

Institutional Support MP XI-UNDP-PAK-00129690

B0424 - Pakistan - Islamabad

REPORTING PERIOD 2021- 2027

Narrative

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1. Executive Summary

2. Background

3. Key Results Achieved

- **Level of Reporting:**

Output level results

Project Outputs:

Activity 1: Institutional Strengthening

Contributing Outcomes:

Outcome 3 By 2027, people living in the Indus River Basin, particularly the most vulnerable, including women, girls, boys, persons with special needs and senior citizens, will have their lives positively impacted by improved water access and utilization, economic development, livelihoods, climate-resilient settlements, and prosperity.

Contributing Outputs:

PAK_OUTPUT_3.1 In line with international conventions and national policy frameworks, implementation mechanisms are strengthened to promote, manage and conserve natural resources

Progress Note:

MP Output 1 - Improved stakeholder's capacity and awareness on environmental effects of the emissions of controlled substances promoted and mechanism effectively implemented. Montreal Protocol (MP)-UNDP under its Output 1 arranged a high-level forum on 16th Sep 2024 comprising of government officials, academia, industry and civil society for gauging their support for ozone layer protection, phasing out of HCFC, mainstreaming gender in RAC sector, and ratification of Kigali Amendment. Government of Pakistan remains steadfast for its commitments under Montreal Protocol and is poised to contribute even more to the fight against global warming through the Kigali Amendment (E1-policy forum report). The seminar titled "Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Action" was arranged by Montreal Protocol on 24th Dec 2024. The forum highlighted Pakistan's incredible progress in fulfilling its ozone recovery commitments and its ambitious steps toward meeting HCFC reduction targets by 2030. The seminar brought together experts, policymakers, and youth to reaffirm the collective commitment for ozone protection and accelerate climate action for a sustainable future. Key discussions

highlighted Montreal Protocol, Pakistan status and its linkages with climate change; implications of energy efficiency on HFCs phase-down; and gender mainstreaming in climate change with focus on Montreal Protocol. Pakistani youth showcased their passion for the planet through engaging quiz competitions, creative poster presentations, and cultural performances. The stakeholders reiterated their commitment for strengthening climate action under the Montreal Protocol and working towards a healthier ozone layer (E2-social media posts). MP-UNDP through the aforementioned forums strived to improve stakeholder's capacity (output 1) and contributed towards CP Output 3.1 by supporting Government of Pakistan to achieve targets set under Montreal Protocol – an international convention and thus supported phase out ODS.

- **Level of Reporting:**

Project level results

Contributing Outcomes:

Contributing Outputs:

Progress Note:

Montreal Protocol as per its scope and mandate of improving stakeholder's capacity and awareness on environmental effects of the emissions of controlled substances and mechanisms effectively implemented, carried out activities approved under AWP-2024. Under Activity 1.1.1.a, a policy forum was organized on 16th Sep 2024 and a seminar was arranged on 24th Dec 2024. The public awareness raising events envisioned to increase commitments at national level for phasing-out of HCFC in Pakistan. By end of events, participants demonstrated an increased level of commitment for environment protection and unanimously stressed the need for ozone layer protection, phasing-out of ODS, HCFC and ensuring compliance with the Montreal Protocol (MP) and other related international commitments (E1-E2). Under Activity 1.1.1.b, an informative animated video is also being prepared. In this regard, script was prepared. With due approval of RECCU and communication unit, the approved script was shared with human design to develop the animated video which is expected to be completed by mid-Jan 2025. The objective remains to make targeted audience (youth) understand Montreal Protocol and Kigali amendment (Script-E3). As per Activity 1.1.1.c, the Meeting of Parties (MOP) meeting of the Montreal Protocol was attended by the National Project Manager (NPM) in Oct 2024. The participation of the NPM at the forum was necessary for Montreal Protocol Project as it provided the opportunity to present Pakistan's stance as well as learn from international experience of best strategies for ODS phase out, LRM management, and conversion of industries to ozone friendly technologies. Activity 1.2.1.a and Activity 1.2.1.b of the approved AWP-2024 called for preparation of guidelines for mainstreaming gender in the implementation of Montreal Protocol in Pakistan as per the MLF requirement & expert assessment on gathering requirements of establishing HFC Licensing System for effective management of import of HFCs in Pakistan (Post-Kigali Amendment ratification scenario in 2024). Both studies have been advertised and will be completed by end Jan 2025 (TORs

