

Reporting Agency: UNDP

Country: Armenia

## MONITORING ACTION AND STANDARD PROGRESS REPORT

No. and title: 00129879 / 00123410 Building Back Better Through Strengthening Resilience of Rural Communities in Ararat, Aragatsotn, Armavir, and Kotayk regions/ Sustainable Communities

Reporting period: January 2021-December 2021

### I. PURPOSE

The project aims at supporting the socioeconomic recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic of the local communities in Ararat, Armavir, Kotayk and Aragatsotn Regions helping the rural areas build back better and strengthening their resilience against the likely recurrence of the COVID-19 or similar health crisis. The Project's specific objectives are:

- ✓ *Increase involvement of all segments of the target communities in the recovery planning and monitoring towards building context-specific data on the community level.*
- ✓ *Strengthen food security and increase rural households' self-sufficiency by building green and resilient value chains.*
- ✓ *Help rural population, including the youth and women, cope with the adversity of COVID-19 through protecting and creating jobs, as well as income generation opportunities*
- ✓ *Support the rural settlements to restore and build back better their basic services, including primary healthcare services.*

The project has started in January 2021 and will last three years (**2021-2023**) and is implemented in cooperation with the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI).

The Project's theory of change is the following:

If the Project ensures availability of context-specific data through active engagement of all the segments of the community both in recovery planning and monitoring, which will inform not only the implementation of all the Project components but will support decision making on the national, regional and local levels, and the assumption that public participation helps to design measures towards recovery and crisis response, as well as solutions and nudge behaviors which are acceptable and supported by the local population, and thus are durable, holds.

AND

If based on the findings of the planning stage food security is strengthened and self-sufficiency is increased for the rural households through green and resilient value chains, and the assumption that continuity of food supply and the sustainable investment in the agricultural sector stabilizes the local economies and reduces the vulnerability to the crises holds.

AND

If the local population, including the youth and women, get access to income generation opportunities, including through job creation, protection, and capacity building for meeting the changing needs of the labor market, and the assumption that the crises are more palpable on the micro- rather than on macro-level and the income restoration for the most vulnerable groups will speed up the recovery of local economies holds.

AND

If the access to basic services, including primary healthcare is facilitated through restored infrastructure, and the assumption that functional infrastructure is an important part of the response mechanism to crises and increases the efficiency of crisis response, in general, holds,

THEN the Project will contribute to the socio-economic recovery of the local communities in Ararat, Armavir, Kotayk, and Aragatsotn Regions helping the rural areas build back better and strengthening their resilience against the current COVID-19 crisis and future recurrent or similar health and socio-economic crises.

## II. RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

	Total Project Budget	Current Year (2020)			All Years Delivery as of SPR date (USD)	All Years Delivery rate as of SPR date (%)
		Annual Budget	Delivery as of SPR date (USD)	Delivery rate as of SPR date (%)		
Government of Russian federation	1,700,000 USD	484,488 USD	460,264	95%	440,884	26%
Total:	1,700,000 USD	484,488 USD	460,264	95%	440,884	26%

*The project has leveraged 73,602 USD in cooperation with the private sector in the scope of the “My village” project as well as 10,474 USD from the public sector as a part of 80/100 co-financing scheme*

## III. RESULTS AND ANNUAL SNAPSHOT

The project is contributing towards UNDAF/CPD outcome 4: people, communities and regions benefit from equitable economic opportunities, as well as decent work and sustainable livelihoods enabled through competitiveness and inclusive green growth and output 1.1: marginalized groups are empowered to gain universal access to basic services and financial and non-financial assets to build productive capacities and benefit from sustainable livelihoods and **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 1,3,5,8,10,11**

2021

### Summary

- ✓ Supported 11 SMEs creating 30 new workplaces
- ✓ Supported 2 Bakeries creating 4 new income-generating opportunities
- ✓ Provided 970m tubes for construction of the drinking water systems in 3 schools
- ✓ Modified lighting system for more than 20 km in 12 settlements
- ✓ Provided 1100 kg of original wheat seed for replication purposes
- ✓ Provided a solar panel of 50 kW to the community (pilot)
- ✓ Installed a water heater of 300 liters in school (pilot)
- ✓ Renovated a space of 11 sqm and internal water system in kindergarten to accommodate 60 kids

In 2021, the project primarily focused on strengthening basic infrastructure and comprehensively conducting needs-based assessments. The project piloted projects to gather data and through summative evaluation and rigorous assessment plan the continuation of the project. **11 SMEs (7 of them were women-owned)** were supported within the scope of the “My Village” project with the potential of creating **30 new workplaces**.

**2 bakeries** (1 women-owned) were established and received technical support to launch their activities with the potential of creating **4 new income-generating opportunities** for the rural population.

As a result of open “Solar 24” open competition, **606 energy-efficient street lighting luminaires have been installed** in 12 settlements of Kotayk, Ararat, Armavir, and Aragatsotn regions for more than **20kms** improving the standards of living for **16,664 people (8374 women)** by enhancing street security and safety.

