UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

PROJECT DOCUMENT
[Uzbekistan]

Project Title: IsDB Sustainable Rural Development Project Component B: Engineering Services and Strengthening Capacity in Infrastructure Management

Project Number: 00129160 project ID/ 00122922 Output ID

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Start Date: June 2022 End Date: 31 December 2025

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PAC Meeting date:

Brief Description

This UNDP Project is an integral component of the broader Uzbekistan - Sustainable Rural Development Project that would be financed and executed by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). The overall objective of UNDP Project is to empower and build capacities of local partners (communities, architects, engineers, local authorities) in developing and implementing local development plans and promoting locally relevant green and energy efficient as well as digital solutions. The Project aims to build capacities of targeted communities and partners in adopting and implementing environmentally friendly solutions. The Project will also confer positive impacts on human development through increased economic opportunities and wellbeing of targeted communities. Climate-related concerns will be mainstreamed into decision-making at all levels, facilitating climate-resilient and energy efficient development from the community level up to the regional level. The project takes a people-centred, gender sensitive and climate risk-informed holistic approach.

UNDP will assist the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan (MEDPR). The Project will focus on four main outputs with corresponding sets of activities:

Output 1. Capacities of targeted local communities increased to identify local needs and to develop plans of actions, i.e., Community Development Plans (CDP), by identifying priority infrastructures for investments that have optimum and long-term benefits through an inclusive community engagement (including women and youth) and consultation with sub-regional and local authorities.

Output 2: Capacities of local architecture-design institutions and regional departments of architecture and construction are enhanced for development of improved engineering designs and master plans that are responsive to the sustainability aspects (economic, operational, and environment sustainability), innovative energy and water efficient, low carbon technology, climate resilient and gender responsive, and promoting local resources.

Output 3: Capacities of construction, architecture-design and public service delivery sector are increased on the local governance and community participatory mechanism in the planning and implementation of rural development programs and initiatives by using digital transformation, gender-sensitive approaches, innovative IT solutions, including development of digital infrastructure and information systems to ensure better access to social facilities and services in rural areas, including green redevelopment/regeneration and increasing resilience in post-disaster situations (such as COVID-19 and other pandemics). Output 4: Local communities are strengthened empowering women, youth, elderly, people with disabilities,

involving in decision making processes and national/sub-regional/local government capacities and institutionalization in operation and maintenance of the infrastructure to ensure sustainable functioning.

Contributing Outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD or GPD): Contributing to UNDP country programme document (CPD) for Uzbekistan 2021-2025: Output 4.4 Systems innovations advanced for integrated solutions in the Aral Sea region United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, 2021-2025 that states that "by 2025, innovative, sustainable and age- and gender-responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives in agriculture, health, water, transport, energy production and building/ housing/residential infrastructure sectors are designed and implemented at national and regional levels, with a focus on at risk regions, including Aral Sea region Indicative Output(s) with gender marker[2]: GEN 2 SDGs: SDG 11, 13 and 5	Total resources required:	USD 8,050,000	
	Total resources allocated:		
		UNDP parallel financing:	USD 3,050,000
		Donor: IsDB	USD 5,000,000
		Government:	In-kind

Agreed by (signatures)1:

Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan	UNDP in the Republic of Uzbekistan Uzbekistan
Mr. Adiz M. Boboev **Deputy Minister**	**Ms. Matilda Dimovska,** **UNDP Resident Representative**
Date:	Date: 08 JUN 2022

1 Note: Adjust signatures as needed

[2] The Gender Marker measures how much a project invests in gender equality and women's empowerment. Select one for each output: GEN3 (Gender equality as a principle objective); GEN2 (Gender equality as a significant objective); GEN1 (Limited contribution to gender equality); GEN0 (No contribution to gender quality)

I. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

UNDP Project Strategic Positioning

This UNDP Project is an integral component of the broader Uzbekistan - Sustainable Rural development Project that would be financed and executed by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the OPEC Fund for International Development in response to an official request from the Government of Uzbekistan (GoU). This project is a part of the Prosperous Villages Program (PVP) (Obod Qishloq Program). The Obod Qishloq Program is designed to promote participatory, community-based development that addresses infrastructure and service delivery gaps. The IsDB "Sustainable Rural Development" (SRD) project objective is to raise rural residents' living standards by improving access to basic infrastructure, services, create economic opportunities and to strengthen participatory local governance processes in targeted rural qishloqs. The SRD Project is designed to provide priority support to the rural households by improving access to basic economic and agriculture infrastructure and related services. Major results will be achieved through investment into climate resilient rural infrastructure with application of modern, energy efficient and resource saving technologies.

The overall SRD Project and its UNDP-executed component design is based on the outcome of stakeholder's consultative meeting and a workshop held in December 2019 in Uzbekistan, including field visits to project sites and consultation with development partners including the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. A technical project preparation mission was conducted to discuss the project's key development objectives, outcome, scope, location and preliminary implementation arrangement. The GOU established a Technical Working Group (TWG) to work closely with IsDB. The TWG is represented by various ministries and is led by the Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of Uzbekistan. Series of video conferences (VC) were held with TWG members and other authorities primarily at the level of deputy ministers and directors of departments.

The UNDP component (Project) will constitute an integral part of SRD Project Component B: Engineering Services & Strengthening Capacity in Infrastructure Management: provision of engineering services in development of architectural planning/master plans, detailed design, procurement, and construction supervision. Under this component, the IsDB is focusing on strengthening capacity in management of infrastructure that will include technical review and contract management support; community engagement in planning, execution and sustaining infrastructure; and strengthening the local governments, municipalities and service providers in effective asset management. Undertaking baseline survey and impact assessment is part of component scope, including ESIA and Management Plans. SMART villages approach will be promoted to improve digital level of service delivery, specifically for vulnerable groups.2

The UNDP Project will assist the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan (MEDPR) by focusing on Engineering Services and Strengthening Capacity in Infrastructure Management. The UNDP Project is proposed to be targeted at the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Khorezm, Navoi and Bukhara regions with PIU presence in Tashkent (2 regional offices). This proposal is outlining specific actions that will be undertaken by UNDP to support communities and local authorities to address key developmental challenges by adopting and implementing community based green, energy efficient and digital solutions.

Context

Uzbekistan is a double landlocked country in Central Asia, with a total area of 447 400 km2. The territory in the north and north-east borders with Kazakhstan, in the east and south-east - with Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, in the west - with Turkmenistan, in the south - with Afghanistan. The total length of the state

2 IsDB, Report and Recommendation of Management on Sustainable Rural Development Project, Republic of Uzbekistan, Board of Executive Directors – 338 20 December 2020

border is 6221 kilometers. The length of borders with Afghanistan is 137 km., with Kazakhstan - 2,203 km., with Kyrgyzstan - 1,099 km., with Tajikistan - 1,161 km. and with Turkmenistan - 1,621 km. For administrative purposes, the country is divided into 12 provinces (viloyats) Andijan, Bukhara, Fergana, Jizzakh, Kashkadarya, Khorezm, Namangan, Navoiy, Samarkand, Sirdaryo, Surkhandarya and Tashkent (which includes the capital city of Tashkent), plus Republic of Karakalpakstan in the far west near the Aral Sea.

The Republic of Karakalpakstan is located in the north-western part of Uzbekistan, in the lower reaches of the Amu Darya, on the southern coast of the Aral Sea. The south-western part of the Republic adjoins the Karakum Desert. In the north-west is the Ustyurt lowland, and in the north-eastern part - the Kyzylkum desert. The southern part of the Aral Sea is located in the territory of Karakalpakstan. The total area of Karakalpakstan is 166.6 thousand km2 and by the size of the territory it occupies the first place among the regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Borders with Khorezm, Navoi and Bukhara regions. The administrative-territorial structure of the Republic consists of 16 districts and 1 city: the Amudarya, Beruni, Karauzyak, Kegeley, Bozataw, Kungrad, Canlikul, Muynak, Nukus, Takhtakupir, Turtkul, Khodjeli, Takhiatash, Chimbay, Shumanay, Ellikkala and Nukus.3 Karakalpakstan has a population of 1,881,900 persons, accounting for 5.6% of the population of Uzbekistan.

Once thriving in the vicinity of the Aral Sea with their rich culture and unique bioresources the current landscape where communities of Karakalpakstan live was vividly described by the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres as "probably the biggest ecological catastrophe of our time" during his visit to the region in 2017. The Aral Sea, which used to be the fourth largest lake in the world, has been reduced to 10% of its size after the rivers that fed it were diverted for irrigation.4 The most important primary factor for the people living around the Aral Sea is the drying of the sea - the man-made environmental disaster, which has led to multiple consequences in the everyday lives of people: limited access to clean drinking water; job opportunities are minimal as a result of the loss of traditional sectors such as fishing, coupled with the lack of investments in the region and the poor conditions of the soil for farming; pesticide and industrial waste residues mixed with salt at the bedrock of the sea are now creating a host of various health insecurities; land degradation and desertification has exacerbated food insecurity and malnutrition, with people unable to grow their food or afford to buy quality products. The Aral Sea disaster had and continue to have a number of negative consequences, including land degradation and desertification, water shortage (particularly clean drinking water), deterioration of health conditions and the livelihoods of the local population. The socio-economic and environmental consequences are further complicated by the rapid speed of its negative effects, specifically in Karakalpakstan and Khorezm regions. Currently, over two/third of the irrigated land in Karakalpakstan is affected by salinization, and problems are worsening. Already agricultural output has declined by 30-50% due to soil salinity, climate change, water deficiency, and reduced labour productivity due to health problems. Sand and salt winds coming from former Aral Sea zone is reaching other regions, e.g. Bukhara region (neighbouring Karakalpakstan) and neighbouring countries.

It is well documented that the population living in the Aral Sea area faces numerous health issues, with high rates of cancer, respiratory illness, anaemia and birth defects being among the most commonly reported health problems. These conditions have been linked, at least indirectly, to the area's environmental degradation. The Aral Sea region remains the most vulnerable and deprived region of Uzbekistan – with the Republic of Karakalpakstan at the epicentre of the Aral Sea crisis.

Vulnerability factors

Economic development is positive but the numbers of people living in poverty is increasing. Uzbekistan was one of only three economies in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region that maintained positive economic growth in 2020. However, the number of people living in poverty (US$3.2 a day, 2011 purchasing power

3 The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan: the government portal of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, http://karakalpakstan.uz/en/page/show/4

4 https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/landsat/news/40th-top10-aral-sea.html

parity adjusted) has increased during the pandemic to 9% of the population, as the pandemic led to job losses, income reductions, and declining remittances.5 Low income families in Uzbekistan have less than 1.5 times the minimum wage per capita monthly income.6

The agricultural activities supplement 49% of the population's income, particularly in rural areas, which host 64% of the population. However, intensive farming practices have degraded much of the available arable land and depleted the water resources in the areas affected by the Aral Sea disaster. Irrigation currently consumes up to 90% of total water withdrawals.7 Uzbekistan's water use currently exceeds its freshwater reserves.

There are gaps in infrastructure coverage and quality, with low availability of centralized public services such as high-quality drinking water, gas, sewage, road infrastructure in the areas affected by the Aral sea disaster. UNDP participatory assessment has identified a number of areas for improvement in regions targeted for Project support such upgrading roads as transport and trade are the most important drivers for the rural economy reducing the high costs of marketing for small producers. With improved transport services, market and farmers and other rural households have the opportunity to produce surplus for sale, to specialize in producing those goods in which they are most productive, and to diversify for distant markets. Some other priorities include addressing issues with dusty, rugged main and internal and pedestrian roads; worn out power line, no night lighting; bridges across the channels; lack of centralized gas supply; lack of outdoor playground for children; lack of specialized MGC building for citizens/community members gathering; lack of a mosque in the MGC; lack of a gym, sport facilities and a cafeteria at schools; lack of educational places at school and kindergartens; lack of access to the Internet line; absence of pharmacy, etc. 8

Use of digital solutions for economic and human development in rural areas are low. ICT has been recognised as a major driver of economic growth and development. ICTs with lower costs combined with the increasing literacy and sophistication of rural communities have the potential to revolutionize rural information systems, providing more and better information directly to farmers, extension agents, agribusinesses, and other intermediaries. Application of ICTs in rural areas may increase the flow of information of all types, and facilitate market transactions, changes in employment, emergence of new industries, and social development, but such advances are dependent upon telecommunications reaching remote rural areas and diverse populations, including rural women. ICT and digitalization of rural areas may help rural communities to adapt their practices to minimise the effects of the unpredictable weather while increasing food production, improve land and livestock management, enhance plant disease control, access the necessary information, strengthen social ties and promote the diffusion of private information on technologies and promote cooperation. Access and use of ICTs is determined by the availability of the physical infrastructure on which ICTs depend as well as socioeconomic factors such as knowledge and skills.

Regardless of the relatively high mobile penetration in the rural areas, they do not seem to receive the same connection quality as the urban areas in the areas affected by the Aral Sea disaster. This means that rural communities who are relying heavily on the mobile networks for their consumption of ICT services are unable to use the services effectively. The users' mobile phones remain just for making social calls and never for commercial purposes. A survey conducted in Karakalpakstan (Bozatau, Karauzyak and Chimbay) by UNDP,

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5 World Bank in Uzbekistan, https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/uzbekistan/overview

6 Asian Development Bank, Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Corridor 2 Karakalpakstan Road (A380 Kungrad to Daut-Ata Section) Project, https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/linked-documents/48414-006-sprss.pdf

7 UNDP (2018) Climate Change Adaptation in Europe and Central Asia: Adapting to a Changing Climate for Resilient Development. Available at: https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/climate-and-disaster-resilience-/climate-change-adaptation-in-europe-and-central-asia.html

8 Second (final) Progress report for the Islamic Development Bank in Support of the Sustainable Rural Development Project in the Republic of Uzbekistan 8, April 2021. See also UNDP community level research: План развития сообществ Хорезмская область, Ургенчский район, МСГ «Юкориовул», «Джайхун», «Уйшин», «Мергановул»; План развития сообществ. Хорезмская область Багатский район, МСГ «Узумзор», «Богистон», «Узгариш», «Хунарманд»; лан развития сообществ, Республика Каракалпакстан Турткульский район, ССГ «Пахтачи», «Калтаминор», «Отаюрт» и «Уллубог»; План развития сообществ Республика Каракалпакстан Берунийский район ССГ «Шобboз», «Шимом» и «Саркоп»; План развития сообществ Республика Каракалпакстан Амударьинский район, ССГ/МСГ «Тош Ёп», «Босув», «Олмазор», «Фаровон»; План развития сообщества, Бухарская область, Бухарский район МСГ«Янгитурмуш», «Истикбол», «Работак», «Саховат»; План развития сообществ, Бухарская область, Бухарский район, МСГ«Туркон», «Кушходим», «Сохибкор», «Галосиё», 2021

particularly, reveals that these districts have a sufficient environment for digitalization; 89% of local entrepreneurs have electricity, 70% access to the Internet, 74% possess own smartphone and 83% hold own bank account.
Uzbekistan is highly prone to the following hazards: earthquake, water scarcity, extreme heat, and river and urban flooding. Risk assessment developed by the World Bank and Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery's Innovation Lab9 showed that in Uzbekistan the annual average population affected by earthquakes is about 1 million, and the annual average affected GDP is USD 2 billion. The rapid urbanization rate, aging infrastructure, and demographic growth will accentuate this trend in the absence of risk mitigation.10

Climate change negatively affects water supply in the areas affected by the Aral Sea disaster. In the longer term, shifting precipitation patterns, increasing temperatures and dry spells are predicted to lead to water stress. This means there will be less available water for irrigation, drinking and sanitation activities. At the same time, projected increases in population and economic growth will likely increase demand to levels that may exceed the dwindling supply. This leads to water insecurity. Moreover, the growing water deficit will likely have cascading effects on other sectors, including agriculture, health and energy. Warming, changing runoff and precipitation patterns and an increased frequency of extreme events are leading to increased water demand for agriculture.

In addition to limited access to drinking water, the water use is ineffective. In the period 2009–2017, water use in agriculture in Uzbekistan remained around 89–92% of total water use, and around one-third of the total water use in this sector was lost. Water inefficiencies are estimated to cost about of 8% of GDP, and by reducing or eliminating losses the country would be able to solve water shortage and be able to save enough water to mitigate the changes in annual available water caused by variable precipitation. Despite agricultural reforms to improve irrigation efficiency, Uzbekistan faces significant challenges with desertification and water scarcity - all of which are exacerbated by climate stressors.

Climate change results in additional and increasing challenges to human development in the areas affected by the Aral Sea disaster, where income poverty, growing salinization of land and water resources, lack of food security, exposure to dust storms, poor quality of drinking water, and the declining health status of the local population are forcing many to relocate or to endure severe living conditions. The impacts of climate change on agriculture, such as reduced crop yields due to less rainfall, reduced employment opportunities linked to increased temperatures, or an insecure supply of food resulting from the spread of pests, are not felt the same by all who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods and food security. Gender-based inequalities in access to resources and services, along with stressors like poverty, shape women's and men's vulnerability to climate change impacts as well as their capacities to adapt. Furthermore, climate change is likely to cause changes in ecological systems that will affect the risk of infectious diseases in the region through water, food, air, rodents and arthropod vectors. The negative impacts of climate change directly or indirectly affect the full enjoyment of a range of human development, including access to basic infrastructure and socio-economic benefits and services (enhanced livelihoods, access to water, energy sources, food, health facilities, education facilities, housing). Increasing threat from natural hazards and climate change pose the increase in risks for rural communities of the region, which are the most affected and vulnerable in rapidly changing climatic situation.

Energy use in Uzbekistan is broadly ineffective and inefficient that particularly negatively affects the areas affected by the Aral Sea disaster. Uzbekistan is a net exporter of energy, yet reported shortages and interruptions that of supply that particularly affect the areas affected by the Aral Sea disaster hinder economic growth, job creation, education and healthcare. Uzbekistan records 0.45 kg of CO_2 emissions per

9 Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery's Innovation Lab, https://www.gfdrr.org/en/gfdrr-labs
10 GFDRR, World Bank

US$ of GDP compared to the world average of 0.27 kg.11 More than 40% of energy capacity is in power generation plants that are 40-50 years old and need urgent replacement. Energy shortages and failures, especially during winter, are frequent in remote regions and result in casualties and human security threats. The country's outdated irrigation infrastructure consumes 20% of the country's electricity. The existing housing stock and social infrastructure is energy inefficient and is mostly not environmentally friendly. This represents a wasted development opportunity, especially for possible gains from energy efficiency.

While climate change and slow transition to green economy and digitalization increase vulnerabilities of everyone in communities, they tend to have an unequal impact on women and men. This disbalance in vulnerability is rooted primarily in geographic, economic, social, educational/informational, and political power imbalances across all levels: women tend to be involved in housework including carrying water from the source; socio-cultural norms may cause restrictions in access to digital solution; they have lower levels of access to economic resources in general, and in particular, lower levels of education and information to accept and implement green solutions. Rural women are mainly engaged in agriculture activities, however, many times these activities are seasonal, inconsistent and/or unpaid, leaving women socially and economically vulnerable. Inequalities faced by rural women in agriculture include women's reduced access to land ownership and productive resources, unequal burden of unpaid and informal labor, and limited access to information and representation in decision-making and leadership. These inequalities put women at a disadvantage position, as farmers and entrepreneurs. Further to this, other difficulties rural women in Uzbekistan face include limited opportunities for employment outside of low-skilled agricultural works. They also have difficulties in accessing finance and, many times, are not registered as property owners. In fact, most of the times financial products are not in line with their needs as agricultural producers individually or collectively. Inadequate rural infrastructure in Uzbekistan especially impacts women, increasing their domestic work burden. Most rural households have unreliable electricity supplies, unclean fuel sources for heating and cooking, and no piped water. Economically active women end up spending nearly 50% of their time on unpaid domestic labor, including gathering fuel and collecting water and are unable to use labor-saving technologies (such as washing machines, sewing machines or vacuum cleaners). Furthermore, the lack of affordable pre-schools and other care services and social infrastructure more broadly in rural areas prevents women from achieving their full potential to engage in income generating activities such as agricultural enterprises or other entrepreneurial activities, to take part in training and capacity development, and to participate in local decision-making or community events. In Uzbekistan, 96,1% of women use mobile phones in Uzbekistan, compared to 96,8% of men, while larger difference can be observed in the access to the internet with 69,9% of women having access to the internet vs 72,3% of men.12 However, it must be mentioned that this data was collected during the sample survey and does not represent the actual picture in rural areas. There is also an assumption that even when women use mobile technology and the internet, they use it for a narrower range of mobile services. This gender gap in mobile phone and internet access prevents women from reaping the full benefits of mobile phone ownership.

These factors make women and girls more vulnerable and disproportionately affected by diverse negative developments affecting the Aral Sea area. Women's capacities are still overlooked, their vulnerabilities are misunderstood, and their potential to lead as agents of change is often ignored. Failure to consider the varied capacities and vulnerabilities of men and women in the design and implementation of community-based solutions continuous series of inequality and puts women at greater risk.

Policy context

The GoU adopted its mid-term strategy for the period 2017-2021, which includes five priority areas: (i) improving public administration and state buildings; (ii) ensuring the supremacy of law and reforming the judicial system; (iii) maintaining solid economic growth and liberalizing the economy; (iv) improving the social

11 http://hdr.undp.org/en/data

12 *https://gender.stat.uz/ru/dopolnitel-nye-pokazateli/ekonomicheskie-resursam*

safety net; and (v) ensuring security. Alongside these reforms, the Government is implementing investment projects worth US$35 billion in agriculture, water, energy and transport infrastructure, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and other sectors. In order to attract the required foreign investment and advanced technologies, the Government plans to open four additional Free Economic Zones in the Samarkand, Bukhara, Fergana and Khorezm regions.

The GoU in 2021 adopted National Gender Equality Strategy with the following main pillars: Guarantee equal rights and opportunities for women and men in electoral processes; Equal rights and opportunities for women and men in public administration; Gender Equality mainstreaming in curricula; Women Socio-Economic Empowerment; Prevention of harassment and violence against women; Improving family relations and child rearing; Gender-based planning and budgeting; Improving gender-disaggregated statistics. Previously, in 2019 Uzbekistan adopted a number of legal acts to advance gender equality and women's empowerment, including the Law "On Equal Rights and Opportunities of Men and Women" and Presidential Resolution "On Measures to further strengthen the guarantees of labour rights and support for women's entrepreneurial activities" (2019).

In February 2018, the Government adopted the state program to reinforce the implementation of the above-mentioned National Strategy. The focus is on the transparency and accountability of the public services, law supremacy and reforms in court system, persuasive economic development based on innovative approaches, advanced know-how and smart technologies and venture funding. The state program also envisions proactive social services, regional security and cohesion. Uzbekistan has made some progress towards SDG goals of eliminating extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity. However, vulnerability remains widespread with a large majority of the population being clustered near the poverty line. The population, therefore, faces high risks of falling back into poverty given the high exposure to shocks of COVID-19 pandemic and insufficient safety nets.

Uzbekistan is striving to mainstream climate change in the national policies and pursue transition to a low-carbon resilient development. It has developed national strategies and action plans on climate change, with associated projects on mitigation and adaptation. One of the steps towards this was the approval of the Strategy for the transition of Uzbekistan to the green economy for the period 2019-2030 which includes climate change considerations. Uzbekistan ratified the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in September 2018, and has committed to reduce CO2 emissions by 10% as well as strengthen resilience to climate change by 2030.13 To this end, the Government has developed a national Strategy on Transition to a Green Economy. It sets several targets and initiatives aimed at reducing emissions by increasing energy efficiency, including the use of renewable energy sources, improving resource efficiency and crop yields while ensuring a neutral balance of land degradation.14 A comprehensive framework for climate change adaptation is still lacking. Efforts to address climate change are currently dispersed across sector-specific entities, undermining coordinated action, and generating inefficiencies in budgeting and implementation. A range of Uzbekistan-specific easily scalable green solutions is limited. The capacities of the public authorities at the national level and in the regions affected by the Aral Sea disaster to implement the Strategy and advance green solutions across different sectors as well as public awareness of business entities and households of the importance of green development are limited. Climate change considerations remain noticeably absent from sectoral development policies and strategies.