gender study E4 & expert assessment study E5). Under the approved Activity 1.3.1.a and 1.3.1.b, monitoring of the HCFCs import was ensured on regular basis. Apart from collecting HCFCs import data from FBR, MP-NOU also collected the data from HCFCs importer for appropriate reconciliation. MP-NOU responded to Informal Prior Informed Consent (iPIC) requests during the reporting period. HCFCs import quota review meetings were held between 24th-30th Nov 2024 at Karachi and Lahore. The importers visited included M/s KATYS, M/s Luck Corporation, M/s Atee & Co, M/s Kaghan Chemicals Co, M/s Saqib Enterprises and M/s Nasir Corporation, M/s Khan Brothers, M/s Master Offisys and M/s Simlim International, M/s Nile Trading and M/s Zaffar Brothers, Lahore office. The meetings provided an opportunity to assess the HCFCs import details prevalent in the year 2024 and discussed the import progress with importers. MP-NOU also assessed the utilization status of the importers and directed them to submit the confirmed import plans so that quota re-allocation could be considered (if required). Lastly, under Activity 1.4.1.a support was extended to Government of Pakistan for timely submission of the Article-7 data report and Country Program Reports to the Ozone Secretariat and is in full compliance with regard to implementation of Montreal Protocol in Pakistan (A7 Report-E6 & CP Report-E7).

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4. Key Challenges Encountered

- **Level of Reporting:**

Output level results

Project Outputs:

Activity 1: Institutional Strengthening

Contributing Outcomes:

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Contributing Outputs:

PAK_OUTPUT_3.1 In line with international conventions and national policy frameworks, implementation mechanisms are strengthened to promote, manage and conserve natural resources

Progress Note:

Traditionally, Montreal Protocol technical thematic areas (HCFC, refrigeration and air-conditioning-RAC manufacturing, and servicing) are male dominant sectors. MLF requires equitable female participation in technical areas of Montreal Protocol (MP). UNDP also advocates for women empowerment. However, in perspective of the technical nature of work, structural and social behaviors, and the amount of physical work involved in the refrigeration and air-conditioning sectors, the involvement of women in these sectors is a real challenge. To overcome this challenge and minimize the gender gap in HCFC and RAC sectors, MP-UNDP through a policy forum emphasized the importance of gender mainstreaming in the RAC sector and received a positive response from all stakeholders that they will continue playing their part for minimizing gender disparity in the RAC sector. Continuous liaison with relevant stakeholders is imperative to bring the change.

- **Level of Reporting:**

Project level results

Contributing Outcomes:

Contributing Outputs:

Progress Note:

- Data collection from segregated sources like FBR, importers, industries, government counter parts and servicing sector is a cumbersome process. The data recording/screening in Pakistan is also accorded less priority. This was overcome by collecting the data from maximum possible sources so that best possible information could be inferred.
- Despite efforts from NPM and his team, the signing of AWP-2024 and LoA attachment was delayed. This interrupted the timelines set to achieve the targets. AWP-2024 was approved in end Oct 2024. MP staff under the guidance of NPM executed activities at fast track basis and strived to achieve maximum delivery.
- Approvals and endorsement from the MoCC&EC/IP and various sections of UNDP-CO to initiate project activities in due time is time consuming and may lead to delays in achieving the project deliverables. To address the same, close coordination with all partners was maintained.
- Non-availability of the relevant consultants/expertise may also hinder the timely progress against the targets. A group of subject experts may be maintained by Montreal Protocol.
- Strong support from NPD (representative nominated by Federal Secretary, MoCC) is required otherwise carrying out the activities is a tedious task.

