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PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD[1]: January to December 2025

Signed and endorsed by:

DocuSigned by:
Ashish Chaturvedi
FC837FD25D5E462...

Team Leader, Action for Climate and Environment

Project Summary Information	
Project Title	Accelerating Transition to a Circular Economy in India's Electrical and Electronic Sector through Sustainable Integrated Approaches
Project ID	01002115
Project Duration	1 March 2024 to 31 December 2025
Location	Pan India
CPD Outcome and Outputs	Country Programme Document for India (2023-2027): Output:3.1: Institutional and policy frameworks developed and strengthened to address climate change, enhance green recovery, prevent environmental degradation and promote conservation and circular economy.
Gender marker	GEN 2
Implementing Partner	UNDP
Total Project Budget (USD)	300,000
Donors (funding sources)	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
Annual Budget (USD)	USD 252,736
Funds received during the reporting period (USD & INR)	USD 300,000
Expenditure recorded for the reporting period (USD)	USD 171,432
Expenditure recorded for the total project (USD)	USD 193,028
Project Manager name:	Neha Pai

[1] Periodicity of this project progress report will be determined based on online input; it can be used quarterly, half-yearly, or annually. The minimum requirement for Project Board to meet at least once to review progress and risks is annual - per policy.

Docusign Envelope ID: 88491F9B-D18A-4762-BE45-1CE52B53DEBB

1. Executive Summary

- *Prepare a **standardized and concise project introduction** including the project objective, key outputs, and geographic landscapes **that can be reused** across all progress reports for the project in each reporting cycle.*
- *Provide a **1–2 paragraph summary of key achievements** during the reporting period.*
- *Briefly mention **any major challenges** encountered.*
- *Tip: Keep this section **crisp and high-level, and absolutely results-oriented (NOT activity oriented);** details will follow in later sections.*

The project represents the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase, focused on the formulation of a comprehensive project document and other supporting documentation essential for the full project implementation.

The objective of the GEF PPG is to develop the project concept into a full project: Accelerating Transition to a Circular Economy in India's Electrical and Electronic Sector through Sustainable Integrated Approaches. The project aims to reduce (and/or eliminate) the adverse impacts of POPs, UPOPs and heavy metal (such as mercury) on human health and environment by making strategic interventions across the life cycle of electrical and electronic equipment and strengthening India's capacity for the environmentally sound management of electrical and electronic wastes (e-waste) through integrated approaches.

The project document and the CEO Endorsement package along with the mandatory annexures were submitted to GEF in May 2025. The full size project received approval from the GEF Secretariat in August 2025 and the Project Document was signed in December 2025.

Challenges

One of the major challenges encountered during the reporting period was securing letters of commitment for co-financing from the private sector. These letters are mandatory annexures to the project document, and outreach to industry stakeholders, as well as convincing them to provide the required commitments, proved to be challenging. Going forward, for all future PPGs requiring co-financing, letters of commitment should be sought well in advance to save time and effort.

2. Progress Review

a) Narrative Reporting

- *Highlight concrete **output-wise (Outcome-wise in case of Vertical Funds) results** to maintain a logical flow. This should be linked to the indicators as outlined in the project results framework in the project document and as per the activities mentioned in the approved AWP.*

Docusign Envelope ID: 88491F9B-D18A-4762-BE45-1CE52B53DEBB

- *Include progress towards **gender equality and women's empowerment** in the reporting period. If applicable, highlight achievements in digitalization and innovation.*

The project represents the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase, focused on the formulation of a comprehensive project document and other supporting documentation essential for the full project implementation.

The project undertook the following components:

Component A: Preparatory Technical Studies & Reviews- Desktop and field-based studies and data collection, Gender Analysis, Social and Environmental Standards: Screening and Assessments, Financial planning, co-financing, and investment mobilized, Stakeholder analysis, Appraise and formulate the most appropriate project implementation and execution modality

Component B: Formulation of the UNDP-GEF Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request, and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes

Component C: Validation Workshop and Report

During the reporting period, the draft Project Document (ProDoc) along with following annexes was finalized and submitted in April 2025 to GEF for CEO endorsement of the project:

1. Multi Year Work Plan
2. Endorsement-stage Tracking Tool including METTs/Core Indicators
3. TOR for Project Board, Project Manager, Chief Technical Advisor and other positions as appropriate
4. SESP
5. Environmental and Social Management Plan or Framework (ESMP or ESMF) as relevant
6. Stakeholder Engagement Plan
7. Gender Analysis and Action Plan
8. UNDP Project Quality Assurance Report
9. UNDP Risk Log
10. Procurement Plan

Besides the development of the CEO Endorsement documents as well as ProDoc, the project also undertook the development of a communication strategy for generating awareness and promoting sustainable e-waste management practices across India. I3RC Insights Private Limited was identified and engaged through direct contracting for the assignment. Additionally, a feasibility study was undertaken for establishing an end-to-end e-waste recycling facility in India.

a) Indicator and Expenditure Reporting

Docusign Envelope ID: 88491F9B-D18A-4762-BE45-1CE52B53DEBB

Output statement	Indicator	Baseline Value	End of the project target	Actuals achieved against target for the indicator[2]	Evidence[3]	Budget as per AWP (USD)	Actual Expenditure (USD)	Remarks (if any)
Project Document package developed and submitted to GEF for approval	Preparation and submission of project document package for GEF's approval	-	Submission of Prodoc and CEO ER package to GEF	The GEF CEO Endorsement package along with project document was prepared and submitted. It received approval on 9 August 2025.	GEF CEO approval letter			

[2] Please report cumulative actuals.

