

X. ANNUAL VALIDATION OF RESULTS (FIELD VISIT) AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

Field Visit Report

Date of visit: December 3, 2018

Subject and venue of visit: Project #00081907-00091029, various target communities in Berd, Ijevan and Noyemberyan regions.

[Project number(s) and title(s), venue visited]

Purpose of the field visit:

Outcomes	Update on outcomes	Outputs	Update on outputs	Reasons if progress below target	Update on partnership strategies	Recommendations and proposed action
<p>UNDAF outcome: 1. By 2020, Competitiveness is improved and population, including vulnerable groups, have greater access to sustainable economic opportunities.</p>	<p>As a result of the Project, the local population got increased access to various sustainable economic activities that significantly improved their livelihood. The Project took special attention to women, youth and other vulnerable layers of the local society for targeted assistance. The security situation of the region adds to the economic hardships that the local population, especially women and youth face every day.</p>	<p>Output 1.1 Local capacities strengthened to develop and implement innovative and diversified income-generating practices that are sustainable and employment and livelihood intensive targeting most vulnerable groups</p>	<p>1.1.1 Number of full time equivalent jobs created in communities for women and men (2020 Target: 130 women, 400 men): men 73 women 70</p> <p>1.1.2 Number of women and men benefiting from strengthened livelihoods (2020 Target: 270 women, 600 men): men 825 women 838</p> <p>1.1.3 Number of new innovative mechanisms with use of sustainable production technologies introduced (2020 Target: 14): 2</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>The Project created and maintains strong partnership connections with most organizations, agencies and government bodies that work and are represented in the region. The Project also developed partnership with the France Chapter of Hayastan All-Armenian Fund. The Project will include partnership with Russian education institutions next year to deliver relevant training modules to the beneficiaries. Partnership opportunities are explored with WFP and SIFI to jointly address some identified needs of schools in the region.</p>	<p>The Project team should continue successful work in the region.</p> <p>The visibility of the Project as well, as fair and transparent way of selection of beneficiaries should stay in the focus to ensure project success in the region.</p> <p>Collaboration with ICRC, WFP, FAR and other agencies and organizations should continue to be nurtured and strengthened.</p> <p>Special emphasis should be paid to producing various articles, news pieces and informational videos and animations that focus on individual project beneficiary's personal success and achievements.</p>

PROJECT PERFORMANCE—IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

[If the person conducting the field visit observes problems that are generic and not related to any specific output, or that apply to all of them, he or she should address the 'top three' such challenges.]

List the main challenges experienced during implementation and propose a way forward.

The project has completed its annual quality assurance in 2017 with a status of Highly Satisfactory and recommendation to continue the implementation as planned. . The Project needs to react to identified community needs and propose solutions within the framework of the Project mandate and goals. The next round of Quality assurance is expected in 2019.

PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

The project generally meets its annual targets and results. Some flexibility was applied to substitute some of the planned communities with new ones, considering local political situation and inability to temporarily work with community leader and community council due to strong confrontation.

Since the beginning of the Project, 38 communities and settlements have developed community development plans, 86 small greenhouses, 27 agroprocessing units, three agromachinery pools, two collection centers were established, and 40.1 ha or new orchards were planted. A total of 34.4 ha or water-saving irrigation systems were introduced, two water lines were renovated, and six community infrastructures were rehabilitated. In addition, two strategic initiatives were introduced to produce vegetable seedlings in the region and certified tree seedling nursery.

Indicators	Baseline	2018 TARGETS	2018 Results
1. Number of Integrated community development plans	1. 0 (2014)	1. 10 2. 3	1. 10 2. 3
2. Number of new Community Based Organizations	2. 1 (2014)	3. 20/20 4. 220	3. 31/8 4. 300
3. Number of greenhouses constructed and agroprocessing/agroproduction units established	3. 70 (2014)	5. 2 6. 3 7. 120	5. 1 6. 0 planned for 2019 7. 78
4. Number of new job opportunities in the communities	4. 0 (2014)	8. 100 ton 9. 5	8. 15 9. 6
5. Number of agricultural machinery pools established	5. 0 (2014)	10. 5000	10.5000
6. Number of training courses implemented	6. 1 (2014)		
7. Number of people trained			
8. Volumes of products flown through collection centers	7. 1 (2014) 8. 0 (2014)		
9. Number of community infrastructures rehabilitated	9. 0 (2014)		
10. Number of population benefiting from access to safe drinking water and other infrastructures	10. 0 (2014)		

LESSONS LEARNED

Describe briefly key lessons learned during the project:

The security situation remains one of the main priorities and concerns in the region. Another issue is the difficulty of co-financing resources of the communities. However, thanks to wide collaboration with other organizations, the communities and beneficiaries manage to find the required co-financing funds. This at some point changes the project implementation schedule, as the communities and beneficiaries need more time in identifying the required resources, especially after the political events in April-May 2018, however, the co-funding requirement is still a strong indicator and tool to increase the project ownership and it helps to identify the right beneficiary for the most successful project implementation.

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