



Russian Federation-UNDP Trust Fund for Development



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

**Regional Project Annual Narrative and Financial Progress Report
2024**

Project title:	Knowledge Management and Capacity Development in Russia-UNDP Partnership, Phase III
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SDGs supported by the project:	SDG 17 ‘Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development’
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ACRONYMS

EoD programme	Russian Experts on Demand programme
IRH	UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS
HSE	National Research University Higher School of Economics
KM project	Knowledge Management and Capacity Building in the Russian Federation-UNDP Partnership Project
MoF	Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
MoED	Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
RBEC	Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States
RCF	Russian Challenge Fund
TFD	Russian Federation – UNDP Trust Fund for Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP CO	UNDP Country Office
UNDP PSO	UNDP Partnership Support Office in the Russian Federation
UNV FF programme	United Nations Volunteers Fully Funding programme

Table of contents

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
2. KEY ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS	7
Activity 1. Provision of on-demand Russian expertise for specific development issues	7
Activity 2. Provision of innovative solutions by Russian institutions to partner countries (Russian Challenge Fund)	10
Activity 3. Strengthening the Russia-UNDP Partnership by increasing collaboration with think tanks, institutions, academia, and other organizations	10
3. RISKS AND MITIGATION MEASURES	12
4. CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS	133
5. FUTURE PLANS	133
6. PARTNERSHIPS	14
7. PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION	14
8. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY	14
9. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, \$	15
10. ANNEXES	176
Annex 10.1.1. Project Performance Data	176
Annex 10.1.2. Updated Risk Log	19
Annex 10.1.3. Combined Delivery Report for 2024	21
Annex 10.1.4. Draft Annual Work Plan 2025	232
Annex 10.1.5. Statistical annex on main results since the project start (attached separately in Excel)	24
Annex 10.2.1. List of EoD assignments and their status of implementation	243
Annex 10.2.2. Brief reports on the EoD assignments completed in 2024	254
Annex 10.2.3. Consultants' Performance Evaluation Forms Statistics	310
Annex 10.2.4. Letters of appreciation from national partners under the EoD programme	343
Annex 10.2.5. EoD programme contribution to SDGs	3837
Annex 10.2.6. Experts' participation in knowledge-sharing international events, 2024	38
Annex 10.2.7. Knowledge generation	39
Annex 10.2.8. Brochure on the EoD programme for UNDP Country Offices	410
Annex 10.2.9. Brochure on the EoD programme for experts and external users of the Database	421
Annex 10.2.10. The list and map of UN volunteers under the Russian FF programme in 2024	432

1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

In 2024, the KM project continued to provide development support to partner countries and their national partners to address their development priorities in their path to achieve the SDGs, mostly through the implementation of the Experts on Demand (EoD) programme as well as other activities.

Key results

- 1) The amount of \$390,490 was allocated for 2024, and \$364,532 were utilized (93% for the year and 35% since the KM project start);
- 2) In September 2024, the virtual KM project board in writing was successfully completed, during which the previous annual and mid-year reports were presented to and endorsed by the project board;
- 3) Under the EoD programme, the KM project managed accepted applications on a rolling basis. Totally, 28 Russian consultants (including 8 women) contributed to solving the socio-economic issues as follows:
 - **29** applications have been received from Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan and approved by the KM project (**12** assignments have been fully completed; **10 were started in 2024 and** are expected to be completed in 2025; **four** assignments are at the stage of searching and hiring experts, preparing e-requisitions and POs, negotiating with experts on their financial proposals, etc.; **three** applications were withdrawn;
 - Additionally, **11** assignments, initiated in 2023, have been successfully completed in 2024 in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan;
- 4) The KM project's website is maintained and monitored to address technical issues and ensure the effective communication; the number of experts registered in the Database has increased by **12%**, while the number of women has increased by **18%**;
- 5) **10** experts facilitated knowledge exchange and raised awareness on various development issues. They shared Russian expertise in social entrepreneurship development, integrating climate change topics into the educational system, leveraging migrant remittances for local development, reducing inequality, regenerative use of ocean resources, and communities of practice in public administration at various international events in Brazil, Egypt, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Portugal, and Republic of Korea;
- 6) The KM project team continues providing limited technical support for the facilitation of the Russia-UNV FF programme managed by UNV Bonn Office, including by personal consultations to Russian volunteers, serving under the UNV FF programme (**26** Russians citizens are providing support in such thematic areas as preserving biodiversity, ending poverty, reducing inequalities, as well as promoting human rights and inclusive practices in **15** countries, including **8** Russians deployed at the end of 2024 at FAO, WFP, UNOCHA and UNODC (2 more UNV positions are to be filled soon).

Key challenges and lessons learned

- To ensure timely payments with the unilateral coercive measures imposed on Russian banks, the KM project team supported the COs with the guidelines on payments in Russian national currency which was developed in 2023 and modified in 2024; the payments through Russian bank accounts are made by the KM project team to Russian experts hired independently by COs or under the EoD programme, as well as to Russian organizations;
- To evaluate the real impact of each expert's engagement and gather evidence on completed assignments, the KM project team developed an assignment completion form, which collects data on the development impact of each assignment. This allows for the assessment of the effectiveness of each intervention and the gathering of media materials along with photos for visibility purposes;
- As the Database of experts is continuously developing and does not always include suitable expertise requested by national partners of COs, the KM project provided on-demand detailed lists of potential candidates from various Russian organizations outside of the Database;

- Due to UNDP staff rotation in COs, substantial support was required from the KM project team on the procedures of the EoD programme, including clarifying basic procurement rules and the division of responsibilities between COs and the KM project team; Several meetings have been held to present the EoD programme to new staff members of the COs and respond to various queries on the implementation modalities;
- It is vital to follow the latest developments in Quantum procedures as the system undergoes changes and updates, which might complicate the hiring procedure, registration process of experts and organizations.
- 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;
- Gathering UNDP COs' feedback on the EoD programme, the Database and expert work as well as collecting cases of extended or new collaborations with Russian experts enhance the effectiveness of the KM project activities, tailoring them to the needs of partner countries;
- The Database of experts has been 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 to safeguard experts' personal data;
- The KM project team had to reconsider some project activities such as **Challenge Fund (CF)** and **Internships** to fully comply with updated UNDP policies. The revised UNDP policy stipulates that innovation challenges are procurement modalities that call for competitive processes to ensure a fair, transparent, inclusive, and open process while selecting potential partners within the framework of this mechanism. This led to a redesigning Innovation challenge calls in all portfolios implementing this innovation challenge modality. It is important to note that COs have started extensively using the Innovation Challenge modality to meet their national partners' requests for innovative solutions, including in the Russia funded projects. As the demand is mostly met at the country level for context specific challenges, there is limited value-added of the regional project.

Recommendation for decision making

- The KM project is seeking ways to diversify expertise provision, taking into account that valuable experts, especially in digital fields, often work for institutions. Institutions, including think tanks and businesses, can provide valuable expertise and can be included in expertise provision schemes as stipulated in the KM project document for Phase III as follows: "... facilitates institutional knowledge exchanges and development of horizontal linkages with Russian institutions" (p.47);
Institutional expertise is in high demand by COs that proved by numerous cases of involvement of Russian companies in fulfillment of long-term involvement of institutional expertise assignments outside the KM project. The KM project activity also could be implemented allowing for "long-term involvement of institutional expertise and gradually evolving partnerships" (KM project document, Phase III, p.10). This could provide an opportunity to combine the Russian and national expertise which will allow to both the parties to benefit from growing in experience. The KM project would encourage COs to explore opportunities for engaging with institutions through institutional contract or reimbursable loan agreement in addition to IC, on a fully competitive basis in line with UNDP procedures;
- Possibilities for re-launching the Internship programme will be explored while ensuring compliance with UNDP Internship Policy and physical presence of interns at the COs;
- As the Innovation Challenge modality is put on hold it is proposed that focus should be shifted to the Expertise on Demand modality, and it should be enhanced by the possibility to fund institutional contracts in addition to the individual ones;
- The project will continue to process payments in RUB as the Russian banking sector cannot be utilized for international bank transfers. Additionally, payments in national currencies of COs may be also encouraged as an alternative option;
- The KM project should further encourage COs to use GPN ExpRes Roster on the EVA.ai platform in addition to the KM project Database.

Sustainability and scaling up the results

Ensuring the sustainability of the project results is critical for good governance of the project, it is more effective and tailored to the needs of the programme countries.

- The sustainability of the UNDP activities in the partner countries supported by the Russian expertise via the KM project is assured at the beginning of the deployment, through careful preparation of TORs and rigorous selection of consultants for each assignment;
- The KM project team collects UNDP COs' feedback related to the work of consultants, including through a special assignment completion form developed by the KM project team to collect data on anticipated development impact of each assignment;
- Russian consultants work in collaboration with national authorities and local experts to ensure that recommendations and solutions they develop adapt to the local contexts and are more sustainable;
- Russian experts' participation in international conferences and events supported by the KM project contributes to knowledge-sharing on development issues and building new partnerships among private enterprises, universities, and research institutions;
- Also, to ensure a more scalable and sustainable impact in the partner countries, the maximum period of consultants' assignments was extended up to a year for more catalytic effect towards countries' SDGs achievement.

Financial management

The 2024 project budget was reduced from \$620,950 to **\$390,490** through a budget revision in July, transferring the unspent amount to 2025. The planned 2024 budget was used for project activities, such as maintenance of the website expertsfordevelopment.ru, implementation of the EoD programme and financing of experts' participation in international events, as well as for management and administrative support.

The project, which ends on 31 December 2025, runs a project budget balance of \$1,494,965 (as of 27 March 2025) because the project had to reconsider and put on hold some project activities such as the Russian Challenge Fund (RCF) modality and Internships programme.

The revised UNDP policy on implementation of Challenge Fund/Innovation Challenges identifies them as procurement modalities that call for competitive processes to ensure a fair, transparent, inclusive, and open process while selecting potential partners within the framework of this mechanism. This led to a redesigning of Innovation challenge calls in all portfolios implementing this innovation challenge modality.

It is also important to note that UNDP country offices have started extensively using the Innovation Challenge modality to meet their national partners' requests for innovative solutions, including in the ongoing projects funded by the Russian Federation. As the demand is mostly met at the country level for context specific challenges, there is limited value-added of this regional component.

UNDP Internships policy also stipulates the need for an open competitive selection process without restrictions. In practical terms this means that no preference can be given to Russian individuals.

Based on the reasons above, it is suggested no-cost extending the project and shifting the focus of the KM project to the Expertise on Demand modality and enhance it with the possibility to fund institutional contracts in addition to the individual ones.

Data contained in the report below is generated from the UNDP financial management system and the final Combined Delivery Report (CDR) is presented in Annex 10.1.3.

OUTPUT/Activity	Budgeted for 2024	Delivered for 2024	Delivery rate 2024, %	Budgeted for the entire project	Delivered for 2022	Delivered for 2023	Delivered in 2022-2024	Delivered since the project start, %
Activity 1: Provision of on-demand Russian expertise for specific development issues	316,416	272,885	86	963,360	124,187	85,879	482,951	50
Activity 2: Provision of innovative solutions by Russian institutions to partner countries (RCF)	2,844	1,764	62	924,480	19,327	16,682	37,773	4
Activity 3: Strengthening Russia-UNDP Partnership by increasing collaboration with think tanks, institutions, academia, and others	19,440	26,761	138	289,440	37,019	42,071	105,851	37
Activity 4: Project Management and Administrative Support	51,790	62,135	120	322,720	86,422	91,599	240,156	74
TOTAL:	390,490	363,545	93	2,500,000	266,955	236,231	867,718	35

2. KEY ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

The KM project ensured producing the effective output specified in the project document: the programme countries in the CIS region, such as Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan, were supported in solving development challenges, achieving sustainable development impact and improving the lives of vulnerable populations by provision access to relevant and diverse Russian expertise. The EoD programme, highly appreciated by the project partners, serves an instrument for transferring Russian hands-on experience, knowledge, and know-how to partner countries via rapid deployment of Russian experts for on-demand small-scale interventions, consultancies, and peer-to-peer knowledge sharing. The Database, gradually growing, both in quality and quantitatively, provided a pool of experts to be engaged under the Russian EoD programme.

