange and share their practices, expertise and experience. Targeting potential investors from all interested nations, the forum plans to focus on opportunities and challenges for investing in Serbia after COVID-19 through investment pitches, roundtable discussions and Business to Business (B2B) networking sessions to advance the general sustainable investment climate in Serbia. The forum is planned in Q1 of the third year (may be further adjusted depending on the evolution of the pandemic).	☐Not yet started ☐ In progress ☒Completed (indicate month & year) ☐ Cancelled ☐ Delayed	*This output has been completed.* *Due to the complexities of international travel in the time of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, during the Project Kick-Off meeting possibilities of holding this event were examined. It was proposed to open this cluster with the organization of an Investment Forum in Dubai to leverage the existing infrastructure built for EXPO 2020 (Dubai, UAE; October 2021–March 2022), where Serbia had its own pavilion. This option was confirmed by the national partners and the UNDP team proceeded to organized the Forum.* *The Sustainable Investment Promotion Forum was held on March 21, 2022. The Forum was opened with a high-level panel which included Ms. Slavica Djukic Dejanovic, Special Counsellor to the Prime Minister responsible for the Agenda 2030 and Ms. Francine Pickup, UNDP Resident Representative in Serbia. It opened discussions around the challenges in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a*

		driving force for ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity for all people. *The participants and potential investors also learned about the current investment climate and sustainable investment opportunities in the Republic of Serbia. Presented were projects of the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure and The City of Belgrade in the field of urban infrastructure development. Also presented were innovative solutions made by Serbian scientists to improve air quality in urban areas and for sustainable food production, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Representatives of the Ministries of Mining and Energy presented the energy sector to investors with a focus on renewable energy. Participants also heard successful investment stories from investors, such as Balkan Wind farms, BGS Alpha, and Metito; on the lessons learned and pathways to advance sustainable investments* *The Event Agenda is provided in the Annexes.*
O. 2.2.2: **Second Sustainable Investment Promotion Forum**, convening about 100 private and public stakeholders from Serbia, Asia and other partner countries to meet, exchange and share their practices, expertise and technologies. Focusing on existing and potential international investors from all interested nations with concrete investment plans in Serbia, the forum will emphasize the actualization, sustaining and upgrading of foreign investment in Serbia after the COVID-19 crisis. The forum is planned in Q3 of the third year (may be further adjusted depending on the evolution of the pandemic).	☒Not yet started ☐ In progress ☐Completed (indicate month & year) ☐ Cancelled ☐ Delayed	In cooperation with national partners the activity has been planned for end Q1 2023 (earliest). Decisions around the second SIP Forum will be revisited in the second half of 2022.
O. 2.3 Knowledge and information exchange visits to facilitate learning and experience sharing among all partner countries, enhance	☒Not yet started ☐ In progress	This output is a cumulative output of the sub-outputs below, which are planned for Q4 2022 and onwards. Due to ongoing pandemic, options will be revisited in the second half of 2022.

understanding and institutional capacities in Serbia's post-crisis recovery, with a focus on investment-led employment stimulation and economic growth. Field trip to selected projects, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) or enterprises will also be organized.	☐Completed (indicate month & year) ☐ Cancelled ☐ Delayed	
O. 2.3.1 **Organize a knowledge exchange** in Asia, tentatively to invite about 15 participants (at both policy making and implementation levels) from line ministries in Serbia. The exchange is designed to include: i) seminars led by international experts and practitioners based in Asia and elsewhere regarding sustainable investment related topics such as post-crisis investment promotion, cross-border trade facilitation, employment stimulation, and small and medium enterprise (SME) revitalization, etc. Specific topics will be determined based on further consultation with Serbian government to reflect actual training needs; and ii) field visits to selected projects (completed or ongoing), SEZs or enterprises in Asia , as to demonstrate good practices and to facilitate first-hand knowledge and experience sharing between participants and in-site managers on opportunities, challenges and solutions for post-crisis recovery. The exchange is planned to be held in Q1 of the third year (may be further adjusted	☒Not yet started ☐ In progress ☐Completed (indicate month & year) ☐ Cancelled ☐ Delayed	Planned for Q4 2022 and onwards. Due to ongoing pandemic, options will be revisited in the second half of 2022.