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5. Project Risks and Issues

Key risks are reported in Risk log and reiterated hereafter: • If there is political change in the country and/or any bilateral/global political crises, the Government may become unstable. Subsequently, priorities of caretaker government may differ and provinces may also cause critical

implementation issues. This may lead to frailties in the compliance to international commitments by the Government. Moreover, without sufficient levels of commitment from federal and provincial Government, the MP project activities cannot be successfully implemented. To mitigate this risk, Government counterparts will be consulted on a regular basis with an intent to enhance ownership, commitment and ensure compliance to Montreal Protocol (MP).

- If the security of the industrial premises and safety of the concerned persons is compromised/mishandled then due to the flammability characteristic of the alternate refrigerants being introduced in the local market and/or improper handling of new refrigerants, flammability related accidents may occur. It is imperative that Government takes extra precautions for ensuring safety and security of people in Industrial areas where the ODS based industry is established and the importers have stocks. Thus, unpredictable security/safety situation may hinder project implementation. As a mitigation measure, adherence to the Government/UN protocol regarding safety and security will be ensured. MP may also disseminate safety related messages and warnings to the concerned stakeholders.
- If the policies and documents developed by the project are not adopted by local institutions in true spirit, this may lead to low success of conversion to ozone friendly industries as their success to a major extent depends on how recommendations of the project (based on policies and documents developed by project) are adopted by the national stakeholders. To mitigate this risk, participatory process will prevail so that recommendations of projects formulated in due consultation of national partners and relevant stakeholders are adopted by the concerned entities.
- Delay in approval of the particular project phase and/or any other issues may delay release of funds and subsequently execution of project activities may be impacted. Timely availability and expense of resources as per agreed AWP is crucial for steady project implementation progress. To mitigate this risk, payment schedule will be agreed with the donor and followed.
- If the capacity building activities are not properly planned and executed, this may result in less community involvement which is vital for ozone protection and effective natural resource management. Capacity building activities will be based on participatory methods, and will make sure community concerns, interests are integrated into project implementation framework.
- Political instability, economic downturn, foreign investment in country, security conditions may result in dollar rate fluctuations. This may impact project cost estimates of various activities. To mitigate this risk, MP will ensure guidance when preparing budget of the project and to cater for over / under estimation budget revisions will be prepared.

6. Lessons Learned

- Montreal Protocol project implementation in Pakistan went through a transition phase wherein Phase XI was successfully completed by Dec 2023 and Phase XII was initiated from 1st April 2024. Project closure and initiation documentation as required by UNDP-CO was prepared (success).
- It is essential that proper documentation is prepared and submitted by MP to MoCC&EC & UNDP-CO as per needs and requirements. This was successfully carried out in 2024 and the project achieved a good delivery (success).
- Montreal Protocol team believes that effective working requires establishment of collaborations. For all major project activities, collaborations with the relevant departments/institutions were established/revived in 2024. for example (i) awareness raising campaigns were carried out in collaboration with various academic institutes (ii) data is collected from FBR and importers (success).
- Timely release and transfer of funds to Montreal Protocol is essential for the effective execution of work plan activities