Despite ongoing Government institutional reforms in water management, water-saving techniques are not expanding at a satisfactory pace. In 2019, the total area under water-saving techniques reached only 9.6% of irrigated lands, and under the recently adopted Agriculture Development Strategy for 2020–2030 this

13 https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/ Uzbekistan%20First/INDC%20Uzbekistan%2018-04-2017_Eng.pdf
14 https://lex.uz/ru/docs/4539506

indicator must reach 32% by 2030.15 One of the main factors influencing the health of the population is the provision of the population with drinking water. At present, the provision of the population of the Republic of Karakalpakstan with centralized water supply is about 60%, the rest of the population uses water from open reservoirs and well water, mainly in the winter months.16

Uzbekistan has been strengthening its regulatory framework on Disaster Risk Reduction by becoming a signatory to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030). In April 2019, the GoU adopted a National DRR Strategy on implementation of the Sendai Framework along with the National Action Plan to mainstream the Sendai agreements and ensure disaster resilient measures on protection for people of Uzbekistan including living in disaster affected regions including in the Aral Sea region.

In addition to pursuing nation-wide strategies focusing on core priorities relevant to the areas and populations affected by the Aral Sea disaster such as effective water use, environmentally friendly and energy efficient building practices and better protection from disasters, the Government of Uzbekistan implements a number of tailored programs to support the populations affected by the Aral sea disaster. The initiative of the President of Uzbekistan to declare the Aral Sea region a zone of environmental innovations and technologies, for example, is a means of simultaneously solving the economic, environmental and social problems of the Aral Sea region.17 Solving the problem of climate change while promoting economic growth requires a large-scale introduction of green technologies in such key sectors of the Aral Sea region as agriculture, electricity production, water, land use and energy consumption.18 Some of the national strategic priorities to develop innovations in Aral Sea include creation of the regulatory framework, creating of innovative financing system, creation of a permanent scientific platform and building capacities and maintain regular communications with scientific institutions.19

United Nations General Assembly recognizing the importance of innovative green solution passed a resolution Declaring the Aral Sea region a zone of ecological innovations and technologies in 2021. The resolution declares the Aral Sea region a zone of ecological innovations and technologies, and in this context calls upon all countries, the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders to develop and implement in the Aral Sea region environmentally sound technologies, sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and energy- and water-saving technologies.20

Uzbekistan's governance system is highly centralized: the central government in Tashkent makes the most important decisions on budgets and administrative appointments. Despite the country's highly centralized administrative structure, subnational governments play an important role in public services provision. Between 2013 and 2019, subnational governments were responsible for around 34% of the national public spending, equivalent to about 11% of the country's GDP. Community self-governing bodies, or locally know as mahalla citizens' assemblies (MCAs), play important role in carrying out state functions such as distributing social welfare payments, maintaining social stability, and preserving qishloqs' cleanliness and some of the basic infrastructure. The MCAs have committees in charge of specific issues such as social support, work with women, and the development of entrepreneurship and family businesses. MCAs independently manage financial assets in bank accounts, and the executive committees report quarterly to the Citizens' Assembly on the use of these funds. However, MCAs do not have access to self-financing mechanisms, and they cannot

15 United Nations Common Country Analysis: Uzbekistan 2020

16 Izimbet Turdimambetov, Eva Pauditsova, Amet Madreymov, Nilufar Komilova, Medetbay Oteuliev, Nursultan Kayupov, Kamila Utarbaeva, Gulzar Eshimbetova, Influence of harmful ecological factors on the population of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, European Journal of Molecular & Clinical Medicine ISSN 2515-8260 Volume 7, Issue 10, 2020

17 Послание Президента Шавката Мирзиёева, 24 января 2020 г.: *https://president.uz/ru/lists/view/3322*

18 Межведомственная рабочая группа при Министерстве инновационного развития Республики Узбекистан Концепция Приаралье зона экологических инноваций и технологий, 2020

19 Ibrokhim Abdurakhmonov, Ministry of Innovative Development Republic of Uzbekistan, Concept Aral Sea region - ecological innovations and technologies zone

20 United Nations General Assembly, Declaring the Aral Sea region a zone of ecological innovations and technologies, 10 May 2021

raise their own revenue. Limitation in the budget availability does not allow to invest adequately into the rural infrastructure.

Despite a widespread recognition of the potential positive impact of rural infrastructure investments and capacity building, and a strong central Government commitment, the use of energy, water supply, sanitation, green and energy efficient and ICT/digital solutions in rural areas affected by the Aral Sea crisis remains limited. In the area of energy efficiency, for example, despite a strong Government commitment to advance energy efficient and green solutions, there are low incentives for reducing energy bills of local public authorities as ownership and operating structure of public buildings and their expenditures (e.g. energy bills) are often paid out of local budgets, enforcement of energy efficiency requirements is low, capacities of building sector stakeholders are low an knowledge and tradition of designing and building energy efficient buildings as well as efficiently operating energy use in buildings are limited. Construction materials are often not certified for energy performance and often outdated technologies and inefficient materials are used by a large number of construction and maintenance companies. The public awareness of benefits of adopting energy efficient and green building technologies is low.

I. STRATEGY

The proposed Project will assist the MEDPR in supporting communities and local authorities to work together in building capacity and sustainable processes and institutions to achieve key development objectives. The overall Project strategy aims to empower and build capacities of local partners (communities, architects, engineers, local authorities) in developing and implementing local development plans and promoting locally relevant green and energy efficient as well as digital solutions. The Project aims to build capacities of targeted communities and partners in adopting and implementing environmentally friendly and gender-responsive solutions. The Project will also confer positive impacts on human development through increased economic opportunities and wellbeing of targeted communities. Climate-related concerns will be mainstreamed into decision-making at all levels, facilitating climate-resilient and energy efficient development from the community level up to the regional level.

The key barriers to sustainable environmentally friendly and energy efficient development and digital solutions in rural areas supporting human development in the areas affected by the Aral Sea disaster are as follows:

1. Insufficient knowledge base, information and communication on the environmentally friendly, gender-sensitive, energy efficient and digital rural areas-tailored solutions in the areas of architecture, social infrastructure and community development;
2. Limited capacities and incentives for local authorities to identify, develop and implement the environmentally friendly, gender-sensitive, energy efficient and digital rural solutions in the areas of architecture, social infrastructure and community development.
3. Limited opportunities and capacities of communities to develop plans of local development.
4. Lack of gender and age disaggregated data.

The Project is designed to contribute to SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable and SDG 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts as well as SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. It will also contribute to achieving UNDSDCF Output 5.1 By 2025, innovative, sustainable and age- and gender-responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives in agriculture, health, water, transport, energy production and building/ housing/residential infrastructure sectors are designed and implemented at national and regional levels, with a focus on at risk regions, including Aral Sea region and UNDP Country Programme, 2021-2025: Output 4.4. Systems innovations advanced for integrated solutions in the Aral Sea region.

The UNDP project is informed by the Systems Innovation Approach championed globally by UNDP.21 The approach encourages all partners rethink or reimagine development, using experimentation and risk-taking to create long-term solutions for stubborn human and natural problems. The UNDP project will directly support implementation of United Nations General Assembly Resolution declaring the Aral Sea region a zone of ecological innovations and technologies adopted in 2021 and a Roadmap on comprehensive measures to support development of areas affected by the Aral Sea disaster.22

The Theory of Change (TOC) of the UNDP Project as presented below is developed to address key barriers to sustainable rural development identified above. The project ToC builds upon the following interrelated strategic outputs: IF capacities of local communities to develop and implement community development plans are enhanced (Output 1); IF technical capacities of local architecture-design institutions in adopting innovative energy efficient, gender responsive and green solutions are strengthened (Output 2); IF technical capacities of local authorities and communities in adopting and using innovative ICT/digital solutions are strengthened (Output 3); and IF communities, authorities and technical staff are trained and incentivized to support sustainability of Project results (Output 4); THEN, it is expected that empowered communities and local authorities can develop and implement locally tailored gender responsive green energy efficient and digital development solutions in the long run.

21 SDG integration, https://sdgintegration.undp.org/#:~:text=SDG%20Integration&text=UNDP%20supports%20countries%20to%20tackle,(SDGs)%20through%20SDG%20integration.

22 United Nations General Assembly, Declaring the Aral Sea region a zone of ecological innovations and technologies, 10 May 2021; ИНТЕГРИРОВАННАЯ ДОРОЖНАЯ КАРТА ПРОГРАММНЫХ МЕР ПО КОМПЛЕКСНОМУ РАЗВИТИЮ РЕГИОНА ПРИАРАЛЬЯ, Проект от 10 июня 2021

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Theory of Change-Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building to Sustain and Develop Communities in Rural Areas

Timeframe:
2021-2025

Budget:
8000 000USD (2021-2026)

Donors:
Islamic Bank, UNDP (parallel financing)

Financial modalities:
Grants
Loans by International partners

Human resources:
Project staff
Country office staff

Technical inputs:
the main focuses are on economic and agriculture infrastructure solutions, by considering the aspects/elements of ICT, energy efficient and green infrastructure

Project inputs:
Support of community plans development and implementation
Development and promotion of green and energy efficient solutions social infrastructure development and promotion of rural tailored ICT solutions

Identification of target communities on the basis of robast data applying transparent comprehensive criteria. Training of communities to develop and implement community development plans (CDPs) Facilitate the dialog of communities and regionalauthorities on CDPs

Assessment of the impact of the Aral Sea disaster on social infrastructure in supported regions. Capacity assessment and training of local architects/engineers on innovative energy efficient and green solutions. Training on practical application of new solutions. Piloting of energy efficient, ozone friendly solutions

The "situational assessment" of the local capacity includes the assessment on the current local participatory governance system and mechanism at various levels, e.g., national, regional and project level

Institutionalize the community/local participatory approach in the planning and implementation of rural development programs and initiatives, and simultaneously strengthening the digital platform and ICT solutions used for this strategy

Increased capacity of the communities to develop CDPs. Communities are empowered to support sustainability of CDPs implementation results. Regional authorities CDPs implementation and link them with local development plans

Increased capacity of the communities to develop CDPs, as well as increased capacity of the public sector (architectural-design and construction) to develop master plans and programs using inclusive participatory mechanism that have focus to support the agriculture productivity and production by considering green and blue economy (sustainability/avoiding overexploitation) and considering the gender-responsive, low carbon technology and climate resilient

Innovative ICT/Digital solutions addressing the needs of target communities are developed, tested and promoted. Capacities of partners to develop and promote digital solutions and target communities to use them are strengthened

Strengthened prospects of project results sustainability and scalability

CDPs are developed and implemented in at least 144 supported communities

Architecture and construction plans in supported communities incorporate energy efficient and green solutions

Relevant and effective ICT solutions for rural communities are developed, tested and used

People in supported communities experience improved wellbeing through investments into social infrastructure, implementation of energy-efficient green solutions and ICT/Digital innovations tailored to their needs/

Assumptions

- Proactive engagement from government stakeholders and stable political context
- Availability of financial and human resources to ensure sustainability and scaling up f project innovative solutions

- National legislative and policy environment is conducted to advancing energy efficient, green technology and ICT/digital solutions advanced by the project
- Regional authorities and other partners are supportive of energy efficient, green technology and ICT/digital solutions advanced by the project

- COVID 19 pandemic is under control
- Beneficiaries remain open to capacity building initiatives and willing/available to participate

The Project TOC includes a number of key assumptions that are critical to achieving expected results: proactive engagement from government stakeholders and stable political context; availability of financial and human resources to ensure sustainability and scaling up of Project innovative solutions; national legislative and policy environment is conducive to advancing energy efficient, green technology and ICT/digital solutions advanced by the Project; regional authorities and other partners are supportive of energy efficient, green technology and ICT/digital solutions advanced by the Project; COVID 19 pandemic is under control; and beneficiaries remain open to capacity building initiatives and willing/available to participate.

Previous extensive experience of UNDP in CDP and rural development generated a few good practices and lessons learned that informed this ToC development. Core of them include that any community participatory planning should utilize participatory approaches involving community and local and national authorities to ensure a broad buy in. UNDP's methodology promotes bottom-up planning and encourages extensive mobilization of both external and local resources. The development and execution of CDPs have provided increased opportunities for local authorities to take ownership of local development and have created greater synergies with empowered communities. Other key lessons from previous UNDP and development partner Projects as well as the international best practices and innovative approaches that informed the ToC include: (i) the importance of inclusive green development for sustainable growth; (ii) the need for innovative technology (information and communication technology-based and smart systems) and standards to address rural environmental degradation and support rural economic development; and (iii) the need to provide effective water resource management and monitoring systems, improved agricultural practices and stakeholder participation, and enhanced green development.

The Project will benefit and empower most residents, especially the poor and low-income people, in targeted communities through the improvement of living environment, addressing the most critical barriers to local development identified by communities and advancing innovative solutions in energy efficiency and green development that will result in improving living conditions. Local development processes will be used to promote empowerment, skills development and active contribution of all to the growth. Considering the phenomenon of feminisation of poverty and taking into account vulnerability of women living in poverty in rural areas, this project will have a particular importance to women in concerned regions. Through its Output 2, the Project will promote renewable sources of energy in areas with either unreliable and limited power supply or no supply at all that will improve residents' access to services and enhance socio-economic development. Project will aim to target women as particular beneficiaries as women have more sustainable consumption choices23 and, as household energy managers, tend to have a bigger say in household energy decisions. The Project will help to strengthen communities' coping capacities to climate variability and climate-related hazards, and will help the country meet its obligations vis-à-vis inter- national environmental conventions. Additionally, the Project's outputs will contribute to the increased capacity of the local population to be better prepared and cope with natural disasters using adaptive agricultural practices and improved irrigation. Through its Output 3, the Project will fill the gaps of limited use of appropriate ICT interventions tailored to complexities of rural livelihoods, with access to online solutions. There is almost no analysis on the contribution of ICTs to rural livelihoods development and it is expected that the interventions

23 Carlsson-Kanyama, A. and Linden, A.-L., 'Energy efficiency in residences – Challenges for women and men in the North', Energy Policy 35, no. 4 (2007), pp. 2163–2172; Lee, E., Park, N.-K. and Han, J.-H., 'Gender difference in environmental attitude and behaviors in adoption of energy-efficient lighting at home', Journal of Sustainable Development 6, no. 9 (2013), pp. 36–50.

under Output 3 will test ICT solutions tailored to rural residents needs and will provide the evidence of impact of ICTs on rural livelihoods to inform national and regional rural ICT policies and programs development. In doing so, the Project considers gender digital divide in rural areas and ensures equal participation of women and men in benefiting from ICT interventions.

The Project has 4 main interconnected outputs:

- Output 1. Capacities of targeted local communities increased to identify local needs and to develop plans of actions, i.e., Community Development Plans (CDP), by identifying priority infrastructures for investments that have optimum and long-term benefits through an inclusive community engagement (including women and youth) and consultation with sub-regional and local authorities.
- Output 2: Capacities of local architecture-design institutions and regional departments of architecture and construction are enhanced for development of improved engineering designs and master plans that are responsive to the sustainability aspects (economic, operational, and environment sustainability), innovative energy and water efficient, low carbon technology, climate resilient and gender responsive, and promoting local resources.
- Output 3: Capacities of construction, architecture-design and public service delivery sector are increased on the local governance and community participatory mechanism in the planning and implementation of rural development programs and initiatives by using digital transformation, gender-sensitive approaches, innovative IT solutions, including development of digital infrastructure and information systems to ensure better access to social facilities and services in rural areas, including green redevelopment/regeneration and increasing resilience in post-disaster situations (such as COVID-19 and other pandemics).
- Output 4: Local communities are strengthened empowering women, youth, elderly, people with disabilities, involving in decision making processes and national/sub-regional/local government capacities and institutionalization in operation and maintenance of the infrastructure to ensure sustainable functioning.

The Project will pursue integrated planning and implement innovative solutions which will reinforce each other and promote sustainability of results across its components. The Project has a programmatic approach and proposed to be implemented in phases considering Project readiness level, risk exposure and available budget. The Project be focused on the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Khorezm, Navoi and Bukhara regions with PIU presence in Tashkent.

The Project proposal has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders, in full alignment with the policy priorities of the Government of Uzbekistan (GOU). National and local ownership will be ensured through active participation of national and regional Governmental institutions and communities. To ensure long-term sustainable impact, the Project will build upon past experiences and lessons learnt, and synergizes with on-going sustainable development activities.

The Project will select vulnerable rural communities and help them with participatory decentralized planning and rehabilitation of essential public services such as water supply, agriculture infrastructure and access to digital solutions. The proposed Project is aligned with the GoU renewable energy and green development national priorities. Technology and constructions solutions selection will be done to most effectively address root barriers to energy access and low carbon development in the areas affected by the Aral sea disaster.

Gender equality

The promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women is central to the mandate of UNDP and intrinsic to its development approach. Gender equality issues will be considered across all Project interventions. The Project will empower women, use their unique knowledge and experience to make

response to climate change more effective and sustainable[24] and tackling cultural norms preventing women from equal participation in community development. The Project will consider the recent findings of SEIA that the most local and regional decision-making structures exclude women and tend to overlook their needs and insights. The Project will implement specific measures to overcome this challenge.

The Project will ensure gender balance among initiatives beneficiaries through gender analysis and conduct gender sensitive monitoring. Women and women's organizations representatives will be actively and meaningfully engaged in each individual event for consultations and planning activities related to CDP development and implementation and promoting energy efficient and environmentally friendly solutions at the local level as well advancing ICT/digital solutions. Women equal participation in all Project capacity-building activities will be ensured. All project personnel will be required to demonstrate gender expertise and competences.

Gender considerations will be integrated and mainstreamed through all the activities of the project, particularly through the participatory community plans development, identification and development of energy efficient and digital solutions. The enhanced participation of women and vulnerable groups will be ensured throughout the project cycle to support their empowerment. The gender responsive approach will ensure that women and vulnerable groups have equal access to information and participate in, benefit from, and make decisions about the work of the project. This approach will not only help to promote gender equality, social inclusion, and enhanced community resilience, but will also help to ensure sustainability and uptake of Project outcomes.

As capacity building are key components of the Project, a participatory training and capacity-building needs assessment can be carried out to identify the needs, priorities and preferred modalities to increase knowledge, capacity and skills among both women and men in partner institutions particularly at management, professional and technical levels, to develop and adopt gender-responsive strategies, methods and tools for the work of the Project at institutional and community levels. All capacity-building events will ensure gender balanced panel of trainers, trainers with gender expertise and capacities. Gender-sensitive communications will be ensured at every stage of the project, advocacy, training materials and knowledge products.

Gender, age and disability status data will be collected and analyzed at all stages of the project.

Environmental Sustainability and Social and Environmental Safeguards

Environmental sustainability will be considered throughout the project. The Project is directly supporting environmental sustainability by promoting and building capacity of key partners in using environmentally friendly, energy efficient and digital solutions in architecture, social infrastructure management and communities' development. Natural resources such as water will be in focus of this Project. The economic value of natural resources such as water and energy are growing with increased agricultural production, which at the same time implies potential risks and further depletion of natural resources if not sustainably managed. It will therefore be ensured that all stakeholders and beneficiary households understand and appreciate the economic value of the environment, that activities equally take environmental sustainability and social inclusion into account. Digital solutions promoted by the Project will be environmentally friendly. The Project will share effective practices developed at the local level with the regional and national authorities to support their mainstreaming into sectorial development policies, strategies, and action plans.

To ensure continuous social relevance and social sustainability, community engagement for all Outputs will be pursued, with focus on inclusion of the vulnerable and marginalized groups. During the consultation process at the community and regional level, vulnerabilities will be mapped and service gaps identified. The

24 GGCA and UNDP, "Overview of linkages between gender and climate change"

capacity building interventions will induce knowledge, attitude and behavioral changes targeted towards rational use of resources and sustainability of UNDP Project results and inclusion all vulnerable groups into this process. Overall community engagement approach will lead to higher empowerment and increase ownership, which would translate into greater sustainability.

The Project will be coordinated with all other relevant Projects implemented by UNDP and other development partners in targeted communities such as the upcoming GEF-funded project Conservation and sustainable management of lakes, wetlands, and riparian corridors as pillars of a resilient and land degradation neutral Aral basin landscape supporting sustainable livelihoods, started in 2022. Such coordination and partnerships will enable comprehensive and better monitoring of environmental risks that might arise from all relevant initiatives implemented in targeted communities.

UNDP experience and expertise in the areas and localities to be proposed to be supported by the Project are diverse. UNDP Uzbekistan provided extensive support to the MEDPR, and other government bodies, to develop strategic documents and legislation in regional development, including community-based development. UNDP has extensive experience in working with communities targeted by the proposed Project. For instance, UNDP was a lead agency in implementing a UN Joint Programme on "Sustaining Livelihoods affected by the Aral Sea disaster" that applied integrated approach to local development, identifying linkages and synergies between economic, social and environmental aspects of development and followed by three UN Joint programmes successfully implemented in Aral Sea region that contributed to the national efforts to improve peoples' livelihoods and ensure better living standards. UNDP provided extensive support to the MEDPR, and other government bodies to develop strategic documents and legislation in regional development, including community-based development. UNDP has extensive experience in capacity development for provision of services, and supporting job creation and entrepreneurship as well as in promoting innovative technologies and best practices. Also, UNDP jointly with MEDPR facilitated the process of promoting green recovery and development by providing inputs to green policy development and testing new green innovation solutions at the level of communities.

UNDP is well represented in the regions countrywide; has a specific expertise in community mobilization and community development including improvement and strengthening the participatory decision-making mechanisms at the community level; has an effective interaction at all level of the public administration; has a deep knowledge of the country development policies, including local governance and public administration reform. UNDP has a strong managerial capacity to implement this Project acquired through implementing similar activities. UNDP is well represented in the areas affected by the Aral Sea disaster and has a specific expertise in community mobilization and community development including improvement and strengthening the participatory decision-making mechanisms at the community level. UNDP has its office representation in Nukus, Karakalpakstan.

II. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Expected Results

The SRD Project's expected impact is to contribute to the national development target on inclusive poverty reduction, and promote economic development, through inclusive and sustainable growth and the outcome is Improving well- being of rural people and creating economic and income opportunities. It is expected that UNDP Project will contribute to achieving the following 2 specific performance outcome targets of SRD project: By 2030

a. Approximate 710,000 rural population having access to basic infrastructure and improved services; and

c.10,000 people trained/capacity built with >30% women/youth.

UNDP Project will contribute to achieving the SRD Project Output of Infrastructure developed and operational. It will be accomplished by UNDP by empowering and building capacities of local partners

(communities, architects, engineers, local authorities) in developing and implementing local development plans and promoting locally relevant green and energy efficient as well as digital solutions. To achieve this overall objective, four specific objectives will be pursued:

- Increase capacities of local communities to identify local needs and to develop plans of actions (e.g. CPDs), by identifying priority infrastructures for investments that have optimum and long-term benefits through an inclusive community engagement, differentiated at the levels of gender, age, location and disability and develop and execute community development plans in 170 communities;
- enhance the capacities of local architecture-design institutions and regional departments of architecture and construction to adopt and use gender-responsive, green and energy efficient infrastructure solutions and develop advanced, modern designs and architecture plans;
- strengthen capacities of local architects and public service sector in adopting and using digital solutions with consideration of gender digital divide in the planning and implementation, including mainstreaming local participatory and governance mechanism, in the rural development programs and initiatives;
- strengthen capacities of local communities and national/sub-regional/local government in operation and maintenance of the infrastructure to ensure its sustainable functioning.