**325 kids benefited** from the construction of the 970 meters of drinking water supply system in 3 schools in the Aragatsotn and Ararat regions.

A Zangakatun community has been provided with pilot **solar panels of 50 kW capacity** for cost-cutting effect on the community utility expenses. The solar panels provide full coverage to the street lighting expenses, administrative building and generating savings for other needs.

A water panel (**300-litre capacity**) has also been piloted in the school of Zangakatun community that will provide hot water to the school (**162 kids**).

**60 kids** (including temporary displaced) will benefit from the renovation of a space of 110 sqm and an internal water system in the kindergarten of Charentsavan community.

Activity/ Output	Expected Annual Targets/Indicators						Annual budget 2021
	Activities	Planned 2021-2023	Planned 2021	Actual Reporting Period 2021	Target reached	Total Target reached	
1. Increase involvement of all segments of the target communities in the recovery planning and monitoring towards building context- specific data on the community level	1. Several women, men, youth report awareness of and engagement in the recovery planning and monitoring in their communities.	w) 400 m) 400 y) 300	w) 150 m) 150 y) 75	0	0	0	
	1.1 Number of communities with recovery plans	40	15	5	33%	13%	
	1.2 Number of community resilience teams established and functioning	40	15	0	0	0	
	1.2.1 Upgrade of Community Relationship Management (CoRM) database of the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI) is completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
<b>Total</b>							\$ 49,680.00
2. Strengthen food security and increase rural	2. a) increase in the production volume/cultivation area of the essential foods/crops in the	a) 30%  b) w-4000 m-4000 y-2000	a) 10%  b) w-800 m-800 y-400	0	0	0	

households' self-sufficiency by building green and resilient agricultural value chains.	target regions						
	b) Number of women, men, youth directly involved in the value chains.						
	2.1 Number of logistics centres established by the Project	2	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>							\$ 297,000.00
3. Help rural populations, including the youth and women, cope with the adversity of COVID-19 through protecting and creating jobs, as well as income generation opportunities.	3. a) Number of women, men, youth in the regions benefiting from job creation and income generation opportunities	a) w-20 m-20 y-120 b) 70 out of women -35	a) m-5, w-5, y-10 b) 0	a) m-14, w-20, y-0 b) 0	a) m-180%, w-300%, y) 0% b) 0%	a) m-100%, w-150%, y-0% b) 0%	
	b) Number of youths with access to new learning facilities						
	3.1 a) Number of SMEs co-financed by the Project b) Number of SMEs benefitting from capacity-building opportunities	a) 20 out of which women-owned SMEs-9 youth-owned SMEs-5 b) 75	a) 5 out of which women-owned SMEs 2, youth-owned SMEs -1 b) 25	a) 13 out of which w-8 b) 11	a) 160% b) (-56%)	a) 30% b) 15%	
3.2 a) Number of training facilities created by the Project in local VET institutions b) Number of extension courses tailored to the needs of each region c) Number of career trails implemented by the Project	a) 3 b) 12 c) 15	a) 0 b) 0 c) 0	a) 0 b) 0 c) 0	a) 0% b) 0% c) 0%	a) 0% b) 0% c) 0%		
<b>Total</b>							\$ 192,240.00

	4. Percentage of local populations in each community benefitting from improved basic services (final target in absolute figures, out of which)	100%	50%	50%	100%	50%	
4. Support the rural settlements to restore and build back better their basic services, including primary healthcare services.	4.1 a) Number of communities, where the crisis preparedness level of the rural healthcare facilities was evaluated  b) Number of healthcare facilities renovated	a)40 b)10	a)15 b)0	a)0 b)0	a)0% b)0%	a) 0% b) 0%	
	4.2 a) Number of education facilities with improved water supply  b) Number of communities with restored street lighting  c) the total length in km of the built street lighting  d) Number of public facilities benefitting from introduced risk mitigation measures	a) 15 b) 7 c) 6km d) TBD	a) 2 b) 1 c) 1km d) TBD	a) 0 b) 4 c) 23km d)0	a) 0% b) 300% c) 2200% d) 0%	a) 0% b) 143% c) 100% d) 0%	
<b>Total</b>							\$ 272,160.00
5. Management Cost							
<b>Total</b>							\$ 73,980.00
<b>Grand Total</b>							\$ <b>885,060</b>

## **Component 1: Increase involvement of all segments of the target communities in the recovery planning and monitoring towards building context-specific data on the community level.**

2021

### **Planning:**

As a corollary of the Covid-19 outbreak accompanied by the post-conflict NK crisis, the Project postponed the community participatory consultations because should contribute to the development of a holistic socio-economic recovery plan. In 2021, participatory planning was



mainly conducted on the levels of community heads and governors' offices.

In pursuit of ensuring a bottom-up approach and systematic recovery, the Project will mobilize and train active community members into idea generation, implementation, and recovery plan formation.