Implementation of the UNV FF programme, managed by UNV Bonn Office and facilitated by the KM project, also impacted positively the sustainable development in the partner countries over the world where Russian UN Volunteers serve.

During the implementation the KM project applied the Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) principle and the gender equality standards under the KM project activities including selection of applications.

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

1.1. Russian Experts on Demand programme

The KM project contributed, by provision of experts' services and finance, to the advancement of such key issues as:

- **agriculture and sustainable economic growth** – the development of competitive export-oriented value chains was supported, and it is expected to diversify the export basket in Kyrgyzstan;
- **environmental and biodiversity protection** – modernization of hydrometeorological and climate services in Kyrgyzstan was supported aiming to combat desertification. Integration of Land Degradation Neutrality into national programmes was supported for greater biodiversity in Turkmenistan;
- **sustainable energy** – smart energy efficiency technologies were promoted in Belarus; municipal lighting technologies were supported in Kyrgyzstan;

- **innovations, IT and digital economy** –opportunities for higher financial inclusion in Kyrgyzstan were identified and the banking sector of Turkmenistan in its digital transformation was supported;
- **regional tourism development** – the development of the Toktogul District was enhanced through the tourism industry, and the digital platform “Open Osh” based on the developed customer journey map was promoted in Kyrgyzstan;
- **trade development** – the digitalization for trade facilitation was supported, the regulatory framework in the field of services and investments for WTO accession was developed, as well as statistics on foreign trade in services and passenger and cargo transportation in Turkmenistan was improved;
- **gender mainstreaming** - the implementation of the gender equality strategy and gender mainstreaming for the Aral Sea Basin project in Turkmenistan were supported;
- **inclusive and equitable environment** – accessibility, diversity, and inclusion in museums of Kyrgyzstan were promoted;
- **vocational education** – strategic management of TVET institutions was enhanced in Armenia and curricula for the modular education system in Tajikistan was developed;
- **healthcare** - digital health information systems and services were promoted to ensure better access to healthcare and laboratory services in Kyrgyzstan;
- **public administration** – capacities of representatives of state structures of Batken oblast in terms of management and adoption of complex managerial decisions were built in Kyrgyzstan.



The Russian expert (in the middle at the back) delivers a training on trade development and the role of digitalization in trade facilitation, Turkmenistan, May 2024

Outcomes of the assignments often lead to the adoption of new methods and approaches in the countries. In **Kyrgyzstan**, Russian experts developed the tourism strategy and a portfolio of tourist products for the Toktogul District in the Jalal-Abad Region. It is expected to attract new investments, generate job opportunities, and enhance entrepreneurship in the region.

Russian expert has provided support in drafting regulatory acts on internal regulation in the field of services and investments. The proposal included potential integration of WTO internal regulation disciplines into national law. It is expected to facilitate **Turkmenistan's** accession to WTO and enhance trade development.

The Russian expert elaborated the scoping study of the energy saving potential of the cities in **Kyrgyzstan** and provided recommendations on the transition to smart municipal lighting technologies. It is expected to improve energy efficiency with digital technologies and the development of future urban infrastructure modernization projects across 20 Kyrgyz municipalities. These initiatives are expected to lead to budget savings while also reducing harmful emissions over time.

The expert's work on the installation of the CliWare 2.1.03 system—a technological system for the management of hydro-meteorological information—on Kyrgyzhydromet equipment has enhanced the modernization of hydrometeorological and climate services in **Kyrgyzstan**.



The Russian expert (in the middle) delivers a training on developing curricula for the modular education system, Tajikistan, August 2024

Statistics on the EoD programme in 2024

The EoD programme is valued and well received by the COs, which is proved by stable flow of applications, continuous requests from the COs, and intentions to prolong cooperation with the experts in the future.

In 2024, the KM project team approved **29** applications from **Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan**.

- By the end of the reporting period, **23** assignments were completed, including 11 assignments that were approved and initiated in 2023; **10** assignments are to be completed in 2025; **4** assignments are at the stage of searching and hiring experts, preparing e-requisitions and POs, negotiating with experts on their financial proposals, etc.; **3** applications were withdrawn;
- **Overall**, 28 experts have been engaged in the EoD programme (including 8 women) in 2024.

UNDP GPN ExpRes Roster

Several UNDP COs use the UNDP GPN ExpRes Roster to hire Russian experts through the deployment platform powered by EVA.ai, which automates and speeds up the recruitment process. For example, Russian experts were hired through EVA platform to help develop internal regulations of services and investments for Turkmenistan's accession to the WTO and to support the modular education system in Tajikistan.

The GPN ExpRes Roster included 80 profiles of Russian experts (as of end 2024), most of them registered in the Database of Russian experts. In April 2024, the KM project sent invitations to experts from the Database to apply for the global call of the GPN ExpRes Roster.



The Russian expert (in the middle) conducts analysis of the iLAB functionality and its integration to the digital health ecosystem of the Ministry of Health, Kyrgyzstan, October 2024

Engagement and funding Russian experts by UNDP COs

The KM project has contributed to engagement of Russian experts funded by resources outside of project's budget by helping COs locate needed expertise inside and outside the Experts Database. Building on the positive results of the EoD assignments, COs have also continued to hire the same experts with their own funds, e.g.:

➤ *UNDP Kazakhstan:*

- the Database expert presented best international practices in sustainable forest management and provided recommendations on developing forest management plans to Kazakh institutions;

➤ *UNDP Turkmenistan*

- The Russian expert, previously hired under the EoD programme, provided an analysis of the Tax Code of Turkmenistan and prepared proposals for its compliance with WTO rules, which will facilitate the country's accession to WTO;
- The Russian expert from the Database conducted a workshop on youth employment and presented international best practices for enhancing professional skills and employability of vulnerable youth under the project "Promoting Resilient Communities to Prevent Violent Extremism in Central Asia".

All this testifies to the continued high demand for Russian expertise as well as spillover effects of the EoD programme and its sustainability.

Advisory support to UNDP COs in identifying expertise

The KM project team continuously supports the COs in identifying suitable experts for various tasks:

Armenia strategic management of TVET institutions

<i>Belarus</i>	GIS technologies in agriculture vocational education accounting for intangible assets at industrial enterprises energy efficiency of buildings
<i>Kyrgyzstan</i>	international maritime conventions
<i>Lao PDR</i>	climate resilience and combatting climate change
<i>Turkmenistan</i>	gender mainstreaming and promoting gender equality e-government, digital transformation and cybersecurity promoting trade for the achievement of SDGs and digitalization of trade
<i>Uzbekistan</i>	startup acceleration programs, innovations, digital economy and digital entrepreneurship

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, supported by the IT-company contracted from May 1, 2023 until the end of Phase III in December 2025:

- The Database is continuously evolving and being enriched with new profiles (**417 experts** - 12% increase (incl. 194 women - 18% increase), compared to 371 experts in December 2023 (incl. 164 women);
- Searching for potential candidates for the Database is ongoing, with over 130 invitations sent during 2024;
- The website was continuously updated adding new information and infographics;
- Three additional thematic areas were added to expert 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;
- Adherence to the Russian law was ensured.

The KM project is seeking ways to diversify expertise provision, considering the fact that valuable experts, especially in digital fields, often work for institutions. **Institutional expertise** is in high demand by COs that proved by numerous cases of involvement of Russian companies in long-term assignments outside the KM project. The KM project activity also could be implemented allowing for "long-term involvement of institutional expertise and gradually evolving partnerships" (KM project document, Phase III, p.10). The KM project would encourage COs to engage institutions through institutional contract or reimbursable loan agreement in addition to IC, on a fully competitive basis in line with the UNDP rules and procedures.

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 updated 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. Following this guidance, for example, the Czech-UNDP partnership, implementing initiatives similar to the Russian CF, modified the Innovative CF mechanism, removing the nationality limitations in the CF calls. The Call for Applicants with the new terms was launched in end 2024 to implement the CF in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Moldova, and Zambia. The Slovak and Polish colleagues discontinue the CF components.

COs have started extensively using the Innovation Challenge modality to meet their national partners' requests for innovative solutions, including in the Russia funded projects. As the demand is mostly met at the country level for context specific challenges, there is limited value-added of the regional project. The focus should be shifted to the

Expertise on Demand modality, and it should be enhanced by the possibility to fund institutional contracts in addition to the individual ones.

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

3.1. Internship programme

The project is currently exploring possibilities for re-launching the programme while ensuring compliance with UNDP Internship Policy 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

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.

In 2024, out of **27** applications received, **10** were approved for partial or full funding. Several trips were co-funded by the Moscow State University, Russia. The brief report on the Russian experts' participation in knowledge-sharing international events is presented in *Annex 10.2.6*.

Three Russian experts showcased strategies for integrating climate change into education at the III International Pedagogical Conference on Climate Change (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28-31 October 2024).



Two Russian experts (on the left) at the UNDP “Climate Box” conference, Almaty, Kazakhstan, October 2024

Russian expert presented solutions for regenerative use of Pacific Ocean resources at the 8th North-East Asia Multistakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development Goals organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) on 23-25 October 2024 in Incheon, South Korea.

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

Implementation of the UNV FF programme for Russian citizens aims at ensuring the participation of Russian nationals in the activities of UN organizations all over the world. It is based on the Memorandums of Understanding between the UNV Programme and the MFA of the Russian Federation signed in 2018 and 2021 with a total funding of \$6 million for 2019-2021 and 2022-2024.

The KM project team continues providing limited technical support for the facilitation of the Russia-UNV FF programme managed by the UNV Bonn Office, including personal consultations to 18 Russian volunteers, serving under the UNV FF programme.



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

Monitoring and Evaluation

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, and through the monitoring and evaluation plans, elaborated in the project document, the KM project regularly:

- Monitored progress data against the results indicators (Project Performance Data in Annex 10.1.1. and in the Results section);
- Identified specific risks that may threaten the achievement of intended results (updated risk log in Annex 10.1.2, Executive Summary and Project Risks sections);
- Captured knowledge, good practices, and lessons learnt (presented through the report).

Cross-Cutting Integration

The KM project contributed to cross-cutting areas such as Leave No One Behind (LNOB) and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, examples below.

The objective of the KM project is to support partner countries through the project activities promoting inclusive and accountable governance, with a strong focus on gender equality, empowering women and meeting the needs of vulnerable groups, while integrating the principle of LNOB in all activities. The thematic areas for expertise sharing help target populations in the respective countries, including the most marginalized and excluded groups. The UNDP partner countries are the ultimate beneficiaries of the project, and the COs' programmes and projects, through the Russian expertise provided, ensure that the project results are realized for all project target groups.

All assignments fulfilled by the Russian experts under the EoD programme directly or indirectly foster social inclusiveness and bolster women's empowerment in various areas. The examples contributing to gender equality and LNOB principles are presented below:

- The Russian expert contributed to improving the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment principles in the Aral Sea Basin project's work plan and implementation in Turkmenistan;
- Two Russian experts provided recommendations for the National Historical Museum of Kyrgyzstan and developed the Roadmap and Catalogue of available solution to enhance the accessibility and inclusiveness of Kyrgyz museums. During the workshop conducted under the EoD programme, 50 representatives from ministries, the Bishkek city administration, local museums, and communities of people with disabilities gained insights into inclusive technologies in museums.

3. RISKS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The KM project team regularly monitored the risks that may threaten project results, using a risk log in Quantum, to take timely and proportionate actions.

One of the risk for the KM project implementation is related to the impossibility of implementing the RCF and the internship programme due to the revised UNDP policy, which requires ensuring a fair, transparent, inclusive, and open process for all interested parties, regardless of their nationality or country of registration, have an equal opportunity to participate in the competition. It also should be noted that COs have started extensively using the Innovation Challenge modality to meet their national partners' requests for innovative solutions, including in the Russia funded projects. As the demand is mostly met at the country level for context specific challenges, there is limited value-added of the regional project. Considering that, the focus should be shifted to the Expertise on Demand modality enhancing by the possibility to fund institutional contracts in addition to the individual ones.

As the implementation of the CF and Internships have been on hold for a while, the project has been facing a challenge of limited lines of expertise provision and significant underutilization of funds. To address this issue, the project team would convene a project board in 2025 aimed at taking the following key decisions:

1. Extension of the project duration till December 2026;
2. Reallocation of the funds from Activity 2 to Activity 1 to increase the available funding institutional contracts under the EoD activity that will diversify the expertise provision (such a possibility is stipulated in the project document);

3. Encouraging the KM project team to continue searching for solutions to enhance and diversify the service lines of Russian knowledge sharing.