The UNDP project will pursue synergy among these four outputs. In developing CDPs (Output 1), communities will be asked to provide their inputs into identifying and developing architecture/construction gender-responsive, green and energy efficient infrastructure (i.e., economic and agriculture infrastructure) as well as digital solutions that would be relevant to and effective once implemented in supported communities (Outputs 2 and 3). CDPs may include some effective and locally appropriate green and energy efficient infrastructure as well as digital solutions. Output 4 that is focusing primarily on promoting sustainability of the infrastructure established through Project interventions will be embedded into all three project outputs.

The Project will work with MEDPR through:

- Mainstreaming: improvements to the methodology for participatory/inclusive district planning will be necessary to ensure the application of a comprehensive, integrated, sustainable development approach.
- Down-streaming: developing solid links between local government and community level planning processes to ensure the local level plans are inclusive, effective and efficient;
- Up-streaming: linking and anchoring planning approaches and innovations (component 2 and 3) at the regional and potentially national level.

In total, 170 rural communities (qishloqs) located in 20 districts have been tentatively identified to be supported. Identified list is indicative and subject to validation and confirmation during the Project Appraisal which will be done by under Output 1 of the Project. A tentative set of criteria developed in consultation with the MEDPR for identifying rural communities in Project area includes:

- Concentrated (co-location) approach with combining several densely populated villages into group of rural communities to have greater cumulative impacts and lower investment cost per-capita;
- Access to major (source) infrastructure that allows technical and cost-effective connection to ensure infrastructure sustainability (this criteria may be considered, but it is not a prerequisite, as the project may consider developing a standalone power and/or water system (using renewable power sources) for remote/off-grid rural areas). Availability of architectural planning of rural territory will be pre-requisite for physical investment;
- Priority of identifying rural communities around peri-urban areas and rural areas/qishloqs based on the vulnerability and service-gaps mapping
- Potential for growth of entrepreneurship based on competitive advantage of the specific region/community.

It is expected that by the beginning of the Project the national partners will make progress in minimizing the extent and impact of COVID-19 pandemic. Health, economic and social uncertainty will be minimized and

would not negatively impact capacity and availability of communities, construction companies, architects and engineers to engage and execute contracts.

Output 1. Capacities of targeted local communities increased to identify local needs and to develop plans of actions, i.e., Community Development Plans (CDP), are prepared by identifying the priority infrastructures for investments that have optimum and long-term benefits through an inclusive community engagement (including women and youth) and consultation with sub-regional and local authorities.

UNDP has helped the most marginalized to address their needs by building capacity to identify common priorities, mobilize local capital and resources, and foster community ownership. It has closely engaged with poverty reduction and local governance issues, operating at the local level. UNDP interventions in Karakalpakstan have helped to enable infrastructure rehabilitation, through providing rural households with access to safe drinking water, functional irrigation, sanitation and power supply facilities and other related infrastructure. The lessons learned show that for improving rural infrastructure, the Project should continue to foster a high level of local contribution and engagement and community and government balanced ownership. Organizational capacity building support to beneficiary communities participating in maintenance arrangements, along with improvement of technical abilities of operating organisations will help to ensure appropriate ownership and sustainability of public infrastructure.25

Positive and extensive experiences of UNDP support in CDPs development will be used for planning of investment and its execution at the community level to ensure that investments meet the needs of end-beneficiaries. As communities often do not have the necessary capacity for planning, prioritization and execution, the Project will adopt a holistic approach to CDPs development and execution. The Project will provide additional training to key Project stakeholders (communities and local authorities) on preparation of local and community development plans, community mobilization, ownership and social accountability through development of detailed process for community members involvement and overseeing procurement and construction. The Project will be providing coordination support and facilitate the effective flow of work and ensure proper consultative process is adopted in the course of preparation, which is feasible from technical and financial perspective.

Based on previous UNDP experiences of CDP development, it is safe to assume that many CDPs will focus on capacity building support in introducing sustainable schemes for drinking water provision and maintenance of water supply systems in rural areas. More investment in irrigation system is a vital way out of poverty, as it reduces climatic risk and increases yield and cropping intensities. Community-owned irrigation is more effective because the work necessary for water extraction and conduction is within practical reach of communities introducing new technologies to the irrigation system to enhance cropping intensity and water use efficiency, e.g., solar power water pumps, drip irrigation, etc. are also important because they are accessible to capital- or credit-constrained small farmers. Physical investment and appropriate technology are not sufficient, though. Institutions, especially strong water users' associations are essential for counteracting unequal access to land and water resources, for managing community-owned infrastructures and for ensuring the financial return on production upon which the maintenance and sustainability of self-managed irrigation systems depend.

Where appropriate and feasible, planning and execution of activities under Output 1 will be coordinated with other relevant projects targeting the same communities such as the upcoming GEF-funded project Conservation and sustainable management of lakes, wetlands, and riparian corridors as pillars of a resilient

25 UNDP developed comprehensive Community Development Plans, Design and Implementation Concept, UNDP Aral Sea Area Programme that will be utilized in implementation of this component.

and land degradation neutral Aral basin landscape.26 If other relevant projects target the same communities, synergies will be sought through partnerships with other interventions in CDPs development.

Specific activities to be implemented to achieve Output 1 include:
Activity 1.1 Identification/verification of target communities (170 communities) in 20 districts of Karakalpakstan, Khorezm, Bukhara and Navoi regions:

- Collect relevant socio-economic data and gender, age disaggregated data to inform selection of targeted communities in supported regions.
- Develop/refine comprehensive and transparent criteria for selection of target communities.
- Conduct situation analysis of socio-economic potential of target communities including households' profile, agro-ecological characteristics and potential, and mapping of the existing social and communal infrastructures. Pre-existing inequalities in root causes of vulnerabilities and vulnerable groups will be identified.

Activity 1.2 Capacity building in target districts on community mobilization for identification of community needs (up to 40 people at each community, total 6800 people):

- Introduce the Project and a process of CDPs development to district authorities and members of supported communities.
- Conduct workshops and trainings at district and qishloq levels on such topics relevant to support community needs assessment as Sustainable Development Goals, Human Security concept to focus on "CDP development" knowledge sharing to improve rural economy, such as "agriculture and new farming methodologies", "irrigation technologies", "strengthening home industries related to women empowerment", , gender equality, prevention of harassment and GBV, green development, energy efficiency and digital solutions for rural development and others.
- Develop a system analysis of the district (agriculture infrastructure, social infrastructure, health, education, access to drinking water, environment and climate change issues, digital development, prevention of GBV and harassment, etc.) to identify key priority areas for socio-economic, environmental and digital development of the district in the participatory approach.
- Identify and assess barriers to local community development initiatives, including those faced by the vulnerable groups, and develop mitigation strategies to address them.

Activity 1.3 Development and implementation of the gender-responsive CDPs at the qishloq/community level (up to 170) relying on extensive and inclusive communities mobilization in targeted communities:

- Recruit local community development facilitators (3 gender-diverse facilitators for each region) (total 12 CDFs, empowering women, community leaders), who will be composed with specialists on CDP, rural economic development, women and youth empowerment.
- Conduct Focus Group Discussions with target community members in order to establish Initiative Groups The initiative group is community activists of various professions; there may be official representatives of the VCC, youth, people with disabilities, women and pensioners who voluntarily joined the group to contribute to the community development, monitoring the project on implementation of the community development plan, engage in capacity building and awareness raising activities.
- Train Initiative Group members on agriculture and rural economy, Human Security Concept, SDGs, problem identification/prioritization, mapping the local infrastructure, monitoring and evaluation of community social infrastructure projects from gender-responsive perspective.
- Formulate the community vision, through participatory process at the stakeholders' CDP development workshop for each target community, particularly involving women.

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26 The GEF-funded project Conservation and sustainable management of lakes, wetlands, and riparian corridors as pillars of a resilient and land degradation neutral Aral basin landscape is planning to implement the Integrated Water Management Framework designed for LADAB landscape and 4 LDN-compatible (LDN stands for Land Degradation Neutrality) Gender Sensitive Climate-Smart Integrated Water Management designed in 4 priority districts and Integrated land-use spatial planning in 4 priority districts developed and under implementation in line with LDN principles.

- Develop CDPs for each target community, with extensive community participation. Ownership/responsibility of preparing CDP rests with the community group, with the support and technical assistance from the facilitator(s). This is to ensure the ownership of the community on the asset/infrastructure during conception, development, implementation, and maintenance post-completion.
- Organize the Clustering based workshop and prepare the Clustered Development Plans for the group of communities ensuring active participation of women.

Activity 1.4 Facilitate the institutionalization of the CDPs at the district administration level (inclusion of the CDP priorities and monitoring systems for CDPs into the district development plans of the government), including through engaging the locally selected deputies:

- Conduct targeted advocacy and awareness building campaigns using behaviour insights to promote sustainable, gender-sensitive and environmentally friendly solutions including social infrastructure in the target communities.
- Build and institutionalize sustainable open channels of communication the local authorities, locally selected Deputies and members of the CDPs initiative groups, inclusive of at least 30% of women (e.g. regular public hearings, thematic meetings).
- Enable regular presentations of the CDPs at the local Khokimyats with participation of all the relevant government institutions, Deputies, local CBOs, members of the CDPs initiative groups in order to integrate the priority issues identified in CDPs into the local government budgets. Particularly engaging women deputies and building their capacities in responding to climate change and greed development issues in gender-sensitive manner.
- Facilitate sub-national development planning and implementation by supporting the institutionalization of the CDP process at district and sub-national planning level processes, including the linkage to state financial budgets to ensure complementary/synchronization between the community development and government initiatives.

Activity 1.5 Identification/verification of target communities (around 200 communities) for the 2nd stage of the IsDB Program, from the Samarkand, Kashkadarya and Surakhandarya regions

- Collect relevant socio-economic data and gender, age disaggregated data to inform selection of targeted communities in supported regions.
- Develop/refine comprehensive and transparent criteria for selection of target communities.
- Conduct situation analysis of socio-economic potential of target communities including households' profile, agro-ecological characteristics and potential, and mapping of the existing social and communal infrastructures. Pre-existing inequalities in root causes of vulnerabilities and vulnerable groups will be identified.

Activity 1.6 Organization of workshops with community participation (around 1500) and development of around 200 cluster based CDPs.

- Recruit local community development facilitators (3 gender-diverse facilitators for each region) (total 12 CDFs, empowering women, community leaders)
- Conduct Focus Cluster based Group Discussions with target community members in order to establish Initiative Groups (represented by the different groups within the same community e.g. women, youth, disabled, pensioners, etc.).
- Formulate the community vision, through participatory process at the stakeholders' CDP development workshop for each target community based on the Cluster approach, particularly involving women.
- Develop Cluster based CDPs covering around 200 communities, , with extensive community participation. Ownership/responsibility of preparing CDP rests with the community group, with the support and technical assistance from the facilitator(s).

Output 2: Capacities of local architecture-design institutions and regional departments of architecture and construction are enhanced for development of improved engineering designs and master plans that are

responsive to the sustainability aspects (economic, operational, and environment sustainability), innovative energy and water efficient, low carbon technology, climate resilient and gender responsive, and promoting local resources.

Climate change is a global phenomenon, but its effects are local. Physical implications are determined by local geography and micro level interactions between global warming, existing weather patterns, and local exposure and sensitivity. Climate change disproportionately affects women and could exacerbate existing gender inequalities. Climate change has been recognized by the world community as a potential threat to the environment, eco-systems and development at the micro and macro levels. Through its initiatives in the agricultural sector in Karakalpakstan, UNDP began to build awareness amongst farmers on environmentally sustainable practices, which includes climate resilient approaches. It supported a number of projects implemented jointly by local government and communities to demonstrate approaches and techniques for addressing land degradation problems, joint resource planning and use.

This Output will address limited availability and use of information on climate risks and adaptation options and will enhance livelihoods diversification efforts that will contribute to strengthening the resilience of poor rural women and men to climate change. Green energy solutions will be tested to provide green sustainable sources of electricity.

The targeted communities have a potential for solar and wind energy. The energy efficiency improvement potential is significant and has not yet been fully explored. Renewable sources and efficient electricity use alone cannot solve current electricity supply issues, but they can certainly play an important role as an intermediate strategy in energy crisis alleviation.

The Project envisions application of modern technologies, efficiency, low carbon and climate resilience options, e.g. new farming and irrigation technologies, energy and water efficiency in agriculture. SMART villages concept, including green redevelopment/regeneration and sustainable spaces in rural communities that will be piloted under the Project in the first two years, and could be replicated and expanded in later years, or subsequent phases of the Project. Affordability, low-cost solutions, simplicity will be considered in the course of preparation engineering designs tailored to reduce the investment cost. Collaboration between local technical architectural departments and community members will ensure that Project activities are more likely to be sustained over time. A closer engagement would also help build their capacity to provide ongoing support to local adaptation actions in a collaborative and holistic manner and reduce overlap and duplication of efforts.

The environmental goal to which the Project action aims to contribute towards is to identify and promote local solutions that will contribute to substantial and sustainable reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In villages where there is significant cattle production, to provide capacity building to the stakeholders on how to reduce the methane emission. More green and energy efficient buildings will reduce a need for combusting conventional biomass and fossil fuels to satisfy communities and households energy needs. The Project is expected to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, a reduction in soil loss and natural disaster risks caused by erosion. The Project will extensively use a set of building code revisions building capturing energy savings that are cost-effective developed under the previous UNDP Project and will adapt them to the objectives of this Output.27

When piloting off-grid renewable energy systems in critical social sectors, the Project will assess the potential of such solutions regional and national scalability by assessing the issues of affordability of up-front costs of

27 Frank Klinckenberg (team leader), with additional research and contributions by Olimjon Saidmamatov and Bahtiyor Eschanov (national experts), Midterm Review Market Transformation for Sustainable Rural Housing in Uzbekistan, Implemented by UNDP Uzbekistan and executed by the Ministry of Construction, Uzbekistan

such systems, financial sustainability, and technical capacity and awareness for these technologies utilization without the Project support. Building on UNDP experience of introducing solar home systems, the Project will explore how solar systems can be used to support access to agriculture infrastructure, social services and for lighting in communities. The Project will test institutional solar PV that serve institutions, such as a clinic, or a school with such common applications as refrigeration of vaccines, video health assessments, and computers for schools and PV agricultural pumping. Innovations in service-delivery models will include public-private- partnerships (PPPs), and de-risking mechanism for private investments. The Project will focus on enhancing technical capacities and skills for the selected technologies. Skill trainings will follow guidelines specified by the Project and will ensure women's, marginalised and vulnerable communities' participation, as appropriate. Some trainings will be designed and delivered for regional and local officials who may not be fully aware of the potential benefits of promoting gender-sensitive green and energy efficient solutions. The training will also educate them about the various financing structures possible, including the benefits of the PPP model.

Under Output 2 the estimated number of direct beneficiaries will consist of 735 people (with at least 30% are women) from at least 130 communities where innovative methods aimed at energy saving, reducing CO2 emission, using energy efficient and low carbon technology will be tested. Capacities of local architecture-design institutions and regional departments of architecture will be strengthened in integrating climate risks, resilience, energy efficiency and green solutions into assessment, approval, and execution of new architectural plans. More than 750 professionals will be trained on practical aspects of implementing energy efficient and low carbon technology. It is expected that the Project experiences will contribute to enhancements of national policies on renewable energy and green development by providing practical rural-communities sustainable solutions, including support of local manufacturers of solar photovoltaic systems and capacity building of users. The Project will inform development of supportive policy and regulatory frameworks as well as provide some insights on how to create incentives for local authorities to look for more energy-efficient and green solutions. In a long run, the evidence gathered through this Project component can inform solutions addressing policy, financial, market, technical and capacity barriers, reduce the overall investment risk profile of green energy efficiency construction solutions and encourage private sector investment.

The lessons learned from implementing this component will inform UNDP policy advice in promoting efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable alternative and renewable energy technologies and support initiatives promoting resource management, energy use, and environmental protection linked to disaster risk management and economic development initiatives.

Specific activities to be implemented to achieve Output 2 include:

Activity 2.1 Research on adverse impact of the ecological disaster and environment degradation on agriculture and rural population and identification of locally relevant sustainable environmentally friendly solutions.

- Prepare a comprehensive analysis assessing the impact of the ecological disaster and environment degradation to agriculture and rural population in collaboration with advanced specialized institutions (international and national consultants) considering the impact on different groups of population, including women, youth and people with disabilities
- Develop a range of locally relevant modern methods for local architecture/designing including energy and water efficient and low carbon technologies, for climate resilient spatial and agriculture development and planning based on the best international practices. Make sure that the methods are human-centred and meet the needs of women, people with disabilities, elderly etc.
- Develop practical recommendations on further improvement/adaptation of the introduced innovative methods in the Aral Sea region.

Activity 2.2 Building capacity of local architects/engineers by promoting innovative solutions aimed at energy and water saving, reducing CO2 emission for climate resilient planning, with focus on local agriculture and social infrastructure with particular focus on different needs of concerned groups, including women, youth, people living in poverty and people with disabilities:

- Conduct capacity assessment of local architectural planning environment (e.g., regulations, technical capacities of architects/engineers) with regard to adopting and implementing climate resilient solution
- Develop locally appropriate training modules for capacity building of the local architecture-design institutions, designers, contractors, regional and rural partners and relevant university students reflecting research and capacity assessment findings and implement trainings. The trainings will ensure equal participation of women both as participants and in training panel, all materials will be in line with UNDP Principles of Gender Sensitive Communications. The trainings may cover the following areas:
    - Institutional, regulatory and policy aspects (e.g., building codes) of using energy efficient construction materials and low carbon technology in constructing social infrastructure in rural areas;
    - Practical aspects of design and application of energy and water efficient and low carbon technologies/materials and innovative approaches in designing economic and agriculture infrastructure and calculating budget estimates in a gender-responsive way (each supported region, 20-25 specialists per region).
    - Practical on-site training for representatives of construction organizations on the use of energy efficient materials (each supported region, 15-25 participants per region).
    - Use of new technologies in application of revised building codes and regulations in the development of master plans and APOTs (local designers such as architects, urban planners and representatives of regional departments of Ministry of Construction, Cadaster, Ecology committee etc., in each supported region, 20-25 specialists per region).
    - Inter-dependence of the environment and social infrastructure (specialists from design institutions, academic and research institutions, rural and regional authorities, 20-25 specialists per region)
- Organize a study tour for key experts from design, construction, rural development and agriculture sector on energy & water efficient, low carbon technology and agriculture methods and technologies to foreign countries with similar experiences (4 people from per supported region, total 16 people). Promote women leadership and ensure quota for women to participate in a study tour.
- Provide climate change responsive trainings on design of infrastructure with focus on rural infrastructure and agriculture and disseminate the results from the training widely.
- Develop a training module on improving climate resilience of agriculture and social infrastructure in the Aral Sea region and disseminate among stakeholders.
- Provide trainings on software on local architecture-designing, estimation for improving rural social infrastructure and application at the local structures design, including communal services.
- Widely disseminate the results/achievements of using energy efficient construction materials and low carbon technology in constructing social infrastructure in rural areas among the rural population and organizations related to the construction industry through regular cooperation with local TV and mass media, including social media, ensuring the principles of UNDP Gender-Sensitive Communications, and avoiding gender biases and stereotypes, promoting women-leadership and portraying women in non-traditional professions.

Activity 2.3 Introduction of energy and water efficient, new agriculture & farming technologies, ozone-friendly and low GWP (global-warming potential) based technologies in different sectors/applications in a balanced proportion of pilot projects:

- Pilot an energy-efficient and water efficient, new agriculture & farming technologies, ozone-friendly and low GWP based technologies in different sectors/applications: Healthcare (rural medical

facilities), Public education (schools, kindergarten), Agriculture (cold-rooms, warehouses), Public buildings, in the infrastructure of the Small Economic Zones, etc.

- Expand ozone-depleting substances (ODS) re-use system to the region to ensure smooth transformation of technology from ODS base to green technologies.
- Build capacity building of environmental/customs officers and technology users on environmental protection (legislation).
- Capture local experiences of energy-efficient, ozone-friendly and low GWP (global-warming potential) based technologies use for wider dissemination and scale up.

Output 3: Capacities of construction, architecture-design and public service delivery sector are increased on the local governance and community participatory mechanism in the planning and implementation of rural development programs and initiatives by using digital transformation, gender-sensitive approaches, innovative IT solutions, including development of digital infrastructure and information systems to ensure better access to social facilities and services in rural areas, including green redevelopment/regeneration and increasing resilience in post-disaster situations (such as COVID-19 and other pandemics).

This Project component will support the development of ICT/digital solutions.28 This component will not invest in the expansion of broadband connectivity but rather focus opportunistically on the development of digital services to support the local governance and community participatory mechanism in the planning, implementation and monitoring of rural development programs and initiatives, targeted to the local public sector and local communities. Specifically, this component will support the emergence of a digital innovation ecosystem aimed at providing local content, applications, and services for rural development in the areas targeted by the Project. The Project will consider the impact of the gender digital divide in doing so and ensure women involvement, job creation for women in non-traditional areas i.e. design of IT and innovative solutions, architecture etc.

Years of agricultural development experience show that Project that involve ICT require communities engagement, right from the start. Interventions that make limited efforts to involve local residents in planning and design result in low uptake, trust, and interest. The same is true for programs or strategies involving ICTs for development. A weak focus on communities needs at the expense of ICT will ignore ancillary needs for investment in human capacity, community participation, or infrastructure. Recognizing the importance of engagement, the Project will ensure that both men and women participate to minimize a risk of ICT interventions worsening rather than alleviate underlying economic and social inequalities, including those between women and men. Rural women, face significant disadvantages in accessing information and communication assets and services. Cultural attitudes and women's multiple roles and heavy domestic responsibilities often exclude them from these services. The Project will undertake the necessary measures to ensure the ICT and digital solutions meet women's needs.

Building on UNDP global experience,29 UNDP will conduct a comprehensive assessment of citizens on digital literacy, and explore feasibility to provide free public Wi-Fi zones in public places in the selected targeted communities, using solar or other alternative energy sources. Solutions will be proposed to ensure to no fees collection from users to connect to public internet access points installed in public places in targeted

28 ICT is any device, tool, or application that permits the exchange or collection of data through interaction or transmission. ICT is an umbrella term that includes anything ranging from radio to satellite imagery to mobile phones or electronic money transfers.

29 UNDP supported the Philippine government in implementing a program to provide free public Wi-Fi to all citizens in all public places in the country underpinned by legislation that passed in 2017 that mandates the government's Department of Information and Communications (DICT) to implement the Free Public Internet Access Program (*https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=33960#:~:text=The%20Philippine%20government%20has%20an,Free%20Public%20Internet%20Access%20Program*. UNDP experience on advancing smart cities can be found here: https://sgtechcentre.undp.org/content/sgtechcentre/en/home/our-focus-areas/smart-cities.html

communities that will benefit primarily poor and disadvantaged women and men who would be able to improve their educational attainment, deepen their engagement in governance processes, and avail of opportunities for economic development through increased access to internet.

The Project will not push off-the-shelf solutions as they rarely consider local constraints faced by the end users (e.g. language, literacy, connectivity, electricity, cultural norms). This Component is designed to ensure local demand is understood and targeted in the development of digital solutions beyond prototyping. They will include, for example, awareness and trainings as well as piloting of solutions with the target audiences. Local talents, networks and knowledge will be leveraged. Through a series of workshops throughout the implementation, representatives of farmers and producers will meet with local developers to define their specific needs. Solutions will be tested and developed using existing networks.

The feasibility of using digital tools in rural development such as in the data collection process will be explored. One of the most promising forms of data collection is the "Internet of Things," or sensors that can be used to provide real-time data on things like temperature, soil moisture, and weather conditions. Other tools include geographic position systems (GPS) or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to collect spatial data. Another dimension that can be explored are Digital finance services (DFS) that inclusive electronic payments, such as mobile money, that reduce costs and increase transparency, helping to combat poverty and improve public financial management.