## **Component 2: Strengthen food security and increase rural households' self-sufficiency by building green and resilient agricultural value chains.**

2021

### **Food Security and Value Chains:**

**1100 kg of wheat seed** has been provided to the Agriculture Scientific Center, Armavir region to support their scientific experiments of processing high-quality seeds and conducting trials of high-quality seed breeding chains in different regions of Armenia.

Based on the findings of the feasibility study it is proven that Armenia's high dependency on food imports these a huge threat for livelihoods in terms of food availability particularly during the force majeure like COVID-19, hereby the project plans to open a community seed reserve bank and logistic centers which will ensure local self-sufficiency, therefore, increase the level of economic resilience and food security in targeted regions.



To assess the prospects of opening a seed reserve bank, the project initiated negotiations with the Agriculture Scientific Center in the Armavir region, Lusagyugh settlement in the Aragatsotn region to further explore the availability of arable lands there that could provide for the seed cultivation.

To attain the objective of ensuring food security and self-sufficiency among rural households, the project will evaluate the outcome and the available budget after the pilot and depending on the result continue, terminate, or reshape the model of opening logistics centers in different locations. This initiative should consider the model of logistics centers as storage/processing infrastructures such as "Ambar" a seed reserve bank implemented and currently processing in Chambarak community piloted within the scope of Russian funded Project "Fostering Participatory Development in Bordering Settlements of Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor Regions" by UNDP.

### **Component 3: Help rural population, including the youth and women, cope with the adversity of COVID-19 through protecting and creating jobs, as well as income generation opportunities.**

2021

#### **SME support:**

The Project has launched “My Village” and “Start-Me-Up” initiatives to increase local economic resilience in response to COVID 19 challenges. “My Village” aimed to identify and co-financing new and existing small business entrepreneurs to foster productivity, renovate, and reequip innovative ideas in the agricultural sector, thus contributing to the long-term goal of self-dependency and food security settlements.



Whereas the objective of the Start-me-up initiative was aimed at supporting SMEs to improve the provision of services not directly related to agriculture in rural areas.

As a result of the public call, **11 projects (such as tea, cheese, mushroom production)** were approved by the Selection Committee composed of representatives from the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of RA, Ministry of Economy of RA, and UNDP) and launched (**7 of which are female owned**). Besides obtaining social betterment in the settlements, as a result of the project interventions overall over **30 people (18 out of which were women) got access to income-generating opportunities** in Ararat, Aragatsotn and Kotayk regions.

1.	Tea production
2.	Mushroom spawns' production
3.	Quail eggs production
4.	Honey Wine production
5.	Grain production
6.	Azaria wine production
7.	Organic cosmetics production "Nazarian"
8.	Semi-cooked food production
9.	Cuniculture small farm establishment
10.	Cheese production
11.	Kataro wine

#### **Bakeries:**

Based on the feasibility study findings, the Project revealed the deficiency of high-quality factory-made bread in most settlements. In addition, COVID-19 has exacerbated the situation as the bread supply was heavily dependent on the community center's distance and the road conditions, hence during the pandemic it was not practically possible to ensure livelihoods with proper food supply.

Therefore, the Project identified the development of bakeries as a priority direction in supporting the local livelihoods. The Project has launched the “My Village” initiative in the scope of supporting the creation of **2 bakeries (1 of which are female owned)** in Kotayk region in collaboration with the private sector with a co-financing model of 70/30. Those projects created **4 employment opportunities** meanwhile indirectly benefiting livelihoods for 16 people.

## Component 4: Support the rural settlements to restore and build back better their basic services, including primary healthcare services.

2021

### Infrastructure development:

The field visits and consultations with residents for the “Solar 24” project Monitoring revealed that the street lighting is quintessential to provide a safer environment at night-time to commuters as well as pedestrians. It is a protective mechanism that ensures the improvement of standards of living with huge socioeconomic benefits. Thus, as the main cluster solution for supporting the rural settlements to build back better their basic services the Project launched a public call for an **80/20 co-financing scheme** with local communities and third parties.



After the public competition due to the intricate needs assessment analysis, the project identified the communities with poor or no street lighting on central streets. As a result of the public call, 59 settlements applied, while 12 of them have been selected. Therefore, **the project launched 12 “Solar 24” projects (606 energy-efficient street lighting luminaries)** the length of more than **20 km** in Kotayk (Fantan, Alapars, Karenis), Ararat (Zangakatun, Deghdzut, Sis), Armavir (Arevashat, Khoronk, Tandzut) and Aragatsotn (Agarakavan, Zarinja, Alagyaz) regions thereby enhancing the security and safety for total 16,664 people (8374 women).



This intervention will allow to cut electricity expenses tentatively by 50% (the final evaluation will be done a year after installation) and ease the burden on community budgets allowing to address the COVID-19 crisis more efficiently. This pilot intervention appeared to be a successful one, thus the project will continue its further implementation for the next year.