The updated risk log is given in *Annex 10.1.2*.

4. CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- 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 KM project team handles payments through Russian bank accounts to Russian experts hired independently by COs or under the EoD programme, as well as to Russian organizations;
- The KM project team created an assignment completion form to collect data and media materials on completed assignments and assess the true impact and efficacy of each expert's involvement;
- To respond to UNDP COs' urgent needs for Russian expertise and for expanding the scope and duration of assignments, the KM project accepts COs' applications on a rolling basis. This approach allows COs and their national partners to promptly meet their urgent demands and accelerates the process of engaging necessary experts for timely fulfilment of tasks;
- 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. To introduce the EoD programme to new COs' employees and address their questions, multiple meetings have been conducted;
- 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 effectiveness of the KM project activities, tailoring them to the needs of partner countries and ensuring the sustainability of results;
- The KM project team had to redesign the Database of experts 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 to safeguard experts' personal data;
- It is vital to follow the latest developments in Quantum procedures as the system undergoes changes and updates, which might complicate the hiring procedure and, registration process of experts and organizations.

5. FUTURE PLANS

The no-cost extension till December 2026 will be requested at the next Project Board meeting.

The KM project team under the project activities will:

- Further implement the EoD programme and assist COs in identifying suitable experts and organizations, including for the TFD projects at their requests;
- Facilitate institutional knowledge exchange by providing expertise from think tanks and businesses in line with UNDP rules and procedures, and develop horizontal linkages with Russian institutions to strengthen the Russia-UNDP partnership;
- Facilitate and fund the participation of Russian experts in various international events on SDG-related topics;
- Further develop and maintain the expertsfordevelopment.ru website and the Database of Russian experts for international development;
- Ensure replenishment of the Database with new highly qualified expert profiles and expansion of thematic areas;
- Support strengthening the Russia-UNDP Partnership by increasing collaboration with think tanks, institutions, academia, and other organizations;
- Support the PR-actions related to the 10-anniversary of the TFD implementations e.g. for the UN in Russia bulletin published by the UNIC in Russia:
 - articles on the EoD assignments,

- interviews with the former interns and UN Volunteers;
- examples of the Russian experts' assignments for the TFD anniversary report;
- Technically support the UNV FF programme for Russian citizens when possible;
- Work on communication products on the KM project (e.g., an overview of sustainable results of the experts' assignments; success stories of experts on the respective project activities).

Draft Annual Work Plan 2025 is given in *Annex 10.1.4*.

6. PARTNERSHIPS

The KM project team enhanced partnerships and working contacts with the UNDP COs including 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.ai platform for organizing competitions within the framework of the EoD programme's implementation, and on Challenge Fund new policy; with UNDP Turkmenistan to consult on payments in different currencies, procurement methods and hiring procedures, and others.

7. PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The KM project supports experts from various Russian organizations, including the Institute of Demographic Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow State University, National Research University "Higher School of Economics", ITMO University, Municipal budgetary institution of additional education «Ecological and Biological Center» (Sochi), Social Investment Fund, "Moscow Children's and Youth Center for Ecology, Local History and Tourism", and Moscow Circular, and others.

Also, the KM project communicates with the MFA, MoF and MoED of the Russian Federation as a donor on the project issues.

8. 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. In addition, the banner of and link to the Database are displayed on the websites of the Ministry of Finance 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 on the component on funding participation of experts in international events (*Annex 10.2.7*):

- For instance, two brochures have been prepared and updated on the EoD programme for COs and experts of the Database as well as external website users. Brochures are presented as *Annex 10.2.8* and *Annex 10.2.9*;
- Additionally, the KM project team prepared a document presenting project results for the 3-year period 2022-2024) and added infographics on EoD programme's contribution to SDGs (*Annex 10.2.5*), as well as examples of completed assignments and experts' contributions to knowledge sharing events.

In addition, visibility of the KM project results is ensured by COs posting news on the UNDP websites, social networks, and mass media portals:

- The Kyrgyz National News Agency Kabar posted a news item 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 Green Economy Development Programme (8-month assignment in 2023-2024 under the EoD programme);

¹https://minfin.gov.ru/ru/performance/international/dokument/development?id_57=122111-o_baze_dannykh_rossiiskikh_ekspertov_dlya_mezhdunarodnogo_razvitiya

²http://economy.gov.ru/material/directions/vneshneekonomicheskaya_deyatelnost/mnogostoronnee_ekonomicheskoe_sotrudnichestvo/orga_nizaciya_obedinennyh_nacy_oon/programma_razvitiya_oon_poon/

- Results of experts' contribution to the development of tourism strategy development for the Toktogul District of Kyrgyzstan and a training session for local government were presented in the UNDP press release³;
- The Central Asia news agency posted a news item on the 2-day training on trade development and digitalization in trade facilitation organized for the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations of Turkmenistan and conducted by the Russian expert in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan⁴;
- Two Russian experts' recommendations and proposed measures to bring Turkmenistan's legislation in line with the provisions of the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) are expected to facilitate Turkmenistan's accession to the WTO. The news item about the webinar organized on the experts' work results was published on the website of Turkmenportal news agency⁵ and UNDP⁶;
- The Central Asia news agency⁷ and Turkmenportal news agency⁸ presented the Russian expert's support to TurkmenStat in advancing foreign trade statistics in services;
- Another UNDP press release⁹ highlighted the Russian experts' contribution to developing inclusive museum environment and creating the Catalogue of available solutions and the Roadmap for the National Historical Museum of Kyrgyzstan.

9. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The 2024 project budget was reduced from \$620,950 to **\$390,490** through a budget revision in July, transferring the unspent amount to 2025. The funds were utilized for the project activities, such as maintenance of the website expertsfordevelopment.ru, implementation of the EoD programme and financing of experts' participation in international events, as well for management and administrative support.

Data contained in this report is generated from the UNDP financial management system and the final Combined Delivery Report (CDR) is presented in Annex 10.1.3.

OUTPUT/Activity	Budgeted for 2024	Delivered for 2024	Delivery rate 2024, %	Budgeted for the entire project	Delivered for 2022	Delivered for 2023	Delivered since the project start	Delivered since the project start, %
Activity 1: Provision of on-demand Russian expertise for specific development issues	316,416	272,885	86	963,360	124,187	85,879	482,951	50
Activity 2: Provision of innovative solutions by Russian institutions to partner countries (Russian Challenge Fund)	2,844	1,764	62	924,480	19,327	16,682	37,773	4

³ <https://www.undp.org/ru/kyrgyzstan/press-releases/uskorenie-razvitiya-toktogula-cherez-prodvizhenie-turizma-i-kreativnykh-industriy>

⁴ <https://www.newscentralasia.net/2024/05/25/proon-ukreplyayet-natsionalnyy-torgovyy-potentsial-posredstvom-tsifrovizatsii-torgovli/>

⁵ https://turkmenportal.com/blog/83697/v-ashhabade-provedeny-vebinary-po-podgotovke-vstupleniya-turkmenistana-v-vto#google_vignette

⁶ <https://www.undp.org/turkmenistan/press-releases/undp-and-partners-hold-webinars-turkmenistans-accession-wto>

⁷ <https://www.newscentralasia.net/2024/11/08/undp-supports-turkmenstat-in-advancing-foreign-trade-statistics-in-services/>

⁸ <https://turkmenportal.com/blog/84533/v-ramkah-proekta-proon-ashhabad-posetil-mezhdunarodnyi-ekspert-po-statistike>

⁹ <https://www.undp.org/kyrgyzstan/press-releases/inclusive-museum-initiative-creates-accessible-and-inclusive-environment-national-history-museum-kyrgyzstan>

OUTPUT/Activity	Budgeted for 2024	Delivered for 2024	Delivery rate 2024, %	Budgeted for the entire project	Delivered for 2022	Delivered for 2023	Delivered since the project start	Delivered since the project start, %
Activity 3: Strengthening Russia-UNDP Partnership by increasing collaboration with think tanks, institutions, academia, and other organizations	19,440	26,761	138	289,440	37,019	42,071	105,851	37
Activity 4: Project Management and Administrative Support	51,790	62,135	120	322,720	86,422	91,599	240,156	74
TOTAL:	390,490	363,545	93	2,500,000	266,955	236,231	867,718	35

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Submitted by Natalia Voronkova

Natalia Voronkova

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KM Project Manager

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Cleared by Berna Bayazit

Berna Bayazit

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Programme Specialist (Partnerships)

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Cleared by Yuliya Zhgun

Yuliya Zhgun

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Operations Analyst CO/RSCTR

DocuSigned by:

Cleared by Amra Zorlak

Amra Zorlak

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Country Office Solutions (COST), RBM and Quality Assurance Specialist a.i.

10. ANNEXES

Annex 10.1.1. Project Performance Data

Expected outputs	Output indicators	Data source	Baseline		Value for the previous year if different from baseline	Target for the reported year	Actual value for the reported year
			Value	Year			
Programme countries are supported in solving development challenges, achieving sustainable development impact and improving the lives of vulnerable populations by provision access to relevant, readily available and diverse Russian expertise available in several formats	1.1. Number of experts registered in Database of Russian experts for international development	Database statistics	276 (incl. 108 women)	2021	371 incl. 164 women	10% increase	417 incl. 194 women (12% increase)
	1.2. Number of individual visitors of the website using (searching) the Database of Russian experts for international development	Database statistics	2816	2021	4,528	5% increase	5,250 (16% increase)
	1.3. Number of Russian experts registered in the expertise area “gender equality” aimed to support programme countries in this area	Database statistics	12	2021	15	10% increase	16 (7% increase)
	1.4. Performance of the consultants hired under the Russian EoD programme as rated by COs	Consultant’s Performance Evaluation Form	50% - outstanding 38% - very good	2021	37% - outstanding 31% - very good	5% increase	64% outstanding (incl 6 women), 26% very good
	1.5. Performance of the interns deployed in UNDP offices as rated by COs	Intern’s Performance Evaluation Form	63% very satisfied, 32% satisfied	2021	-	5% increase	-
	2.1. Number of the gender sensitive and gender responsive RCF solutions adopted/scaled up by the local actors	Survey of RCF local partners	n/a	-	-	At least 50% increase	-
	2.2. Performance of the RCF awardees as rated by local partners	Evaluation form/Survey	n/a	-	n/a	5% increase	n/a

Main activities and results

Activities	Results
Activity 1: Provision of on-demand Russian expertise for specific development issues	• The KM project helped to address such key SDG-related issues as: - agriculture and sustainable economic growth – development of competitive export-oriented value chains in <i>Kyrgyzstan</i>; - environmental and biodiversity protection, combating climate change and its impact – modernization of hydrometeorological and climate services in <i>Kyrgyzstan</i>, combatting desertification and enhancing LDN integration into national programmes and biodiversity in <i>Turkmenistan</i>; - sustainable energy – smart energy efficiency technologies in Belarus, as well as municipal lighting technologies in <i>Kyrgyzstan</i>; - innovations, IT and digital economy – financial inclusion in <i>Kyrgyzstan</i> and digital transformation of the banking sector in <i>Turkmenistan</i>; - regional tourism development – development of the Toktogul District through the tourism industry and promoting the digital platform “Open Osh” based on the developed customer journey map in <i>Kyrgyzstan</i>; - trade development – digitalization for trade facilitation, regulatory framework in the field of services and investments for WTO accession, improving statistics on foreign trade in services and passenger and cargo transportation in <i>Turkmenistan</i>; - gender mainstreaming - gender equality strategy for the Aral Sea Basin project in <i>Turkmenistan</i>; - inclusive and equitable environment – accessibility, diversity, and inclusion in museums of <i>Kyrgyzstan</i>; - vocational education - strategic management of TVETIs in <i>Armenia</i> and developing curricula for the modular education system in <i>Tajikistan</i>; - healthcare - digital health information systems and services to ensure better access to healthcare and laboratory services in <i>Kyrgyzstan</i>; - public administration – capacity building of the Batken oblast in management and adoption of managerial decisions in <i>Kyrgyzstan</i>; • 417 consultants (including 194 women) are registered in 20 thematic areas in the Database of the Russian experts for international development, which serves as a very useful tool to locate Russian expertise in the implementation of the UN and UNDP projects.
Activity 2: Provision of innovative solutions by Russian institutions to partner countries (RCF)	The RCF has not yet been launched including because of the changes in UNDP Policy on Innovation Challenges, requiring revision of pre-established mechanisms of Innovative Challenge Funds. The other reason is COs have started extensively using the Innovation Challenge modality to meet their national partners’ requests for innovative solutions, including in the Russia funded projects. As the demand is mostly met at the country level for context specific challenges, there is limited value-added of the regional project. The focus should be shifted to the Expertise on Demand modality enhancing by the possibility to fund institutional contracts in addition to the individual ones.