Digital financial services can help to address specific chronic challenges across the agricultural value chain—especially where the traditional finance sector is not fully addressing the demands in rural markets. This sector often faces high infrastructure costs and a lack of incentives to adapt products to the unique needs of farmers. Using DFS to address specific challenges in agriculture may have significant spillover effects such as timely social transfers and quick supports of rural families experiencing challenges due to drought and other environment changes. One of the areas of ICT use that will be explored are e-health solutions that may include logistics management information systems, clinical decision support tools, digital payments, telemedicine and mobile medical applications and SMS reminder systems. Youth will be targeted through ICT education solutions that will address the mismatch between private sector skills demands and youth skills sets by providing youth with the necessary vocational training in IT, personal skills, and soft skills to increase their employment prospects through access to online learning. The Project will aim at inspiring youth to be champions who are able to utilize ICTs and lead their own small businesses. The Project will target pragmatic young people and social entrepreneurs who are innovative, able to exploit opportunities and willing to take risks.

This component will conduct skills building in communities to address the problem of digital competencies. Most of the smallholders lack the basic skills needed to use the digital tools and platforms, which results in a very low adoption rate. Various training delivery mechanisms will be explored and utilize such tools as ToT model and Mobile Training Units that will move around the target areas.

The Project will explore how to make the identified effective innovations replicable, scalable, and sustainable for a larger and more diverse population. The Project will produce recommendations enabling wider and deeper ICT use that may focus on supportive policies and regulations, complementary investments in physical infrastructure, capacity building, etc. It can be expected that effective ICT solutions developed through the Project will be considered by such diverse partners supporting rural development as government organizations, CSOs; private companies; and business associations for scaling up.

Specific activities to be implemented to achieve Output 3 include:

Activity 3.1 Digital readiness assessment, including digital gender gap, and development of local digitalization plans:

- Review national/regional programs and government resolutions on digital development to identify priorities to promote digital transformation of supported regions and rural areas.
- Conduct gender and age disaggregated assessment of local capacities for successful implementation of the government's digitalization agenda with focus on digital connectivity (i.e., rural assessment on mobile subscription, network coverage, internet access, affordability), infrastructure, level of digitalization in the public and private sectors, demand for ICT solutions, e-commerce, and digital literacy of the population, businesses and government employees.
- Develop local digital transformation action/work plans and sectoral/segment prioritization (e.g., prioritizing on public sector in agriculture, or civil & land registration, or health sector, etc.) in consultation with the local authorities and citizens, ensuring equal participation of women and youth.
- Develop a range of possible digital/ICT solutions to be developed/tested and identify target districts and communities, institutions to pilot them.

Activity 3.2 Capacity building to support regional digital transformation (25 people at each supported region, total 100 people):

- Relying on the findings of the digital readiness assessment, organize training courses for the staff of identified institutions on overall digital literacy and specific digital skills on the use of information systems and digital solutions in their daily work (healthcare services, digital registration in social or business or public spheres, etc.). The trainings will ensure equal participation of women both as participants and in training panel, all materials will be in line with UNDP Principles of Gender Sensitive Communications.
- Organize TOT and series of trainings on regional digitalization to ensure continuous learning, expanding and refreshing of the digitalization process. Ensure minimum of 30% quotas for women-trainers
- Organize a study tour on IT, digitalization to a foreign country advanced in regional and rural digital development for local specialists (4 people from each region, total 16 people). Promote women leadership and ensure minimum 30% quota for women to participate in a study tour.

Activity 3.3Increasing digital literacy for rural population in target villages/qishloqs, with focus on students, youth communities, cooperatives, water-users associations, etc.

- Conduct hands on training/knowledge sharing of digital and ICT solutions available/developed by the Project with youth and broader supported communities, ensuring equal participation of women, promoting women leadership and in line with UNDP Principles of Gender Sensitive Communications
- Organize training programs for students of IT specialized and technical institutes in pilot regions, support women empowerment through engaging more women and girls to ICT.
- Pilot a digital classroom model with advanced digital technology in target districts (1-2 classrooms per supported region).
- Organize online learning sessions presenting rural areas tailored ICT solutions by the leading domestic and foreign institutions.
- Support rural youth in distance competitions organized by the government with awards for the best nominations. Support girl leaders, by creating special awards, building capacity and liaising with other projects and programmes to promote women's and girls' employment in non-traditional areas, such as IT, architecture, engineering and etc.

Activity 3.4 Based on the prioritization assessment under activity 3.1., improve access to social infrastructure through using modern technology/equipment and promoting/piloting the smart/green communities model:

- Provide practical assistance through procuring necessary equipment (computers, other IT equipment), software, wifi routers, access to internet etc. in selected targeted communities
- Conduct digital transformation of at least 2 local public/social services per year such as telemedicine, electronic social transfer payments and others (total of 10 public services in 5 years). This includes redesign of business processes, development of digital solutions, and their integration with e-government architecture.

- Pilot and disseminate rural ICT/digital solutions addressing the needs of supported regions such as growing crops in conditions of high soil mineralization, access to irrigation water and water saving technologies, etc.
- Support updating the territorial development plans for selected communities, promoting ICT/digital solutions ensuring full integration of an inclusive green growth and gender-sensitive approach.
- Support local authorities and communities in introducing innovative inclusive technologies and green practices and pilot the pathways identified for accelerated development
- Develop a model of smart community relying on Project pilots' findings for possible replications.

Output 4: Local communities are strengthened empowering women, youth, elderly, people with disabilities, involving in decision making processes and national/sub-regional/local government capacities and institutionalization in operation and maintenance of the infrastructure to ensure sustainable functioning.

The Project will pay particular attention to supporting sustainability of CDP results and other innovative solutions developed through components 2 and 3. It will create spaces and places for the constructive interface between communities, representatives and local authorities, and between service users and providers. It will focus on strengthening communities' engagement in local governance activities by enhancing abilities of communities' committees as the true form of local self-governance at the community level and supporting existing forms of communities' groups (especially groups and organizations working with and/or for women). Particular emphasis will be given to strengthening the role of women in community self-government, as well as attracting younger and educated people to represent at this level. A rights-based approach with its non-negotiable core principles of universality, indivisibility, equality and non-discrimination, participation and inclusion, accountability and rule of law will be followed in CDP component, with focus on participation. Targeted communities will be empowered to engage with local authorities and other relevant agencies in the context of wider development through a joint-planning and implementation process. In this way, the expressed concerns of vulnerable communities could be addressed systematically through local development processes.

The Project will pursue globally tested by UNDP strategic priorities to promote sustainability of its actions:

- Promote Rights, Access, and Finance Mechanisms: Strengthen institutional, policy, and legal frame-works to broaden local access to environment and energy resources and services, and to enable finances to flow to the local level.
- Enhance Environmental Management and Finance Capacity: Enhance the capacity of local actors to access environmental finance and plan, implement and monitor environment and energy programmes, enterprises and service delivery.
- Facilitate Learning and Knowledge-Sharing: Promote peer-to-peer learning, knowledge-sharing, and documentation of best practices to make local action more effective, sustainable, and replicable.
- Strengthen Community Voices in Policy Processes: Ensure that local actors are positioned to advocate for their rights and entitlements related to environment and energy in national and international fora.30

The Project will improve the capacity of local governments and service providers to respond to citizens' demands, create spaces for constructive interaction with communities and private actors and organize sustainable public services and management. It is expected that the mobilization of communities for CDPs implementation, improvement and maintenance of rural infrastructure (including potential co-financing and in-kind contributions from both communities and local governments) will contribute significantly to enhancing sustainability prospects of initiatives implemented under CDPs.

30 UNDP, The Local Capacity Strategy, Enabling Action for the Environment and Sustainable Development

The maintenance scheme for all infrastructure, particularly rural roads and water management systems, will aim at fostering environmentally and socially responsible strategies based on low costs and participatory approaches. Specific focus will be made on ensuring sustainability of effective water management solutions as water underpins social and economic development. Achieving water security, through balancing the resource as a human basic need and a socio-economic good, is the entry point for high-quality, green development and equitable growth in targeted regions.

In terms of governance and accountability, the Project will improve transparency and enhance access to information. The emphasis on local ownership through the active participation of the local populations in the works and the proposed maintenance schemes will contribute strongly to the durability of the infrastructure. This will help ensure adequate future maintenance.

Specific activities to be implemented to achieve Output 4 include:
Activity 4.1 Deployment of methods for effective and sustainable development of infrastructure in rural areas through promoting the local resource-based approaches:

- Develop an exit strategy (through consultations and engagement of all relevant parties) that documents the local resource-based approaches to promote the sustainable functioning of the social infrastructure.
- Support the relevant local institutions/communities in developing necessary tools/mechanisms in promoting sustainability of all energy efficient, water saving, ICT/digital solutions developed through the Project, with focus on the social infrastructure. Support in establishing the digital platform with information on the communities and projects.
- Facilitate and pilot creation of public-private partnership structures through engagement of local communities on transferring water supply systems/infrastructures in order to promote sustainable efficient maintenance and use of the systems. Promote replication of CDP implementation best practices (social-infrastructure projects) by district authorities through involving public -private approach.
- Pilot the establishment of different local resource-based approaches (e.g. the Drinking Water Association(s) for maintaining the water supply systems to ensure their sustainable functioning; Community Advisory Groups to monitor and provide substantive inputs in maintaining the social infrastructure, e.g. rural schools, healthcare points, etc.).

Activity 4.2 Replication of Project best practices:

- Develop the resource mobilization strategy for the Project in order to mobilize additional resources to replicate the Project best practices.
- Organize the visits of different potential donors to the Project sites in order to increase the cooperation and partnership.
- Conduct international campaigns for expanding the Project best practices.

Activity 4.3 Development of a communication strategy in line with UNDP Principles of Gender-Sensitive Communications to make use of all possible advocacy and outreach tools and approaches to deliver messages to target audience, beneficiaries and wider public at community, district, sub-national, national and international levels:

- Setting strong communication strategy for the Project PR activities, ensuring visibility of women, promoting women leadership and women in non-traditional professions.
- Document the best practices, achievements and lessons learned.
- Feature success stories of Project in helping vulnerable populations in the Aral Sea region, and methods used in promoting different local resource-based approaches with at least 15% of stories will be dedicated to women leadership and women in non-traditional professions.

As outlined in the ToC, it is expected that the Project implementation will contribute to achievement of more strategic results in human development, social and economic development and resiliency to climate changed

of targeted population groups. More specifically, the achievement of four specific Project outputs will contribute to achieving the following national priorities for the population living in the areas affected by the Aral Sea disaster:

- Achieve by 2030 a 10% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP against the baseline level of 201031
- Mitigate the negative impact of global climate change and the drying up of the Aral Sea on the development of agriculture and the life of the population; prevention of environmental problems that damage the environment, health and the gene pool of the population (Action Strategy 2017-2021)32
- increase attention to environmental issues and improving the environmental situation in the country; continuing large-scale work to mitigate the consequences of the Aral Sea tragedy; improving the environmental control system; preventing the negative impact of industrial development on the environment; ensuring rational and efficient use of water resources; introducing drip irrigation systems and other water-saving technologies in at least 30 per cent of irrigated land; maintaining water balance; increasing electricity generation, of which at least 20 per cent is from renewable energy sources (Address of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Parliament of Uzbekistan (2019)33
- increase knowledge of disaster risk; improving the institutional framework for disaster risk management; investing in disaster risk reduction activities; increasing disaster preparedness; creating effective and efficient mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, early prevention and prevention of threats to life, health and property of citizens; increasing emergency response capacities, introducing modern methods and tools for managing and interacting with government bodies, civil society and the private sector (Strategy on implementation of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction)34
- improve energy efficiency in the basic sectors of the economy; diversification of consumption of energy resources and development of renewable energy sources; adaptation and mitigation of impacts of climate change, improvement of the efficiency of use of natural resources and conservation of natural ecosystems; development of financial and non-financial arrangements for support to the green economy (Strategy for the transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the green economy for 2019-2030)35
- ensure the rational use of natural resources and environmental protection; development of modern public administration systems; development of science, education, systems of information and advisory services in agriculture; development of a transparent system of industry statistics (Agriculture Development Strategy of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030)36
- Involve the participation of women and men in ensuring a safe environment for all (National Gender Strategy)37
- Create conditions necessary to meet the constantly growing needs of the population, economic sectors and the environment in water, ensuring reliable and safe operation of water facilities, as well as effective management and rational use of water resources, improvement of the ameliorative state of irrigated lands, the achievement of water security in the context of an increasing shortage of water resources (Concept for the development of the water economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030)38 and

31 Intended Nationally Determined Contributions of the Republic of Uzbekistan (INDC), https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Uzbekistan/1/INDC%20Uzbekistan%2018-04-2017_Eng_20170419093154_171926.pdf

32 Uzbekistan's Development Strategy for 2017-2021, http://strategy.gov.uz/en

33 Address by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Oliy Majlis, https://www.un.int/uzbekistan/news/address-president-republic-uzbekistan-shavkat-mirziyoyev-oliy-majlis

34 Plan of Action Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Central Asia and South Caucasus region, https://www.preventionweb.net/files/57668_cascplanofactionforsendaiframeworki.pdf

35 UZBEKISTAN: Strategy on the Transition of the Republic of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a "Green" Economy for the Period 2019-2030, https://policy.asiapacificenergy.org/sites/default/files/Strategy%20on%20the%20Transition%20of%20the%20Republic%20of%20the%20Republic%20of%20Uzbekistan%20to%20a%20%2522Green%2522%20Economy%20for%20the%20Period%202019%20-%202030%20%28RU%29.pdf

36 The Strategy for the Development of Agriculture for 2020-2030 was approved, http://www.uzdaily.com/en/post/52640

37 Uzbekistan develops Gender Strategy for 2020-2030, https://kun.uz/en/news/2020/02/01/uzbekistan-develops-gender-strategy-for-2020-2030

38 On approval of the concept of development of water management sector of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030, https://water.gov.uz/en/posts/1545735855/396

- will be supportive of implementation of a wide range of national laws and programs targeting specifically Republic of Karakalpakstan and other regions affected by the Aral sea disaster.39

The Project will contribute to achieving systems innovations for integrated solutions in the Aral Sea region as outlined in UNDP country programme document (CPD) for Uzbekistan 2021-2025.40 UNDP committed in CPD to help establish a multifaceted approach to addressing the Aral Sea region's long-standing challenges. It will support efforts by the Karakalpakstan Council of Ministers, and by the Ministries of Investments and Foreign Trade, Innovation, Environment, and others, to transform the Aral Sea region into a Zone of Ecological Innovation and Technology. More specifically, the proposed Project will contribute to achieving the following outputs and targets of UNDP CPD:

Output 4.4. Systems innovations advanced for integrated solutions in the Aral Sea region
Indicator 4.4.1: Number of innovative and scalable solutions applied through systems integration
Baseline (2020): 3
Target (2025): 8

Indicator 4.4.2: Number of new project proposals improving access to water and food
Baseline (2020): 2
Target (2023): 4

The Project will contribute to achieving Output 5.1 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, 2021-2025 that states that "by 2025, innovative, sustainable and age- and gender-responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives in agriculture, health, water, transport, energy production and building/ housing/residential infrastructure sectors are designed and implemented at national and regional levels, with a focus on at risk regions, including Aral Sea region."41

Sustainability will be achieved through the coordination of the Project with the policy of the Government at central and local levels, building and increasing the capacity of government, local governments, architects and local communities. The Project's component 4 will focus on ensuring Project sustainability and scaling up its results, with focus on innovations.

Resources Required to Achieve the Expected Results

Key resources required to ensure achievement of the expected Project results include technical, strategic, organizational and process support. Specific modalities include expert and consultancy service, capacity development of targeted communities, state institutions and local authorities, organization of trainings, procurement of goods and services as identified by community development plans, digital solutions, etc. Resources will be also dedicated for research and analysis, travel, and workshops. UNDP CO, in consultation with MEDPR, will provide support with the Project operations, recruitment of experts and consultants, supporting stakeholder and beneficiaries' consultations, piloting and other activities. The Work Plan for the Project will be revised and updated at the end of Year one taking into account stakeholder consultations, community development plans development process results and research on relevant rural green and energy efficient and digital solutions. During the project implementation efficiency and cost effectiveness of the Project interventions will be ensured through synergy with other projects and initiatives, effective coordination and joint work planning with IsDB, The OPEC Fund for International Development, UNDP CO and other development partners' interventions and engagement of national governments and institutional

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39 *О государственной программе по развитию региона Приаралья на 2017 — 2021 годы*, Постановление Президента Республики Узбекистан №ПП-2731, Дата принятия 18.01.2017, Дата вступления в силу 18.01.2018г.; *О мерах по комплексному социально-экономическому развитию Республики Каракалпакстан в 2020 — 2023 годах*
Постановление Президента Республики Узбекистан №ПП-4889, Дата принятия 11.11.2020, Дата вступления в силу 12.11.2020г.

40 UNDP, Draft country programme document for Uzbekistan 2021-2025, 2021

41 The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, 2021-2025

beneficiaries. The Project will employ additional principles to increase efficiency: value for money principles, selection of the best and economically efficient schemes to deliver capacity-building activities by engaging local expertise.

Partnerships

As this UNDP Project is an integral component of the broader Uzbekistan - Sustainable Rural Development Project that would be financed and executed by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), The OPEC Fund for International Development, UNDP will extensively work with the IsDB, OFID national partners and implementing agencies to promote synergies and support alignment of Project interventions with work done by partners.

This project will be coordinated with other UNDP-implemented Projects such as

- Unleashing young people's and vulnerable citizens' creativity and innovation by strengthening their adaptive capacity to address the economic and food insecurities in the exposed communities of the Aral Sea region
- Improved public service delivery and enhanced governance in rural Uzbekistan (2019-2024) that aims to enhance the capacity of government agencies for improved public service delivery by expanding accessibility to public services, integrating service delivery systems and decentralising their access; as well as by enabling the necessary mechanisms to support these changes and ensuring their sustainability42
- Enhancing the resilience of the local population and promoting green, inclusive development of the most vulnerable communities in the Aral Sea region

The Project will explore opportunities for partnership with the following projects implemented by the World Bank in Uzbekistan:43

- Enhancing Economic Opportunities for Rural Women
- Rural Infrastructure Development Project
- South Karakalpakstan water resources management improvement

The Project will explore opportunities for partnership with the following projects implemented by the Asian Development Bank in Uzbekistan:44

- Empowering Developing Member Countries to Use Multispectral Satellite Images and Artificial Intelligence for Land Use and Coastal Planning
- Scaling Up Private Sector Participation in the Infrastructure Sector in the Central and West Asia Region
- Support for Innovation and Technology Partnerships in Asia and the Pacific - Energy Sector High-Level Technology Application (Subproject 2)

Risks and Assumptions

The Project will adhere to the UNDP's Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Strategy and to the UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES). Risk management will be monitored through the UNDP corporate Project risk dashboard. ERM applies an integrated approach to risk management, with horizontal integration across all types of risks, and vertical integration from projects up to corporate level. The ERM methodology consists of six key elements in line with the ISO 31000:2018: communication and consultation; establishing scope, context, criteria; risk assessment; risk treatment; monitoring and review; and recording and reporting.

42 Improved public service delivery and enhanced governance in rural Uzbekistan, https://www.uz.undp.org/content/uzbekistan/en/home/projects/improved-public-service-delivery-and-enhanced-governance-in-rura.html
43 World Bank, https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/projects-list?lang=en&countrycode_exact=UZ&os=0
44 Asian Development Bank, https://www.adb.org/projects/country/uzb

In line with the above UNDP policies, an initial Risk Analysis for this Project is presented in the Annex III and Social and Environmental Screening Procedure Template is presented in the Annex II.

There are two major external risks that are beyond the control of the Project, but may impact the achievement of the Project results are 1) limited interest and capacity of local authorities and communities to ensure sustainable use and maintenance of infrastructure projects cannot be ensured by communities and local authorities; and 2) a poor adoption of innovative environment-friendly energy efficient and digital solutions advanced by the Project that may be attributed to non-conducive political context, limited incentives and weak technical capacities. Other risks that can impact the achievement of results are of technical nature and include limited availability of local expertise, lack of needed information to conduct proper assessments and adopt locally relevant green, energy efficient and digital solutions. insufficient experience in participatory whole-of- government approaches, lack of credible information and analysis on climate risks and impacts.

In order to mitigate the risks, the Project intends to implement a series of measures to strengthen communities and local authorities' commitment to ensuring the adequate operation and maintenance of the infrastructure elements. It will create spaces and places for the constructive interface between communities, representatives and local authorities, and between service users and providers. Targeted communities will be empowered to engage with local authorities and other relevant agencies in the context of wider development through a joint-planning and implementation process. The maintenance scheme for all infrastructure, particularly rural roads and water management systems, will aim at fostering environmentally and socially responsible strategies based on low costs and participatory approaches. Public-private partnership structures will be explored. Specific focus will be made on ensuring sustainability of effective water management solutions. To ensure buy in of Project-advanced innovations in green, energy efficient and digital solutions, the Project intends to ensure local demand is understood and targeted in the development of environmental and digital solutions beyond prototyping. The enhancement of interaction between producers and end-users of innovations and their capacities will at the core of Project implementation. They will include, for example, awareness and trainings as well as piloting of solutions with the target audiences. Local talents, researchers, networks and knowledge will be leveraged. Through a series of workshops throughout the implementation, representatives of communities, architects and engineers will meet to define local needs and tailored solutions.

Stakeholder Engagement

The Project will provide opportunities to learn, share experiences and engage in rural green and energy efficient development to the stakeholders across all levels of government (national and local) and civil society. The relevant Project materials will be produced in Uzbek, English, and Russian.

Core stakeholders that will be engaged into specific interventions identification, development and implementation include local communities, local branches of the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction, the Ministry of Economy and Industry, the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, the State Committee for Ecology and Environment Protection, the State Committee of Uzbekistan for Architecture and Construction, the Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Republic of Karakalpakstan, Khorezm, Navoi and Bukhara regions state authorities, regional governments – Khokimiyats; local governments; and Makhalla committees. Other critical local partners that may be engaged include Women's Committee of Karakalpakstan, Karakalpakstan Board of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Business Women Association, and Youth Union

Thematic and operational linkages with such diverse partners as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank will be explored. The Project will also provide opportunities for knowledge exchange at all levels of government (national and local) and civil society to promote Project-tested solutions nation-wide. Other

stakeholders such as civil society organisations, academia and the private sector will be involved in and benefit from certain specific activities.

The Project will promote participatory approaches through all its components to ensure the innovations and solutions developed address the needs of beneficiaries and local realities. It is expected that innovations developed by the Project will be replicated at other places depending on success of the Project interventions. Replication will be supported by knowledge transfer by documenting process of positive change and lessons learned and active collaboration with the national decisionmakers.

Other Potentially Affected Groups:

Direct beneficiaries including the architectures, designers and target community members as well as potential partners will be fully informed of the project plans and activities planned to be implemented in target communities. UNDP proposed community engagement and facilitation exercises will allow to discuss the people's concerns, their needs and priorities jointly and reflect all in the jointly prepared community development plans. During those meetings as well as via strong project advocacy, all stakeholders will be informed on established Grievances Mechanisms.

The Grievance Redress Mechanisms:

The Grievance Redress Mechanism has been designed to be problem-solving mechanism with voluntary good-faith efforts. The Grievance Redress Mechanism is not a substitute for the legal process. The Grievance Redress Mechanism will as far as practicable, try to resolve complaints and/or grievances on terms that are mutually acceptable to all parties. When making a complaint and/or grievance, all parties must act at all times, in good faith and should not attempt to delay and or hinder any mutually acceptable resolution. In order to ensure smooth implementation of the project and timely and effectively addressing of problems that may be encountered during implementation, a robust Grievance Redress Mechanism, which will enable MOEDPR and local partners to address the grievances of the stakeholders of the project should be established.

