



Russian Federation-UNDP Trust Fund for Development



Knowledge Management and Capacity Development in Russia-UNDP Partnership, Phase III

Regional Project Mid-Year Narrative and Financial Progress Report (January-June 2024)

Project title:	Knowledge Management and Capacity Development in Russia-UNDP Partnership, Phase III
Quantum Project ID:	00129411
Implementing partner:	UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS
Gender marker:	GEN2
Project budget:	Total: \$2,850,000 TFD: \$2,500,000
Cofinancing attracted since project start:	<i>Parallel cofinancing:</i> UNDP COs parallel funding (estimated): \$26,000
Project start and end date:	1 January 2022 – 31 December 2025
Reporting Period:	January – June 2024
Date of the last Project Board meeting:	-
SDGs supported by the project:	SDG 17 'Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development'
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

KM project continued providing support to partner countries in addressing development challenges and achieving the SDGs, mostly through the implementation of the Experts on Demand (EoD) programme.

Key results:

- The KM project continues the implementation of the EoD programme:
 - 24** applications received from Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan; out of them **21** applications have been approved (**7** assignments are currently implemented; **14** assignments are at the stage of searching and hiring experts, preparing e-requisitions and POs, negotiating with experts on their financial proposals, etc.); **one** application was withdrawn, and **two** others will be assessed upon receipt of additional documentation;
 - Additionally, **11** assignments, initiated in 2023, have been successfully completed in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan in 2024;
- The KM project's website is constantly updated and monitored to address technical issues and ensure the effective communication; the number of experts registered in the Database has increased by 7,5%, while the number of women has increased by **7%**;
- KM project financed travel of Russian expert, specializing in public administration reforms, for participation and delivery of the presentation at the international conference jointly organized by the Kenya School of Government and the Belgian International Institute of Administrative Science in Mombasa (February 2024);

- 4) The KM project provides technical support to the implementation of the UNV FF programme for Russian citizens. In 2024, **9** Russian UNVs were deployed at RCO offices as Youth and Specialist UN Volunteers. Five UN Volunteers have been extended for the third year funded by the Russian Federation. As of June 2024, in total, **18** Russian UN volunteers provide support to **15** countries in preserving biodiversity, ending poverty, reducing inequalities, as well as promoting human rights and inclusive practices.

2. KEY ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

Activity 1. Provision of on-demand Russian expertise for specific development issues

1.1. Russian Experts on Demand programme (EoD programme)

The KM project team continues facilitating on-demand provision of expertise via transferring hands-on experience, knowledge, and know-how to partner countries to tackle specific development issues.

The KM project contributed to the advancement of such key issues as:

- **agriculture and sustainable economic growth** – supporting the development of competitive export-oriented value chains that help diversify the export basket and build productive capacity in *Kyrgyzstan*;
 - **environmental protection, combating climate change and its impact** – supporting modernization of hydrometeorological and climate services in *Kyrgyzstan*;
 - **sustainable energy** – promoting smart energy efficiency technologies in *Belarus*, as well as municipal lighting technologies in *Kyrgyzstan*;
 - **digital economy** – identifying opportunities for higher financial inclusion in *Kyrgyzstan*;
 - **innovations, IT and digital economy** – supporting the banking sector of *Turkmenistan* in digital transformation;
 - **regional tourism development** – enhancing the development of the Toktogul District through the tourism industry in *Kyrgyzstan*;
 - **trade development** – supporting the digitalization for trade facilitation, developing regulatory framework in the field of services and investments for WTO accession in *Turkmenistan*;
 - **inclusive and equitable environment** – promoting accessibility, diversity, and inclusion in museums of *Kyrgyzstan*.
- The KM project team received **24** applications from **Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan** to support national partners in areas such as regional tourism development, gender-sensitive governance and gender mainstreaming, trade development and support for WTO accession, inclusive museum environment, energy efficiency technologies, statistics, combatting desertification, valuation of intangible assets, education and strategic management of vocational education institutions, monitoring and evaluation of projects' results, as well as biodiversity conservation. The list of received applications with their status of implementation is presented in *Annex 1*.
 - **One** application was withdrawn by Turkmenistan due to internal circumstances. **Two** other applications will be assessed once UNDP Turkmenistan provides additional documentation confirming the necessity for extra resources to prevent duplication of funding.
 - Out of **21** approved applications: **7** assignments are currently implemented in Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan; **14** assignments are at the stage of searching and hiring experts, preparing e-requisitions and POs, negotiating with experts on their financial proposals, etc.;
 - **11** assignments, approved and initiated in 2023, were successfully completed in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan;
 - 14 experts have been engaged in the EoD programme (10 men and 4 women).



UNDP COs use the UNDP GPN ExpRes Roster to hire Russian experts through the deployment platform powered by EVA.ai automating and speeding up the recruitment process. Experts included in the roster are vetted and to hire them COs can use simplified procedures. For example, UNDP Turkmenistan selected the expert in the field of internal regulations in services and investments to support for accession to the WTO, and UNDP Tajikistan - on the modular education system and conducting a Training of Trainers (ToT). As of June 2024, the GPN ExpRes Roster includes 73 profiles of Russian experts, with most of them listed in the Database of Russian experts for international development. The goal of the KM project is to increase the number of Russian experts in the GPN ExpRes Roster by inviting them to apply for the global call of the GPN ExpRes Roster.