In the scope of supporting rural settlements to improve their basic services and renovate rudimentary infrastructure, the project announced a public call to choose the most vulnerable schools in terms of being devoid of basic infrastructure. From the 22 potential candidates, 7 have been selected, out of which the project improved **3 schools’ drinking water systems (970 m tubes)** in the Aragatsotn region (Lernarot, Agarakavan settlements) and the Ararat region (Zangakatun settlement). The remaining schools are in the stage of the design and will be implemented in 2022.



A kindergarten in the Charentsavan community that can host 60 kids including kids displaced from the Nagorno Karabakh as a result of the escalated conflict, has received been partially renovated.



A Zangakatun community has been provided with pilot **solar panels of 50 kW capacity** for cost-cutting effect on the community utility expenses. The solar panels provide full coverage to the street lighting expenses, administrative building and generating savings for other needs.



A water panel (**300-litre capacity**) has also been piloted in the school of Zangakatun community that will provide hot water to the school (**162 kids**).



These pilots will provide an opportunity to evaluate the impact of these sustainable solutions and will pave the way for the project to multiply this practice and continue implementation for other targeted communities.

#### **IV. GENDER MAINSTREAMING, CROSSCUTTING RESULTS, TARGETING**

The project has demonstrated the following results in respect of gender mainstreaming:

- ✓ Overall, as a result of the Project interventions in 2021, **18 full-time equivalent jobs** were created for women and 8424 women benefited from strengthened livelihoods.
- ✓ The main vehicle of the development strategy “My village” initiative supported **8 female entrepreneurs** to scale up their agricultural enterprises, 1 of which was a bakery in Arzakan settlement.
- ✓ “Solar 24” project improved the standards of living **over 8374 women** in 12 settlements in 4 regions; Kotayk (Fantan, Alapars, Karenis), Ararat (Zangakatun, Deghdzut, Sis), Armavir (Arevashat, Khoronk, Tandzut) and Aragatsotn (Agarakavan, Zarinja, Alagyaz) regions by providing them with intrinsic advantages that are conducive to building security and safety in the settlements.

#### **V. RISKS PROPOSED CHANGES TO PRODOC, HORIZON SCANNING, EVALUATION**

The floating exchange rate of the Armenian Dram, as well as the frequency of rate fluctuations, imposes a risk of budget insufficiency. To tackle this issue project attempts to attract additional funds from the communities and beneficiaries, establish public-private partnerships, leveraging funds with other organizations/projects operating in the region. Particularly, in 2020 the Project has successfully leveraged resources from partnerships with the private sector within the Start-Me-Up business acceleration initiative, as well as a public-private partnership within the Smart Barns subvention program supported by the RA Ministry of Economy.

Political instability in the country might affect the project implementation, that is why it is planned to review the strategies and intervention mechanism with partners to align with the current situation. Political instability and low engagement rate from target community members caused by the Nagorno-Karabakh war and internal political developments create additional bottlenecks for project implementation. It is planned to provide additional incentives to target community members for active involvement.

High expectations for the target communities versus the limited scope of the project is constantly targeted by ensuring communication with beneficiaries and participatory project planning

Changes and reductions in the Government subventions and support programs available for some sectors and community infrastructure recovery. If the anticipated co-financing by the Government will be either cancelled or reduced increasing the Project’s financial commitment to support the beneficiaries. The Project will try to engage other sources of funding through the cooperation of international and local organizations, or whenever possible ensure the acceptable maximum amount of co-financing by the beneficiaries without compromising the inclusiveness of the interventions. Otherwise, the Project will revise the targets set for the number of supported SMEs and the number of community infrastructure supported/renovated by the Project. Another potential risk that impeded progress towards strategic planning was the change of the government policy regarding the restrictions of implementing anti-hail systems in regions as preventative measures.

## **VVI. PARTNERSHIPS, COMMUNICATION, KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS**

The project will use the accumulated experience of RTF funded projects such as Integrated Rural Development and Fostering Participatory Development in Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor with partnerships with the Government of Armenia. Ministry of Economy for co-financing the state-sponsored programs such as Smart Barns, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure and other line Ministries to ensure synergy with GoA's draft recovery plan. The component on ensuring the quality and continuity of primary healthcare services will be implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Emergency Situations and involve consultations with WHO.

The Project will top on the partnership with the Soil Science Faculty of M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University built through "Tavush" project implementation as well as will seek collaboration opportunities with MSU Eurasian Center for Food Security, HSE Institute for Agrarian Studies in using their expertise and consultancy towards strengthening and building the capacities of the local beneficiaries.

In addition, the Project, whenever possible, will incorporate the Russian expertise through accessing the pool of experts within the UN system, while designing modules and conducting training, as well as mentoring the project beneficiaries and supporting innovations. The Project is closely cooperating with the All-Russian Research Institute of Plant Industry (Vavilov). Moreover, the Project will continue cooperating with the partner organizations and suppliers from the Russian Federation, specifically sharing notifications about the procurement competitions with the ones, who have proved themselves as reliable partners during recently implemented Russia-funded projects.