All complaints and/or grievances regarding social and environmental issues can be received either orally (to the field staff), by phone, in complaints box or in writing to the UNDP, MoEDPR, Council of Ministers of Karakalpakstan and local authorities. A key part of the grievance redress mechanism is the requirement Project team to maintain a register of complaints and/or grievances received at the respective project site offices. All complainants shall be treated respectfully, politely and with sensitivity. Every possible effort should be made by the project team and if needed the contractors to resolve the issues referred to in the complaint and/or grievance within their purview. However, there may be certain problems that are more complex and cannot be solved through project-level mechanisms. Such grievances will be referred to the Grievance Redress Committee. It would be responsibility of the MoEDPR and Council of Ministers of Karakalpakstan to solve these issues through a sound /robust process.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC/TrC)

South-South cooperation is a broad framework for collaboration among countries of the Global South in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical domains. It is the vehicle to accelerate development as it fosters partnerships among the developing countries, with the view of increasing volume and rate of South-South exchanges in development, peace and security, trade, finance, and technology transfer. The Project will seek cross-country and cross-regional partnership in the areas of CDP development and rural green, energy efficient and digital solutions. The Project will go beyond organizing one-off information action/events but focus on building long-term institutional partnerships with countries that have relevant experiences.

Knowledge

The Project will have a designated Public Relations and Outreach Specialist responsible for wide dissemination of Project results, innovations and awareness building. Results from the project will be disseminated through a number of existing information sharing networks and forums and directed at key beneficiaries, decisionmakers and partners. The Project will develop a Project communications strategy/plan and region-specific plans for Republic of Karakalpakstan, Khorezm, Navoi and Bukhara regions. A dedicated Project web-site will be designed and maintained where diverse Project's background materials, information packages, press releases, press-kits, media advisories, newsletters, public information and bulletins will be available. Promotional materials to ensure project visibility with the main government counterparts, civil society, donors and media will be developed and widely disseminated. Promotional materials will be developed in line with the UNDP principles of Gender-Sensitive Communications. The Project will conduct a wide range of round tables, workshops, briefings or any other information events to disseminate knowledge.

In addition, the Project

- will participate, as relevant and appropriate, in UNDP, MEDPR and IsDB networks, organized for senior personnel working on projects that share common characteristics;
- will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to scaling up Project solutions nation-wide;
- will identify, analyze, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects; and
- will prepare the final Lessons Learned report during the last year of its implementation. All lessons learned will be used as input to consultative workshops and meetings with Project stakeholders and disseminated to other donors and relevant agencies.

Sustainability and Scaling Up

To ensure its institutional sustainability, the Project will improve the capacity of local governments and service providers to respond to citizens' demands, create spaces for constructive interaction with communities and private actors. It is expected that the mobilization of communities for CDPs implementation, improvement and maintenance of rural infrastructure (including potential co-financing and in-kind contributions from both communities and local governments) will contribute significantly to enhancing sustainability prospects of Project initiatives.

The Project will pay particular attention to supporting sustainability of CDP results and other innovative solutions developed through components 2 and 3. It will create spaces and places for the constructive interface between communities, representatives and local authorities, and between service users and providers. It will focus on strengthening communities' engagement in local governance activities by enhancing abilities of communities' committees as the true form of local self-governance at the community level and supporting existing forms of communities' groups (especially groups and organizations working with and/or for women).

The maintenance scheme for all infrastructure, particularly rural roads and water management systems, will aim at fostering environmentally and socially responsible strategies based on low costs and participatory approaches. Specific focus will be made on ensuring sustainability of effective water management solutions as water underpins social and economic development. Achieving water security, through balancing the resource as a human basic need and a socio-economic good, is the entry point for high-quality, green development and equitable growth in targeted regions.

In terms of governance and accountability, the Project will improve transparency and enhance access to information. The emphasis on local ownership through the active participation of the local populations in the works and the proposed maintenance schemes will contribute strongly to the durability of the infrastructure. This will help ensure adequate future maintenance.

The Project will work with existing state institutions, IsDB and other IFIs to ensure that knowledge and know-how produced by the Project is mainstreamed into national legislation, policies and priorities and secure buy in of key partners. Policy reforms and capacity strengthening can create a template for wider strengthening of relevant institutions across the Central Asia Region.

III. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Cost Efficiency and Effectiveness

In order to be cost-effective and work with high effectiveness the Project management will rely on evidence-based approach in order to deliver maximum results with available resources. By using the ToC analysis, different options to achieve the maximum results with available resources have been explored. The options selected are complimentary to other activities planned under the IsDB project. Further cost effectiveness will be pursued by promoting synergies with other IsDB Project components and other national and development partners' interventions implemented in the targeted regions. The multi-pronged approach adopted by the project (institutional, technology, community), represents the most sustainable approach to addressing the complex issues involved. The proposal includes extensive sustainability building components that would further enhances its cost efficiency and effectiveness. The Project design relies on previously developed by UNDP approaches of CDP development, capacity building and partnerships that proved to be cost effective.

Cost sharing

UNDP co-financing will be in the form of the parallel funding based on the ongoing and planned projects, in order to bring best-practices, ensure cooperation and synergy (approximate value of 3,050,000USD) in addition to 5,000,000USD provided by IsDB to support Project implementation. More specifically, the Project will extensively collaborate with and promote knowledge sharing/synergies with the following UNDP projects (a list of relevant UNDP projects/proposals is not exhaustive):

- "Unleashing young people's and vulnerable citizens' creativity and innovation by strengthening their adaptive capacity to address the economic and food insecurities in the exposed communities of the Aral Sea region" on Outcomes 1, 3, and 4;
- "Complete HCFC Phase-out through Promotion of Zero ODS Low GWP Energy Efficient Technologies (PHASE2)" on Outcome 2;
- Enhancing the resilience of the local population and promoting green, inclusive development of the most vulnerable communities in the Aral Sea region
- "Supporting an inclusive transition to a "green" economy in the Agri-food sector and development of a "climate-smart" Uzbek Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation System (UAKIS)" on Outcome 2;
- "Reducing the risks of the environmental crisis for the population of the Aral Sea region and ensuring human security in the most affected communities in the region by introducing advanced practices and technologies" –on Outcome 1;
- "Market Transformation for Sustainable Rural Housing in Uzbekistan" (Rural Housing) on Outcome 2;
- "Improved Public Service Delivery and Enhanced Governance in Rural Uzbekistan" on Outcome 3;
- "Support to effective, resilient and inclusive governance systems for health" on Outcome 3.
- "Conservation and sustainable management of lakes, wetlands, and riparian corridors as pillars of a resilient and land degradation neutral Aral basin landscape supporting sustainable livelihoods" – proposal submitted to the GEF on Outcome 2.

UNDP parallel financing from ongoing/planned projects.

Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building to Sustain and Develop Communities in Rural Areas: Proposed area of focus	Budget for 4 Years
Output 1. Capacities of targeted local communities are increased in the process of preparation of Community Development Plans (CDPs) for identifying the priority infrastructure for investment through community engagement (including women and youth) and consultation with sub-regional and local authorities	$1,428,000.00
Output 2: Capacities of local architecture-design institutions and regional departments of architecture and construction is enhanced for development of improved gender-responsive engineering designs, master plans, promoting efficient diagnosis, planning tools and innovative energy efficient and low carbon technology, climate resilience and green infrastructure solutions.	$631,500.00
Output 3: Capacities of construction-architecture and public service delivery sector is increased in digital transformation, gender-sensitive approaches, innovative IT solutions, including development of digital infrastructure and information systems to ensure better access to social facilities and services in rural areas, including green redevelopment/regeneration and increasing resilience in post-disaster situations	$405,000.00
Output 4: Strengthened local communities, empowering women, youth, elderly, people with disabilities, involving in decision making processes and national/sub-regional/local government capacities and institutionalization in operation and maintenance of the infrastructure to ensure sustainable functioning.	$347,000.00
Project management	$238,500.00
Total Budget	**$3,050,000.00**

Project Management

UNDP will implement the Project based on best practices in results-based management. Monitoring and reporting of all projects will be fully integrated with ATLAS, and UNDP's financial and project management module. In addition to internal programme and individual project annual reviews, formal independent mid-term and end-term evaluations, as well as programme audits, will be scheduled and conducted in line with the UNCDF monitoring and evaluation plan and UNDP operational policies and procedures.

Project Board: To achieve objectives outlined in the ToC, the Project Board (Board) will consist of 5 members (senior managers of UNDP, IsDB and the Ministry), who will have full authority and responsibility over all aspects of the project, and will ensure that the interests of all parties are protected. The Board will provide overall direction of the project and will make decisions on a consensus basis when guidance is required by the Project Manager.

The Board will be responsible for ensuring the delivery of expected results and will be accountable for the overall success of the Project. It will endorse recommendations for budget and Project revisions. It will review the progress of the Project at designated points during the implementation or when requested by the Project Manager. The Project Manager shall seek approval of the Project Board for decisions when Project tolerances (i.e. constraints normally in terms of time and budget) have been exceeded.

The Board will approve all major plans, including recommendations for budget revisions, commitment of resources, etc. and will authorize any major deviation from the agreed work plans. Where necessary,

it will arbitrate on any conflicts within the Project and will negotiate between the Project and any other party beyond the scope of the Project.

The Project Board will meet on a bi-annual basis or as necessary, and will regularly receive Project progress reports and will only be asked for joint decision making at key points during the Project implementation. The Project Board can invite representatives from the regions to participate in the discussions. As an option, Project Board meetings can be organized in the regions allowing for the broader participation of the stakeholders.

The roles within the Board will be divided as follows: The Executive (UNDP) will ensure successful production of envisaged outputs. The Executive (a UNDP Senior Manager) will be ultimately responsible for effective and efficient implementation of the Project. The Executive will hold the Project ownership and will chair Project Board meetings. The Donor (IsDB) will provide guidance on the technical feasibility of the Project; and Senior Beneficiary (Ministry) will ensure the realization of Project benefits from the perspective of Project beneficiaries.

The UNDP ECA Program staff in charge of program implementation will do Project Assurance. He/she will provide objective and independent project oversight and monitoring on behalf of the Board and will ensure the completion of agreed project management milestones.

A Project Manager will be in charge of a daily management of the project on behalf of the Project Board and will act within the scope/constraints laid down by the Project Board. He/she will be responsible for management and decision-making for the project and will ensure the delivery of project results as specified in the project document and according to the required quality standards, time and cost.

The Project Team will support the Project Manager, consisting of professionals in the field of community mobilization, energy and environment development engineering monitoring and support staff related with administration and finance.

The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will be located in Tashkent (with regular visits to the regions/viloyats and communities concerned). In addition, the **project will have four field offices in** the four regions.

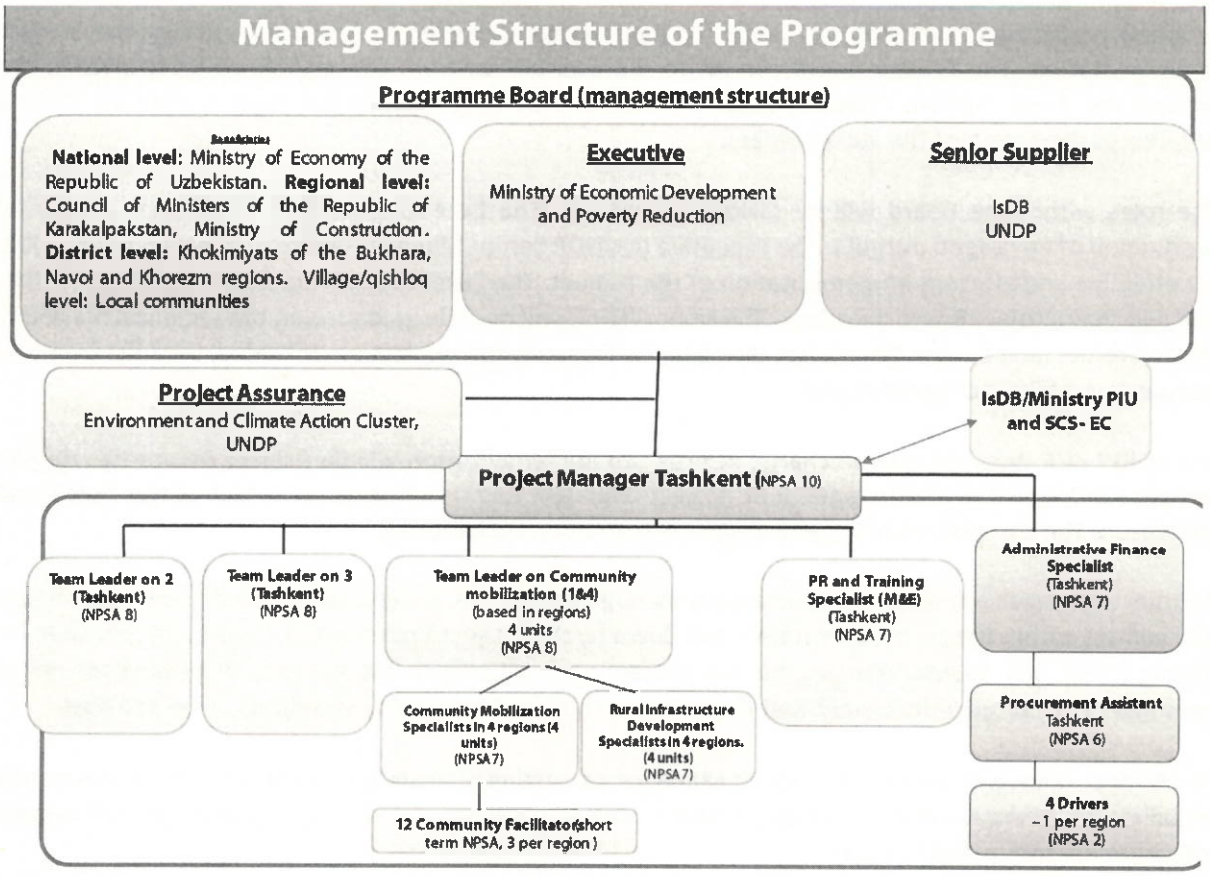
The main tasks of the PMU will be:

- Overall management and coordination of Project implementation
- Strategic technical and methodological guidance to regional implementation Units
- Final endorsement of community projects for grant award (CDPs)
- Monitoring of implementation of project activities
- Provide inputs to ECA Cluster on communication and reporting to MoEDPR and IsDB

The PIU will consist of:

- Project Manager (1) based in Tashkent
- Team Leaders responsible for Components 2 and 3 respectively based in Tashkent
- Team Leader for Component 1 and 4 based in regions (4 positions)
- Rural Infrastructure Development Specialist (4 positions) based in regions
- Community Development Specialist (4 positions) based in regions
- PR and Training Specialist based in Tashkent (1)
- Admin/Finance Specialist based in Tashkent (1)
- Procurement Assistant based in Tashkent (1)
- Driver (4) – based in 4 target regions

UNDP's budget of IsDB project will be used to co-finance the renting of the office premises both for UNDP PIU and Ministry and IsDB PMU, which will be based in one premises for enhancing joint work in Tashkent and in the regions too.



The coordination between UNDP PIU, the IsDB and OFID PIU, the "Single-Customer-Service Engineering Company" (SCS-EC) (acting as the "employer" for the detailed engineering design and construction works), and with the Technical Review & Contract Management Support Consultant (who will be supporting SCS-EC on the coordination of planning and implementation of the infrastructure works) will be ensured as per the matrix. The UNDP PIU will be based in the same premises where the SRD PMU will be based in Tashkent as well as in two regional offices in Khorezm and Bukhara regions. This would ensure the day-to-day interaction and joint work of the teams both at the national and regional levels. In addition, given the importance of the regular work with target communities, the UNDP project offices will be also established in Navoy region and in Karakalpakstan.

The project will procure four vehicles, two of which will be transferred immediately after the procurement to the IsDB PMU to Tashkent, and will be jointly used by the UNDP PIU at the extend needed. Additional, two vehicles will be provided to the offices of the UNDP PIU based in Khorezm and Bukhara regions.

National and international experts: Services of short-term experts will be utilized for technical backstopping and specific advisory needs to improve effectiveness of specific Project activities.

Project implementation will be governed by provisions of the agreed Project Document, UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures, UNDP Standard Operating Procedures, and the project Operational Guidelines and Manuals.

The Project shall be subject to the internal and external auditing procedures laid down in the Financial Rules and Regulations of UNDP.

For Monitoring and Evaluation of Project activities, M&E Project specialist will directly and regularly monitor the day-to-day Project activities in the field, as well as assess in the course of monitoring Project's efficiency, progress and effectiveness. The project specialist will be working closely with UNDP Strategic Planning and Integration Unit Associate (CO M&E focal point). Staff personnel from UNDP Country Office will periodically monitor Project activities but its monitoring will be concentrated more at the level of Project outputs at the regional level.

UNDP will work directly with Project implementing partners to ensure joint coordination and support. The Project will collect and report all data in a gender- disaggregated format.
The Project activities will be further subject to auditing and inventory, in accordance with UNDP rules and regulations. Regular external financial audits according to UNDP rules will be conducted.

The Project will build a robust knowledge management model to learn and build on experience and best practices, local data and information to inform solid investments rather than short-term solutions. Data monitoring and processing systems for the project will focus on results and innovations, adopting suitable methodologies and process, and applying practical methods and tools to conduct gender-sensitive risk and vulnerability assessments, analyse transformation institutional processes, test innovations and document lessons learned. Engagement with the final beneficiaries with regards to data collection will be pursued as it is critical for generating localised data and information.

IV. RESULTS FRAMEWORK[45]

45 UNDP publishes its project information (indicators, baselines, targets and results) to meet the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards. Make sure that indicators are S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound), provide accurate baselines and targets underpinned by reliable evidence and data, and avoid acronyms so that external audience clearly understand the results of the project.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS46	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS					
			Value	Year 2021	Year 1 (2022)	Year 2 (2023)	Year 3 (2024)	Year 4 (2025)	**FINAL**	
Outcome: Number of innovative and scalable solutions applied through systems integration in the Aral Sea region	SP indicator: 1.1.2.1 Number of people accessing basic services, disaggregated by gender (at least 30% are women)	Government reports confirming adoption of Project-led innovations					1	2	3	Project and national partners' reports
Output 1. Capacities of targeted local communities increased to identify local needs and to develop plans of actions, i.e., Community Development Plans (CDP), by identifying priority infrastructures for investments that	1.1 Number of target communities for development of CDPs identified in Karakalpakstan, Khorezm, Bukhara and Navoi regions	Project reports	0		170		0	0	170	Project reports verified through local authorities Risk: Availability of experts to develop a robust multivariable assessment tool

have optimum and long-term benefits through an inclusive community engagement (including women and youth) and consultation with sub-regional and local authorities.	1.2 Number of community members and representatives of local authorities trained on CDP process and community needs assessment, disaggregated by gender, , as well as on improving rural economy, such as knowledge sharing on agriculture & new farming methodologies, irrigation technologies, and strengthening home industries related to women empowerment.	Project reports Pre and post training reports	No capacity in target communities to identify priorities for community development	0	2,000	1,800	1,500	1,500	6,800 (30% women)	Project reports verified through local authorities
	1.3 Number of CDPs developed and implemented	Project reports	No CDPs in targeted communities	0	12	55	55	48	170	Project reports verified through local authorities Risk: willingness of communities and local authorities to support CDPs development and implementation

	1.4 Number of sub-national plans that reflect CDPs	sub-national plans in targeted districts	No explicit links of sub-national development plans/budget and CDPs	n/a			At least 2		50% of sub-national plans reflect CDPs	Independent review of sub-national plans Risk: Local authorities have a political will, institutional capacity and necessary resources to support the proper CDPs implementation.
	1.5 Number of target communities for development of CDPs for second phase identified in Samarkand, Kashkadarya, and Surkhandarya regions	Project reports		0	0	200	0	0	200	Project reports verified through local authorities Risk: Availability of experts to develop a robust multivariable assessment tool
	1.6.1 Number of community members and representatives of local authorities trained on CDP Organization of workshops with community participation (around 1500) and development of 200 cluster based CDPs. 1.6.2. Number of CDPs developed and implemented	Project reports Pre and post training reports CDPs prepared	No capacity in target communities to identify priorities for community development	0 0	0 0	1,500 200	0 0	0 0	1,500 200	Project reports verified through local authorities Risk: willingness of communities and local authorities to support CDPs development/ownership and implementation

Output 2: Capacities of local architecture-design institutions and regional departments of architecture and construction are enhanced for development of improved engineering designs and master plans that are responsive to the sustainability aspects (economic, operational, and environment sustainability), innovative energy and water efficient, low carbon	2.1 Number of assessment reports of the impact of the ecological disaster on agriculture and local social infrastructure, including recommendations on strategies and architectural methods and other innovative approaches.	Availability of assessment report	No research on adverse impact of the ecological disaster on social infrastructure and identification of locally relevant sustainable environmentally friendly solutions.	0		1			1	Project reports verified through local authorities Risk: Availability of local experts capable to develop a range of locally relevant modern methods for local architecture/designing including energy efficient and low carbon technologies, for climate resilient spatial development and planning based on the best international practices.

technology, climate resilient and gender responsive, and promoting local resources.	2.2 Number of beneficiaries of trainings on energy efficient construction materials and low carbon technology, economic and agriculture infrastructure, men/women breakdown % of trainees incorporate energy efficient construction materials and low carbon technology in developing plans for constructing social, economic and agriculture infrastructure in rural areas	Project reports Pre and post training reports	0 of relevant professionals trained on energy efficient construction materials and low carbon technology	0	150	150	250	200	750 75%	Project reports verified through local authorities Risk: Enabling policy and legislative environment to introduce innovative environment-friendly and energy-efficient solutions Target architects and engineers communities understand shorter- to longer-term benefits of introducing innovative environment-friendly and energy-efficient solutions

	2.3 Number of piloted energy-efficient and water efficient, new agriculture & farming technologies, ozone-friendly and low GWP (global-warming potential) based technologies	Project reports	Limited number of energy and water efficient, new agriculture and farming technologies - efficient, ozone-friendly and low GWP based technologies available in supported communities	0		1	2	3	6	Project reports verified through local authorities Risk: Enabling policy and legislative environment to introduce innovative environment-friendly and energy-efficient solutions Target architects and engineers communities understand shorter- to longer-term benefits of introducing innovative environment-friendly and energy-efficient solutions

Output 3: Capacities of construction, architecture-design and public service delivery sector are increased on the local governance and community participatory mechanism in the planning and implementation of rural development programs and initiatives by using digital transformation, gender-sensitive approaches, innovative IT solutions, including development of digital infrastructure and information systems to ensure better access to	3.1 Status of the assessment report of local capacities to implement government digitalization agenda	Project reports	Limited evidence on local capacity to implement government digitalization agenda		Assessment methodology developed	Process started	Process completed	Report prepared	1 Report	Project reports Risk: availability of local experts capable to conduct an assessment of local capacities for successful implementation of the government's digitalization agenda with focus on digital connectivity, infrastructure, level of digitalization in the public and private sectors, e-commerce, and digital skills of the population, businesses and government employees is completed, gaps are identified and recommendations developed.

social facilities and services in rural areas, including green redevelopment/regeneration and increasing resilience in post-disaster situations (such as COVID-19 and other pandemics).	3.2 Number of trainings on digital literacy/skills completed, gender disaggregated number of beneficiaries trained (e.g., # of doctors in rural areas trained on using telemedicine solutions to treat and advise patients	Project reports	Limited local knowledge of local professionals on digital solutions		0	50	75	75	200	Project reports
	3.3 Number of community members and youth trained on rural areas relevant ICT and digital solutions disaggregated by gender, age and location. Number of public schools modernized using ICT and digital solutions	Project reports	limited youth and community members ICT and digital literacy			200	400	400 3	1000 8 school modernized	Project reports

	3.4 Number of ICT/digital solutions developed by the Project Number of beneficiaries in targeted communities who were supported through ICT/digital solutions	Project reports	no ICT/digital solutions addressing needs of targeting communities, including access to public/social services no model of a smart community			0	2 300	3 300	5 600	Project reports Risk: Enabling policy and legislative environment to introduce digital solutions Target communities understand shorter- to longer-term benefits of introducing digital solutions
Output 4 Local communities are strengthened (including women, youth, elderly, people with disabilities) and national/sub-regional/local government	4.1 # of mechanisms of the project proposed for replication	Project reports	no well elaborated mechanisms in place supporting Project sustainability	0		2	3	5	10	Project reports Risk: Continued commitment and uptake of the project initiatives and innovations by targeted communities and local authorities

capacities and institutionalization in operation and maintenance of the infrastructure to ensure sustainable functioning. Base line: 0 mechanisms of the project proposed for replication Target: 10 mechanisms of the project proposed for replication	4.2 Share of resources mobilized to support replication of Project results and innovations (breakdown down by source, national/international)	Project reports	No resource mobilization strategy/ actions				10%	10%	20% of initial investment	Project reports Risk: Continued commitment and uptake of the project initiatives and innovations by targeted communities and local authorities
	4.3 Number of people reached through the Project PR campaign % of target communities people covered by the PR and outreach campaign of the project	Project reports	Limited awareness of targeted communities in support Project results			3,000 25%	3,000 25%	4,000 20%	10,000 70%	Project reports
	4.4 Number of PR/Outreach events promoting the project results and raising awareness among communities	Project reports	0		5	25	30	20	80	Project reports
	4.5 Number of publications/articles issued and disseminated widely among partners and mass media	Project reports	0		5	15	15	10	45	Project reports

V. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring Plan

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (if joint)	Cost (if any)
Track results progress	Progress data against the results indicators in the RRF will be collected and analysed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs.	Quarterly, or in the frequency required for each indicator.	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.		
Monitor and Manage Risk	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log. This includes monitoring measures and plans that may have been required as per UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk.	Quarterly	Risks are identified by project management and actions are taken to manage risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken.		
Learn	Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.	At least annually	Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions.		
Annual Project Quality Assurance	The quality of the project will be assessed against UNDP's quality standards to identify project strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision making to improve the project.	Bi-annually	Areas of strength and weakness will be reviewed by project management and used to inform decisions to improve project performance.		
Review and Make Course Corrections	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making.	At least annually	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed by the project board and used to make course corrections.		
Project Report	A progress report will be presented to the Project Board and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output	Annually, and at the end of the project (final report)			

	level, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk long with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.				
Project Review (Project Board)	The project's governance mechanism (i.e., project board) will hold regular project reviews to assess the performance of the project and review the Multi-Year Work Plan to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the project. In the project's final year, the Project Board shall hold an end-of project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences.	Specify frequency (i.e., at least annually)	Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed by the project board and management actions agreed to address the issues identified.		