The full list of completed assignments is presented in *Annex 1*. The reports on the assignments completed in 2024 are presented in *Annex 2*. The performance evaluation statistics are presented in *Annex 3*.

The KM project is committed to advancing gender equality and empowering women through knowledge-sharing and provision of expertise. All assignments within the EoD programme adhere to the LNOB principle and directly or indirectly contribute to women's empowerment. Additionally, two assignments of UNDP Turkmenistan (gender mainstreaming for the Aral Sea Basin project and gender-sensitive governance) aim to achieve the SDG 4, "Gender Equality".

The demand for Russian expertise remains high, as demonstrated by the recruitment of Russian experts by COs outside of the EoD programme in the following cases:

- UNDP **Belarus** engaged two Russian experts specializing in plumbing, heating and mechanical engineering to deliver education trainings within the framework of the project "Developing Youth Innovation Potential for Accelerated Sustainable Development";
- UNDP **Turkmenistan** engaged a Russian expert from the Database to conduct a workshop on youth employment and present international best practices for enhancing professional skills and employability of vulnerable youth. The expert's work contributed to the implementation of the project "Promoting Resilient Communities to Prevent Violent Extremism in Central Asia";
- UNDP **Tajikistan** engaged two Russian experts in start-up and value chain development for the projects "Livelihood Promotion in Tajik-Afghan Cross - Border Areas" and "Youth Empowerment through Skills Development and Promotion of Innovations". The experts provided recommendations to address key challenges related to agricultural development and conducted educational training sessions emphasizing the role of digital technologies in improving business processes for students and young entrepreneurs;
- UNDP **Kazakhstan** engaged a Database expert to present best international practices in sustainable forest management and provide recommendations on developing forest management plans to Kazakh institutions.

The KM project team continuously supports the COs in identifying suitable experts required by national partners, guiding on UNDP procurement procedures, and transferring payments in Russian rubles. The efforts towards finalizing and signing the contract agreements are ongoing.

1.2. Maintenance and development of the project website, including the Database of Russian experts for international development

The KM project team is consistently working on the bilingual website's design and content (<http://expertsfordevelopment.ru>) to showcase the KM project activities in an engaging manner:

- The KM project prepared and added to the website a new infographic highlighting the EoD programme's overview and its key results since 2017, along with examples of completed assignments;
- The Database is continuously evolving and being enriched with new profiles. Since January 2024, there has been a significant increase in the number of qualified experts, with **399 experts** (including 175 women) registered, compared to 371 experts (including 164 women) in December 2023. The overall number of experts registered in the Database has increased by 7,5%, while the number of women experts has increased by almost 7%. The search for potential candidates for the Database is ongoing, with over 80 invitations sent during the period under review;
- Three additional thematic areas have been added to the Database to meet the CO's needs and simplify the process of finding suitable experts: 1) clean water and sanitation, water resources management; 2)

international law and human rights; and 3) socio-economic development; in total, there is 21 thematic areas in the database;

- Expert profiles in the Database are regularly checked and updated with new information; In February, the project team has introduced new website usage guidelines to enhance user rights and privacy protection, comply with Russian laws, and prevent potential legal ramifications.
- At the end of June, the KM project team organized access to CVs of the experts in the Database via a request form. This approach will enable to bolster personal data protection and identify users of the database who search for professionals beyond the EoD programme. For example, three requests were received from UNDP Turkmenistan, Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development, and Universal Music Russia, all of them intend to hire Russian consultants with their own funds.

Activity 2. Provision of innovative solutions by Russian institutions to partner countries (Russian Challenge Fund)

According to the Trust Fund Agreement, all Trust Fund projects are managed in accordance with UNDP regulations, rules, policies, and procedures.

The revised UNDP Policy on Innovation Challenges stipulates that a crucial aspect of addressing innovation challenges is to ensure a fair, transparent, inclusive, and open process while selecting potential partners within the framework of this mechanism. This means that all interested parties, regardless of their nationality or country of registration, have an equal opportunity to participate in the tender and be considered for grants. In this respect, the governments of Czechia, Poland and Slovakia as the UNDP's donors implementing initiatives similar to the Russian Challenge Fund will consider modification of the Innovative Challenge Fund mechanism to guarantee adherence to the UNDP tender procedures and ensure the open competition for organizations, companies, and various institutions without favouring national entities. Implementation of the Russian Challenge Fund needs to be reconsidered or abandoned as it appears to be inconsistent with the policy because the objective of the KM project remains the transfer of Russian expertise and know-how through diverse mechanisms. The KM project team is closely monitoring how Czech, Polish and Slovak partnerships are introducing new competitive procedures for the Challenge Fund implementation and based on their piloting experience will develop recommendations for the Russian Challenge Fund.

Activity 3. Strengthening the Russia-UNDP Partnership by increasing collaboration with think tanks, institutions, academia, and other organizations

3.1. Internship programme

The new round of the Internship programme has not been launched. The project is currently exploring possibilities for launching the programme while ensuring compliance with UNDP Internship Policy effective January 2023 and physical presence of interns at the COs.