2021

### **Media Highlights 2021**

My Village Competition Announcement <a href="#">Link</a>	AgroMachine Competition Announcement <a href="#">Link</a>
My Village Competition Announcement/ Min Economy <a href="#">Link</a>	"My Village" Competition Announcement <a href="#">Link</a>
Street Lights Coverage <a href="#">Link</a>	"My Village" Competition Announcement <a href="#">Link</a>
"Sustainable Communities" project presentation <a href="#">Link</a>	"My Village" Competition Announcement <a href="#">Link</a>
"Sustainable Communities" project presentation <a href="#">Link</a>	Project Presentation <a href="#">Link</a>
My Village competition announcement <a href="#">Link</a>	Project Presentation <a href="#">Link</a>
AgroMachine Competition Announcement <a href="#">Link</a>	Project Presentation <a href="#">Link</a>
AgroMachine Competition Announcement <a href="#">Link</a>	Solar 24 Announcement <a href="#">Link</a>

“Sustainable Communities” Project Presentation <a href="#">Link</a>	Solar 24 Announcement <a href="#">Link</a>
Solar 24 Announcement <a href="#">Link</a>	Meeting with Gegharkunik Marzpet <a href="#">Link</a>
News Coverage Training Announcement <a href="#">Link</a>	

**VVII. VALIDATION OF RESULTS (FIELD VISITS). QUALITY ASSURANCE. LESSONS LEARNED. PROJECT BOARD MEETINGS. DONOR REPORTS. OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

No evaluation is envisaged since the project budget is below the required minimum of 3mln USD.

**Output Verification Template**

**Date of visit:** 03.12.2021

**Subject and venue of visit:** Ararat, Aragatsotn, Armavir, and Kotayk regions

**Purpose of the field visit:** Validation of results

Outcomes	Update on outcomes	Outputs	Update on outputs	Reasons if progress below target	Update on partnership strategies	Recommendations and proposed action
<p>UNDAF/CPD Outcome 4: People, communities, and regions benefit from equitable economic opportunities, decent work, and sustainable livelihoods, enabled through competitiveness and inclusive green growth.</p>	<p>The project has created and scaled up models of sustainable production and processing in the target communities resulting in income raise for the households in the rural areas. All the models have been to the biggest extent inclusive targeting women, the youth and other vulnerable groups and ensuring decent jobs and comprehensive support from the stage of preparing recovery plans and building up community resilience teams to strengthening resilient agricultural value chains and creating income-generating opportunities. COVID-19 and its harmful consequences turned to be severe impediments to implementing the strategic plan of the Project fully.</p>	<p>Output 1.1 Marginalized groups are empowered to gain universal access to basic services and financial and non-financial assets to build productive capacities and benefit from sustainable livelihoods and jobs.</p>	<p># of women, men, youth report awareness of and engagement in the recovery planning and monitoring in their communities. Target: w) 150 m) 150 y) 75; Actual: 0</p> <p># of communities with recovery plans. Target: 15; Actual: 0</p> <p>a) increase in the production volume/cultivation area of the essential foods/crops in the target regions</p> <p>b) # of women, men, youth directly involved in the value chains. Target: a) 10%</p> <p>b) w-800 m-800 y-400. Actual: 0</p> <p># of logistics centers established by the Project Target: 0; Actual: 0</p> <p>a) # of women, men, youth in the regions benefiting from job creation and income generation opportunities</p> <p>b) # of youth with access to new learning facilities Target: a) m-5, w-5, y-10 b) 0; Actual: a) m-14, w-20, y-0 b)0</p> <p>a) # of SMEs co-financed by the Project</p> <p>b) # of SMEs benefiting from capacity-building opportunities</p>	<p>Restrictions on movement and quarantine measures imposed due to Covid-19 pandemic</p>	<p>The project continues its close collaboration with existing stakeholders and partners through learning and continuous feedback.</p>	<p>The Project should continue to follow the high standards of equity, equality and fairness while working with its beneficiaries. So far, the Project has ensured a competitive and fair selection of beneficiaries from the private sector based on co-financing principles and social responsibility.</p>

			<p>Target: a) 5 out of which women-owned SMEs 2, youth-owned SMEs 1 b) 25; Actual: a) 13 out of which w-8 b) 11</p> <p>a) # of training facilities created by the Project in local VET institutions b) # of extension courses tailored to the needs of each region c) # of career trails implemented by the Project Target: a)0 b)0 c)0; Actual: 0</p> <p>Percentage of local populations in each community benefitting from improved basic services (final target in absolute figures, out of which) Target: 50%; Actual: 50%</p> <p>a) # of communities, where the crisis preparedness level of the rural healthcare facilities was evaluated</p> <p>b) # of healthcare facilities renovated Target: a)15 b)0; Actual: a)0 b)0</p> <p>a) #of education facilities with improved water supply</p> <p>b) # of communities with restored street lighting</p> <p>c) the total length in km of the built street lighting</p> <p>d) # of public facilities benefitting from introduced risk mitigation measures Target: a)2 b)1 c)1km d) TBD; Actual: a) 0 b)4 c) 23km d)0</p>			
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## PROJECT PERFORMANCE—IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

Criteria of selecting potential stakeholders from the “Start-Me-Up” and “My Village” projects were somehow confusing for the beneficiaries. As a result, 180 stakeholders applied for the “Start-Me-Up” project while their production corresponded to the “My Village” project’s criteria. Therefore, the experts had hardship of distinguishing between the beneficiaries into the right categories accordingly.


