Local Project Appraisal Committee Meeting (Virtual Meeting- through MS Teams)

Project Title: Catalytic Climate Action

Date: March 17, 2022

A. Participation:

- Chair: Ghimar Deeb, Deputy Resident Representative- UNDP Iraq CO
- LPAC Members:

  - Frederick Appiah-Kusi- Project Specialist - CO/IQ.
  - Shatha Abdulazeez - Gender Officer - CO/IQ.
  - Mahab Alkurkash- Programme Specialist -CO/IQ.
  - Yulia Isaeva- Regional Climate Change and Environment Specialist- CO/RSCJO.

- Programme Pillar & Project Team:

  - Zubair Murshed- Pogramme Specialist, EECC- Project developer
  - Ibrahim Altaey- Prgramme Associate- EECC.

- Programme Management Support Unit (PMSU):
  - Amanthi Wickramasinghe- Head- Programme Management Support Unit (PMSU) CO/IQ
  - Farooq AlWakeel- Program Management Specialist- CO/IQ
  - Md Safiur Rahman- M&E Specialist- CO/IQ.

LPAC meeting agenda includes on the following three items:

1. Introduction of this particular LPAC & Strategic Positioning in the CPD- by Zubair Murshed- Head of EECC Pillar (OIC).
2. Project Presentation- By Zubair Murshid- Project developer.
3. Open Discussion and comments by the LPAC members on the draft Prodoc.

B. Key Discussion Points & Clarifications:

- The Project was designed in response to government of Iraq's request for capacity building support with regards to climate change mitigation and adaptation and especially the NDC implementation. The project has three broad areas of focus defined in the three outputs, which are i) support to NDC implementation and energy transition, ii) water resources management and transboundary water resources cooperation, and iii) drought preparedness and drought risk reduction. The project involves policy advisory, technical capacity building and community-based interventions. UNAMI will be partnered regarding the support to transboundary water negotiations process.
- Negotiations were held with the United Kingdom and Canada and concept notes on the above themes were shared with the donors. United Kingdom expressed interest to support all three focus areas with a funding of GP 4.25 million (including 1% levy), while Canada expressed interest to support the water resources management and transboundary water resources cooperation with a funding of CAD$ 1.5 million.
- The Primary beneficiaries of the Project are: the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Water, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Electricity.
- The Project duration is twenty-six months from 4th January 2022 -31st March 2024.

C. LPAC Recommendations:

The following points were discussed and come up with the recommendations below:

1) The project developer gave a full presentation of the project components, methodology, funds, key stakeholders, Management structure, Risks and exist strategy, then the LPAC team members raised the following points to be included in the Prodoc.
2) **Point 1:** verifying the possibility to include the communities at risk as part of stakeholders. Like mentioned by the project developer that youth groups, civil society and Academia are involved, to verify if there is any possibility to just include those communities at risk, wherever that is possible.
3) The Project team responded that they will include indeed as soon as receiving the names and the contacts of related organizations that are related to the communities at risk, and keep them in the database of the project to be used in the future not only for this project, but also in other interventions and projects as needed, including consultation process is also outside of this project.
4) **Point 2:** the integration of gender which is clearly stated in several parts of the Prodoc, but when it comes to the RRF section, it is only included on the outcome level, we may need to think of integrating this on the Outputs level as well as activities level where applicable.
5) The Project team assured that will review the gender inputs in the RRF and will include gender at the activity level and will describe how gender will be addressed under each of activities, key activities under each output.
6) **Point 3:** the involvement of private sector at the very beginning in the project as stakeholders seems very relevant in the framework of this project, especially when it comes to the potential subsidies reform that could be done for later stages.
7) The project team agreed that the Private sector will have a much stronger logical relationship and involvement in several outputs and activities. For example, the energy related work and the NDC related work, and for the grid related and the renewable energy related work, so the Private will be very closely engaged in consultations and strategizing, the project team will reinforce the engagement of the private sector under these activities and include it in the Prodoc.
8) **Point 4:** the UN partnership, there are other UN partners that may be involved in the project implementation, this was not applied here as a partnership with other UN agencies which are related to the scope of the project, it would be great at least to make sure that it's done in consultation with other UN partners like FAO for example, when it comes to working with farmers and UNDRR when it comes to just a risk reduction.
9) The Project team clarified that UN involvement is an important process. UNDP and EECC in specific have lots of cooperation with many UN agencies and it sometimes not reflected in the project documents very clearly. However, within the UN sustainable development cooperation framework and its different working groups, one of the working groups is called PWG#4 that is focused on climate change and energy related issues which forms the green agenda, so UNDP and FAO as Co-chairs of this group that many other agencies as members, where all agencies are sharing the work of each agency on a systematic frequency along the year. UNDP-Iraq Senior Management is very keen on partnering with different UN agencies, an ongoing discussion for a possible joint project with FAO. While for UNDRR, they're not based in the country, so we can only share with them our results and future interventions.
10) **Point 5:** coordination level, it is noticed that all negotiations have been doing on ministries level, is there any coordination or discussion on local level (provincial level), specially for water problem, where we have problems among the governorates in providing the water. Some governorates controlling the quantity provided to the next governorate, for instants:- Muthanna province is always suffering from water shortage and always this because of Diwaniya governorate, as the Euphrates passing through Diwaniya before Muthanna, thus even if there are committees on governorate level, we should make sure that the concerned officials and employees are involved