[3] Means of verification will require evidence, links, reference, photos, transcripts from exit interviews, feedback surveys, call center reports, phone verification, etc. All methods and means used to collect and report on the results should be described, and links prepared for future reference, spot checking, and verification by independent teams when necessary. It also means that the same expectation will apply when third-party monitors are used.

If the data source involved meetings, then details of meeting participants and matters discussed and agreed actions should be documented as part of the evidence/data source.

Docusign Envelope ID: 88491F9B-D18A-4762-BE45-1CE52B53DEBB

Total AWP Budget and and Actual Expenditure (USD)	USD 252,736	USD 171,432	
Co-financing Materialized for VFs (USD)	119,588,234		

3. Challenges encountered, project risks and mitigation measures

- *Define key challenges and risks noted/materialized, whether new/recurrent/persistent.*
- *Describe new risks identified and propose ways to correct a course of action and agreed with responsible members to address these and the timelines. Describe if escalation is required for Project Board or other mechanisms. Update the project risk register accordingly.*
- *Latest version of Offline **Project Risk register** **must be attached as an annex** to the report.*

Risk 1: Delay in approvals from the Government and change in incumbency of Government officials

Mitigation: Constant engagement with the Government counterparts to keep them informed on the status of the project design process.

Risk 2: Risk of exclusion of representatives from the private sector and informal sector groups from participating in project planning and design processes related to the environmentally sound management of e-waste.

Mitigation: Stakeholder mapping, consultations and focused group discussions conducted during the project designing.

4. Social and Environmental Standards (SES) Reporting (Applicable for moderate, substantial, and high risk projects)

- *Describe the SES risks (existing and new) identified for the project via the SESP.*
- *Has the SESP been updated during the reporting period? If yes, provide a brief description of new risks added and proposed mitigation measures.*
- *Provide an update on the SES risk assessment and management plans recommended as per the SESP.*
- *Provide an update on the Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) under the project*
- *Has any issue been reported under the project during the reporting period through GRM or any other reporting mechanism? Provide status update.*

The **Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP)** was conducted during the **Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase** as part of the **ProDoc package**, resulting in a **moderate social and environmental risk classification**. A total of **9 SES risks** were

Docusign Envelope ID: 88491F9B-D18A-4762-BE45-1CE52B53DEBB

identified, spanning all **UNDP programming principles** and relevant **project-level Social and Environmental Standards**.

Based on the identified risks, several **SES risk management instruments** have been developed as part of the ProDoc package. These include a **Gender Action Plan (GAP)**, a **Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)**, and an **Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)**. These instruments outline the mitigation measures, roles, and responsibilities required to manage identified risks during project implementation.

SES risk management measures will commence with project implementation. The **GRM will be operationalized during the implementation phase** to ensure accessible and transparent channels for beneficiaries and stakeholders to raise concerns and seek redress.

5. Communications and Visibility

Please provide URLs specific to this project (for example, project websites, social media sites, media coverage, etc.) as far as this is applicable. Note that some of these links would be the evidence and data sources for point no. 3 above.

UNDP Press Release announcing the approval of GEF full size project: https://www.undp.org/india/press-releases/india-advances-transition-circular-economy-electronics-sector-gef-and-undp-support

India Today: https://www.indiatoday.in/environment/story/india-undp-united-nation-e-waste-management-mobile-waste-mercury-lead-sustainable-practices-climate-change-2802743-2025-10-14

Deccan Herald: https://www.deccanherald.com/india/global-e-waste-tops-60-million-tonnes-india-ramps-up-circular-economy-drive-3763506

6. Partnerships

Provide details of new partnerships (financial/non-financial) realized during the reporting period.

The project was able to garner co-financing of a total amount of USD 119,588,234 which includes USD 10 million each from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Additionally, USD 94.5 million was contributed by private sector entities which mainly include e-waste recycling companies.

7. Lessons Learned and Way Forward

Document any lessons that will be applied to address challenges or improve the implementation pace. Outline any good practices, as applicable. Based on the above, mention key issues which need to be addressed/prioritized for next reporting period

Docusign Envelope ID: 88491F9B-D18A-4762-BE45-1CE52B53DEBB

The GEF CEO Endorsement for the project was received on 9 August 2025. The PPG project is scheduled to end on 31 December 2025.

8. Annexures

*Provide **CO SharePoint/public website links** to the sources of evidence.*

1. GEF CEO Endorsement Letter