## LESSONS LEARNED

Describe briefly key lessons learned during the project:

- ✓ Due to the training held for the beneficiaries of the “Start-Me-Up” and “My Village” projects, it has been revealed that stakeholders need to be trained before being chosen. It would be efficient to conduct capacity building trainings and consultations for them, then demand business plans afterwards choose the potential beneficiaries that are going to cooperate with the UNDP. Thus, the mechanism and the whole procedure of selecting SMEs will be modified for the next year.
- ✓ Sometimes the quantitative data and results provided by communities regarding infrastructure rehabilitation does not correspond with the actual results that the Project possesses as a result of monitoring. Therefore, a monitoring mechanism will be put in practice for the next year.

## Participants in the field visit:

Signature

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Name

Anna Gyurjyan

Designation: SEG Portfolio Manager

## VVIII. FUTURE ACTIONS, WORK PLAN

Future Actions and work plan are reflected in Annual Work Plan, 2022.

Intended Outcome as stated in the UNDAF/Country Programme Results and Resource Framework:
Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme [or Global/Regional] Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets: Outcome 4: People, communities and regions benefit from equitable economic opportunities, decent work and sustainable livelihoods, enabled through competitiveness and inclusive green growth
Indicator: Poverty rate decreased, Baseline (2018): 23.4, Target (2024): 20. Indicator (SDG 8.5.2) Unemployment rate decreased, Baseline (2018): 19, Women:20.4, Men:17.9, Youth:24.9, Rural:11.3, Urban: 24.9, Target (2024): 17, Women:18, Men:17, Youth:22, Rural:10, Urban: 23, Indicator: Per capita average monthly gross income level of rural population increased, Baseline (2018): 63,338 Target (2024): 75,000
Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan: Output 1.1. National and sub-national systems and institutions enabled to achieve structural transformation of productive capacities that are sustainable and employment - and livelihoods-intensive,
Project title and Atlas Project Number: Building Back Better through Strengthening Resilience of Rural Communities in Ararat, Aragatsotn, Armavir and Kotayk regions

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASE LINE	TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	FINAL	
Component 1 Increase involvement of all segments of the target communities in the recovery planning and monitoring towards building context-specific data on the community level	1. of women, men, youth report awareness of and engagement in the recovery planning and monitoring in their communities.	Surveys Monitoring reports Participation lists	0	2020	-w150 -m 150 -y 75	-w 250 -m 250 -y 125	0	w-400 m-400 y-200	Project monitoring Survey Project records
	1.1 Number of communities with recovery plans	Field visit reports, Project reports, Recovery plans	0	2020	15	25	0	40	Field visits Request for information to the beneficiary communities
	1.2 Number of community resilience teams established and functioning	Meeting records	0	2020	15	25	0	40	Reporting Field visits project records
	1.2.1 Upgrade of Community Relationship Management (CoRM) database of the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI) is completed	Project Progress report	1	2020	0	Completed	0	Completed	Reporting

Component 2 Strengthen food security and increase self-sufficiency of rural households through building green and resilient agricultural value chains	2. a) increase in the production volume/cultivation area of the essential foods/crops in the target regions b) Number of women, men, youth directly involved in the value chains.	Surveys Monitoring reports records of the logistics centres	0	2020	a) 10% b) w-800 m-800 y-400	a)30% b) w-1200 m-1200 y-600	a)40% b) w-2000 m-2000 y-1000	a) 30% (average) b)w-4000 m-4000 y-2000	Project monitoring Project reports Surveys interviews
	2.1 Number of logistics centres established by the project	Field visit reports Project reports records of the logistics centres	0	2020	0	2	0	2	Field visits, interviews, surveys, project records
Component 3 Help rural population, including the youth and women, cope with the adversity of COVID-19 through protecting and creating jobs, as well as income generation opportunities	3. a) Number of women, men, youth in the regions benefiting from job creation and income generation opportunities b) Number of youth with access to new learning facilities	Surveys Monitoring report	0	2020	a) -m 5 -w 5 -y 10  b)0	a) -m 15 -w 15 -y 70  b) -70 out of which women - 35	0 y-40  b)70	a) -m 20 -w 20 -y 120  b) -70 out of which women - 35	Project Progress report Survey
	a) Number of SMEs co-financed by the Project b) Number of SMEs benefitting from capacity-building opportunities	Project reports Success stories Media coverage	0	2020	a) 5 -women-owned- 2 - youth-owned -1 b) 25	a) 15- women-owned SMEs 7 - youth-owned SMEs 3 b) 50	0	a)20- women-owned SMEs 9 - youth-owned SMEs 5 b) 75	Project Progress Reports Media Beneficiary interviews
	3.2 a) Number of training facilities created by the Project in local VET institutions b) Number of extension courses tailored to the needs of each region c) Number of career trails implemented by the Project	Project reports Designed curricula	0	2020	0 b) 0 c) 0	a) 3 b) 9 c) 10	a) 0 b) 3 c) 5	a) 3 b) 12 c) 15	Project Progress Reports
Component 4 Support the rural settlements to restore and build back better their basic services, including primary healthcare services.	4. Percentage of local populations In each community benefitting from improved basic services (final target in absolute figures, out of which)	Project reports Media coverage	0	2020	50%	50%	50%	-5000 w-2500	Reporting Media tours
	4.1 c) Number of communities, where the crisis preparedness level of the rural healthcare facilities was evaluated b) Number of healthcare facilities renovated	Project reports Survey	0	2020	a) 15 b) 0	a) 25 b) 5	a)0 b) 5	a) 40 b) 10	Reporting Survey