3.2. Webinars, workshops, side-events, and other knowledge sharing events presenting the experience of Russia and other countries for UNDP offices and national partner organizations

The KM project team has provided advisory support to UNDP COs and their national partners, e.g.:

- On January 18, 2024, and March 12, 2024, the KM project team held meetings with project managers from UNDP Turkmenistan to discuss the various formats of expertise available under the KM project;
- On February 12, 2024, a meeting was held with UNDP Tajikistan to provide an overview of the EoD programme, present the Database of experts, and inform about the opportunity to apply for full funding of Russian consultants' contracts.
- On March 13, 2024, a similar meeting on the EoD programme and the KM project activities took place with UNDP Uzbekistan.
- The KM Project team provided its input to the Russia-UNDP Partnership Infographics to support IRH in updating information leaflets for partnerships.

To facilitate knowledge exchange and raise awareness on development issues, as well as to facilitate the wide sharing of Russian expertise, the KM project supports travel of experts to present Russian know-how and development solutions at various international forums related to SDGs outside of Russia. Out of **12** considered applications, **one** was approved for co-funding and completed, **three** applications are currently pending and will be assessed as soon as experts provide the full package of documents. **Eight** other applications were either withdrawn or declined due to non-compliance with the terms of funding.

On 26-29 February 2024, an expert supported under the programme shared Russian experience in public administration reforms at the IIAS-KSG "International Collaborative Governance" conference organized by the Belgian International Institute of Administrative Science and Kenya School of Government in Mombasa, Kenya. The presentation was devoted to the role of university professors in the development of communities of practice in this field.

3.3. Technical support to Russia-UNV Full Funding (FF) programme

The KM project team continues providing technical support for the facilitation of the Russia-UNV FF programme managed by UNV Bonn Office.

- Since 2018, a total of 57 Russian volunteers (including 49 women) have been selected to serve as UN Volunteer Specialists and UN Youth Volunteers in 33 countries and territories across Africa, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia.
- The KM project team collected statistical data on the programme results and updated UNV FF programme's brochure with its web page to ensure the programme's visibility.
- Currently, the KM project team is assisting **18** Russian volunteers contributing to the socio-economic development of 15 countries and territories. The full list of UN volunteers' host agencies and countries is presented in *Annex 6*.

The UNV Programme is currently examining a possibility of a new deployment of Russian volunteers in November-December 2024.

3. KEY CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Some lessons learned from the KM project implementation were identified as follows:

- KM project's support to COs' staff in preparing detailed and appropriate ToRs for experts' assignments is still needed to ensure that requirements are not exaggerated for small-scale tasks;
- Due to staff turnover in COs, it is vital to guide the offices on the rules and procedures applied in the EoD programme, namely the procurement processes, division of responsibilities between COs and the KM project team;
- To ensure timely payments with the unilateral coercive measures imposed on Russian banks, the KM project team developed guidelines for COs on payments in Russian national currency; the payments through Russian bank accounts are provided by the KM project team;
- Gathering UNDP COs' feedback on their level of satisfaction with the EoD programme, Database and expert work as well as collecting cases of extended or new collaborations with Russian experts enhance



The Russian expert (on the left) at the Annual Conference "International Collaborative Governance" organized jointly by the International Institute of Administrative Science and Kenya School of Government, Mombasa, Kenya, February 2024



UN Youth Volunteer, Galina Salnikova (top, second from the left side), at the RCO team's meeting on disability inclusion, Vietnam, March 2024

the effectiveness of the KM project activities, tailoring them to the needs of partner countries and ensuring the sustainability of results critical for good governance of the project;

- Funding experts' participation in international events requires numerous actions and approvals in Quantum and UNall. To streamline the process, the KM project assists experts in Quantum registration, while setting strict deadlines for experts applying for the KM project funding to ensure that approved travels are organized in a timely manner;
- The Database of experts should be redesigned where necessary to ensure data protection and compliance with changing Russian legislation. A new mechanism has been developed with the IT company to provide access to the experts' CVs upon request with the aim of safeguarding experts' personal data.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DECISION MAKING

- It is important to continue monitoring the situation closely and provide developmental expertise support to UNDP COs and their national partners requiring qualified developmental expertise;
- The KM project team should continue processing payments to experts in RUB due to the unilateral coercive measures imposed on Russian banking sector to ensure timely implementation of commitments to UNDP partners including out of the KM project.

5. SUSTAINABILITY AND SCALING UP THE RESULTS

- The sustainability of the interventions in the UNDP partner countries supported by the Russian expertise via the KM project is assured at the stage of rigorous selection of consultants for the assignments and development of ToRs.
- The Database supports development impact beyond the scope of the KM project by ensuring wide access to information on Russian expertise.
- The KM project team collects UNDP COs' feedback on the level of satisfaction with the EoD programme, the Database and consultants' work.
- Russian consultants collaborate with national authorities and local experts in countries-beneficiaries of Russian expertise to enhance the adaptability of recommendations and solutions to local contexts, thereby boosting their effectiveness and sustainability.
- Russian experts' participation in international conferences supported by the KM project contributes to knowledge-sharing on development issues and building new partnerships, thus ensuring sustainability of the KM project results.

6. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

The visibility of the KM project is ensured by a continuous development of the expertsfordevelopment.ru website and the Database of experts for international development. In addition, the banner of and link to the Russian expert's database are displayed on the websites of the Ministry of Finance <https://www.minfin.ru/ru/> of the Russian Federation¹ and the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation².

The KM project team prepares and updates various communication materials, including infographics, brochures and factsheets on the EoD programme and assignments' results, the Russia-UNV FF programme, as well as the initiative to fund participation of experts in international events. For instance, two brochures have been prepared on the EoD programme for COs and experts of the Database as well as external website users. Brochures are presented as *Annex 4* and *Annex 5* of this report.

In addition, visibility of the KM project results is ensured by COs posting news on the UNDP websites, social networks, and mass media portals. To illustrate, the Kyrgyz National News Agency Kabar posted a news item³ about the contribution of the Russian expert to the implementation of the Kyrgyz energy efficient street lighting programme, aiming to achieve the plan of the National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic and the

¹ <https://www.minfin.ru/ru/>

² http://economy.gov.ru/material/directions/vneshneekonomicheskaya_deyatelnost/mnogostoronnee_ekonomicheskoe_sotrudnichestvo/organizaciya_obedinennyh_nacy_oon/programma_razvitiya_oon_proon/

³ <https://kabar.kg/news/v-kr-6-gorodov-i-14-aiyl-okmotu-budut-rabotat-v-pilotnom-rezhime-po-proektu-ulichnogo-osveshcheniya/>

Green Economy Development Programme. This 8-month assignment was implemented under the framework of the EoD programme in 2023-2024.

7. FUTURE PLANS

The KM project team will:

- Further develop and maintain the expertsfordevelopment.ru website and the Database of experts for international development;
- Ensure replenishment of the Database with new highly qualified expert profiles and expansion of thematic areas;
- Further implement the EoD programme;
- Facilitate and fund presentation of Russian experts at various international events on SDG-related topics;
- Support strengthening the Russia-UNDP Partnership by increasing collaboration with think tanks, institutions, academia, and other organizations;
- Support the TFD projects' requests for relevant Russian expertise;
- Support the UNV FF programme for Russian citizens when possible;
- Work on communication products (e.g., an overview of sustainable results of the experts' assignments; success stories of experts) on the respective project activities.

8. PARTNERSHIPS INCLUDING WITH THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The KM project team enhanced partnerships and working contacts with the UNDP COs on the TFD-funded projects and the EoD programme as well as with the colleagues from the IRH Partnership teams on various issues, e.g. with the Czech team to discuss the EVA platform for organizing competitions within the framework of the EoD programme's implementation.

9. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (January-June 2024)

The budget revision for adjustment of the actual expenditures in 2023 and the funds to 2024 is under preparation; the figures in the table below are given in line with a draft budget revision to be approved later.

OUTPUT/Activities	Budgeted for the entire project, \$	Budgeted funds 2024, \$	Budget utilization& commitments, Jan-Jun 2024 (as of 28 June), \$	Delivery rate against the 2024 budget, %	Delivery rate against the entire budget, %
Activity 1: Provision of on-demand Russian expertise for specific development issues	963,360	317,736	150,140	47	37
Activity 2: Provision of innovative solutions by Russian institutions to partner countries (Russian Challenge Fund)	924,480	1,764	1,764	100	4
Activity 3: Strengthening Russia-UNDP Partnership by increasing collaboration with think tanks, institutions, academia, and other organizations	289,440	16,200	6,591	41	30
Activity 4: Project Management and Administrative Support	322,720	51,840	19,423	37	61
TOTAL	2,500,000	387,540	177,918	46	27

Submitted by Natalia Voronkova, Project Manager (30 September 2024)

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10. ANNEXES

Annex 1. Completed and currently implemented EoD assignments

Completed assignments

Kyrgyzstan	1. Financial Inclusion for MSMEs (September 2023 – January 2024) 2. Financial Inclusion through digital financial services (September 2023 – January 2024) 3. Green Value Chains (horticultural, bee products) (October 2023 – February 2024) 4. Migrants' remittances to leverage for sustainable development (August 2023 – January 2024) 5. Configuration, train on installation and preparation of CliWare software (September 2023 – February 2024) 6. Smart municipal lighting technologies (October 2023 – May 2024)
Turkmenistan	7. Bank ecosystems (November 2023 – January 2024) 8. Open banking in the financial sector (December 2023- January 2024) 9. Development of Central Bank digital currencies (November 2023 – January 2024) 10. Electronic money regulation (November 2023 – January 2024) 11. Fast payment systems (December 2023 – January 2024)

Currently implemented assignments

Belarus	1. Smart energy efficiency technologies in residential and public buildings (June – August 2024)
Kyrgyzstan	2. Audit of the Toktogul District as a tourist destination (April – July 2024) 3. Development of the tourism product portfolio for the Toktogul District (April – July 2024) 4. Development of the Roadmap and Catalogue of available solutions for the accessibility and inclusiveness of the National Historical Museum (May – September 2024) 5. Assessment of inclusivity of the legal framework and development of the Concept Note for resource mobilization purposes (May – September 2024)
Turkmenistan	6. Trade development and digitalization in trade facilitation (May – June 2024) 7. Developing draft regulatory acts on internal regulation in the field of services and investments for accession to the WTO (May – October 2024)