The project results as outlined in the project results framework will be monitored and reported annually and evaluated periodically during project implementation to ensure the project effectively achieves these results. If baseline data for some of the results indicators are not yet available, it will be collected during the first year of project implementation. The Monitoring Plan included in Annex VI details the roles, responsibilities, frequency of monitoring project results.

Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the *UNDP POPP and UNDP Evaluation Policy. The UNDP Country Office is responsible for ensuring full compliance with all UNDP project monitoring, quality assurance, risk management, and evaluation requirements.* The costed M&E plan included below, and the Monitoring plan in Annex VI will guide the M&E activities to be undertaken by this project.

Monitoring and reporting requirements:

Reporting

The project (PM) will submit a condensed quarterly reports to the MOEDPR and IsDB following Project commencement. The reports will summarize the progress including project achievements, problems encountered, and mitigation actions. The reports will also include project performance, financial and procurement monitoring activities. The reporting system will focus on outcomes, efficiency, and quality and will be consistent with adequate reporting standards, as well as with the project log-frame. Annual project report shall be shared with the Project Board.

The Project Manager and the UNDP Country Office will provide objective input to the quarterly project report covering the calendar year for each year of project implementation. The Project Manager will ensure that the indicators included in the project results framework are monitored quarterly in advance so that progress can be included in the report. The UNDP Country Office will coordinate the input of other stakeholders to the report as appropriate. The quality rating of the previous year's report will be used to inform the preparation of the subsequent report.

The last APR (i.e. Project Completion Report) will be due for submission within 3 months after the project completion date.

Knowledge management

The project team will ensure extraction and dissemination of lessons learned and good practices to enable adaptive management and upscaling or replication at local and global scales. Results will be disseminated to targeted audiences through relevant information sharing fora and networks. The project will contribute to scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks as appropriate (e.g. by providing content, and/or enabling the participation of stakeholders/beneficiaries).

Terminal Evaluation (TE):

An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place upon completion of all major project outputs and activities. The terms of reference, the evaluation process and the final TE report will follow the standard templates and guidance prepared by the UNDP IEO available on the *UNDP Evaluation Resource Center.*

The evaluation will be 'independent, impartial and rigorous'. The consultants that will be hired by UNDP evaluation specialists to undertake the assignment will be independent of organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the consultants should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project being evaluated. All relevant stakeholders will be involved and consulted during the terminal evaluation process.

A final independent evaluation report will be completed by December 2025 i.e. no later than three months before the operational closure of the project.

Evaluation Title	Partners (if joint)	Related Strategic Plan Output	UNSDCF/CPD Outcome	Planned Completion Date	Key Evaluation Stakeholders	Cost and Source of Funding
Final terminal evaluation	MoEDPR, CM of RK, local authorities	Signature solution 1,3 and 4	UNDSDCF Output 5.1 By 2025, innovative, sustainable and age- and gender-responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives in agriculture, health, water, transport, energy production and building/ housing/residential infrastructure sectors are designed and implemented at national and regional levels, with a focus on at risk regions, including Aral Sea region."	End of 2025	MoEDPR, local authorities and local target communities	IsDB OFID

The final evaluation report (TE) will be cleared by the UNDP Country Office and will be approved by the Project Board.

The final TE report and TE TOR will be publicly available in English and posted on the UNDP web-site. A management response to the TE recommendations will be posted to the UNDP website within six weeks of the TE report's completion.

Final Report:

The project's final APR along with the terminal evaluation (TE) report and corresponding management response will serve as the final project report package. The final project report package shall be discussed with the Project Board during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lesson learned and opportunities for scaling up.

The UNDP Country Office will retain all M&E records for this project for up to seven years after project financial closure to support ex-post evaluations. A detailed M&E budget, monitoring plan and evaluation plan will be included in the UNDP project document.

UNDP will perform monitoring and reporting throughout the reporting period. UNDP has a country presence and capacity to perform such functions. In the event of any additional post-implementation obligations, UNDP will discuss and agree on these with the ISDB in the final year of the project and will prepare a post-implementation monitoring plan and budget for approval by the Board as necessary.

M&E requirements	Primary responsibility	Indicative costs to be charged to the Project Budget47 (US$)	Time frame
Baseline assessments and review of work plan	Project Manager UNDP Country Offic PB – approval authority	None	Within three (3) months after Effective Date
Risk management (including Atlas Risk logs)	Project Manager UNDP Country Office PB – approval authority	None	On-going
Monitoring of indicators in the project results framework (including the hiring of external experts, project surveys, data analysis etc.)	PM Part time M&E Officer	**Per year 2,000 USD** **Total for 4 years: 8,000 USD**	Annually
Quarterly Project Report	Project Manager UNDP Country Office	**None**	Quarterly and annually in Atlas system as part of year-end reporting
Lessons learned, case studies, and knowledge generation	Project Manager	None	On-going
Project Board meetings	Project Board UNDP Country Office PM	Per year: 1,500 USD Total for 4 years = 6,000 USD	At minimum annually
Final independent evaluation	Independent evaluators	20,000 USD	2025
Translation of evaluation reports into English	UNDP Country Office	6 000	
Oversight of TE process and TE management response	UNDP	None	
TOTAL indicative COST **Excluding project team staff time, and UNDP staff and travel expenses**		**43,500**	

47 Excluding project team staff time and UNDP staff time and travel expenses.

VI. MULTI-YEAR WORK PLAN 4849

48 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

49 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.

MULTI-YEAR WORK PLAN

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Y1 (2022 half)	Y2 (2023)	Y3 (2024)	Y4 (2025)		Funding Source	Budget Description	Total amount
Output 1: Capacities of targeted local communities to identify local needs and develop plans of actions increased to address them. Facilitate the process of preparation of Community Development Plans (CDP) for identifying the priority infrastructure for investment through community engagement (including women and youth) and consultation with sub-regional and local authorities. ***Gender marker: 2***	Activity 1.1 : Identification/verification of target communities (170 communities) in 20 districts of Karakalpakstan, Khorezm, Bukhara and Navoi regions	7,000.00	46,000.00	46,000.00	37,000.00	001981	30,053	Local consultants	136,000.00
	Activity 1.2: Capacity building in target districts on community mobilization for identification of community needs (up to 40 people at each community, total 6800 people)	28,212.00	67,707.60	67,707.60	67,708.00			Contr. Service - Ind. (staff)	231,335.20
		0.00	17,000.00	17,000.00	0.00			International consultants	34,000.00
		8,000.00	10,000.00	12,000.00	13,000.00			Travel	43,000.00
	Activity 1.3: Development and implementation of the CDPs at the qishloq/ community level (up to 170) relying on extensive and inclusive communities mobilization in targeted communities:	12,500.00	26,000.00	20,000.00	10,000.00			Contr. Service - Comp.	68,500.00
		5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00			Materials and goods	20,000.00
	Activity 1.4: Facilitate the institutionalization of the CDPs at the district administration level (inclusion of the CDP priorities and monitoring systems for CDPs into the district development plans of the government), including through engaging the locally selected Deputies	5,250.00	5,250.00	5,250.00	250.00			Supplies	16,000.00
		5,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			IT Equipment	5,000.00
		8,288.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00			Audio/Video/PR and Printing	38,288.00
		2,500.00	3,000.00	8,000.00	7,000.00			Miscellaneous	20,500.00
		1,250.00	5,250.00	3,750.00	4,250.00			Transport, Shipping and Handling	14,500.00
		1,500.00	17,000.00	17,000.00	17,200.00			Training, Workshops and Conference	52,700.00

		45,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			Dep Exp Owned -Vehicle	45,000.00
		4,500.00	9,000.00	7,050.00	5,000.00			Staff Cost (DPC)	25,550.00
	Activity 1.5 Identification/verification of target communities (around 200 communities) for the 2nd stage of the IsDB Program from Samarkand, Kashkadarya and Surakhandarya regions	0.00	9,000.00	17,000.00	0.00			International consultants	26,000.00
		0.00	28,000.00	0.00	0.00			Local consultants	28,000.00
	Activity 1.6. 1 Organization of workshops with community participation (around 1500) and development of around 200 cluster based CDPs.	0.00	16,000.00	0.00	0.00			Contr. Service - Comp.	16,000.00
	Activity 1.6.2. Development of Cluster based CDPs	0.00	20,000.00	0.00	0.00			Materials and goods	20,000.00
								Sub-Total for Output 1	**840,373.20**
		134,000.00	**294,207.60**	**235,757.60**	**176,408.00**				
Output 2: Capacities of local architecture-design institutions and regional departments of architecture and construction are enhanced in improved engineering designs, master plans, promoting efficient diagnosis, planning tools and innovative energy efficient and low carbon technology, climate resilience and green infrastructure solutions. ***Gender marker: 2***	Activity 2.1 Research on adverse impact of the ecological disaster and environment degradation on agriculture and identification of locally relevant sustainable environmentally friendly solutions	6,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	001981	30,053	International consultants	6,000.00
		1,000.00	32,000.00	32,000.00	22,000.00			Local consultants	87,000.00
	Activity 2.2 Building capacity of local architects/engineers by promoting innovative solutions aimed at energy and water saving, reducing CO2 emission for climate resilient planning, with focus on local agriculture and social	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00			International consultants	12,000.00
		52,438.00	125,849.64	125,849.64	125,850.00			Contr. Service - Ind. (staff)	429,987.28
		750.00	46,500.00	19,500.00	18,750.00			Travel	85,500.00
		200.00	17,850.00	22,500.00	8,000.00			Contr. Service - Comp.	48,550.00

	infrastructure with particular focus on different needs of concerned groups, including women, youth, people living in poverty and people with disabilities; Study tour	200.00	56,700.00	59,500.00	25,500.00			Equipment	141,900.00
	Activity 2.3 Introduction of energy-efficient, ozone-friendly and low GWP (global-warming potential) based technologies in different sectors/applications in a balanced proportion of pilot projects	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00			International consultants	12,000.00
		200.00	7,800.00	6,000.00	6,000.00			Materials and goods	20,000.00
		450.00	250.00	750.00	250.00			Supplies	1,700.00
		200.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00			IT Equipment	2,200.00
		350.00	13,500.00	13,500.00				Audio/Video/PR and Printing	27,350.00
		250.00	4,150.00	4,750.00	1,750.00			Miscellaneous	10,900.00
		200.00	3,850.00	3,450.00	1,000.00			Transport, Shipping and Handling	8,500.00
		100.00	24,500.00	22,000.00	6,000.00			Training, Workshops and Conference	52,600.00
		45,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			Dep Exp Owned -Vehicle	45,000.00
		4,662.00	13,550.00	15,250.00	4,250.00			Staff Cost (DPC)	37,712.00
	Sub-Total for Output 2								**1,028,899.28**
		112,000.00	**360,499.64**	**337,049.64**	**219,350.00**				
Output 3: Capacity of construction-architecture and public service delivery sector is increased in digital transformation, innovative IT solutions, including development of digital infrastructure and information systems to ensure better access to social facilities and services in rural areas, including green redevelopment/regeneration	Activity 3.1 Make digital readiness assessment, including digital gender gap, and development of local digitalization plans; Develop a range of possible digital/ICT solutions to be developed/tested and identify target districts and communities, institutions to pilot them.	0.00	4,200.00	8,000.00	0.00	001981	30,053	International consultants	12,200.00
		0.00	32,000.00	32,000.00	19,000.00			Local consultants	83,000.00
		52,438.00	125,849.64	125,849.64	125,850.00			Contr. Service - Ind. (staff)	429,987.28
	Activity 3.2 Capacity building to support regional digital	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00			International consultants	12,000.00

and increasing resilience in post-disaster situations (such as COVID-19 and other pandemics). **Gender marker: 2**	transformation (25 people at each supported region, total 100 people); Study tour.	44,000.00	20,000.00	25,000.00	2,000.00			Travel	91,000.00
		1,000.00	27,000.00	16,000.00	12,000.00			Contr. Service - Comp.	56,000.00
		1,000.00	51,000.00	31,000.00	17,000.00			Equipment	100,000.00
		500.00	26,500.00	26,500.00	26,500.00			Materials and goods	80,000.00
	Activity 3.3 Increasing digital literacy for rural population in target villages/qishloqs, with focus on students, youth communities, cooperatives, water-users associations, etc	0.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00			International consultants	14,000.00
		250.00	700.00	750.00	250.00			Supplies	1,950.00
		400.00	11,200.00	25,700.00	2,380.00			IT Equipment	39,680.00
		200.00	8,200.00	8,200.00	6,300.00			Audio/Video/PR and Printing	22,900.00
		200.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00			Miscellaneous	12,200.00
	Activity 3.4 Improve access to social infrastructure through using modern technology/equipment and promoting/piloting the smart/green communities model	500.00	4,500.00	3,500.00	2,100.00			Transport, Shipping and Handling	10,600.00
		500.00	25,000.00	26,500.00	1,000.00			Training, Workshops and Conference	53,000.00
		45,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			Dep Exp Owned -Vehicle	45,000.00
		2,012.00	12,450.00	12,500.00	2,000.00			Staff Cost (DPC)	28,962.00
	Sub-Total for Output 3								**1,092,479.28**
		148,000.00	**365,599.64**	**358,499.64**	**220,380.00**				
Output 4: Local communities (including women, youth, elderly, people with disabilities) and national/sub-regional/local government capacities strengthened in institutionalization in operation and maintenance of the infrastructure to ensure sustainable functioning. ***Gender marker: 2***	Activity 4.1 Deployment of methods for effective and sustainable development of infrastructure in rural areas through promoting the local resource-based approaches; Study tour	0.00	0.00	8,000.00	0.00	001981	30,053	International consultants	8,000.00
		200.00	39,000.00	36,000.00	22,000.00			Local consultants	97,200.00
		28,212.00	67,707.60	67,707.60	67,708.00			Contr. Service - Ind. (staff)	231,335.20
		500.00	44,000.00	13,750.00	8,750.00			Travel	67,000.00
		150.00	20,750.00	20,000.00	15,500.00			Contr. Service - Comp.	56,400.00
	Activity 4.2 Replication of Project best practices	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00			International consultants	10,000.00
		0.00	50,000.00	68,000.00	41,500.00			Equipment	159,500.00
		0.00	41,000.00	41,000.00	28,500.00			Materials and goods	110,500.00

	Activity 4.3 Development of a communication strategy to make use of all possible advocacy and outreach tools and approaches to deliver messages to target audience, beneficiaries and wider public at community, district, sub-national, national and international levels	500.00	500.00	500.00	250.00			Supplies	1,750.00
		0.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00			IT Equipment	2,500.00
		625.00	10,125.00	13,125.00	7,125.00			Audio/Video/PR and Printing	31,000.00
		625.00	1,625.00	4,125.00	3,125.00			Miscellaneous	9,500.00
		500.00	1,500.00	3,500.00	2,500.00			Transport, Shipping and Handling	8,000.00
		1,000.00	15,000.00	13,000.00	10,000.00			Training, Workshops and Conference	39,000.00
		45,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			Dep Exp Owned -Vehicle	45,000.00
		2,688.00	9,000.00	10,500.00	7,500.00			Staff Cost (DPC)	29,688.00
	Sub-Total for Output 4								**906,373.20**
		80,000.00	**302,707.60**	**304,207.60**	**219,458.00**				
Output 5. Project Management	Activity 5.1: Project Management Action: Overall management and coordination of Project implementation. Action: Strategic technical and methodological guidance to regional implementation Units. Action: Final endorsement of community projects for grant award (CDPs). Action: Monitoring of implementation of project activities Action: Provide inputs to ECA Cluster on communication and reporting to MoEDPR and IsDB	2,000.00	36,500.00	43,500.00	27,500.00	001981	30,053	Local consultants	109,500.00
		24,576.00	58,981.44	58,981.44	58,982.00			Contr. Service - Ind. (staff)	201,520.88
		4,500.00	22,000.00	22,000.00	10,000.00			Travel	58,500.00
		5,500.00	17,000.00	17,000.00	15,000.00			Contr. Service - Comp.	54,500.00
		4,200.00	0.00	2,000.00	12,000.00			Equipment & Furniture	18,200.00
		2,250.00	2,750.00	1,250.00	750.00			Communication & Audio Visual Equip	7,000.00
		12,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00			Office rent/tec in 4 regions	87,000.00
		1,000.00	28,000.00	44,000.00	11,000.00			Materials and Goods	84,000.00
		2,000.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	3,450.00			Supplies	10,450.00
		2,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00			IT Equipment	4,000.00
		2,625.00	7,875.00	7,875.00	5,625.00			Audio/video/PR and printings	24,000.00
		2,625.00	5,125.00	5,125.00	5,325.00			Miscellaneous	18,200.00
		1,000.00	17,500.00	17,500.00	15,500.00			Training, Workshops and Conference	51,500.00

		875.00	2,625.00	2,625.00	1,875.00			Bank Charges	8,000.00
		2,349.00	7,260.00	9,400.00	6,124.79			Staff Cost (DPC)	25,133.79
	Sub-Total for Output 5								**761,504.67**
		70,000.00	**233,116.44**	**260,256.44**	**198,131.79**				
TOTAL (w/o GMS)		544,000.00	1,556,130.92	1,495,770.92	1,033,727.79				4,629,629.63
General Management Support (8%)		43,520.00	124,490.47	119,661.67	82,698.22				370,370.37
GRAND TOTAL		587,520.00	1,680,621.39	1,615,432.59	1,116,426.01				5,000,000.00

VII. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Roles and responsibilities of the project's governance mechanism:

Roles and responsibilities of the project's governance mechanism: The project will be implemented following UNDP's National Implementation Modality with CO support (NIMCO), according to the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between UNDP and the Government of Uzbekistan (10 June 1993) and the policies and procedures outlined in the UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP) (see *https://info.undp.org/global/popp/ppm/Pages/Defining-a-Project.aspx*)

Implementing Partner: The Implementing Partner for this project is the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction (MEDPR).

The Implementing Partner is the entity to which the UNDP Administrator has entrusted the implementation of UNDP assistance specified in this signed project document along with the assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of UNDP resources and the delivery of outputs, as outlined in this document.

The Implementing Partner is responsible for executing this project. Specific tasks include:

- Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems.
- Risk management as outlined in this Project Document;
- Procurement of goods and services, including human resources;
- Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets;
- Approving and signing the multiyear work plan;
- Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year; and,
- Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

The national executing entity – also referred to as the national 'Implementing Partner' in UNDP terminology – is required to implement the project in compliance with UNDP rules and regulations, policies and procedures, including NIM guidelines. These include relevant requirements on fiduciary, procurement, environmental and social safeguards, and other performance standards. In legal terms, this is ensured through the national government's signature of the UNDP Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA), together with a UNDP project document which will be signed by the Implementing Partner to govern the use of the funds.

UNDP, in agreement with the GoU, will provide implementation support (support to NIM) as agreed in the Letter of Agreement on Support Services signed between MEDPR on behalf of the GoU and the UNDP. Such project support services include procurement support and payments to vendors. The selection, engagement and payment concerning each vendor shall be carried out by UNDP following the annual work plans, procurement plans and budgets established and approved by the Implementing Partner. UNDP will also provide oversight through the Country Office in Uzbekistan, and BPPS/UNDP Nature, Climate and Energy Unit in Istanbul and HQ.

Project stakeholders and target groups: In addition to the responsible parties, project stakeholders include:

- Representative of the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction
- Representative of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
- Representative of the Ministry of Economy and Industry,
- Representative of the Ministry of Finance,
- Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources
- Representative of the State Committee for Ecology and Environment Protection
- Representative of the State Committee of Uzbekistan for Architecture and Construction
- Representative of the Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Representatives of Karakalpakstan AR, Khorezm, Navoi and Bukhara regions state authorities
- Regional governments – Khokimiyats;
- Local governments;
- Makhalla committees;
- 170 target communities;
- National NGOs;
- Educational and academic institutions;
- Mass media;
- Private sector entities.

UNDP: UNDP is accountable to the MoEDPR and the IsDB for the implementation of this project. This includes oversight of project execution to ensure that the project is being carried out following agreed standards and provisions. UNDP is responsible for delivering MoEDPR project cycle management services comprising project approval and start-up, project supervision and oversight, and project completion and evaluation. UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance role of the Project Board/Steering Committee.

Project organisation structure:

Project Board: The Project Board (PB) will be chaired by MEDPR and IsDP representtaives and will be composed of representatives of UNDP, Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction, regional and local authorities, khokimiyats and other potential stakeholders. The Project Board is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results. To ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project Board decisions should be made following standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition. In case a consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the UNDP Resident Representative in Uzbekistan (or its designate) will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will make the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed. The Project Board will meet at least once a year, ad-hock meetings could be arranged at the request of the PB members.