	4.2 a) Number of education facilities with improved water supply b) Number of communities with restored street lighting c) the total length in km of the built street lighting d) Number of public facilities benefitting from introduced risk mitigation measures	Project reports Beneficiary feedback Field visit reports	0	2020	a)2 b) 1 c)1km d) TBD based on the assessment results	a)10 b) 3 c) 2.5 km d)	a)3 b) 3 c)2.5 km d)	a)15 b) 7 c) 6 km d)	Reporting Interviewing Field visits
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## OFFLINE RISK LOG

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mngt response	Owner
1	Change of the security situation along the border and escalation of the conflict.	October 30, 2020	Political	Difficulties/security restrictions for operating in certain communities and impose risk for sustainability of actions. P = 5 I = 5	The project will follow instructions from UN DSS for the trips to those communities (additional security measures may be taken into account).	UNDSS Programme Manager
2	Floating exchange rate of the Armenian Dram and the high frequency of rate fluctuations	October 30, 2020	Financia 1	The costs will rise causing budget insufficiency.  P =4 I = 4	Attracting additional funds from the communities and beneficiaries, establishing public-private partnerships, leveraging funds with other organizations/projects operating in the region.	Programme Manager
3	The internal political situation changes in the country.	October 30, 2020	Political	This will cause instability and cancel the current policy frameworks and the administrative setup needed for the project implementation.  P =3 I = 3	The Project will revisit its implementation strategy and while the principles will remain intact, the mechanisms may change.	Programme Manager
4	High expectations of the community which cannot be met within the scope of the project, its budget and strategy.	October 30, 2020	Other	The reputation of the Project is undermined in the communities, and the community is disinterested in the Project. P =2 I = 2	Regular and open communication with the communities will set it clear what should be expected within the Project and what are the limitations of the Project scope.	Programme Manager
5	Changes and reductions in the Government subventions and support programs available for some sectors and community infrastructure recovery.	October 30, 2020	Other	The anticipated co-financing by the Government will be either cancelled or reduced increasing the Project's financial commitment to support the beneficiaries. P=3 I=3	The Project will try to engage other sources of funding through the cooperation of international and local organizations, or whenever possible ensure the acceptable maximum amount of co-financing by the beneficiaries without compromising the inclusiveness of the interventions. Otherwise, the Project will revise the targets set for the number of supported SMEs and the number of community infrastructure supported/renovated by the Project.	Programme Manager

## ANNUAL/MULTIYEAR WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FROM PRODOC 12

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year			RE SP ON SIB LE PA RT Y	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Y1	Y2	Y3		Fundin g Source	Budget Description	Amount
Component 1: Increase involvement of all segments of the target communities in the recovery planning and monitoring towards building context-specific data on the community level Gender marker: GEN 2	.1 Activity: Design Local risk-informed COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery plans through community participatory consultations	32400	32400	0	UN DP	RUS GOV	Contractual Services/Individuals	22000
							Local Consultants	16000
							Contractual Services/Companies	16000
							Travel	6000
							Facilities and Administration	4800
	1.1.2 Activity: Mobilize and train a community resilience team to support the implementation of the local risk-informed COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery plans	4320	17280	0	UN DP	RUS GOV	Local consultants	7000
							Contractual Services/Companies	13000
							Facilities and Administration	1600
	Subtotal for Output 1.1							86,400
	1.2.1 Upgrade Community Relationship Management (CoRM) database of the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI)	21600	0	0	UN DP	RUS GOV	Local Consultants	5000
Contractual Services/Companies							15000	
Facilities and Administration							1600	
Sub-Total for Output 1.2							21,600	
Component 2: Strengthen food security and increase self-sufficiency of rural households	2.1.1 Activity: Conduct feasibility studies of establishing local agricultural value chains.	10800	0	0	UN DP	RUS GOV	Local consultants	10000