Approved assignments with their status of implementation

Armenia	1. Strategic management of Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions (TVETIs)	Creating Quantum case for organizing the competition
Belarus	2. Accounting and commercial use of intangible assets of enterprises (intellectual property) to ensure economic development and achieve the SDGs	Creating Quantum case for organizing the competition
	3. Valuation of intangible assets to achieve the SDGs	
Lao PDR	4. Qualitative review of the deliverables prepared for the project "Climate Promise II"	Identifying a suitable procurement method
Tajikistan	5. Developing curricula for the modular education system and conducting a Training of Trainers on vocational education	Competition completed on the EVA platform, the CO is negotiating with the chosen expert on the contract amount
Turkmenistan	6. Gender-sensitive governance, and economic empowerment of women and girls	Waiting for the project document signature to start the hiring procedure
	7. Gender equality strategy and gender mainstreaming for the Aral Sea Basin project	The competition on Quantum platform is launched
	8. Improving statistics on passenger and cargo transportation	

	9. Foreign trade in services statistics	CO is negotiating with the chosen expert on the financial proposal
	10. Protecting the financial services sector in WTO trade liberalization	Identifying a suitable procurement method
	11. Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) integration into the National Programme for Combatting Desertification	Creating Quantum case for organizing the competition
	12. Methodological support to LDN integration into land use planning	
	13. National- and regional-level LDN target setting	
	14. GIS support to LDN-based land use planning and improved management of Protected Areas	

Annex 2. Reports on the completed EoD assignments

Kyrgyzstan – Financial Inclusion (2 experts), 6 September 2023 – 31 January 2024

Financial inclusion is a driver for socio-economic development. According to some estimates, increasing financial inclusion can increase GDP by up to 14% in emerging markets and a staggering 30% in frontier economies. As the national economy of the country is majorly represented by the Micro, Small and Medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), it is essential to facilitate the development of digital financial services for better financial inclusion of MSMEs.

To support Kyrgyzstan MSME's in achieving greater financial inclusion the President of Russian Electronic Money and Remittance Association and the Coordinator of the Eurasian Women's Forum Council project 'Women's Financial Literacy' prepared recommendations for digital inclusion promotion: a roadmap for implementation of the defined digital financial services initiatives and recommendations on advocacy strategies for financial inclusion.

The work of experts has supported Kyrgyzstan in leveraging innovative mechanisms for equitable access to finance and developing integrated and transformative policy and programme solutions to empower informal businesses and vulnerable population, facilitating their pathways to decent jobs with a strong emphasis on the economic empowerment of women, youth, and people with disabilities. The experts' findings and recommendations will be used by the relevant Ministries to ensure MSME's access to new digital financial services.

Kyrgyzstan – Green Value Chains (Horticultural, Bee Products), 15 October 2023 – 15 February 2024

In Kyrgyzstan, 34% of the population are engaged in agriculture. However, the country's agricultural sector faces challenges leading to low productivity and competitiveness on the international market. Limited access to finance, old infrastructure, and outdated production techniques and value chains are the main obstacles for agricultural development in the country.

Kyrgyzstan strives to improve production and marketing of high-quality organic products such as fresh berries and natural honey. The Senior Adviser of the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute supported the development of sustainable export-oriented value chains by conducting the mapping of products and potential export markets, and existing export-oriented value chains of fresh berries and natural honey with a particular focus on sustainable practices, inclusivity, and job creation. The expert consulted with the national stakeholders, local agribusiness associations, and MSMEs and identified the main challenges and key barriers at varying levels of value-added chains. The expert prepared two concept notes on strengthening value-added chains and presented them to key national stakeholders. Expert's work enhanced the competitiveness of agricultural sector, improved product quality and safety, and promoted sustainable development.

Kyrgyzstan – Migrants’ Remittances to Leverage for Sustainable Development, 17 August 2023 – 31 January 2024

Migration has a considerable impact on more than 3 million people in Kyrgyzstan, while labor remittances account for 18.6% of the country’s GDP.

Senior Researcher of the Institute for Demographic Research conducted a comprehensive study on the role personal remittances play in the local economy, emphasizing their potential to enhance the livelihoods of recipient communities, particularly in rural areas. The findings presented by the expert provided quantified evidence on the potential of remittances to contribute to building more resilient local communities through strategic investments.

The assignment went beyond mere analysis by actively engaging with national stakeholders and development partners through a series of consultations and interviews. The expert’s recommendations for policy-level mechanisms on tackling with the “shadow economy”, removing barriers to sending remittances and encouraging investment of remittances in the national and local economy were highly valued by the Kyrgyz Ministry of Labour, Social Assistance and Migration and the Kyrgyz Ministry of Economy and Commerce and will be further used to draft new legislation and adopt new policies in order to harness the benefits of labor migration and remittances and channeling revenues towards the achievement of local development goals.

The study's findings and recommendations will be used for policy and economic decisions and facilitate enhancing collaboration among various stakeholders, namely Kyrgyz Ministries, National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic, and Council for Migration, Compatriots and Diasporas Abroad under the Toraga of the Jogorku Kenesh.