Specific responsibilities of the Project Board include:

- Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints;
- Address project issues as raised by the Project Manager;
- Provide guidance on new project risks, and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks;
- Agree on project manager's tolerances as required, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager's tolerances are exceeded;

- Ensure coordination between the various donor and government-funded projects and programmes;
- Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities;
- Track and monitor co-financing for this project;
- Review the project progress, assess performance, and appraise the Annual Work Plan for the following year;
- Appraise the annual project implementation report, including the quality assessment rating report;
- Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project;
- Review combined delivery reports before certification by the implementing partner;
- Provide direction and recommendations to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans;
- Address project-level grievances;
- Approve the project Inception, and Terminal Evaluation reports and corresponding management responses;
- Review the final project report package during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lesson learned and opportunities for scaling up.

The composition of the Project Board must include the following roles:

Project Executive: Is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs the Project Board. The Executive is normally the national counterpart for nationally implemented projects. The Project Executive is Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction.

Beneficiary Representative(s): Individuals or groups representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries.

The Beneficiary representative (s) is/are:
Representative of the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction
Representative of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
Representative of the Ministry of Finance
Representative of the State Committee of Uzbekistan for Architecture and Construction
Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources
Representative of the State Committee for Ecology and Environment Protection
Representative of the Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Representatives *regional and local Khokimiyats* of Karakalpakstan , Khorezm, Bukhara and Navoi regions

Development Partner(s): Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding and/or technical expertise to the project (and can include UNDP in a NIM project). The

Development Partner(s) is/are:
Ms. Matilda Dimovska, UNDP Resident Representative

Project Quality Assurance: UNDP performs the quality assurance role and supports the Project Board and Project Management Unit by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. This role ensures appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed. The Project Board cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the Project Manager. UNDP provides three-tier oversight services involving the UNDP Country Offices and UNDP at regional and headquarters levels. Project assurance is independent of the Project Management function.

UNDP's overall role as an Accredited Entity is to provide oversight and quality assurance through its Headquarter, regional and Country Office units. This role includes (i) Day-to-day oversight supervision, (ii) Oversight of project completion, (iii) Oversight of project reporting and knowledge management.

National Project Coordinator

The National Project Coordinator (NPC) will execute the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of MEDPR within the parameters laid down by the Project Board. NPCs prime responsibility is to ensure that the project produces results specified in the project document, meet the required standard of quality, timeliness and cost criteria. Besides, the NPC will be a liaison between UNDP and the executing/implementing agency as well as with other key Ministries engaged in various components and activities as responsible parties/strategic partners. NPC will be accountable to PB and will end his/her authority when the final project terminal evaluation report, and other documentation required by ISDB and UNDP, has been completed and submitted to UNDP. NPC is responsible for decision-making for the project. On behalf of the Implementing Partner, the NPC shall be responsible for approval and signing of the annual work plans for the following years, annual performance reports, approval and signing of the Combined Delivery Reports (CDR) at the end of the year and the Final CDR and the end of the project.

ISDB funds will not be used to pay salaries of government, local government and CSOs' representatives in their Project Board functions, or the salary of the National Project Coordinator (NPC) assigned by MEDPR.

The Project Manager (PM) will run the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of MEDPR within the constraints laid down by the Project Board. He/she will be recruited by UNDP Country Office in Uzbekistan based on the national project staff recruitment procedures. The Project Managers' function will end when the final project terminal evaluation report and other documentation required by the ISDB and UNDP, has been completed and submitted to UNDP. The Project Manager is responsible for the day-to-day management and decision-making for the project. The Project Manager's prime responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost criteria. The annual work plan will be prepared by the PM, will be reviewed and cleared by the UNDP Programme (ECA Cluster) as part of the quality assurance and reviewed and approved by PB through a signature by the NPC. The Project Manager will also be responsible for managing and monitoring the project risks initially identified and will submit new risks to the project board for consideration and decision on possible actions if required and update the status of these risks by maintaining the project risks log according to the NIM Guidelines. The Project Manager will be supported by local project support that will be hired through UNDP.

VIII. LEGAL CONTEXT

This project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of Uzbekistan and UNDP, signed on 10 June 1993. All references in the SBAA to "Executing Agency" shall be deemed to refer to "Implementing Partner."

This project will be implemented by [Ministry Of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan] ("Implementing Partner") with UNDP support based on the Letter of Agreement on provision of support service by UNDP signed between UNDP and the MoEDPR. This support will be provided in line with UNDP financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures.

IX. RISK MANAGEMENT

1. Consistent with the Article III of the SBAA [or the Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document], the responsibility for the safety and security of the Implementing Partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the Implementing Partner's custody, rests with the Implementing Partner. To this end, the Implementing Partner shall:
   a) put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
   b) assume all risks and liabilities related to the Implementing Partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

2. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the Implementing Partner's obligations under this Project Document.

3. The Implementing Partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that no UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via *http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq_sanctions_list.shtml*.

4. The Implementing Partner acknowledges and agrees that UNDP will not tolerate sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse of anyone by the Implementing Partner, and each of its responsible parties, their respective sub-recipients and other entities involved in Project implementation, either as contractors or subcontractors and their personnel, and any individuals performing services for them under the Project Document.

   (a) In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, the Implementing Partner, and each of its sub-parties referred to above, shall comply with the standards of conduct set forth in the Secretary General's Bulletin ST/SGB/2003/13 of 9 October 2003, concerning "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse" ("SEA").

   (b) Moreover, and without limitation to the application of other regulations, rules, policies and procedures bearing upon the performance of the activities under this Project Document, in the implementation of activities, the Implementing Partner, and each of its sub-parties referred to above, shall not engage in any form of sexual harassment ("SH"). SH is defined as any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation, when such conduct interferes with work, is made a condition of employment or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.

5. a) In the performance of the activities under this Project Document, the Implementing Partner shall (with respect to its own activities), and shall require from its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 (with respect to their activities) that they, have minimum standards and procedures in place, or a plan to develop and/or improve such standards and procedures in order to be able to take effective preventive and investigative action. These should include: policies on sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse; policies on whistleblowing/protection against retaliation; and complaints, disciplinary and investigative mechanisms. In line with this, the Implementing Partner will and will require that such sub-parties will take all appropriate measures to:

i. Prevent its employees, agents or any other persons engaged to perform any services under this Project Document, from engaging in SH or SEA;

ii. Offer employees and associated personnel training on prevention and response to SH and SEA, where the Implementing Partner and its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 have not put in place its own training regarding the prevention of SH and SEA, the Implementing Partner and its sub-parties may use the training material available at UNDP;

iii. Report and monitor allegations of SH and SEA of which the Implementing Partner and its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 have been informed or have otherwise become aware, and status thereof;

iv. Refer victims/survivors of SH and SEA to safe and confidential victim assistance; and

v. Promptly and confidentially record and investigate any allegations credible enough to warrant an investigation of SH or SEA. The Implementing Partner shall advise UNDP of any such allegations received and investigations being conducted by itself or any of its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 with respect to their activities under the Project Document, and shall keep UNDP informed during the investigation by it or any of such sub-parties, to the extent that such notification (i) does not jeopardize the conduct of the investigation, including but not limited to the safety or security of persons, and/or (ii) is not in contravention of any laws applicable to it. Following the investigation, the Implementing Partner shall advise UNDP of any actions taken by it or any of the other entities further to the investigation.

b) The Implementing Partner shall establish that it has complied with the foregoing, to the satisfaction of UNDP, when requested by UNDP or any party acting on its behalf to provide such confirmation. Failure of the Implementing Partner, and each of its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4, to comply of the foregoing, as determined by UNDP, shall be considered grounds for suspension or termination of the Project.

6. Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (http://www.undp.org/ses) and related Accountability Mechanism (http://www.undp.org/secu-srm).

7. The Implementing Partner shall: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.

8. All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.

9. The Implementing Partner will take appropriate steps to prevent misuse of funds, fraud or corruption, by its officials, consultants, responsible parties, subcontractors and sub-recipients in implementing the project or using UNDP funds. The Implementing Partner will ensure that its financial management, anti-corruption and anti-fraud policies are in place and enforced for all funding received from or through UNDP.

10. The requirements of the following documents, then in force at the time of signature of the Project Document, apply to the Implementing Partner: (a) UNDP Policy on Fraud and other Corrupt Practices and (b) UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations Investigation Guidelines. The Implementing Partner agrees to the requirements of the above documents, which are an integral part of this Project Document and are available online at www.undp.org.

11. In the event that an investigation is required, UNDP has the obligation to conduct investigations relating to any aspect of UNDP projects and programmes in accordance with UNDP's regulations, rules, policies and procedures. The Implementing Partner shall provide its full cooperation, including making available personnel, relevant documentation, and granting access to the Implementing Partner's (and its consultants', responsible parties', subcontractors' and sub-recipients') premises, for such purposes at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions as may be required for the purpose of an investigation. Should there be a limitation in meeting this obligation, UNDP shall consult with the Implementing Partner to find a solution.

12. The signatories to this Project Document will promptly inform one another in case of any incidence of inappropriate use of funds, or credible allegation of fraud or corruption with due confidentiality.

    Where the Implementing Partner becomes aware that a UNDP project or activity, in whole or in part, is the focus of investigation for alleged fraud/corruption, the Implementing Partner will inform the UNDP Resident Representative/Head of Office, who will promptly inform UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI). The Implementing Partner shall provide regular updates to the head of UNDP in the country and OAI of the status of, and actions relating to, such investigation.

13. Should UNDP refer to the relevant national authorities for appropriate legal action any alleged wrongdoing relating to the project, the Government will ensure that the relevant national authorities shall actively investigate the same and take appropriate legal action against all individuals found to have participated in the wrongdoing, recover and return any recovered funds to UNDP.

14. The Implementing Partner shall ensure that all of its obligations set forth under this section entitled "Risk Management" are passed on to each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient and that all the clauses under this section entitled "Risk Management Standard Clauses" are included, mutatis mutandis, in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into further to this Project Document.

X. ANNEXES

ANNEX I. Quality Assessment Report

To view the project Quality Assessment Report please follow the link: https://intranet-apps.undp.org/ProjectQA/Forms/Design?fid=12827&year=2022&ou=UZB&pid=00129160&fltr=PROJECT

ANNEX II. Social and Environmental Screening Form

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	IsDB Sustainable Rural Development Project Component B: Engineering Services and Strengthening Capacity in Infrastructure Management
2. Project Number (i.e. Atlas project ID, PIMS+)	00129160/00122922
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Uzbekistan: Republic of Karakalpakstan, Khorezm, Navoi and Bukhara regions
4. Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Design
5. Date	April 2022

Part A. Integrating Programming Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Programming Principles in Order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?
Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams the human rights-based approach
The project will promote human rights-based approaches and will target in prt including the most vulnerable groups like women, youth, and poor households who cannot access and benefit from access to services and resources. It will utilize top-down support and bottom-up empowerment mechanisms and participatory mechanism thus ensuring engaging local people into local development. Community Development Plans (CDP) will be prepared identifying the priority infrastructures for investments through community engagement (including women and youth) and consultation with sub-regional and local authorities. Other project activities will be informed through participatory identification of local needs and exploration of locally relevant solutions that would benefit in particular the most vulnerable groups.
Briefly describe in the space below how the project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment
The Project will ensure gender balance among initiatives beneficiaries and conduct gender sensitive monitoring. Women and women's organizations representatives will be actively and meaningfully engaged in each individual event for consultations and planning activities related to CDP development and implementation and promoting energy efficient and environmentally friendly solutions at the local level as well advancing ICT/digital solutions. Women equal participation in all Project capacity- building activities will be ensured. The enhanced participation of women and vulnerable groups will be ensured throughout the project cycle to support their empowerment. The gender responsive approach will ensure that women and vulnerable groups have equal access to information and participate in, benefit from, and make decisions about the work of the

project. This approach will not only help to promote gender equality, social inclusion, and enhanced community resilience, but will also help to ensure sustainability and uptake of Project outcomes.
Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams sustainability and resilience
As the project promotes environment friendly green technologies and digital solutions, the solutions will not affect the ecosystems and environment. The Project will pay particular attention to supporting sustainability of CDP results and other innovative solutions developed through components 2 and 3. It will create spaces and places for the constructive interface between communities, representatives and local authorities, and between service users and providers. It will focus on strengthening communities' engagement in local governance activities by enhancing abilities of communities' committees as the true form of local self-governance at the community level and supporting existing forms of communities' groups (especially groups and organizations working with and/or for women). Particular emphasis will be given to strengthening the role of women in community self-government. It is expected that innovations developed by the Project will be replicated at other places depending on success of the Project interventions. Replication will be supported by knowledge transfer by documenting process of positive change and lessons learned and active collaboration with the national decisionmakers.
Briefly describe in the space below how the project strengthens accountability to stakeholders
The Project will improve transparency and enhance access to information. The Project will promote participatory approaches through all its components to ensure the innovations and solutions developed address the needs of beneficiaries and local realities and promote accountabilities at all levels. Targeted communities will be empowered to engage with local authorities and other relevant agencies in the context of wider development through a joint-planning and implementation process that will further strengthen accountabilities.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks? Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.	QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks? Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5below before proceeding to Question 5			QUESTION 6: Describe the assessment and management measures for each risk rated Moderate, Substantial or High
Risk Description **(broken down by event, cause, impact)**	**Impact and Likelihood (1-5)**	**Significance** **(Low, Moderate**	**Comments (optional)**	**Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High**

		Substantial, High)		
Risk 1: Green and energy efficient as well as digital solutions do not adequately support the most vulnerable groups	I = 1 L =1	low	All solutions developed, piloted and implemented will be designed keeping in mind their impact on advancing rights of the most vulnerable rural groups	
[add additional rows as needed]				

QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?			
Low Risk	X		
Moderate Risk	☐		
Substantial Risk	☐		
High Risk	☐		

QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that apply)				
Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk projects				
Is assessment required? (check if "yes")	☐			Status? (completed, planned)
if yes, indicate overall type and status		☐	Targeted assessment(s)	
		☐	ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment)	
		☐	SESA (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment)	
Are management plans required? (check if "yes)	☐			

	If yes, indicate overall type		☐	Targeted management plans (e.g. Gender Action Plan, Emergency Response Plan, Waste Management Plan, others)	
			☐	ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan which may include range of targeted plans)	
			☐	ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework)	
	Based on identified risks, which Principles/Project-level Standards triggered?		Comments (not required)		
	Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind				
	Human Rights	☐			
	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	☐			
	Accountability	☐			
	1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	☐			
	2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks	☐			
	3. Community Health, Safety and Security	☐			
	4. Cultural Heritage	☐			
	5. Displacement and Resettlement	☐			
	6. Indigenous Peoples	☐			
	7. Labour and Working Conditions	☐			
	8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	☐			

Final Sign Off

Final Screening at the design-stage is not complete until the following signatures are included

Signature	Date	Description
QA Assessor		UNDP staff member responsible for the project, typically a UNDP Programme Officer. Final signature confirms they have "checked" to ensure that the SESP is adequately conducted.
QA Approver		UNDP senior manager, typically the UNDP Deputy Country Director (DCD), Country Director (CD), Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), or Resident Representative (RR). The QA Approver cannot also be the QA Assessor. Final signature confirms they have "cleared" the SESP prior to submittal to the PAC.
PAC Chair		UNDP chair of the PAC. In some cases PAC Chair may also be the QA Approver. Final signature confirms that the SESP was considered as part of the project appraisal and considered in recommendations of the PAC.

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks	
INSTRUCTIONS: The risk screening checklist will assist in answering Questions 2-6 of the Screening Template. Answers to the checklist questions help to (1) identify potential risks, (2) determine the overall risk categorization of the project, and (3) determine required level of assessment and management measures. Refer to the *SES toolkit* for further guidance on addressing screening questions.	
Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind Human Rights	Answer (Yes/No)
P.1 Have local communities or individuals raised human rights concerns regarding the project (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	No
P.2 Is there a risk that duty-bearers (e.g. government agencies) do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the project?	No
P.3 Is there a risk that rights-holders (e.g. project-affected persons) do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	No
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:	
P.4 adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	No

P.5	inequitable or discriminatory impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities? 50	No
P.6	restrictions in availability, quality of and/or access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities?	No
P.7	exacerbation of conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	No
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		
P.8	Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the project, (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	No
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
P.9	adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	No
P.10	reproducing discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	No
P.11	limitations on women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services? For example, activities that could lead to natural resources degradation or depletion in communities who depend on these resources for their livelihoods and well being	No
P.12	exacerbation of risks of gender-based violence? For example, through the influx of workers to a community, changes in community and household power dynamics, increased exposure to unsafe public places and/or transport, etc.	No
Sustainability and Resilience: Screening questions regarding risks associated with sustainability and resilience are encompassed by the Standard-specific questions below		
Accountability		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
P.13	exclusion of any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups and excluded individuals (including persons with disabilities), from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	No
P.14	grievances or objections from potentially affected stakeholders?	No
P.15	risks of retaliation or reprisals against stakeholders who express concerns or grievances, or who seek to participate in or to obtain information on the project?	No
Project-Level Standards		

50 Prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, sex, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, political or other opinion, national or social or geographical origin, property, birth or other status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority. References to "women and men" or similar is understood to include women and men, boys and girls, and other groups discriminated against based on their gender identities, such as transgender and transsexual people.

Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:	
1.1 adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services? For example, through habitat loss, conversion or degradation, fragmentation, hydrological changes	No
1.2 activities within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including (but not limited to) legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?	No
1.3 changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods? (Note: if restrictions and/or limitations of access to lands would apply, refer to Standard 5)	No
1.4 risks to endangered species (e.g. reduction, encroachment on habitat)?	No
1.5 exacerbation of illegal wildlife trade?	No
1.6 introduction of invasive alien species?	No
1.7 adverse impacts on soils?	No
1.8 harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	No
1.9 significant agricultural production?	No
1.10 animal husbandry or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	No
1.11 significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction	No
1.12 handling or utilization of genetically modified organisms/living modified organisms?51	No
1.13 utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development)52	No
1.14 adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	No
Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks	
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:	
2.1 areas subject to hazards such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, severe winds, storm surges, tsunami or volcanic eruptions?	No
2.2 outputs and outcomes sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change or disasters? For example, through increased precipitation, drought, temperature, salinity, extreme events, earthquakes	No

51 See the *Convention on Biological Diversity* and its *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*.

52 See the *Convention on Biological Diversity* and its *Nagoya Protocol* on access and benefit sharing from use of genetic resources.

2.3	increases in vulnerability to climate change impacts or disaster risks now or in the future (also known as maladaptive or negative coping practices)? For example, changes to land use planning may encourage further development of floodplains, potentially increasing the population's vulnerability to climate change, specifically flooding	No
2.4	increases of greenhouse gas emissions, black carbon emissions or other drivers of climate change?	No
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
3.1	construction and/or infrastructure development (e.g. roads, buildings, dams)? (Note: the GEF does not finance projects that would involve the construction or rehabilitation of large or complex dams)	No
3.2	air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, injuries, physical hazards, poor surface water quality due to runoff, erosion, sanitation?	No
3.3	harm or losses due to failure of structural elements of the project (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)?	No
3.4	risks of water-borne or other vector-borne diseases (e.g. temporary breeding habitats), communicable and noncommunicable diseases, nutritional disorders, mental health?	No
3.5	transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	No
3.6	adverse impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem services relevant to communities' health (e.g. food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)?	No
3.7	influx of project workers to project areas?	No
3.8	engagement of security personnel to protect facilities and property or to support project activities?	No
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
4.1	activities adjacent to or within a Cultural Heritage site?	No
4.2	significant excavations, demolitions, movement of earth, flooding or other environmental changes?	No
4.3	adverse impacts to sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	No
4.4	alterations to landscapes and natural features with cultural significance?	No
4.5	utilization of tangible and/or intangible forms (e.g. practices, traditional knowledge) of Cultural Heritage for commercial or other purposes?	No
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		

5.1	temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement (including people without legally recognizable claims to land)?	No
5.2	economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions – even in the absence of physical relocation)?	No
5.3	risk of forced evictions?53	No
5.4	impacts on or changes to land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	No
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
6.1	areas where indigenous peoples are present (including project area of influence)?	No
6.2	activities located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.3	impacts (positive or negative) to the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, whether the project is located within or outside of the lands and territories inhabited by the affected peoples, or whether the indigenous peoples are recognized as indigenous peoples by the country in question)? If the answer to screening question 6.3 is "yes", then the potential risk impacts are considered significant and the project would be categorized as either Substantial Risk or High Risk	No
6.4	the absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of achieving FPIC on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned?	No
6.5	the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.6	forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources? Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Standard 5 above	No
6.7	adverse impacts on the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	No
6.8	risks to the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No
6.9	impacts on the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices? Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Standard 4 above.	No
Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions		

53 Forced eviction is defined here as the permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection. Forced evictions constitute gross violations of a range of internationally recognized human rights.

Would the project potentially involve or lead to: (note: applies to project and contractor workers)		
7.1	working conditions that do not meet national labour laws and international commitments?	No
7.2	working conditions that may deny freedom of association and collective bargaining?	No
7.3	use of child labour?	No
7.4	use of forced labour?	No
7.5	discriminatory working conditions and/or lack of equal opportunity?	No
7.6	occupational health and safety risks due to physical, chemical, biological and psychosocial hazards (including violence and harassment) throughout the project life-cycle?	No
Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
8.1	the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	No
8.2	the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	No
8.3	the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous materials and/or chemicals?	No
8.4	the use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs? For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the *Montreal Protocol*, *Minamata Convention*, *Basel Convention*, *Rotterdam Convention*, *Stockholm Convention*	No
8.5	the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	No
8.6	significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	No

Annex III. Risk Analysis

1.	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures/ Mngt Response	Owner	Submitted Updated by	Last update	Status
1	Sustainable use and maintenance of infrastructure projects cannot be ensured by communities and local authorities.	2021	Technical and operational	I = Medium P = Low I = 3 P = 2	The financial and operational risks to the project are considered medium given the limited communities' skills in maintaining the infrastructure elements introduced by the project and uncertain commitment of local authorities to cover the costs of operations and maintenance of new elements. The Project will implement a series of measures to strengthen communities and local authorities' committed to ensuring the adequate operation and maintenance of the infrastructure elements. It will create spaces and	Project Management Implementing Partner – MEDPR Beneficiary – 170communities	UNDP CO	2022	Ongoing

					places for the constructive interface between communities, representatives and local authorities, and between service users and providers. Targeted communities will be empowered to engage with local authorities and other relevant agencies in the context of wider development through a joint-planning and implementation process. The maintenance scheme for all infrastructure, particularly rural roads and water management systems, will aim at fostering environmentally and socially responsible strategies based on low costs and participatory approaches. Public-private partnership structures will				

					be explored. Specific focus will be made on ensuring sustainability of effective water management solutions.				
2	Poor adoption of innovative environment-friendly and digital solutions piloted	2021	Technical and operational	I = Medium P = Low I = 3 P = 1	The innovations absorption risks to the project are moderate. The project's objective is to ensure local demand is understood and targeted in the development of environmental and digital solutions beyond prototyping. The enhancement of interaction between producers and end-users of innovations and their capacities is at the core of project design. They will include, for example, awareness and trainings as well as piloting of solutions with the target audiences. Local talents, researchers,	Project Management Implementing Partner – MEDPR Beneficiary -	UNDP CO	2022	Ongoing

					networks and knowledge will be leveraged. Through a series of workshops throughout the implementation, representatives of communities, architects and engineers will meet to define local needs and tailored solutions. Solutions will be tested and developed using existing networks.				
3	Anti-Money laundering and corruption	2020	Reputational	I = Low P = Low I = 1 P = 1	The project's core activities present limited risk concerning money laundering and corruption. However, given the extent of procurement required to execute various project elements, there is a low risk of conflicts with vendors and reputational risks vis-à-vis local beneficiaries.	Project Management	UNDP CO	2022	Ongoing

					UNDP procurement procedure will be observed, based on the UNDP policies and procedures (POPP) and fiduciary standards.				