<sup>1</sup> Cost definitions and classifications for programme and development effectiveness costs to be charged to the project are defined in the Executive Board decision DP/2010/32

<sup>2</sup> Changes to a project budget affecting the scope (outputs), completion date, or total estimated project costs require a formal budget revision that must be signed by the project board. In other cases, the UNDP programme manager alone may sign the revision provided the other signatories have no objection. This procedure may be applied for example when the purpose of the revision is only to re-phase activities among years.

through building green and resilient agricultural value chains  Gender marker: GEN 2							Facilities and Administration	800	
	2.1.2 Activity: According to the recommendations of the feasibility study establish a logistics centre for the agricultural value chains (including construction, equipment, machinery, furniture)	64800	270000	43200	UN DP	RUS GOV	Contractual Services/Companies	300000	
							Equipment and Furniture	50000	
							Facilities and Administration	28000	
	2.1.3 Activity: Set up the managerial structure of the logistics centre	10,800	10,800	0	UN DP	RUS GOV	Local consultants	20000	
							Facilities and Administration	1600	
	2.1.4 Activity: Provide need-based (operational, managerial, marketing, technical and technological) training (with involvement of the Russian expertise) to both the primary producers and the staff of the logistics centre	0	16,200	5400	UN DP	RUS GOV	Local Consultants	20000	
							Facilities and Administration	1600	
	Sub-Total for Output 2.1								432,200
	Component 3: Help rural population, including the youth and women, cope with the adversity of COVID-19 through protecting and creating jobs, as well as income generation opportunities.	3.1.1. Activity: Design, roll out open calls and provide co-financing to the winning SMEs	83160	115560	71280	UN DP	RUS GOV	Contractual Services/Individuals	15000
Travel								5000	
Contractual Services/Companies								230000	

							Facilities and Administration	20000
	3.1.2 Based on the approved batch of applications, offer need-based capacity-building to the beneficiary SMEs under each call	5400	16200	10800	UN DP	RUS GOV	Local consultant	30000
							Facilities and Administration	2400
	Sub-Total for Output 3.1							302,400
	3.2.1 Activity: Rapid Path to Reskilling: Enhance rapid reskilling capacity in the regions by strengthening local VET institutions						Local Consultants	5000
		6480	52920	30240	UN DP	RUS GOV	Contractual Services/Individuals	18 000
							Contractual Services/Companies	60000
							Facilities and Administration	6400
	3.2.2 Activity: Career Trail for Youth. Create a web platform (KolbaIntern) to connect local youth with entry-level employment opportunities in Armenia and globally and to run pilot batches of Career Trail in the four target regions						Local Consultant	5000
		10800	7560	0	UN DP	RUS GOV	Contractual Services/Companies	12000
							Facilities and Administration	1600

	Sub-total for Output 3.2							108,000	
Component 4: Support the rural settlements to restore and build back better their basic services, including primary healthcare services.	4.1.1 Activity: Implement comprehensive evaluation of the crisis preparedness level of the rural healthcare facilities, particularly in the context of COVID-19 (Year 1)	10800	10800	0	UN DP	RUS GOV	Contractual Services/Companies	20000	
							Facilities and Administration	1600	
	4.1.2 Activity: Renovate and refurbish some of the most vulnerable local healthcare facilities in the target communities	27000	86400	16200	UN DP	RUS GOV	Contractual Services/Companies	100000	
							Materials and Goods	20000	
							Facilities and Administration	9600	
	Sub-total for Output 4.1							151,200	
	4.2.1 Activity: Restore internal water supply system in the local schools or/and kindergartens		25920	92880	43200	UN DP	RUS GOV	Travel	5000
								Local Consultants	10000
								Contractual Services/Companies	135000
								Facilities and Administration	12000
	4.2.2 Activity: Build energy-efficient street lighting systems and introduce renewable energy solutions for community safety and resilience		32400	49680	25920	UN DP	RUS GOV	Travel	5000
								Local Consultants	10000
								Contractual Services/Companies	50000
								Materials and Goods	35000
								Facilities and Administration	8000
4.2.3 Activity: Introduce risk mitigation measures into infrastructure rehabilitation interventions		10800	32400	10800	UN DP	RUS GOV	Contractual Services/Companies	15000	
							Materials and Goods	35000	
							Facilities and Administration	4,000	
Sub-total for Output 4.2							324,000		
Project Implementation: 5 Activity					UN DP	RUS GOV	Programme Management Cost	15000	
							Contractual Services/individuals	78000	
							Travel	15000	

						Equipment	13000	
						Communication and Audiovisual	40000	
						Supplies	3974	
						Rental and Maint.Premises	15000	
						Miscellaneous	27000	
						Training, Workshop and Conferences	5000	
						Vehicles-Budget	42100	
						Facilities and Administration	20328	
	Sub-Total for Output 5							274,400
Outputs Total							1,574,074	
GMS Total							125,926	
<b>TOTAL</b>							<b>1,700,000</b>	

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