Kyrgyzstan – Configuration, Train on Installation and Operation of CliWare Software, 25 September 2023 – 29 February 2024

Kyrgyzhydromet, which is the main source of climate data for all sectors of the economy, requires additional support in its modernization of hydrometeorological and climate services. The Head of Laboratory of Integrated Computerization at All Russian Research Institute of Hydro Meteorology Information World Data Center supported the Hydrometeorology service and Ministry of Emergency Situations in Kyrgyzstan in advancing the technological capabilities of Kyrgyzhydromet through the configuration of CliWare software. The expert installed the CliWare 2.1.03 system on Kyrgyzhydromet equipment and conducted a comprehensive 5-day training for the technical staff. Also, the expert prepared two reports: 1) report with technical specifications of the CliWare system, including Tomcat-based application server, PostgreSQL-based database server, and the Omega operational data collection system; 2) report encompassing the generation and configuration of CliWare operating systems and the subsequent testing phase, including the analysis of post-training reflection, conclusions, and recommendations for future training endeavors.

The results of the assignment will ensure the sustained effectiveness and functionality of the CliWare software within Kyrgyzhydromet and improve the quality of hydrometeorological and climate services in Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan – Smart Municipal Lighting Technologies, 12 October 2023 – 31 May 2024

Kyrgyzstan faces significant challenges in the areas of energy generation. The country's energy generation deficit has been a longstanding issue, with limited domestic energy sources, obsolete infrastructure, and dependence on imported fossil fuels. The street lighting system plays a crucial role in ensuring safety and security in urban and rural areas.

Energy efficiency consultant conducted a series of consultations with national stakeholders integrating diverse perspectives into the assessment of energy-saving potential and the feasibility of introducing automated control systems. The expert prepared a scoping study and recommendations on the potential and feasibility of technological modernization of 20 municipalities. The recommendations generated from this assignment cover a broad spectrum, ranging from technology options for automating outdoor lighting control systems to business model considerations for urban lighting in small and medium cities.

The results of the assignment provide valuable insights into design and financing mechanisms, creating a strategic framework for fostering energy efficiency and smart city development in Kyrgyzstan. The expert’s work has contributed to the development of future urban infrastructure modernization projects in 20 Kyrgyz municipalities aiming at improvement of the mobility and safety of the most vulnerable population groups. The

implementation of a new energy supply model is anticipated to result in budget savings for the municipalities and contribute to a lasting decrease in harmful emissions overall.

Turkmenistan – Bank Ecosystems, 22 November 2023 – 31 January 2024

Digital transformation of the economy is a key priority area for Turkmenistan in the upcoming years. To support Turkmenistan in advancing the professional and technical expertise of the banking sector, President of the Russian Electronic Money and Remittance Association conducted a 5-day workshop on bank ecosystems in digital financial services (DFS). The workshop was focused on the creation of bank-centric ecosystems and provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of the principles and dynamics of digital ecosystems.

The participants gained knowledge on the risks and benefits of ecosystems from the perspectives of businesses, customers, and regulators. The workshop equipped the audience with analytical tools to assess the effects of introducing bank ecosystems for society, economy, and financial sector, and provided guidance on effective management of this transformative process.

Turkmenistan – Open Banking in the Financial Sector, 01 December 2023 – 31 January 2024

Turkmenistan strives to enhance the professional capabilities of the local banking sector. The Executive Director of the Russian Electronic Money and Remittance Association conducted a 5-day workshop, focusing on the development of open banking and open data in the financial sector. The workshop delved into the core concepts of open banking, emphasizing the importance of enabling financial and non-financial institutions to exchange data based on customer consents. The discussion extended to the potential opportunities presented by open banking, such as the creation of new products and services like payment initiation and account data aggregation, fostering interoperability within the financial ecosystem. The expert presented insights into the benefits of open banking reform, tailored to the specific context of Turkmenistan's banking landscape.

As a result of the workshop, more than 20 employees of the Central Bank equipped with knowledge of the open banking concept, the risks associated with the Open Banking technologies and best risk mitigation measures.

Turkmenistan – Development of Central Bank Digital Currencies, 30 November 2023 – 31 January 2024

To support the development of Turkmenistan's financial landscape in line with contemporary digital trends and global sustainability objectives, the President of the Russian Electronic Money and Remittance Association conducted a workshop on the Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs). The expert introduced the complexities of digital currencies, as well as examined various implementation models observed in different jurisdictions. A key focus was made on potential benefits and risks of CBDCs for public and private sectors. Additionally, the expert paid special attention to the application of decentralized finance (DeFi) technologies, such as smart contracts and colorization, as well as the connection of CBDC with private payment solutions.

The capacity building training provided by the Russian expert has equipped more than 20 employees of the Central Bank of Turkmenistan with knowledge and skills in developing digital currencies and improving banking products and services, thus contributing to the national strategic objectives, including the long-term banking strategies of improving the quality of banking products and services, upgrading payment systems, and fostering digital transformation across all layers of the banking sector in Turkmenistan.

Turkmenistan – Electronic Money Regulation, 15 November 2023 – 31 January 2024

Banking sector of Turkmenistan undergoes digital transformation and strives to enhance the professional capabilities of the local banking sector.