Activity 3. Strengthening the Russia-UNDP Partnership by increasing collaboration with think tanks, institutions, academia, and other organizations	1) The KM project provided support to knowledge exchange by facilitation and funding experts' participation in international events on the following SDG-related topics: - SDG 4 "Quality education" – strategies for integrating climate change topics into the educational system (Kazakhstan, October 2024); human values and sustainable development (Egypt, November 2024); - SDG 8 "Decent work and economic growth" – job teleworkability and labour outcomes in the time of COVID-19 (Portugal, August 2024); development of social entrepreneurship in Russia (Kazakhstan, November 2024); - SDG 10 "Reduced inequalities" – migrants' remittances for local development (Brazil, August 2024); regional dynamics of inequality (Italy, November 2024); - SDG 14 "Life below water" – challenges and opportunities for regenerative use of Pacific Ocean resources (Republic of Korea, October 2024) - SDG 16 "Peace, justice and strong institutions" – communities of practice in public administration (Kenya, February 2024). The activity has yielded positive outcomes, including the establishment of new partnerships between universities as well as private enterprises aimed at addressing development challenges. 2) The internship programme has not yet been launched due to the changes in UNDP Policy which require ensuring a fair, transparent, inclusive, and open process for all interested parties, regardless of their nationality or country of registration, have an equal opportunity to participate in the competition. 18 Russian UN FF Volunteers, serving at UN agencies in the countries all over the world, contributed to the socio-economic development of partner countries and achievement of SDGs in 2024. The UNVs developed their research abilities and improved professional skills which consequently allowed some of them to continue their careers at different UN agencies. In September 2024, a new call was launched to deploy 10 Russian UNVs in 2024-2025.
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Annex 10.1.2. Updated Risk Log

#	Description	Date identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mngt response	Owner	Last Update	Status
1	Potential security threats for experts, interns, and participants in events because of political instability in programme countries	No risk currently	Operational Political	Occurrence of the risk might hinder carrying out assignments by the project contractors. I – 4, P – 2	To mitigate the risk if it occurs, online format could be applied.	Project Manager and KM Analyst	Regularly checked	No change
2	Experts and interns are not able to fulfil their assignments in case COVID-19 restrictions persist in programme countries	No risk currently	Organizational	The restrictions including in travel might hinder the effectiveness of the project contractors' work. I – 4, P - 2	Due to reductions in COVID-19 and related morbidity and mortality, the risk of restrictions, including in travel, has currently significantly decreased. If the situation is negatively changed, the expert' assignments can be implemented in online format.	Project staff	Regularly checked	No change
3	The Russian companies are not familiar with the UNDP procurement procedures and cannot prepare competitive documentation for participation in the RCF's calls	Feb 2022	Operational Organizational	The new UNDP policy calling an open competition regardless of nationality or country of registration put at risk the RCF implementation because applicants, to be competitive and to comply with the UNDP requirements, will need to better prepare their proposals and be more aware of the specific details, and have sufficient experience and good working relations with institutions in the countries-recipients. n/a	n/a	UNDP	n/a	No change
4	The Russian experts and companies provide services of poor quality	No risk currently	Operational	Poor quality of services under the project might negatively impact tackling the developmental challenges in UNDP programme countries. I – 4, P -2	The project requested a Performance Evaluation Form from the COs to assess the quality of services provided by experts. The Statistics in Annex to the report shows only the rating of Excellent, Very Good and Good.	KM Analyst	Regularly monitored	Ongoing
5	Some project objectives are not fully in line with the current Innovation Challenge Policy	Mar 2022	Organizational	RCF is not launched. i I – 5, P – 5	The activities have not been launched.	UNDP	Regularly monitored	Ongoing

Annex 10.1.3. Combined Delivery Report for 2024



Combined Delivery Report

Project: **IRH-00129411 - Sustainable development impact**Country: **Istanbul Regional Hub**Period: **Quarter 4, 2024**Status: **Approved (DIM Project)**

Report by Output and Fund

Account Description	Government/NGO/CSO	UNDP	UN Agencies	Total
Output: IRH-00129411 - Sustainable development impact	0.00	363,544.84	0.00	363,544.84
Fund: 49639 - Russia-UNDP TF for Develop_Chld	0.00	363,544.84	0.00	363,544.84
64397 Direct Project Cost - Services provided by CO Staff	0.00	660.83	0.00	660.83
71205 International Consultants Expenses - Short-Term Technical Contractors	0.00	195,516.64	0.00	195,516.64
71210 International Consultants Expenses - Short-Term Support Contractors	0.00	9,600.00	0.00	9,600.00
71305 Local Consultants Expenses - Short-Term Technical Contractors	0.00	9,875.86	0.00	9,875.86
71475 Labour Cost - National Personnel Services Agreement	0.00	73,407.49	0.00	73,407.49
71605 Travel Tickets - International	0.00	13,895.00	0.00	13,895.00
71615 Daily Subsistence Allowance - International	0.00	8,554.40	0.00	8,554.40
71635 Travel Cost - Other	0.00	6,386.81	0.00	6,386.81
72135 Service Cost - Communications Services	0.00	1,372.61	0.00	1,372.61
72410 Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Equipment	0.00	239.41	0.00	239.41
72440 Connectivity Charges	0.00	987.80	0.00	987.80
72505 Consumables - Stationery and Other Office Supplies	0.00	58.11	0.00	58.11
73104 Lease Expense - Building	0.00	15,343.62	0.00	15,343.62
73120 Utilities	0.00	374.76	0.00	374.76
73125 Common Services - Premises	0.00	534.00	0.00	534.00
74220 Translation Costs	0.00	59.54	0.00	59.54
74510 Bank Charges	0.00	235.20	0.00	235.20
74596 Services to Projects - General Opex	0.00	284.10	0.00	284.10
74599 UNDP Cost Recovery Charged - Bills	0.00	36.00	0.00	36.00
75105 Facilities and Administration - Implementation	0.00	27,085.39	0.00	27,085.39
75705 Learning Costs - Course Fee (non staff)	0.00	194.24	0.00	194.24
76125 Realized Loss	0.00	338.65	0.00	338.65
76135 Realized Foreign Exchange Gain - AP	0.00	-1,495.62	0.00	-1,495.62
Project Total:	0.00	363,544.84	0.00	363,544.84

Report by Activity and Fund

Account	Description	Government/NGO/CSO	UNDP	UN Agencies	Total
Output: IRH-00129411 - Sustainable development impact		0.00	363,544.84	0.00	363,544.84
Activity: -		0.00	2,536.44	0.00	2,536.44
Fund: 49639 - Russia-UNDP TF for Develop_Chld		0.00	2,536.44	0.00	2,536.44
71205	International Consultants Expenses - Short-Term Technical Contractors	0.00	2,270.00	0.00	2,270.00
71305	Local Consultants Expenses - Short-Term Technical Contractors	0.00	5.86	0.00	5.86
75105	Facilities and Administration - Implementation	0.00	260.58	0.00	260.58
Activity: ACTIVITY1 - ACTIVITY 1. PROVISION OF ON-DEMAND RUSSIAN EXPERTISE FOR SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES		0.00	270,348.68	0.00	270,348.68
Fund: 49639 - Russia-UNDP TF for Develop_Chld		0.00	270,348.68	0.00	270,348.68
64397	Direct Project Cost - Services provided by CO Staff	0.00	631.07	0.00	631.07

71205	International Consultants Expenses - Short-Term Technical Contractors	0.00	193,246.64	0.00	193,246.64
71210	International Consultants Expenses - Short-Term Support Contractors	0.00	9,600.00	0.00	9,600.00
71305	Local Consultants Expenses - Short-Term Technical Contractors	0.00	9,870.00	0.00	9,870.00
71475	Labour Cost - National Personnel Services Agreement	0.00	26,418.08	0.00	26,418.08
71605	Travel Tickets - International	0.00	7,000.00	0.00	7,000.00
71635	Travel Cost - Other	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
72135	Service Cost - Communications Services	0.00	1,372.61	0.00	1,372.61
74510	Bank Charges	0.00	216.00	0.00	216.00
74596	Services to Projects - General Opex	0.00	284.10	0.00	284.10
74599	UNDP Cost Recovery Charged - Bills	0.00	36.00	0.00	36.00
75105	Facilities and Administration - Implementation	0.00	20,052.50	0.00	20,052.50
76125	Realized Loss	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
76135	Realized Foreign Exchange Gain - AP	0.00	-378.33	0.00	-378.33
Activity: ACTIVITY2 - ACTIVITY 2. PROVISION OF INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS BY RUSSIAN INSTITUTIONS TO PARTNER COUNTRIES (RUSSIAN CHALLENGE FUND - RCF)		0.00	1,763.73	0.00	1,763.73
Fund: 49639 - Russia-UNDP TF for Develop_Chld		0.00	1,763.73	0.00	1,763.73
71475	Labour Cost - National Personnel Services Agreement	0.00	1,633.08	0.00	1,633.08
75105	Facilities and Administration - Implementation	0.00	130.65	0.00	130.65
Activity: ACTIVITY3 - ACTIVITY 3. STRENGTHENING THE RUSSIA-UNDP PARTNERSHIP BY INCREASING COLLABORATION WITH THINK TANKS, INSTITUTIONS, ACADEMIA, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS		0.00	26,760.69	0.00	26,760.69
Fund: 49639 - Russia-UNDP TF for Develop_Chld		0.00	26,760.69	0.00	26,760.69
64397	Direct Project Cost - Services provided by CO Staff	0.00	29.76	0.00	29.76
71475	Labour Cost - National Personnel Services Agreement	0.00	4,894.34	0.00	4,894.34
71605	Travel Tickets - International	0.00	6,895.00	0.00	6,895.00
71615	Daily Subsistence Allowance - International	0.00	8,554.40	0.00	8,554.40
71635	Travel Cost - Other	0.00	4,386.81	0.00	4,386.81
74510	Bank Charges	0.00	19.20	0.00	19.20
75105	Facilities and Administration - Implementation	0.00	1,981.18	0.00	1,981.18
Activity: ACTIVITY4 - ACTIVITY 4. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT		0.00	62,135.30	0.00	62,135.30
Fund: 49639 - Russia-UNDP TF for Develop_Chld		0.00	62,135.30	0.00	62,135.30
71475	Labour Cost - National Personnel Services Agreement	0.00	40,461.99	0.00	40,461.99
72410	Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Equipment	0.00	239.41	0.00	239.41
72440	Connectivity Charges	0.00	987.80	0.00	987.80
72505	Consumables - Stationery and Other Office Supplies	0.00	58.11	0.00	58.11
73104	Lease Expense - Building	0.00	15,343.62	0.00	15,343.62
73120	Utilities	0.00	374.76	0.00	374.76
73125	Common Services - Premises	0.00	534.00	0.00	534.00
74220	Translation Costs	0.00	59.54	0.00	59.54
75105	Facilities and Administration - Implementation	0.00	4,660.48	0.00	4,660.48
75705	Learning Costs - Course Fee (non staff)	0.00	194.24	0.00	194.24
76125	Realized Loss	0.00	338.64	0.00	338.64
76135	Realized Foreign Exchange Gain - AP	0.00	-1,117.29	0.00	-1,117.29
Project Total:		0.00	363,544.84	0.00	363,544.84

Funds Utilization

Output: IRH-00129411 - Sustainable development impact		UNDP Amount
Implementing Partner: -		
Outstanding NIM Advances:		0.00
Outstanding Advances UN Agencies:		0.00
Prepayments:		0.00
Inventory:		0.00
Undepreciated Fixed Assets:		0.00
Unamortized Intangible Assets:		0.00
Commitments:		58,805.25