(challenge). • Hiring of competent staff is a pre-requisite for successful project implementation. (success). • MP is an innovative and cross-cutting project that requires subject specialists from various fields (challenge). • The MP project with the financial assistance of Multilateral Fund (MLF) has provided assistance to industry in switching over to Non-HCFC technology and resolved their problems by coordinating with implementing agencies in an effective manner. The analysis of the ongoing project gave a lesson that clearly fixed targets, selection of proven technology, pre-inspection of equipment by beneficiary industries, close coordination with national and 'international stakeholders, cordial relationship among the National Project Director, National Project Manager, FBR/Customs and Implementation Agencies is the key to successful implementation of any project. Strict adherence to planned activities and dedication of MP team played a pivotal role in the successful implementation of the project (success). • Technicians training programme in formal and informal sector are of prime importance as the technology in RAC sector is overwhelming and new technologies are also emerging with flammability issues. Extensive training in RAC sector is required (challenge). • Training of professionals in formal/informal sector institutes equipped with latest technological equipment and machinery are vital to compete/inject the skilled professionals / labour in local /international market (challenge). • Awareness on ozone related issue is the success key for protecting the ozone layer and to mitigate climate change issues. Dissemination of information through pictures and short video messages leave long lasting expressions on target audience mind. MP ensured visibility of MP interventions through UNDP social media platforms (success).

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7. Conclusions and Way Forward

Pakistan is successfully implementing the Montreal Protocol and so far, eleven phase of the project have been completed and phase XII is under operation from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2027. Project is moving towards 67.5% reduction targets of the HCFCs till 1st January, 2025 and 100% HCFC reduction by 2030. The HCFC Phase out Management Plan helped Pakistan in modernizing its foam industry and phasing out the HCFC 141 b. Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination has the authority develop and coordinate such activities which are helpful for the phasing out the ozone depleting substances with the assistance of National Ozone Unit. The Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer reached agreement at their 28th Meeting of the Parties on 15 October 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda to phase-down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). HFCs are commonly used alternatives to ozone depleting substances (ODS). While not ozone depleting substances themselves, HFCs are greenhouse gases which can have high or very high global warming potentials (GWPs), ranging from about 121 to 14,800. With ratification of Kigali Amendment, Pakistan like all other countries is moving towards HFC phase down which now is a binding for all countries that have ratified. So far Pakistan has not ratified the Kigali Amendment but has completed all requisite documentation and is expected to ratify Kigali amendment in 2025. The MP project will continue providing policy level support to the phase down strategies of HFCs to meet the international commitments related to Montreal Protocol. AWP-2024 for IS component of MP project was approved by the MoCC&EC & UNDP in end Oct 2024. Subsequently, since start of Nov 2024 various approved activities were initiated.

TORs for various programme activities were formulated; seminar on the theme of World Ozone Day-2024 were organized; animated video is being prepared; import quota review meetings were conducted; HCFC import data was collected from FBR/PRAL, analyzed. Research related to mainstreaming gender in the implementation of Montreal Protocol and expert assessment for HFC licensing system are being carried out. All activities were carried with due diligence and as per the procedures of UNDP. Montreal Protocol is expected to keep its momentum and perform the following activities in 2025. • Endorsement of AWP-2025 and arrangement of PSC. • Preparation of Project Document for IS Phase XII. • Organize the World Ozone Day-2025 for improving stakeholders' awareness & capacity building. Moreover, initiate public awareness campaign(s) on protection of Ozone layer through print/electronic/social media. • Develop awareness raising material for participants of MP related seminars/workshops/events. • Open-ended Working Group (OEWG), Conference of the Parties, Meetings of the Parties, Regional Networks meetings by UNEP/UNDP, and other relevant events to be attended in 2025. • Carry out maintenance and updating of NOU website • Engage academia/expert to carry out gender analysis and prepare gender action plan for Montreal Protocol in Pakistan. • Collect and analyze HCFC import data from FBR/PRAL and distribute import quota distributed in line with the online data collection by quota holders and in accordance with 67.5% reduction target from baseline of 248.11 ODP tons. • Import review meetings/events with HCFCs and HFCs quota holders and other stakeholders to be held. • Country Programme Report and Article 7 Data report to be submitted to UNEP Secretariat and Multilateral Fund Secretariat of the Montreal Protocol respectively.

8. Other Reporting Requirements

- **Reporting Requirements**

Gender Related Reporting

Montreal Protocol is a GEN-01 Project. MP project strive to ensure equitable participation of women in awareness raising programmes. Moreover, the project is working on preparation of guidelines for mainstreaming gender.

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