The Executive Director of the Russian Electronic Money and Remittance Association supported Central Bank staff in efforts for digital transformation and shared best practices in the development of electronic money instruments. The expert highlighted the importance of specific regulations and risk mitigation measures to ensure the proper regulation of the e-money sector while fostering innovation. In addition, the expert shared knowledge on how to assess and mitigate the risks associated with electronic money systems, fostering a more secure and resilient financial landscape.

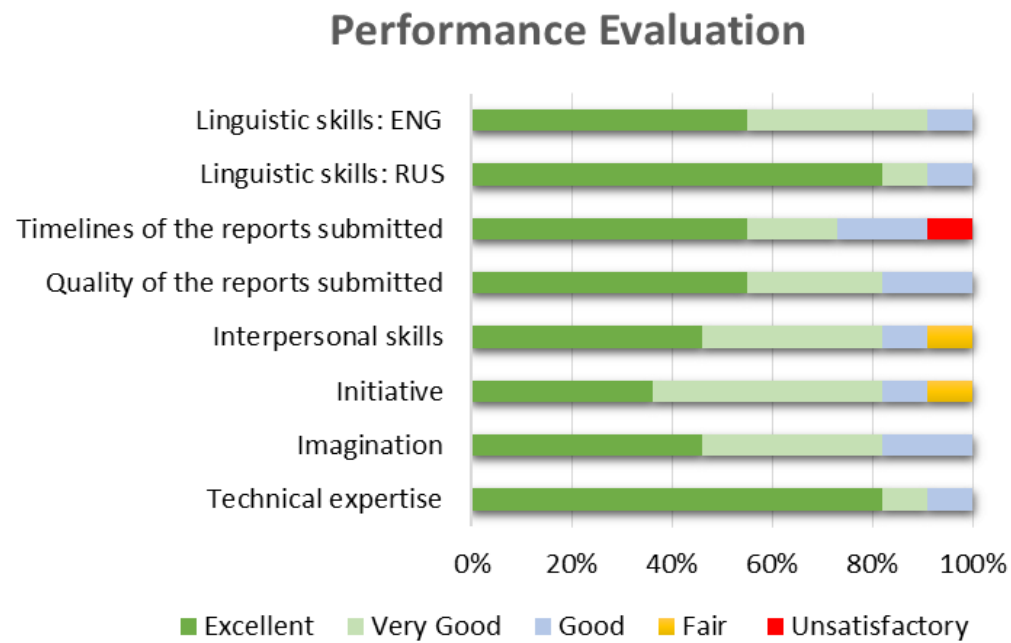
Expert's work will support Central Bank staff in elaborating a roadmap for the implementation of electronic money and overall advancement of electronic payment systems in Turkmenistan's banking sector.

Turkmenistan – Fast Payment Systems, 01 December 2023 – 31 January 2024

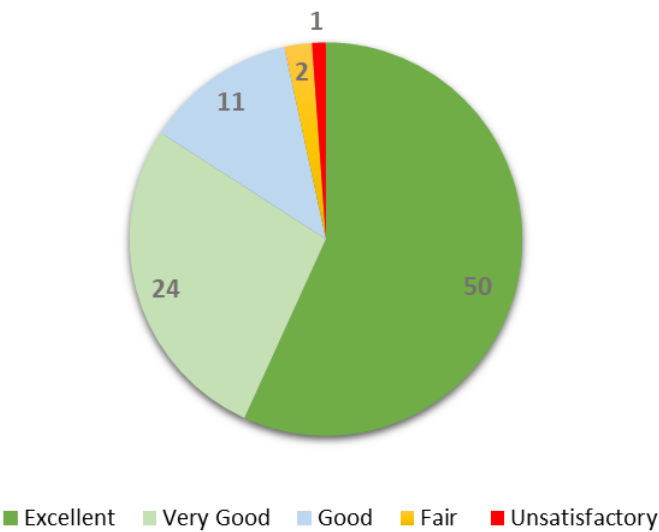
The President of the Russian Electronic Money and Remittance Association provided knowledge and valuable insights on the concept of fast payment system (FPS) during a 5-day workshop series. The expert presented basics of fast payment systems and underlying technologies, FPS structure and its services, risks, and benefits of using the system for businesses, customers, and regulators. The participants of the workshop series learned about several types of user interfaces and the main regulatory approaches to FPS.

The workshop provided by the expert to over 20 employees of Central Bank and various commercial banks covered the case study of the Central Bank of Russia Fast Payment System (SBP), its main benefits, key features, and risks. Development of the fast payment systems in Turkmenistan, advancing the country's financial landscape in line with contemporary digital trends and global sustainability objectives, will receive fresh impetus.