Signed on behalf of Implementing Partner:

Steliana Nedera
steliana.nedera@undp.org
UNDP

Date: Mar 12, 2025

Annex 10.1.4. Draft Annual Work Plan 2025

PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	TIMEFRAME				Budget Description	Planned budget, \$
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		TFD
Activity 1 Provision of on-demand Russian expertise for specific development issues						
Sub-activity 1.1 Russian EoD programme: development impact is achieved in the specific areas by Russian experts' input					International Consultants (EoD) NPSA (Project Analyst) Contractual services (incl. with IT company) Delivery Enabling Services	750,000
Action 1.1.1 Communication with COs on possible applications to the EoD programme, considering the possibility to engage with institutions in addition to the individual experts	x	x	x	x		
Action 1.1.2 Evaluation of proposals received from COs, review of TORs submitted and preparation of funding decisions	x	x	x	x		
Action 1.1.3 Support to COs in searching for expertise	x	x	x	x		
Action 1.1.4 Implementation of experts' assignments; payments, reporting by experts	x	x	x	x		
Action 1.1.4 Collecting feedback from COs upon completion of assignments	x	x	x	x		
Activity 1.2 Maintenance and development of the project website and the Database of the Russian experts is ensured, and involvement of Russian experts in the implementation of development programmes is facilitated						
Action 1.2.1 Technical support to maintenance and update of the Database including with IT-company support	x	x	x	x		
Action 1.2.2 Further collecting, verifying and updating profiles of experts for the Database	x	x	x	x		
Action 1.2.4 Communication with UNDP COs to inform on the Database opportunities	x	x	x	x		
Activity 2 Provision of innovative solutions by Russian institutions to partner countries (Russian Challenge Fund - RCF)						
The RCF activity and funds should be refocused on the EoD including Russian institutions' engagement						0
Activity 3 Strengthening Russia-UNDP Partnership by increasing collaboration with think tanks, institutions, academia, and other organizations						
Sub-activity 3.1 Internship programme					Travel (consultants) Delivery Enabling Services	65,000
Action 3.1.1 Revision of the modality complying with the Internship Policy introduced and exploring feasible solutions upon approval by the project board	x	x	x	x		
Sub-activity 3.2 Webinars, workshops, and other knowledge sharing events presenting the experience of Russia and other countries for UNDP offices and national partner organizations						
Action 3.2.1 Facilitation and financial support for participation of Russian experts as speakers in international events related to development issues and SDGs	x	x	x	x		
Action 3.2.2 Identifying relevant Russian experts for UNDP projects based on the COs' requests	x	x	x	x		
Sub-activity 3.3 Technical support to Russia-UNV Full Funding (FF) programme as needed						
Activity 4. Project management and administrative support						
Action 4.1 Preparation of annual work plan, semiannual progress project report, and annual project report	x	x	x	x	NPSA (Project Manager) Rental & utilities, Msc Delivery Enabling Services	40,000
Action 4.2 Management and monitoring progress on the project, including project risks	x	x	x	x		
Action 4.4 Monitor financial resources and provision of timely payments	x	x	x	x		
Action 4.5 Preparation and conducting a project board		x				
Action 4.6 PR-activities on the TFD 10 th anniversary in particular cofinancing the UN in Russia bulletin, etc.		x	x	x		
					Total, including GMS 8%	855,000

Annex 10.1.5. Statistical annex on main results since the project start (attached separately in Excel)

Annex 10.2.1. List of EoD assignments and their status of implementation

Completed assignments

Armenia	1. Strategic management of Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions (TVETIs) (July – November 2024)
Belarus	2. Smart energy efficient technologies in residential and public buildings (June – August 2024)
Kyrgyzstan	3. Financial inclusion for MSMEs (September 2023 – January 2024) 4. Financial inclusion through digital financial services (September 2023 – January 2024) 5. Green Value Chains (horticultural, bee products) (October 2023 – February 2024) 6. Migrants' remittances to leverage for sustainable development (August 2023 – January 2024) 7. Configuration, train on installation and preparation of CliWare software (September 2023 – February 2024) 8. Smart municipal lighting technologies (October 2023 – May 2024) 9. Audit of the Toktogul District as a tourist destination (April – July 2024) 10. Development of the tourism product portfolio for the Toktogul District (April – July 2024) 11. Development of the Roadmap and Catalogue of available solutions for the accessibility and inclusiveness of the National Historical Museum (May – September 2024) 12. Assessment of inclusivity of the legal framework and development of the Concept Note for resource mobilization purposes (May – September 2024) 13. Comprehensive audit and strategic recommendations for Open Osh (September – December 2024)
Tajikistan	14. Developing curricula for the modular education system and conducting training of trainers on vocational education (July – November 2024)
Turkmenistan	15. Bank ecosystems (November 2023 – January 2024) 16. Open banking in the financial sector (December 2023 – January 2024) 17. Development of Central Bank digital currencies (November 2023 – January 2024) 18. Electronic money regulation (November 2023 – January 2024) 19. Fast payment systems (December 2023 – January 2024) 20. Trade development and digitalization in trade facilitation (May – June 2024) 21. Developing draft regulatory acts on internal regulation in the field of services and investments for accession to the WTO (May – October 2024) 22. Foreign trade in services statistics (August – December 2024) 23. Protecting the financial services sector in WTO trade liberalization (July – November 2024)

Currently implemented assignments

Kyrgyzstan	1. Support for introduction of digital health tools (September 2024 – March 2025) 2. Support for digital transformation in healthcare and modernization of the laboratory information system (September 2024 – February 2025) 3. Capacity building for Batken Region state representatives in management and decision-making (November 2024 – January 2025)
Turkmenistan	4. Supporting the implementation of the gender equality strategy and gender mainstreaming for the Aral Sea Basin project (August 2024 – February 2025) 5. Protection of species to enhance and protect biodiversity in the Aral regions of Turkmenistan (November 2024 – April 2025) 6. Protection of avifauna to enhance biodiversity in the Aral regions of Turkmenistan (December 2024 – May 2025) 7. Improving statistics on passenger and cargo transportation (July 2024 – May 2025) 8. Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) integration into the National Programme for Combatting Desertification (October 2024 – January 2025)

	9. Methodological support to LDN integration into land use planning (October 2024 – January 2025)
	10. National- and regional-level LDN target setting (October 2024 – January 2025)

Approved assignments with their status of implementation

Belarus	1. Accounting and commercial use of intangible assets of enterprises (intellectual property) to ensure economic development and achieve the SDGs	The scope of work is currently being discussed with national partners in Belarus
	2. Valuation of intangible assets to achieve the SDGs	
Turkmenistan	3. Gender-sensitive governance, and economic empowerment of women and girls	Waiting for the project document signature in 2025 to start the hiring procedure
	4. GIS support to LDN-based land use planning and improved management of Protected Areas	The competition for vacancy is being prepared

Annex 10.2.2. Brief reports on the EoD assignments completed in 2024

Armenia - Strategic management of Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions (TVETIs), 18 July – 15 November 2024

TVET institutions (TVETIs) play a crucial role in bridging the gap between education and the world of work, equipping individuals with the practical skills and knowledge necessary for gainful employment and entrepreneurship. The management staff of the TVETIs is responsible for setting up the strategic goals and directions of their institutions.

Over 170 TVETI managers participated in a training program developed and organized by the Russian expert to contribute to the capacity building of the TVETIs' management staff. The training was focused on modern educational technologies, digitalization, quality assurance, resource management, and artificial intelligence. It has enhanced managers' leadership skills and deepened their understanding of strategic management tools in the TVET context. The newly introduced training program is expected to improve the quality of vocational education and increase the employability of TVET graduates, thus contributing to the socio-economic development of Armenia.

Belarus - Smart energy efficient technologies in residential and public buildings, 1 June – 31 August 2024

The use of smart energy efficient technologies in residential and public buildings contributes to the reduction of CO² emissions, reduction of monthly payments for energy for residents, and sustainable development of cities. The Russian consultant has prepared a report containing analysis and recommendations on the introduction of smart energy efficiency technologies and presented them at a webinar to over 30 specialists from the Departments of Energy Efficiency, relevant ministries, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, oblast executive authorities, and others.

Analysis and recommendations prepared by the expert will be further assessed by the national experts to determine their applicability in Belarus. The results of the assessment have been submitted to the Department of Energy Efficiency for consideration.

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

Financial inclusion is a driver for socio-economic development. According to some estimates, enhancing financial inclusion can increase GDP by up to 14% in emerging markets. 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 two Russian experts reviewed current baseline situation with financial inclusion and developed recommendations for digital inclusion promotion, which will be used by the relevant Ministries to facilitate the development of innovative mechanisms that ensure equitable access to finance. These efforts will lead to the creation of integrated and transformative policies and programs aimed at empowering MSMEs, thereby enhancing their access to new digital financial services and empowering women, youth and people with disabilities.

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 Russian expert 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 prepared two concept notes on strengthening value-added chains. The analysis of products, potential export markets, and current export-oriented value chains for fresh berries and natural honey has helped identify potential solutions to strengthen the proposed value-added chains. The solutions proposed by the expert are anticipated to boost the competitiveness of the agricultural sector, enhance product quality and safety, and foster 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 accounted for 20.5% of the country's GDP in 2023.

The Russian consultant conducted a comprehensive study on the role migrants' remittances play in the local economy, which provided quantified evidence on the potential of remittances to contribute to building more resilient local communities through strategic investments. 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 to channel revenues towards the achievement of local development goals.

Kyrgyzstan – Configuration, Training 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 engaged consultant from Russia supported the Hydrometeorology service and Ministry of Emergency Situations in Kyrgyzstan in advancing the technological capabilities of Kyrgyzhydromet through the configuration of CliWare software, a technological system aimed at addressing issues related to the management of hydro-meteorological information. The expert installed the CliWare 2.1.03 system on Kyrgyzhydromet equipment and conducted a comprehensive 5-day training course for the technical staff, which has improved their capabilities in managing climate data. 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.

The 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 results of the assignment provided valuable insights into design and financing mechanisms of smart lighting technologies, creating a strategic framework for fostering energy efficiency and smart city development. An expert in energy efficiency has contributed to the development of future urban infrastructure modernization projects across 20 Kyrgyz municipalities. These initiatives are expected to lead to budget savings while also reducing harmful emissions over time.

Kyrgyzstan – Audit of the Toktogul District as a tourist destination, 1 April – 31 July 2024

The Administration of the Toktogul district expressed their interest and requested UNDP's support in assessing the potential of the Toktogul's tourist sector and opportunities for developing a tourist destination to promote tourism in the region, which can give an impetus for local development and attract new investments.

The Russian expert contributed to the tourism strategy development of the Toktogul District by preparing strategic recommendations for the territory development and framework for the brand concept and marketing strategy of the territory. Additionally, the expert conducted a training session for the local government enabling them to mobilize resources and accelerate development. The innovative methods proposed by Russian experts will assist the Toktogul District in attracting new investments, creating job opportunities, and boosting the development of entrepreneurship in the region.

Kyrgyzstan – Development of the tourism product portfolio for the Toktogul District, 1 April – 31 July 2024

Building on the strong record of the Kyrgyz Republic in local and area-based development, continuous support of tourism sector and sustainable livelihoods, UNDP Kyrgyzstan is exploring innovative approaches toward local development synergizing efforts of the diverse actors and based on the thematic cross-cluster collaboration.

The Russian expert prepared a scoping study with the key findings from the field study for the development of the portfolio of the tourist products and investment-attractive projects, as well as the concept of the portfolio of the tourist products and investment-attractive projects and framework of the developed portfolio's marketing strategy, which will support the Toktogul District in maximizing its tourism potential. This, in turn, will stimulate entrepreneurship development in the region, attract new labor and investment, and promote sustainable tourism practices.

Kyrgyzstan - Development of the Roadmap and Catalogue of available solutions for the accessibility and inclusiveness of the National Historical Museum, 27 May – 26 September 2024

In 2023, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic approved the State Program "Accessible Country" for 2023–2030, which is directed toward the realization of rights and guarantees for people with disabilities according to the UNCRPD. The administration of the National Historical Museum of the Kyrgyz Republic approached UNDP for support in creating accessibility and inclusion at the museum, as the museum's infrastructure currently does not provide full inclusion and participation for people with disabilities.