depending on the evolution of the pandemic).		
O. 2.3.2 Organize an **investor trip** to Serbia as a follow-up to the Sustainable Investment Promotion Forum in Asia (O. 2.2.1), bringing together a broad range of international investors and enterprises from all interested nations, government representatives and agencies, financial institutions, advisory groups and media (approximately 25 people in total) to selected projects (completed or ongoing), SEZs, industry parks or enterprises in Serbia. Participants will be able to discover/showcase emerging investment opportunities after COVID-19, build direct connections with the investment and business community in Serbia, and advance the actualization of sustainable investment in support of the country's post-crisis recovery. The involvement of media also aims to increase international exposure of the exchange through site visits and communication platforms. The investor trip is planned to be held in Q3 of the third year.	☒Not yet started ☐ In progress ☐Completed (indicate month & year) ☐ Cancelled ☐ Delayed	Planned for Q1 2023 and onwards. Due to ongoing pandemic, options will be revisited in the second half of 2022.
O. 2.4 Develop and maintain an online SIP One-Stop Platform, that offers a wide array of information and analysis and training resources for both existing and potential foreign investors from all interested nations keen on sustaining	☒Not yet started ☐ In progress ☐Completed (indicate month & year) ☐ Cancelled ☐ Delayed	This output is a cumulative output of the sub-outputs below, which are planned for Q1 2023 and onwards. The UNDP team will with the national partners revisit the implementation strategy that has been agreed and other options in the second half of 2022.

and expanding their business in Serbia and beyond after COVID-19.		
O. 2.4.1 **A "one-stop shop**" that offers a wide array of information, analysis and training resources for existing and potential foreign investors from all interested nations keen on sustaining and expanding their business in Serbia and beyond after COVID-19. The one-stop shop will serve as a resource and service hub that provides context analysis at country, sectoral and industry level; online training resources helping enterprises and investors adjust to new business models and industrial trends after COVID-19 (e.g. cross-border ecommerce, digital transformation); as well as tailored solutions at project/investment level addressing specific enquiries and/or barriers encountered by companies. A **desk/field officer working mechanism** will be established to facilitate communication and outreach to all relevant institutions and delivery units within and beyond Serbia. The desk/field officers will serve to enhance public sector efficiency and enforcement of investment-related policies at all levels in Serbia. Each regional desk/field officer will be responsible to liaise between the investors, central government bodies and the local governments. This function will be incorporated into relevant institutional setting established by the Government of Serbia with other stakeholders to ensure long-term sustainability.	☒Not yet started ☐ In progress ☐Completed (indicate month & year) ☐ Cancelled ☐ Delayed	The UNDP team will with the national partners revisit the implementation strategy that has been agreed and other options in the second half of 2022, as the implementation of this output is planned for Q1 2023 and onwards

O. 2.4.2 **Online platform** to enhance the easy access of information and data, and to facilitate service provision for brokering demand and supply for foreign investments from all interested nations in Serbia. Consolidating the efforts of the one-stop shop, the main functions of this online platform can tentatively include the following: ○ Enable **information publication and retrieval**, particularly on context information and analysis of investment-related policies, regulations, laws and legislations at country and sectoral/industry level. ○ Advance **online learning and capacity development** for investors, particularly in response to emerging business models and industrial trends after COVID-19. ○ Allow potential investors to **identify and make initial contacts** with respective government agencies, professional institutions / organizations, or experts who can provide support in their quest to establish cooperation with/in Serbia. ○ Establish a **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** section with answers to common investment inquiries to avoid duplication of efforts and thus to	☒Not yet started ☐ In progress ☐Completed (indicate month & year) ☐ Cancelled ☐ Delayed	This output is a cumulative output of activities which are planned for Q1 2023 and onwards .The UNDP team will with the national partners revisit the implementation strategy that has been agreed and other options in the second half of 2022.

improve service efficiency of relevant government agencies. To host **open calls for cooperation** to enable matchmaking between investors and product/technology/service providers.		
O. 3.1 Based on programme outcomes and findings of the impact assessment of COVID-19 on enterprises, design **a pilot online training curriculum package** for high value-added enterprises with innovative background, focusing on sustaining and upgrading their business after COVID-19. Topics will cover both the economic (e.g. financing, cost reduction, cross-border ecommerce, digital transformation) and social sides (e.g. labor law, protection of women and children rights, vulnerable employment) of post-crisis business, to enhance enterprises' awareness and ability to economically and socially sustain their business, and thus to increase the resilience and inclusiveness of the labor market in Serbia after COVID-19. The online training curriculum package will be completed by Q4 of the second year.	☒Not yet started ☐ In progress ☐Completed (indicate month & year) ☐ Cancelled ☐ Delayed	As this output is directly linked to the output above, as with the previous output, the UNDP team will with the national partners revisit the implementation strategy that has been agreed and other options in the second half of 2022.
O. 3.2 Provide **and subsequently implement** the pilot online training package for 10	☒Not yet started ☐ In progress ☐Completed (indicate month & year)	As mentioned above the UNDP team will with the national partners revisit the implementation strategy that has been agreed and other options in the second half of 2022.

selected[3] enterprises that have been most affected by COVID-19 in Serbia**,** and pair the training curriculums with **cash funding** for these enterprises to increase their cash flow to get through the temporary market downturn, allow them the flexibility to adjust post-crisis business strategy and increase their resilience capacity. **Three successful practices** (e.g. rapid adjustment of business strategy, innovative business models, social safety net for vulnerable employees) summarized and adequately disseminated to demonstrate best practices and lessons learned**,** and to explore possibilities for scaling up / replicating. The activity will be completed by Q4 of the third year.	☐ Cancelled ☐ Delayed	

[3] The criteria for selection will be developed by the order of the potential impacts, as assessed by the Project Board at the time of implementation.