in the planned workshop and negotiation to figure out the roots of the problems and coming out with sustain solution.

11) The project team responded that they were aware of the province level problems and tensions over the water issue and the project will facilitate dialogues among governorates, among governorates and federal government and among governorates and the Kurdistan region government to discuss such issues and identify solutions to them.
12) **Point 6:** concern if whether the project will be able to reach for behind, this is related to the awareness raising activities that will be done through social digital platforms digital tools, we need to make sure that those that stay without Internet, will also be reached out by the project.
13) The project team confirmed that the awareness raising work will not only be based on the social media apps, but it will also include other electronic means, such as the TV and Radio, using short videos and audio messages and so to reach out to the broader communities out there.
14) **Point 7:** pending feedbacks on several comments need to be addressed in the Prodoc such as: i) the discrepancy of the budget information as the amount stated in the budget and the cover page, ii) to reconcile the result framework that was prepared for Canada funds the team had designed and spent a lot of time and effort designing intermediate outcome indicators, thus it would be good if we can incorporate that as needed into the project document itself and the template shouldn't be a restriction, iii) linking the results framework to the gender marker across the Prodoc, there are different gender ratings given on the cover page that outputs have one set of markers, while in the results framework and the budget, there are different markers, and ix) use the most updated version of the project board TORs shared as a guidance that has been circulated in December 2021.
15) The project team confirmed that will respond to all these comments along with comments raised from LPAC members in this meeting.
16) The chair of the LPAC, DRR-Programme, clarified that the energy component will absolutely relying on our discussion with the private sector, specifically mega companies that are working on energy transition and energy products, so this will be this will be considered.
17) The chair of the LPAC, DRR-Programme declared, with the approval of the LPAC members, that the project is **ENDORSED AS APPROVED** and the project document will be rephrased considering the comments raised in this meeting.

Overall recommendation by the LPAC: Approve

a- **Annexes to the Minutes:**

1. Draft Project Document
2. Draft Design & Appraisal Quality Assessment
3. Social and Environmental Screening
4. Detailed Risk Analysis

b- **Supporting Documents provided to the LPAC**

Minutes Agreed by:

Name & Designation	Signature
Frederick Appiah-Kusi- Project Specialist - CO/IQ.	DocuSigned by: 22AEEA8C64E64CA...
Shatha Abdulazeez - Gender Officer - CO/IQ.	
Mahab Alkurkash- Programme Specialist -CO/IQ.	
Yulia Isaeva- Regional Climate Change and Environment Specialist- CO/RSCJO.	DocuSigned by: Yulia Isaeva 9F8E9D791D4A4C4...

Minutes Approved by:

Name: Ghimar Deeb (Chair)
Designation: Deputy Resident Representative- UNDP Iraq CO

22/3/22