The expert engaged for this assignment conducted an assessment with the participation of 15 organizations representing the interests of people with disabilities and cultural institutions, as well as trainings on the inclusive museum environment. As a result, over 50 representatives from the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports, and Youth Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Labour, Social Welfare, and Migration, the city administration of Bishkek, local museums, libraries, and communities of people with disabilities gained insights into inclusive technologies in museums. The roadmap and catalogue of available solutions developed by the expert are currently under discussion by the National History Museum of the Kyrgyz Republic and its partners to enhance the accessibility and inclusiveness of the museum.

Kyrgyzstan - Assessment of inclusivity of the legal framework and development of the Concept Note for resource mobilization purposes, 27 May – 26 September 2024

The Russian consultant prepared an analytical report integrating desk review and articulating the needs for promoting inclusive legal framework and implementation of the museum's accessibility and inclusion policy, existing barriers, and potential approaches to solving problems, communication strategy and conducted two workshops on developing an inclusive legal framework for cultural institutions and public spaces.

The concept note designed to optimize resource mobilization and a communication strategy will bolster fundraising efforts for the National History Museum of the Kyrgyz Republic. Innovative solutions proposed by the expert are expected to attract new investments and promote the museum's inclusivity. Additionally, more than 50 participants of the training acquired valuable insights into the inclusive legal framework for cultural institutions and public spaces.

Kyrgyzstan - Comprehensive audit and strategic recommendations for Open Osh, 17 September – 20 December 2024

In 2024, UNDP Accelerator Lab initiated an Innovation Challenge to implement co-designed with the local community and Osh Mayor office and initiative called Open Osh to spur economic development with the focus on MSMEs, foster social cohesion, and improve physical environment in Osh city.

The expert implemented audit and analysis of the Open Osh product concept and proposal with the identification of target audiences and creation of a Customer Journey Map. Additionally, the expert conducted workshops and consultations with the local stakeholders and implementation partners during the field visit to Osh and provided strategic recommendations on the communication, partnership building and positioning of the [digital platform Open Osh](#). The developed Customer Journey Map significantly contributed to the proper development of the digital platform. The unique expertise of the consultant in branding specific products and services supported the local innovators in designing new offers, thus enabling entrepreneurship development and promoting tourism in Osh.

Tajikistan – Developing curricula for the modular education system and conducting training of trainers on vocational education, 22 July – 29 November 2024

Access to tertiary education plays a crucial role in enhancing youth employment opportunities, yet many young people face barriers in accessing quality education. Technical and vocational education stands out as a vital pathway, aligning with the dynamic demands of Tajikistan's labor market and equipping graduates with practical skills sought by employers. However, there is a need to modernize and optimize the modular education system to ensure it meets current labor market demands.

Four thematic curricula, incorporating specific learning objectives, content outlines, and assessment strategies were developed as a result of the assignment. The employees of the Modular Training Center gained knowledge on modern pedagogical techniques, fostering engagement through practical components and technology-enhanced learning. Furthermore, the Russian expert provided actionable insights and recommendations, serving as a vital resource for continuous improvement in the modular education system and supporting future educational initiatives.

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, the Russian expert conducted a 5-day workshop on bank ecosystems in digital financial services (DFS) for the employees of the Central Bank of Turkmenistan. 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.

Turkmenistan – Open Banking in the Financial Sector, 1 December 2023 – 31 January 2024

Turkmenistan strives to enhance the professional capabilities of the local banking sector to promote economic development and embrace digital technologies. UNDP Turkmenistan engaged a Russian expert to conduct 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 held as part of the assignment, over 20 employees of the Central Bank gained insights into the open banking concept, the risks linked to Open Banking technologies, and effective measures for risk mitigation.

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 Russian consultant introduced the complexities of digital currencies, as well

as examined various implementation models observed in different jurisdictions at the training organized as part of the assignment. 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

The Russian expert 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. The suggested risk assessment and mitigation strategies related to electronic money systems will enhance the security and resilience of the financial landscape. This will assist Central Bank staff in developing a roadmap for the implementation of electronic money and the overall improvement of electronic payment systems within Turkmenistan's banking sector.

Turkmenistan – Fast Payment Systems, 1 December 2023 – 31 January 2024

The hired consultant 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. More than 20 employees from the Central Bank and various commercial banks participated in a workshop focused on the primary regulatory frameworks for fast payment systems, as well as different types of user interfaces. The session included a case study of the Central Bank of Russia's Fast Payment System (SBP), highlighting its key benefits, features, and associated risks. The recommendations will aid in developing fast payment systems in Turkmenistan, aligning with modern digital trends and sustainability goals.

Turkmenistan – Trade development and digitalization in trade facilitation, 1 May – 30 June 2024

Trade digitalization is an important tool to reduce trade costs, enhance trade efficiency and transparency, and support trade resilience and inclusion. As a one of the government agencies responsible to regulate the area of cross-border paperless trade, the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations of Turkmenistan is interested in increasing the knowledge and skills of its staff on trade development in a competitive environment and digitalization in trade facilitation. UNDP Turkmenistan hired a Russian consultant to support the Ministry in digital transformation and enhance knowledge and skills of Ministry staff on issues related to using digital solutions for trade development in a competitive environment, including cross-border paperless trade.

The training organized by the Russian expert equipped employees of the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations of Turkmenistan with knowledge of digitalization as a tool of promoting trade development. The expert's recommendations and training will support the Ministry in introducing contemporary approaches and best international practices in the field of digitalization for trade facilitation.

Turkmenistan – Developing draft regulatory acts on internal regulation in the field of services and investments for accession to the WTO, 15 May – 31 October 2024

Turkmenistan's accession to the World Trade Organization is considered an important priority of the national trade and economic policy, which will contribute to the country's integration into the system of international trade relations and attract foreign investment into the national economy. WTO accession requires the candidate country to implement into national legislation and comply with several system rules that are mandatory for all member States.

The Russian expert prepared the overview of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and the 2021 Reference Paper on Services Domestic Regulation, focusing on their domestic regulation aspects, an analytical report on measures to bring the legislation of Turkmenistan in line with the provisions GATS, as well as draft amendments to the Laws of Turkmenistan "On licensing of certain types of activities" and "On legal acts" related to the disciplines of internal regulation of the WTO".

35 representatives from the Government Commission for Turkmenistan's WTO accession, along with over 20 national ministries and departments and leading universities, learnt about measures to bring Turkmenistan's legislation in line with the provisions of the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) during the webinar organized by the expert. The proposed measures for internal regulation of services are expected to facilitate the country's accession to the WTO.

Turkmenistan – Protecting the financial services sector in WTO trade liberalization,
16 July – 1 November 2024

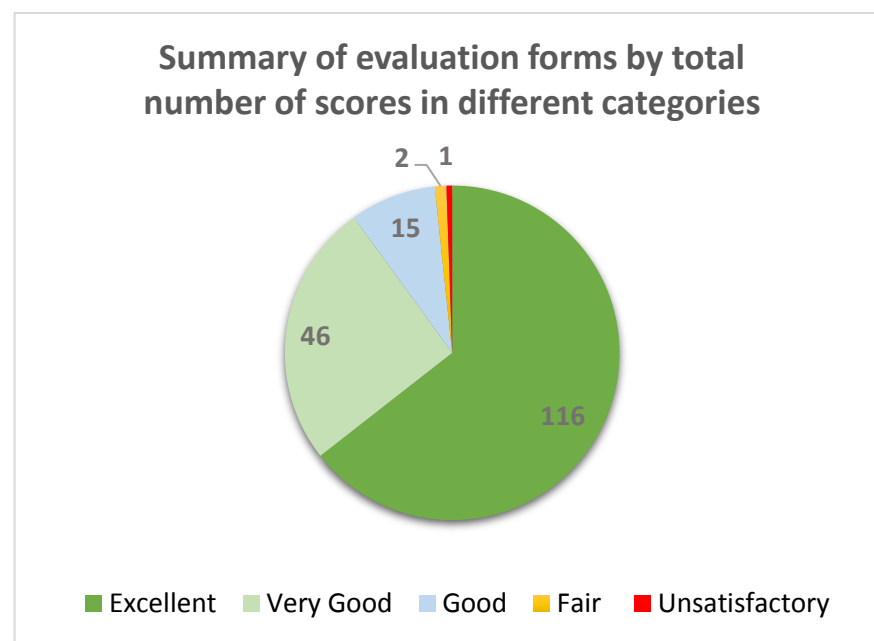
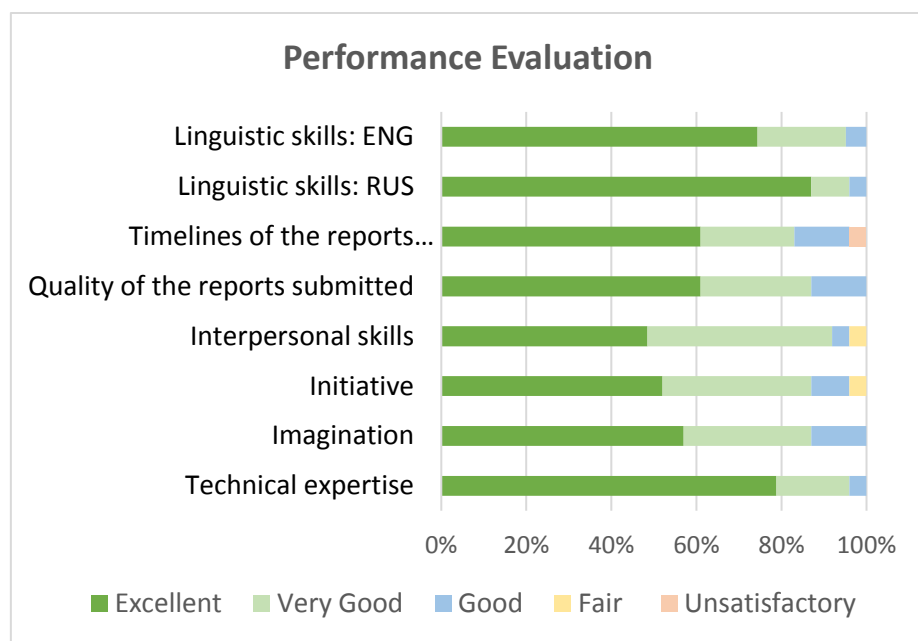
The Russian consultant prepared recommendations on protecting the financial services sector within the framework of WTO trade liberalization and conducted an online workshop for representatives of the MFE, other relevant ministries, and members of the Government Commission for Turkmenistan's WTO accession. The assignment helped to raise awareness among 35 representatives from over 20 national ministries and departments, as well as leading universities of Turkmenistan on issues of WTO accession, including trade in services, the banking, financial and other service markets.

Turkmenistan – Foreign trade in services statistics, 5 August – 10 December 2024

In 2024, UNDP and the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan initiated a joint project, which is aimed at supporting the existing efforts of the Government of Turkmenistan in improving statistics of foreign and domestic trade in services by strengthening institutional mechanisms, bringing national legislation in line with international standards for statistics on international trade in services, as well as improving the quality of data on the volume of passenger and freight traffic. The Russian expert was hired to provide recommendations and organize a capacity building training for the employees of the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan.

Strategic recommendations for enhancing the monitoring of foreign trade in services, along with the training improved the capacity of the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan to generate high-quality, gender-responsive data. The innovative methods proposed by the expert are expected to bolster the Government of Turkmenistan's efforts to enhance both foreign and domestic trade statistics through strengthened institutional mechanisms.