3. CHALLENGES/PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED SO FAR (IF APPLICABLE)

Table 3 – Challenges and Corrective actions

Description of challenge	Corrective Action(s) taken to solve the issue, if any
On-going COVID-19 pandemic (including countermeasures that governments introduce to battle the effects of the pandemic have on individual countries)	Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and continual shift in numbers of newly infected cases, the Team is constantly monitoring information on the effects the pandemic is having in Serbia and in China and in other relevant countries. The Team is keeping abreast of all countermeasures that are being introduced by national governments and is constantly communicating with national partners and other stakeholders to be able to adjust or act quickly, as needed. Importantly, the UNDP team has agreed with the national partners to constantly and timely revisit the planned timeline and individual activities that are planned for implementation in the later part of the project.
Elections in April in Serbia might cause a backlog and/or potential delays in moving forward.	The UNDP team was aware of this challenge when the project was being developed and the careful selection of national partners for its implementation was crucial. The national partners selected are interested in the project and highly invested in its successful implementation. To secure smooth implementation, the UNDP team keeps in constant communication with the national partners.

4. ANY REVISIONS REQUIRED TO THE AGREED/APPROVED PROJECT DOCUMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

None.

5. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Project Budget	Expenditures	Balance	Delivery %
$ 971,619.06	$ 128,682.05	$ 842,937.01	13%

Kindly note that although the total budget for the project is $999,646.54, UNDP CO Serbia will receive $971,619.06 for the implementation of activities, as per project budget.

UNDP CO Serbia received the 1st tranche in the amount of $388,711.43, which means that the delivery for the actual revenue received is currently 33%.

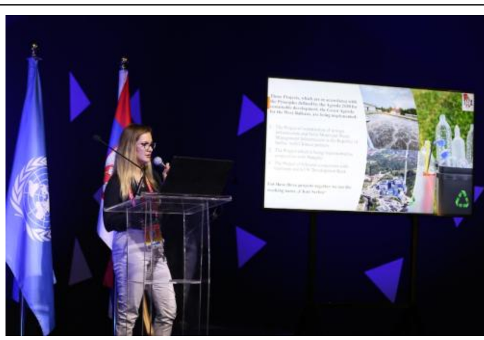
6. OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY

In the reporting period all media and publicity revolved around the first result of the project, **The Sustainable Investment Promotion Forum** held at the Serbian Pavilion, during the last weeks of the EXPO 2020 (March 21, 2022, Dubai, UAE). The UNDP team developed a media package, and press release. Positive reports of the event were made by twenty-seven (27) media outlets, with interviews with Ms. Francine Pickup, UNDP Resident Representative and other panelists. The media reports note the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that the project is funded from the Sub-Fund under the UN Peace and Development Fund. A list with links to media reports is annexed to this report.

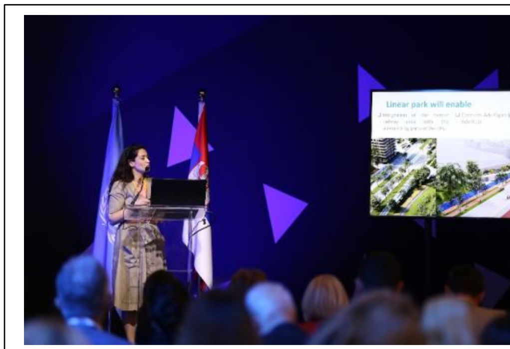
Ms. Francine Pickup, UNDP RR, Speaking at the High-Level Panel, SIP Forum EXPO 2020, Dubai UAE

Creating an enabling environment for sustainable investments, Ms. Jelena Manic Petronikolos (Team Leader, SDG Integration Unit, UNDP) and Mr. Bojan Lalic (Director, Belt and Road Institute)

The UNDP team developed promotional materials information on suitable investment in Serbia, which was made available to all visitors to the Serbian Pavilion, which was visited by more than a million visitors for the duration of the EXPO 2020. The material created is available in the Annex section.



Presentation of sustainable investment projects, SIP Forum EXPO 2020, Dubai UAE



Presentation of sustainable investment projects, SIP Forum EXPO 2020. Dubai UAE

Video of the
Sustainable Investment Promotion Forum

EXPO 2020. Dubai UAE

The Serbian Development Agency (RAS) created a shot video of the SIP Forum and has made it available via its YouTube channel.

7. ANNEXES

(a) Annex A- SIP Cumulative Financial Report 31 03 2022
(b) Annex B- SIP Outputs Disaggregated Data
(c) Annex C- Contacts List of stakeholders and beneficiaries
(d) Annex D- SIP Forum Material - Invitation Letter and Agenda
(e) Annex E- SIP Forum Materials - Teaser
(f) Annex F- SIP Forum in person registration
(g) Annex G- Clipping SIP Forum (with links)