Annex 3. Consultants’ Performance Evaluation Forms Statistics



Summary of evaluation forms by total number of scores in different categories



Summary chart of 11 completed assignments during the period of January-June 2024

Score	Technical expertise	Imagination	Initiative	Interpersonal skills	Quality of the reports submitted	Timelines of the reports submitted	Linguistic skills: RUS	Linguistic skills: ENG
Excellent	9	5	4	5	6	6	9	6
Very Good	1	4	5	4	3	2	1	4
Good	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	1
Fair	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Unsatisfactory	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

Performance evaluation scores of experts engaged for assignments

Name	Technical expertise	Imagination	Initiative	Interpersonal skills	Quality of the reports submitted	Timelines of the reports submitted	Linguistic skills: RUS	Linguistic skills: ENG
Victor Dostov (bank ecosystems)	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1
Victor Dostov (digital currencies)	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1
Pavel Shust (electronic money regulation)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Victor Dostov (fast payment systems)	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1
Pavel Shust (open banking)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Alexander Besprozvannyh	2	3	4	4	3	3	1	2
Anatolii Maksimov	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
Sergey Ryazantsev	3	3	3	3	3	5	3	3
Victor Dostov (financial inclusion)	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	2
Anna Zelentsova	1	2	1	1	2	3	1	2
Anatolii Shevchenko	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

Annex 4. Brochure on the EoD programme for UNDP COs

Russian Experts on Demand (EoD) Programme

More than 100 Russian experts were engaged as International Consultants for UNDP's country offices since 2017:

Armenia Azerbaijan Belarus Cuba Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan
Lao PDR Moldova Serbia Tajikistan Turkmenistan Uzbekistan



120
assignments

12
UNDP country
offices

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The Russian EoD Programme supports UNDP partner countries in addressing development challenges by sharing Russian knowledge, hands-on experience, and know-how via Russian experts' deployment for on-demand small-scale interventions, consultancies, and peer-to-peer knowledge sharing.

The EoD Programme aims to help UNDP country offices in searching for suitable experts in the [Database of Russian experts for international development](#)



IC MODALITY

The Individual Contract modality is used to hire Russian experts for the period of 20-40 working days over 3-4 months period.



DELIVERABLES

Small-scale feasibility studies, workshops, recommendations for government officials, trainings, contributions to conferences and various types of targeted technical consultations.



REQUIREMENTS

Requests should be in line with the Country Programme Document (CPD) and include the Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) Principle, and specific development needs of women and girls.



THEMATIC AREA

Requests for expertise should be in line with SDG 2030 agenda. The list of thematic areas could be found [on the Database web page](#).

Assessment criteria



Evidence of demand and alignment with CPD



Relevance of Russian expertise



Complementarity to current portfolio / no duplication (especially with other projects funded by the Russian Federation)



Application of LNOB principle and contribution to women empowerment

Applications meeting a **minimum of three criteria** will be approved.

Examples of EoD assignments



Energy management systems at municipal buildings, Armenia

The Russian expert provided recommendations and shared the best practices from Russia in the area of city energy management system (CENMS) of municipal buildings. A 2-day training session on urban energy management was delivered for various ministries and mayors of the Armenian cities.



Monitoring and forecasting of agrometeorological hazards, Cuba

Two leading Russian experts supported the Institute of Meteorology of the Republic of Cuba on the use of satellite data in agrometeorology. The experts delivered a training session, including a presentation on how to use vegetation indices to develop a model for estimating rice yields.



Regulatory approaches towards digital financial services, Turkmenistan

A report with recommendations on managing digital services and mitigating risks was prepared by another Russian expert for UNDP Turkmenistan. The expert delivered a 5-day workshop for public and commercial banks to provide an overview of the regulatory approaches focusing on digital payments, and electronic money.



Improving services of the Investment Promotion and Protection Agency, Kyrgyzstan

The assignment's aim was to strengthen the capacities and services of the Investment Promotion and Protection Agency under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of international business matching. The expert developed a relevant methodology and conducted a 2-day workshop for trade support institutions: Chamber of Commerce, business associations, etc.



To learn more about the EoD Programme:

- see the EoD invitation to submit proposals for individual consultancy
- [visit our website](#)

Annex 5. Brochure on the EoD programme for experts and external users of the Database

Russian Experts on Demand (EoD) Programme

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Duration of assignments

Up to 40 working days within 3-4 months with 1-2 missions to countries / remotely



Thematic coverage

17 thematic areas in the Database of Russian experts



Examples of deliverables

Small-scale feasibility studies, workshops, recommendations for government officials, trainings, contributions to various types of targeted technical consultations

Gender Ratio of Experts in the Database



44% Female / 56% Male

Examples of EoD assignments



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To learn more about the EoD Programme please [visit our website](#)

You are invited to [submit an application](#) to be included in the Database. Do not forget to:

- Include information about the projects you have completed in the field of expertise
- Present relevant international experience
- Attach CV and a photo

Annex 6. The list of currently serving UN volunteers under the Russian FF programme

No	Country or territory	UN host agency	Category
1	Belarus	UNDP	Youth
2	Congo	RCO	Specialist
3	Iran	RCO	Specialist
4	Iraq	RCO	Specialist
5	Jordan	RCO	Youth
6	Kyrgyzstan	UNDP	Specialist
7		WFP	Specialist
8	Lao PDR	RCO	Specialist
9	Mexico	RCO	Youth
10		UNDP	Specialist
11	Myanmar	UNOPS	Youth
12	Palestine	UNODC	Specialist
13	Serbia	RCO	Youth
14		UNICEF	Specialist
15	Tajikistan	RCO	Youth
16	Uzbekistan	UNDP	Specialist
17	Venezuela	UNICEF	Youth
18	Vietnam	RCO	Youth

UN host entities of serving volunteers

● RCO ● UNDP ● UNICEF ● UNODC ● UNOPS ● WFP