Annex 10.2.3. Consultants' Performance Evaluation Forms Statistics



Summary chart of 23 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	18	13	12	11	14	14	20	14
Very Good	4	7	8	10	6	5	2	4
Good	1	3	2	1	3	3	1	1
Fair	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Unsatisfactory	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

Performance evaluation scores of assignments completed in 2024

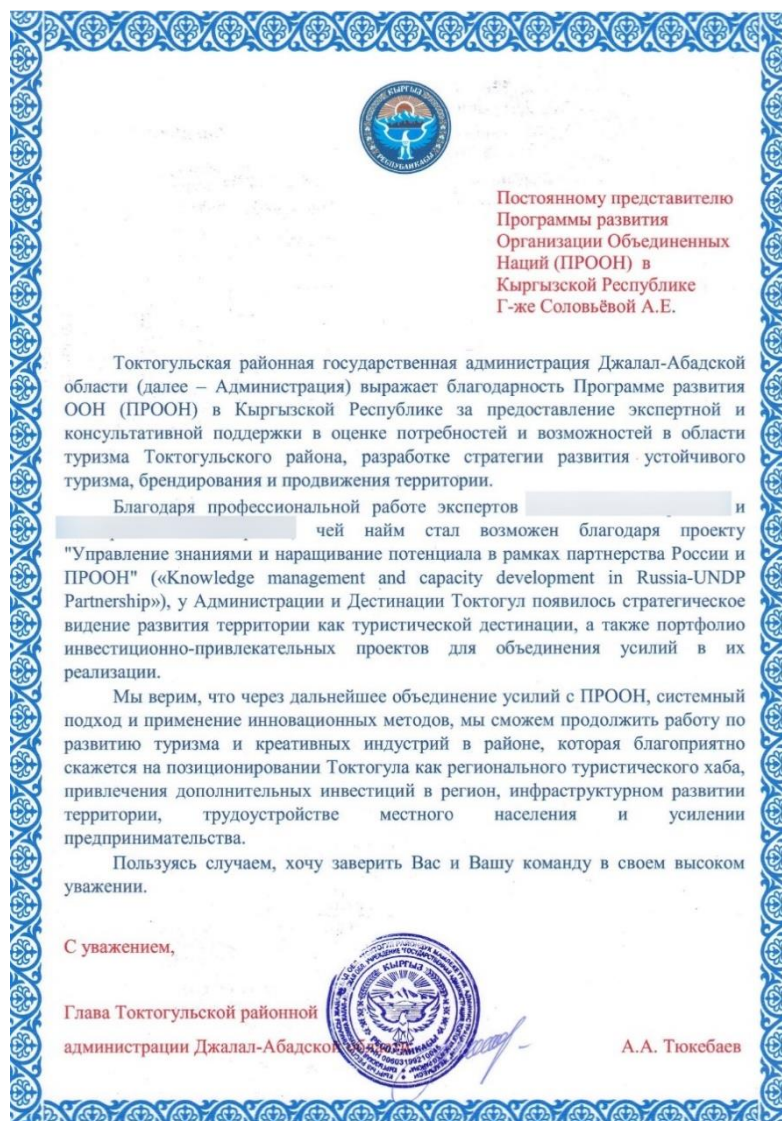
Excellent	1
Very good	2
Good	3
Fair	4
Unsatisfactory	5

Title of the assignment	Technical expertise	Imagination	Initiative	Interpersonal skills	Quality of the reports submitted	Timelines of the reports submitted	Linguistic skills: RUS	Linguistic skills: ENG
Bank Ecosystems	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1
Digital Currencies	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1
Electronic Money regulation	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Fast Payment Systems	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1
Open Banking in the Financial Sector	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Installation of CliWare Software	2	3	4	4	3	3	1	2
Green Value Chains	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
Migrants' remittances for sustainable development	3	3	3	3	3	5	3	3
Financial inclusion (1 st expert)	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	2
Financial inclusion (2 nd expert)	1	2	1	1	2	3	1	2
Smart municipal lighting technologies	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Digitalization in trade facilitation	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Audit of the Toktogul district as a tourist destination	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Developing a portfolio of tourist products for Toktogul district	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Smart energy efficient technologies	2	3	3	2	2	3	1	1
Strategic management of TVETIs	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Protecting the services sector within the framework of WTO trade liberalization	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	1
Developing draft regulatory acts on internal regulation in the field of services and investments	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Assessment of inclusivity of the legal framework	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	N/A
Developing a catalogue of solutions to promote inclusive museum environment	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	N/A
Modular education system	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
Foreign trade in services statistics	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	N/A
Audit and strategic recommendations for Open Osh	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	N/A

Annex 10.2.4. Letters of appreciation from national partners under the EoD programme

1. From the Toktogul administration, Kyrgyzstan, 2024



Unofficial translation

To Ms. Alexandra Solovieva
UNDP Resident Representative
in the Kyrgyz Republic

The Toktogul district state administration of Jalal-Abad Region (hereinafter referred to as the Administration) expresses its gratitude to UNDP in the Kyrgyz Republic for providing expert and advisory support in assessing the needs and opportunities in the tourism sector of the Toktogul region, as well as in developing a strategy for sustainable tourism development, branding, and promoting the area.

Thanks to the professional work of Russian experts, whose engagement was made possible through the UNDP project **"Knowledge Management and Capacity Development in Russia-UNDP Partnership"**, the Administration has gained a strategic vision for the

development of the Toktogul region as a tourist destination, along with a portfolio of investment-attractive projects aimed at consolidating efforts for their implementation.

We believe that through further collaboration with UNDP, a systematic approach, and the application of innovative methods, we can continue our work on developing tourism and creative industries in the region. This will positively impact the positioning of Toktogul as a regional tourist hub, attract additional investments to the area, promote infrastructure development, create employment opportunities for the local population, and enhance entrepreneurship.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to assure you and your team of my highest respect.

Sincerely,

Akylbek Tyukebaev

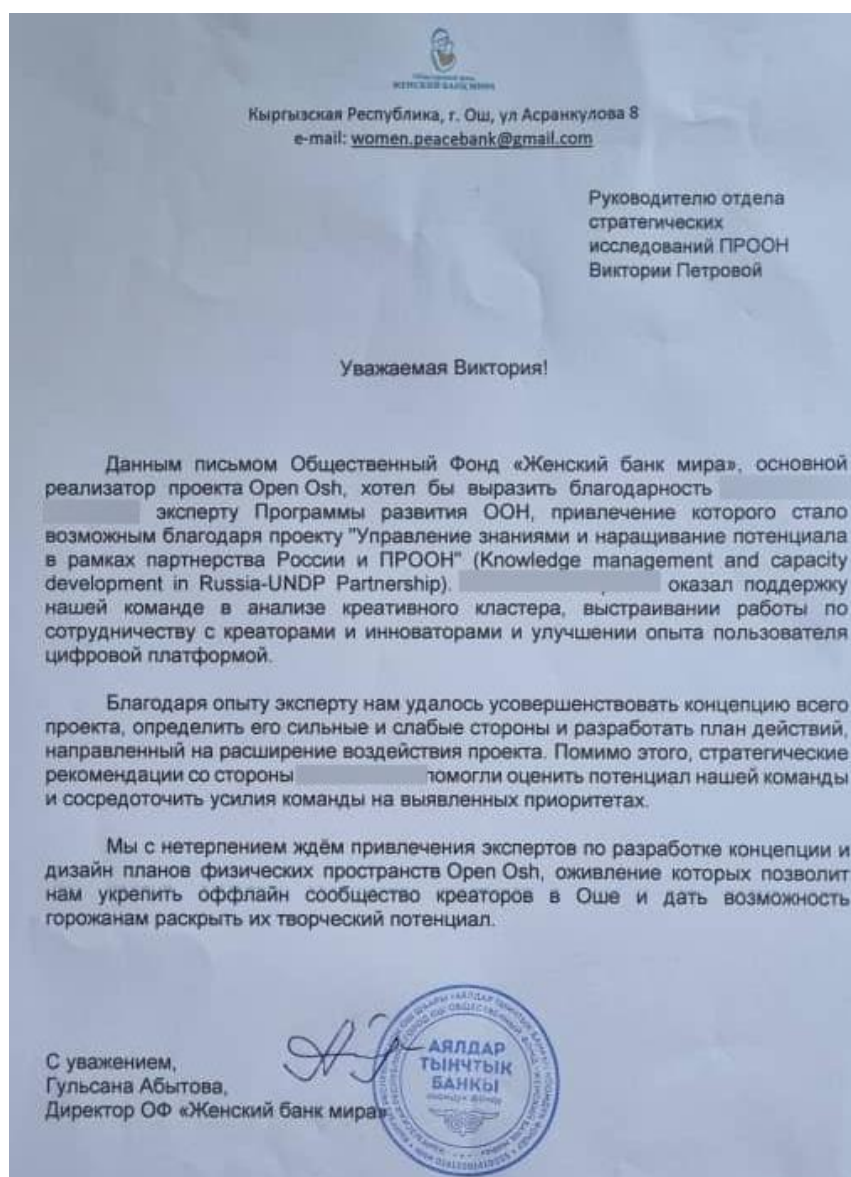
Head of Toktogul district state administration of Jalal-Abad Region

2. From the Toktogul administration, Kyrgyzstan, 2024

Unofficial translation

To Viktoriia Petrova

Head of Exploration, Accelerator
Lab, UNDP Kyrgyzstan



By this letter, the Public Foundation “Women Peace Bank”, the primary implementer of the Open Osh project, would like to express its gratitude to the UNDP expert, whose engagement was made possible through the project **“Knowledge Management and Capacity Development in Russia-UNDP Partnership”**. The expert provided invaluable support to our team in analyzing the creative cluster, establishing collaboration with creators and innovators, and enhancing the user experience of the digital platform.

Thanks to the expert's experience, we were able to refine the overall project concept, identify its strengths and weaknesses, and develop an action plan aimed at expanding the project's impact. Furthermore, the strategic recommendations provided by the expert helped us assess our

team's potential and focus our efforts on the identified priorities.

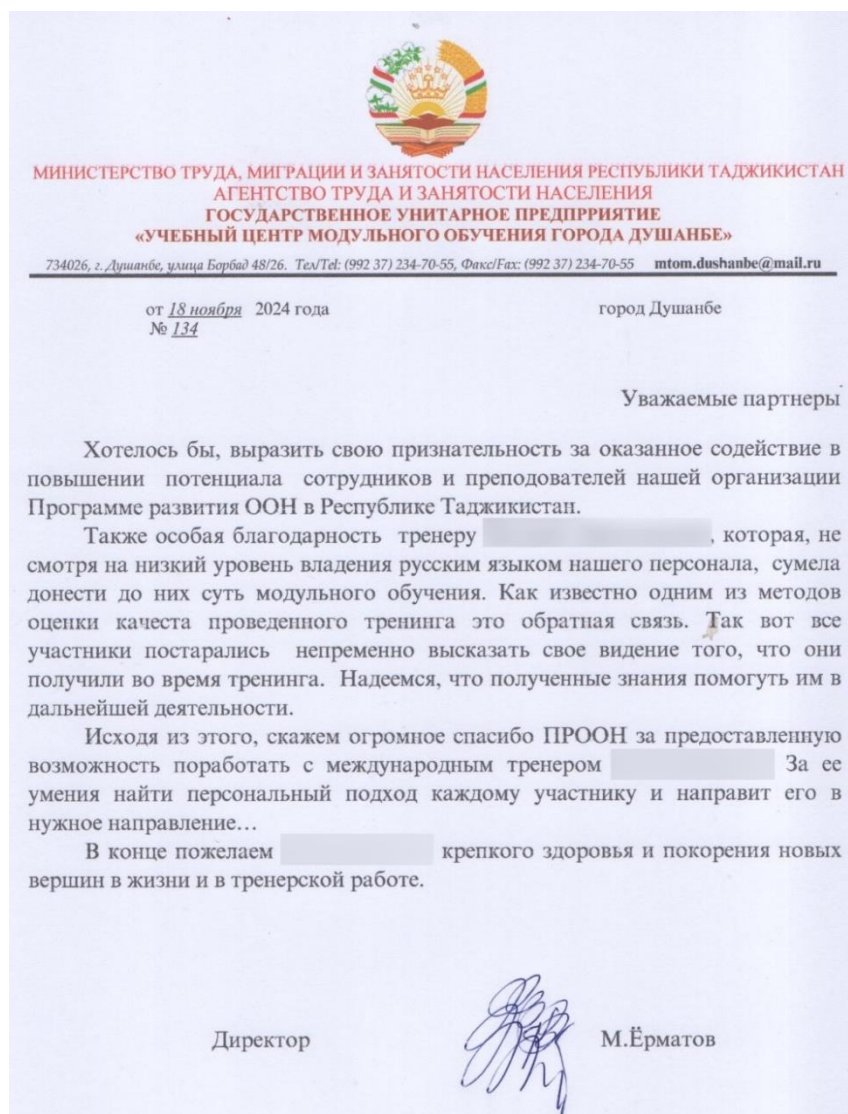
We eagerly anticipate the involvement of experts in the development of concepts and design plans for the physical spaces of Open Osh, as revitalizing these spaces will enable us to strengthen the offline community of creators in Osh and provide opportunities for residents to unleash their creative potential.

Sincerely,

Gulsana Abytova

Head of the PF “Women Peace Bank”

3. From the Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan, 2024



Unofficial translation

Ministry of Labor, Migration and
Employment of Population of the
Republic of Tajikistan

Dushanbe Training Centre for
Modular Learning

Dear partners,

I would like to express my gratitude to UNDP Tajikistan for the assistance provided in enhancing the potential of our organization's employees and educators.

I would also like to extend special thanks to the Russian expert who, despite the low proficiency in the Russian language among our staff, was able to effectively convey the essence of modular training. One of the methods for assessing the quality of the training conducted is feedback. All participants made an effort to express their insights regarding what they gained during the training conducted by the expert. We hope that the knowledge acquired will assist them in their future endeavors.

We are grateful to UNDP for the opportunity to work with an international expert, as well as for her ability to find a personal approach to each participant and guide them in the right direction.

In conclusion, we wish the expert good health and success in reaching new heights in her life and coaching career.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ermatov

Head of the Training Centre for Modular Learning

4. From the Department of cooperation with the WTO of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan, 2024 (by email)

17.10.2024, 15:13



Re: presentations

From Department of cooperation with the WTO MFET <wto.dep.mfet@gmail.com>

Date Wed 10/16/2024 3:45 PM

To

2 attachments (4 MB)
16.10.2024.pdf; 15.10.2024.pdf;

Уважаемые коллеги!

Позвольте поблагодарить представителей ПРООН за организацию вебинаров по доступу на рынок услуг в рамках ВТО.

Благодарим экспертов [redacted] и [redacted] за их подробные, очень доступные и полные материалы, представленные в ходе презентаций, а также за экспертные рекомендации и примеры из профессиональных опытов.

Мы в свою очередь хотим изъявить желание продолжить сотрудничество с международными экспертами и просим рассмотреть предложение об организации вебинаров похожего формата на тему доступа на рынок товаров (подготовка первоначального оффера), в частности опыт России в процессе переговоров по ГАТТ и принятия обязательств в сфере торговли товарами. Профессиональный опыт экспертов в данной сфере мог бы послужить полезной основой для создания представлений и подготовки к этапу переговорных процессов с членами ВТО. Предложение оставляем на ваше рассмотрение и готовы будем обсудить детали в доступном для вас формате.

P.S.
К письму прикрепляем отсканированный список участвовавших на прошедших вебинарах.
С уважением,
Ылхам

On Wed, Oct 16, 2024 at 12:11 PM [redacted] wrote:

Уважаемые коллеги!

Благодарю за содействие в организации вебинаров по ВТО с участием международных экспертов [redacted], которые были проведены 15-16 октября текущего года.

Пожалуйста, прилагаю презентации экспертов.

С уважением,

members.

We leave this proposal for your consideration and would be ready to discuss the details in a format convenient for you.

Attached to this letter is a scanned list of participants from the recent webinars.

Sincerely,

Ylham

Unofficial translation

Dear colleagues!

Allow me to express our gratitude to the UNDP representatives for organizing the webinars on market access services within the framework of the WTO.

We extend our thanks to the experts for their detailed, highly accessible and comprehensive materials presented during the sessions, as well as for their expert recommendations and examples drawn from professional experience.

In turn, we would like to express our desire to continue collaboration with international experts and kindly request that you consider a proposal for organizing webinars of a similar format on the topic of market access for goods (preparation of an initial offer), particularly focusing on the experience of Russia and the negotiation processes related to GATT and commitments in the field of goods trade. The professional expertise of the experts in this area could serve as a valuable foundation for developing insights and preparing for the negotiation stages with WTO

Annex 10.2.5. EoD programme contribution to SDGs

EoD programme contribution to SDGs



Strengthening food security in the bordering communities through food logistic centers in **Armenia, 2022**



Promoting digital health information systems and services to ensure better access to healthcare in **Kyrgyzstan, 2024**



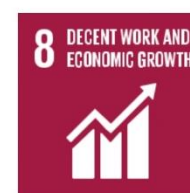
Enhancing strategic management of TVETIs in **Armenia** and developing curricula for the modular education system in **Tajikistan, 2024**



Integrating just and gender inclusive indicators to Long-term Low Emissions Development Strategy 2050 of **Belarus, 2023**



Promoting smart energy efficiency technologies in **Belarus** and municipal lighting technologies in **Kyrgyzstan, 2023-2024**



Enhancing investment opportunities and regulatory frameworks for digitalization of local economies in **Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan, 2022**



Improving statistics on foreign trade in services and passenger and cargo transportation in **Turkmenistan, 2024**



Promoting equal access to education including for women's economic empowerment in **Moldova and Kyrgyzstan, 2022**



Ensuring adequate urban solid and hazardous waste management in **Armenia and Cuba, 2022**



Supporting modernization of hydrometeorological and climate services in **Kyrgyzstan, 2023-2024**



Combating desertification and LDN integration into national programmes in **Turkmenistan, 2024**



Capacity building for Batken Region state representatives in management and decision-making, **Kyrgyzstan, 2024**

Annex 10.2.6. Experts' participation in knowledge-sharing international events, 2024

#	Date and Place	SDG Topic	Conference	Topic of presentation
1	Mombasa, Kenya 26-29 February	SDG 16 "Peace, justice and strong institutions"	IIAS-KSG "International Collaborative Governance"	The role of university professors in the development of communities of practice in the field of public administration
2	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 12-16 August	SDG 10 "Reduced inequalities"	IX International Congress of NUCLEAS	Attracting migrant and diaspora remittances for local development in Kyrgyzstan
3	Terceira Island, Azores, Portugal 26-30 August	SDG 8 "Decent work and economic growth"	63rd European Regional Science Association (ERSA) Congress 'Regional Science Dialogues for Peace and Sustainable Development'	Job teleworkability and labour outcomes in the time of COVID- 19
4	Almaty, Kazakhstan 28-31 October	SDG 4 "Quality education"	III International Pedagogical Conference on Climate Change, in the framework of the UNDP project "Climate Box"	Opportunities and strategies for integrating climate change topics into the educational system
5	Almaty, Kazakhstan 28-31 October	SDG 4 "Quality education"	III International Pedagogical Conference on Climate Change, II International Children's and Youth Educational Festival on Climate Change in the framework of the UNDP project "Climate Box"	Modern methods of research on climate change and its consequences for nature and humans
6	Almaty, Kazakhstan 28-31 October	SDG 4 "Quality education"	III International Pedagogical Conference on Climate Change, II International Children's and Youth Educational Festival on Climate Change in the framework of the UNDP project "Climate Box"	Design of a stand exhibition of school projects and preparation of videos to promote climate education
7	Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea 23-25 October	SDG 14 "Life below water"	8th North-East Asia Multistakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development Goals of UNESCAP	Challenges and opportunities for regenerative use of Pacific Ocean resources
8	Astana, Kazakhstan 14-15 November	SDG 8 "Decent work and economic growth"	Central Asia Summit of Social Entrepreneurs	Experience of development of social entrepreneurship in Russia
9	Cairo, Egypt 4-8 November	SDG 4 "Quality Education"	The 12 th Session of the World Urban Forum WUF12	Human values and sustainable development
10	Turin, Italy 28-29 November	SDG 10 "Reduced Inequalities"	The 10th Workshop of the Turin Centre on Emerging Economies	Regional dynamics of inequality

Annex 10.2.7. Knowledge generation

The KM project elaborated various materials related to the project activities to share with the COs, Russian ministries and experts:

Report on the KM project results in 2022-2024 for the Russian Ministries;

- Brochure on the EoD programme for UNDP Country Offices (Annex 10.2.8);
- Brochure on the EoD programme for experts and internal users of the Database (Annex 10.2.9);

Instruction for the UNDP Country Offices on the payment in Russian rubles;

Also, the KM project prepared such documents as:

- Examples illustrating the EoD programme contribution to SDGs (Annex 10.2.5).
- Reports on the experts' participation in the knowledge-sharing international events (Annex 10.2.6);
- The map of currently serving UN volunteers under the Russian FF Programme (Annex 10.2.10);

Annex 10.2.8. Brochure on the EoD programme for UNDP Country Offices

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

Russian Experts on Demand (EoD) Programme

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



120
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ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

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



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



Energy management systems at municipal buildings, Armenia

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

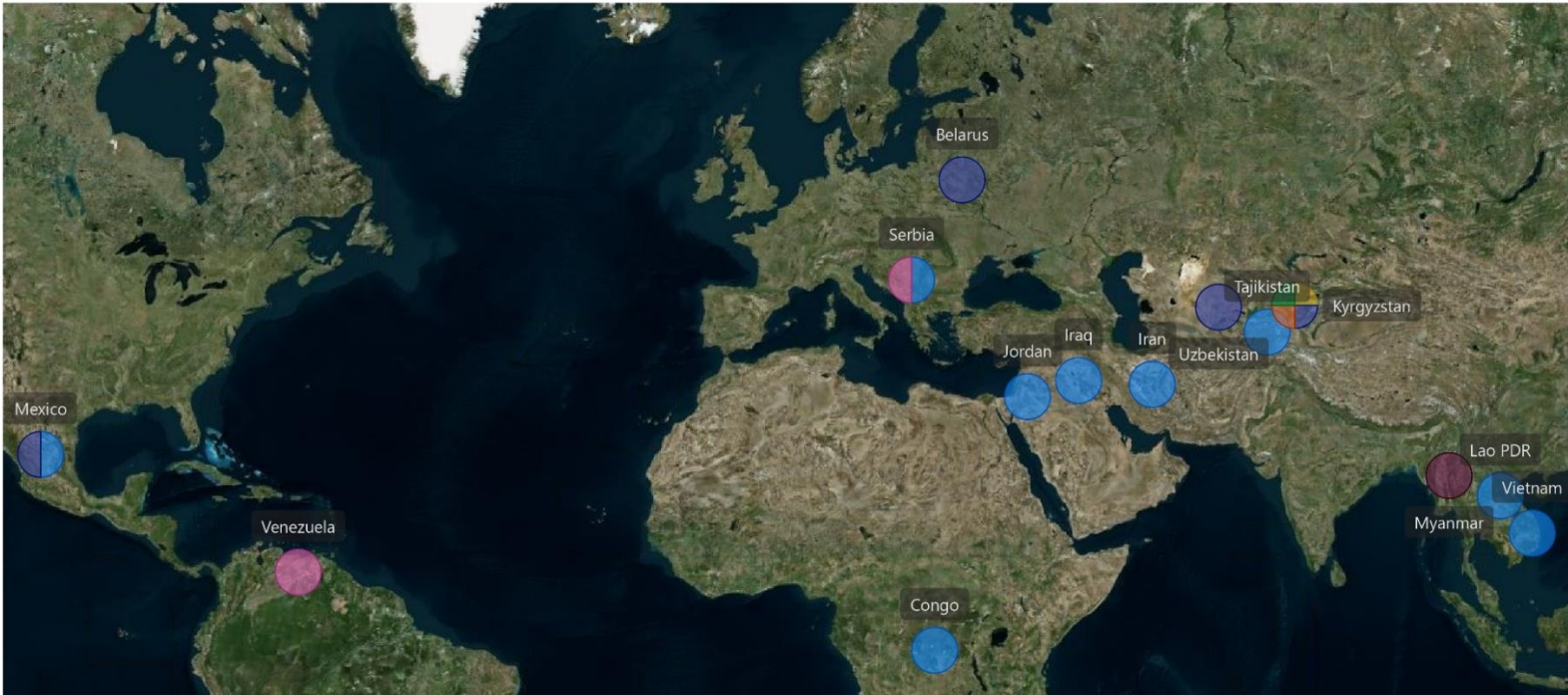
You are invited to [submit an application](#) to be included in the Database. Do not forget to:

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

Annex 10.2.10. The list and map of UN volunteers under the Russian FF programme in 2024

UN host entities of serving volunteers

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



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