Annex IV. Letter of agreement between UNDP and the Government for the provision of support services

LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNDP AND THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

FOR THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

UNDP project "IsDB Sustainable Rural Development Project Component B: Engineering Services and Strengthening Capacity in Infrastructure Management" (Project 00129160 project ID/ 00122922 Output ID)

Dear Mr. Boboev,

1. Reference is made to consultations between officials of the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as "the MEDPR") and officials of UNDP with respect to the provision of support services by the UNDP country office for nationally managed programmes and projects. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the MEDPR hereby agree that the UNDP country office may provide support services for nationally managed project, at the request of the Ministry, as described in the project document between the UNDP and the MEDPR for the joint project "IsDB Sustainable Rural Development Project Component B: Engineering Services and Strengthening Capacity in Infrastructure Management" (Project 00129160 project ID/ 00122922 Output ID) (hereinafter referred to as "the Project"), which will be implemented by the MEDPR of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

2. The UNDP country office may provide support services for assistance with reporting requirements and direct payment. In providing such support services, the UNDP country office shall ensure that the capacity of the MEDPR is strengthened to enable it to carry out such activities directly. The costs incurred by the UNDP country office in providing such support services shall be recovered from the administrative budget of the Project.

3. The UNDP country office may provide, at the request of the MEDPR, the following support services for the activities of the Project:

(a) Quality assurance activities, program management, and policy advisory services;
(b) Implementation support services in recruitment, trainings, workshops, procurement of goods and services, processing of payments, communication and administrative services including travels;

4. The procurement of goods and services and the recruitment of the Project personnel by the UNDP country office shall be in accordance with the UNDP regulations, rules, policies and procedures. Support services described in paragraph 3 above shall be detailed in an annex to the project document, in the form provided in the Attachment hereto. If the requirements for support services by the country office change during the life of the Project, the annex to the project document will be revised with the mutual agreement of the UNDP Resident Representative and the MEDPR.

5. The relevant provisions of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Government of Uzbekistan and the UNDP, signed by Parties on 10th June 1993, including the provisions on liability and privileges and immunities, shall apply to the provision of such support services. The Government shall retain overall responsibility for the nationally managed Project through the MEDPR. The responsibility

of the UNDP country office for the provision of the support services described herein shall be limited to the provision of such support services detailed in the annex to the project document.

6. Any claim or dispute arising under or in connection with the provision of support services by the UNDP country office in accordance with this letter shall be handled pursuant to the relevant provisions of the SBAA.

7. The manner and method of cost-recovery by the UNDP country office in providing the support services described in paragraph 3 above shall be specified in the annex to the project document.

8. The UNDP country office shall submit progress reports on the support services provided and shall report on the costs reimbursed in providing such services, as may be required.

9. Any modification of the present arrangements shall be effected by mutual written agreement of the parties hereto.

10. If you are in agreement with the provisions set forth above, please sign and return to this office two signed copies of this letter. Upon the signature, this letter shall constitute an agreement between the "name of the partner" of the Republic of Uzbekistan and UNDP on the terms and conditions for the provision of support services by the UNDP country office for the Project.

For the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of Republic of Uzbekistan:

Mr. Adiz M. Boboev
Deputy Minister

Date:_____

For UNDP in the Republic of Uzbekistan:

Ms. Matilda Dimovska
Resident Representative

08 JUN 2022

Date:_____

DESCRIPTION OF UNDP COUNTRY OFFICE SUPPORT SERVICES

1. Reference is made to consultations between the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan and UNDP with respect to the provision of support services by the UNDP country office for the nationally managed UNDP joint project IsDB Sustainable Rural

Development Project Component B: Engineering Services and Strengthening Capacity in Infrastructure Management ("the Project").

2. In accordance with the provisions of the letter of agreement signed on [_____] and the project document, the UNDP country office shall provide support services for the Project as described below.

3. Support services to be provided:

Support services	Schedule for the provision of the support services	Cost to UNDP of providing such support services	Amount and method of reimbursement of UNDP
1.Dedicated support embedded in development programmes and projects	Regular	Based on Individual workload timesheets of the involved Country Office staff	As per budgeted amount in the AWP thru Direct post charges of staff
2._Implementation and implementation support activities in: · Communications Unit staff time spent on communication of development results and outcomes in the context of specific development programmes and projects. · Human Resources Unit staff time spent on the recruitment, selection, hiring, contracting, and/or contract administration of project personnel. · Procurement Unit staff time spent on the procurement of goods or services on behalf of a project, covering the entire procurement cycle tasks, transport, storage, distribution, on-site receipting of goods, customs clearance, logistics, etc. · Finance Unit staff time spent on undertaking direct project payment requests. · Programme staff time and any other CO staff time spent directly on programme implementation and directly contributing to development results.	Upon Request	Based on Individual workload timesheets of the involved Country Office staff	As per budgeted amount in the AWP thru Direct post charges of staff
3._Strategic Country Programme Planning and Quality Assurance	Regular	The same as above	The same as above
4._Programme Pipeline Development and Management	Regular	The same as above	The same as above
5._Programme Policy Advisory Services	Regular	The same as above	The same as above

4. Description of functions and responsibilities of the parties involved shall be regulated as specified in the project document.

ANNEX V. Terms of Reference and TORs of key project positions

Terms of Reference (TOR)

for functions under an National Personnel Service Agreement

In preparing Terms of Reference (TOR), please try to use language that is simple to understand by people from outside the organization, without prior knowledge of your office or project context

RECOMMENDED MINIMUM CONTENT OF TOR FOR AN NPSA

1. Position Information

Office/Unit/Project	IsDB Sustainable Rural Development Project Component B: Engineering Services and Strengthening Capacity in Infrastructure Management
Title	Project Manager (NPSA10)
Duty station (City and Country)	Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Type (Regular or Short term)	Regular
Office- or Home-based	Office with frequent visit to target regions
Expected starting date	July 2022
Expected Duration	1 year (with possible extension subject to satisfactory performance) – full time

2. Office/Unit/Project Description

In 2021, the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction (MEDPR) and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) approved a 5-year (2021 – 2025) project for the Republic of Uzbekistan entitled IsDB Sustainable Rural Development Project Component B: Engineering Services and Strengthening Capacity in Infrastructure Management. The project will be implemented under the National Implementation Modality (NIM) with the MEDPR playing an executing entity's/implementing partner's role for it. This project will be executed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) County Office in Uzbekistan.

The Project has 4 main interconnected components:
Output 1. Capacities of targeted local communities increased to identify local needs and develop plans of actions Community Development Plans (CDP) are prepared identifying the priority infrastructures for investments through community engagement (including women and youth) and consultation with sub-regional and local authorities.
Output 2: Capacities of local architecture-design institutions and regional departments of architecture and construction is enhanced for development of improved engineering designs, master plans, promoting efficient diagnosis, planning tools and innovative energy efficient and low carbon technology, climate resilience and green infrastructure solutions.
Output 3: Capacities of construction-architecture and public service delivery sector is increased in digital transformation, innovative IT solutions, including development of digital infrastructure and information systems to ensure better access to social facilities and services in rural areas, including green

redevelopment/regeneration and increasing resilience in post-disaster situations (such as COVID-19 and other pandemics).
Output 4: Local communities are strengthened (including women, youth, elderly, people with disabilities) and national/sub-regional/local government capacities and institutionalization in operation and maintenance of the infrastructure to ensure sustainable functioning.

The Project will be implemented in Karakalpakstan, Khorezm, Bukhara and Navoi regions where Project offices will be established.

The Project Manager will be contributing to national capacity building for sustainable rural development by pursuing integrated planning and implementation of innovative solutions which will reinforce project components through ensuring effective and efficient implementation of the project. S/he will be in charge of the overall management of the project, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision of regional offices, and acting as a liaison with all relevant national partners.

3. Scope of Work

The Project Manager will work under the direct supervision UNDP Country Office ECA Cluster Lead, IsDB PMU as well as in coordination with the National Project Coordinator. The project manager is responsible for the coordinated and timely implementation of activities in accordance with the annual and quarterly work plans of the Project by performing the following main functions and responsibilities:

1. **General project management:**

- Project management through the implementation of appropriate activities;
- Providing directions and directions to project personnel and project participants;
- Interaction with the Project Board or its representatives to ensure the implementation and quality of the project (UNDP Environment and Climate Action Cluster), to ensure the focus and integrity of the project;
- Designation and receipt of assistance and recommendations for effective management, planning and control of the project;
- Be responsible for the administrative issues of the project implementation;
- Interaction with suppliers;

2. Project implementation

- Planning project activities and monitoring the progress of achieving goals in accordance with the established quality criteria;
- Project management in accordance with the project document, UNDP rules and procedures;
- Coordinate and manage the day-to-day activities of the project and the overall implementation process, including planning and monitoring in order to optimize the use of resources and to ensure the successful achievement of project objectives;
- Monitor the implementation of project work plans, analyze emerging problems and take adequate measures to ensure the timely implementation of the planned tasks;
- Mobilization of goods and services for the implementation of activities, including the preparation of Terms of Reference and work specifications;
- Ensuring that the project contributes to the advancement of gender equality in project activities by reaching, engaging and achieving benefits for both women and men (gender mainstreaming).
- Monitoring the implementation of activities in accordance with the Monitoring and External Relations Plan and updating the plan as necessary;

- Monitoring the use of financial resources to ensure the correctness and reliability of financial statements;
- Management and monitoring of potential project risks, previously identified in the Project Documentation approved by the National Assessment and Launch Council (NALC), introducing new risks to the Project Board for consideration and, if necessary, taking action; updating the status of these risks by constantly filling and managing the table of possible project risks;
- Be responsible for managing issues and requests for changes to the project by continually completing and managing the project issue table;
- Preparation of quarterly project implementation reports (achieved results in relation to planned goals, updating of risk and problem tables, expense report) and its submission to the Project Board and to the unit responsible for Project Implementation and Quality Assurance (UNDP Sustainable Development Cluster);
- Preparation of the annual project report and its submission to the Project Board and the Results Board (UNDP Enviroment and Climate Action Cluster);
- Preparation, based on the report, a work plan for the next year, as well as quarterly work plans as required.

3. Closure of the Project

- Preparation of final project reports for subsequent submission to the project council and the results council;
- Identifying next steps and submitting them to the Project Board;
- Organization of transfer of project results, documents, files, equipment and materials to national beneficiaries;
- Preparation of a consolidated report of work performed and other necessary reports for consideration by UNDP and implementing partners

4. Institutional Arrangement

Under the direct supervision of the ECA Cluster Lead and in close collaboration with relevant project partners, the Project Manager will be responsible for the implementation of the project activities aimed at strengthening the climate services and disaster communications to end-users.

Project Manager will provide operational and thematic services ensuring high quality, accuracy and consistency of work. Project Manager works in close collaboration with the Government counterparts, project, operations, and Programme's staff in the UNDP CO to exchange information and ensure consistent service delivery, and undertake day-to- day responsibility for operational and thematic support services for the satisfactory achievement of the project component outputs.

5. Competencies

Core	
Achieve Results:	LEVEL 3: Set and align challenging, achievable objectives for multiple projects, have lasting impact
Think Innovatively:	LEVEL 3: Proactively mitigate potential risks, develop new ideas to solve complex problems
Learn Continuously:	LEVEL 3: Create and act on opportunities to expand horizons, diversify experiences
Adapt with Agility:	LEVEL 3: Proactively initiate and champion change, manage multiple competing demands
Act with Determination:	LEVEL 3: Think beyond immediate task/barriers and take action to achieve greater results
Engage and Partner:	LEVEL 3: Political savvy, navigate complex landscape, champion inter-agency collaboration
Enable Diversity and Inclusion:	LEVEL 3: Appreciate benefits of diverse workforce and champion inclusivity

People Management (Insert below standard sentence if the position has direct reports.)

Show Managerial Courage

- Face up to organizational and people problems
- Not be afraid to take decision and action when and as needed
- Not hold back anything that needs to be said, respectfully and diplomatically
- Address conflict in a timely manner, not allow conflicts in teams linger
- Help others through emotional or tense situations, tactfully bringing disagreements into the open and finding solutions all can endorse

Motivate and Direct

- Create and communicate a compelling vision and purpose
- Aligh people and resources with organizational vision, strategy, objectives
- Understand and proactively builds theh team/organization culture

Cross-Functional & Technical competencies (insert up to 7 competencies)

Thematic Area	*Name*	*Definition*
Busieness direction & strategy	Strategic thinking	-Ability to develop effective strategies and prioritized plans in line with UNDP's objectives, based on the systemic analysis of challenges, potential risks and opportunities; linking the vision to reality on the ground, and creating tangible solutions -Ability to leverage learning from a variety of sources to anticipate and respond to future trends; to demonstrate foresight in order to model what future developments and possible ways forward look like for UNDP
Business Management	Project Management	Ability to manage programmes and projects with a focus at improved performance and demonstrable results

Business Management	Monitoring	Ability to provide managers and key stakeholders with regular feedback on the consistency or discrepancy between planned and actual activities and programme performance and results
Business Management	Evaluation	Ability to make an independent judgement based on set criteria and benchmarks - Ability to anticipate client's upcoming needs and concerns.

6. Minimum Qualifications of the Successful NPSA

Min. Education requirements	Master's or higher degree in the field of related Business Management, Public Administration and Other Relevant Areas. Bachelor's degree with additional 2 years of experience, in the field of related Business/Project Management, Public Administration and Other Relevant Areas can be taken into consideration in lieu of Master's degree.
Min. years of relevant work experience	Proven track of at least 3 years experience in economics and / or project management in the field of economic development / corporate and private enterprise development or rural development. Alternatively, if in possession of Bachelor's degree, 4 years of experience in economics and / or project management in the field of economic development / corporate and private enterprise development or rural development.
Required skills	Experience in demonstrable project/programme management / development organization
Desired skills in addition to the competencies covered in the Competencies section	Knowledge of and experience in gender mainstreaming is an asset; Strong leadership, managerial and coordination skills, with a demonstrated ability to effectively coordinate the implementation of large multi-stakeholder projects, including financial and technical aspects. Ability to effectively manage technical and administrative teams, work with a wide range of stakeholders across various sectors and at all levels, to develop durable partnerships with collaborating agencies. Ability to coordinate and supervise multiple Project Implementation Units in their implementation of technical activities in partnership with a variety of stakeholder groups, including community and government. Strong drafting, presentation and reporting skills. Strong computer skills, in particular mastery of all applications of the MS Office package and internet search. Willingness to travel as appropriate Experience in the electronic control system.
Required Language(s)	Fluency in English, Russian and Uzbek or Karakalpak.
Professional Certificates	*N/A*

Travel:

Official travel expected in project target regions of Karakalpakstan with performing the functions of Project Manager for this project.

7. The following documents shall be required from the applicants:

a) **Personal CV or P11**, indicating all past positions held and their main underlying functions, their durations (month/year), the qualifications, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the Candidate, and at least three (3) the most recent professional references of previous supervisors. References may also include peers.
b) A cover letter (maximum length: 1 page) indicating why the candidate considers him-/herself to be suitable for the position.
c) Managers may ask (ad hoc) for any other materials relevant to pre-assessing the relevance of their experience, such as reports, presentations, publications, campaigns or other materials.

8. Annexes to the TOR

a) Project document
b) Organigram of the project indicating the position of the function.

9. Approval

This TOR is approved by :

This certifies the appropriateness of the functions to the NPSA contractual modality.

Name and Designation

Date of Approval

Terms of Reference (TOR)

for functions under a National Personnel Service Agreement

RECOMMENDED MINIMUM CONTENTS OF TOR FOR AN NPSA

1. Position Information

Office/Unit/Project	IsDB Sustainable Rural Development Project Component B: Engineering Services and Strengthening Capacity in Infrastructure Management
Title	Admininstrative/Finance Specialist (NPSA7)
Duty station (City and Country)	Nukus, Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan
Type (Regular or Short term)	Regular
Office- or Home-based	Office
Expected starting date	July 1, 2022
Expected Duration	**1 year (with possible extension subject to satisfactory performance)**

2. Office/Unit/Project Description

In 2021, the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction (MEDPR) and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) approved a 5-year (2021 – 2025) project for the Republic of Uzbekistan entitled IsDB Sustainable Rural Development Project Component B: Engineering Services and Strengthening Capacity in Infrastructure Management. The project will be implemented under the National Implementation Modality (NIM) with the MEDPR playing an executing entity's/implementing partner's role for it. This project will be executed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) County Office in Uzbekistan.

The Project has 4 main interconnected components:

Output 1. Capacities of targeted local communities increased to identify local needs and develop plans of actions Community Development Plans (CDP) are prepared identifying the priority infrastructures for investments through community engagement (including women and youth) and consultation with sub-regional and local authorities.

Output 2: Capacities of local architecture-design institutions and regional departments of architecture and construction is enhanced for development of improved engineering designs, master plans, promoting efficient diagnosis, planning tools and innovative energy efficient and low carbon technology, climate resilience and green infrastructure solutions.

Output 3: Capacities of construction-architecture and public service delivery sector is increased in digital transformation, innovative IT solutions, including development of digital infrastructure and information systems to ensure better access to social facilities and services in rural areas, including green redevelopment/regeneration and increasing resilience in post-disaster situations (such as COVID-19 and other pandemics).

Output 4: Local communities are strengthened (including women, youth, elderly, people with disabilities) and national/sub-regional/local government capacities and institutionalization in operation and maintenance of the infrastructure to ensure sustainable functioning.

The Project will be implemented in Karakalpakstan, Khorezm, Bukhara and Navoi regions where Project offices will be established.

3. Scope of Work

The Administrative and Financial Specialist will work under the direct supervision of the Project Manager, and provide financial services to ensure high quality, accuracy and consistency in work. The Administrative and Financial Specialist will work closely with national partners, the project, the operations and program departments of the UNDP office through the following roles and responsibilities:

- Be responsible for logistics, travel arrangements, and hiring project staff, in accordance with corporate rules and UNDP requirements;
- Encouraging understanding and promotion of gender equality among project staff and partners;
- On the basis of consultations with the project manager and the UNDP Business Center, carry out the procurement in accordance with the rules and procedures of the UNDP;
- Preparation of all financial and administrative documents required for project implementation in accordance with UNDP rules and procedures;
- Preparation of all financial and administrative documents related to the implementation of the project in accordance with UNDP rules and procedures, budgeting of costs and obligations for the project;
- Preparation of quarterly and annual budget plans for recruiting staff; execution and storage of financial statements, and maintenance of the monitoring system for recording the corresponding expenses, balances, payments and other data on daily financial activities and preparation of reports;
- Assistance to project staff, experts and consultants in matters of financial costs, advance payments, transportation costs and other financial and administrative costs, preparation and authorization of payments for the services provided;
- Preparation of detailed cost estimates, participation, if necessary, in budget analysis and forecasting to support the financial operations of the project, alignment of all accounts within the required time frame;
- Processing, updating the list and keeping records of intangible assets in accordance with UNDP requirements;
- Execution of duties of a cashier, responsibility for the distribution of the project-based cash flow, keeping records of the cash book and payment orders of regional divisions;
- Monitoring of vacations of project employees, checking the correctness and appropriate filling of the monthly report card on the presence at the workplace, vacations, absences at the work place due to illness, etc.;
- Analyzing potential administrative and financial issues and taking the necessary steps to ensure that sufficient resources are available to carry out the tasks assigned to the project;
- Identifying effective measures to optimize the use of project resources;
- Ensuring full compliance of administrative and financial processes and financial reporting with the UNDP requirements, policy and strategy;

4. Institutional Arrangement

Under the direct supervision of Project Manager and in close collaboration with relevant project partners, the Admin/Finance Specialist will be responsible for the implementation of the project activities aimed at building national capacities for sustainable rural development by pursuing integrated planning and implementation of innovative solutions.

Admin/Finance Specialist will provide operational services ensuring high quality, accuracy and consistency of work. Admin/Finance Specialist works in close collaboration with the Government counterparts, project, operations, and Programme's staff in the UNDP CO to exchange information and ensure consistent service delivery, and undertake day-to- day responsibility for operational and thematic support services for the satisfactory achievement of the project component outputs.

5. Competencies

Core	
Achieve Results:	LEVEL 1: Plans and monitors own work, pays attention to details, delivers quality work by deadline
Think Innovatively:	LEVEL 1: Open to creative ideas/known risks, is pragmatic problem solver, makes improvements
Learn Continuously:	LEVEL 1: Open minded and curious, shares knowledge, learns from mistakes, asks for feedback
Adapt with Agility:	LEVEL 1: Adapts to change, constructively handles ambiguity/uncertainty, is flexible
Act with Determination:	LEVEL 1: Shows drive and motivation, able to deliver calmly in face of adversity, confident
Engage and Partner:	LEVEL 1: Demonstrates compassion/understanding towards others, forms positive relationships
Enable Diversity and Inclusion:	LEVEL 1: Appreciate/respect differences, aware of unconscious bias, confront discrimination

People Management (Insert below standard sentence if the position has direct reports.)

Motivate and Direct

- Create and communicate a compelling vision and purpose
- Align people and resources with organizational vision, strategy, objectives
- Understand and proactively builds theh team/organization culture

Cross-Functional & Technical competencies (insert up to 7 competencies)

Thematic Area	*Name*	*Definition*
Business direction & strategy	Business Acumen	- Ability to understand and deal with a business situation in a manner that is likely to lead to a good outcome - Knowledge and understanding of the operational frameworks in the organization and ability to make good judgments and quick decisions within such frameworks -Ability to create clarity around UNDP Value proposition to beneficiaries and partners and to develop service offers responding to client needs based on UNDP's organizational priorities and mandate
Business Development	Knowledge Facilitation	Ability to animate individuals and communities of contributors to participate and share, particularly externally
Business Management	Monitoring	Ability to provide managers and key stakeholders with regular feedback on the consistency or discrepancy between planned and actual activities and programme performance and results
Business Management	Evaluation	Ability to make an independent judgement based on set criteria and benchmarks - Ability to anticipate client's upcoming needs and concerns.

6. Minimum Qualifications of the Successful NPSA

Min. Academic Education	Secondary education; Bachelor's degree or higher education in any of the following areas: Finance, Economics, Business administration, Environment, or similar areas.
Min. years of relevant Work experience	Proved track of at least 4 years (for Bachelor's 4 years) of relevant work experience preferably in a project administration.
Required skills	Previous experience with UNDP or UN project will be a definite asset; Strong financial and administrative skills, result and client-orientation, ability to work in a team;
Desired skills in addition to the competencies covered in the Competencies section	Proficiency in the use of computer software applications particularly MS Excel. Ability to work under pressure and with tight deadlines, ethics and honesty; Ability to use information and communication technology as a tool and resource; Experience in handling web-based management systems; Ability to handle multiple tasks simultaneously and ability to prioritize
Required Language(s)	Fluency in English and Russian (written and oral) and knowledge of the Uzbek
Professional Certificates	N/A

6. Travel:

Official travel expected in project target regions of Karakalpakstan/Uzbekistan with performing the functions of Admin/Finance Specialist for this project.

7. The following documents shall be required from the applicants:

d) **Personal CV or P11**, indicating all past positions held and their main underlying functions, their durations (month/year), the qualifications, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the Candidate, and at least three (3) the most recent professional references of previous supervisors. References may also include peers.
e) A cover letter (maximum length: 1 page) indicating why the candidate considers him-/herself to be suitable for the position.
f) Managers may ask (ad hoc) for any other materials relevant to pre-assessing the relevance of their experience, such as reports, presentations, publications, campaigns or other materials.

8. Annexes to the TOR

c) Project document
d) Organigram of the project indicating the position of the function.

9. Approval

This TOR is approved by:

This certifies the appropriateness of the functions to the NPSA contractual modality.

Name and designation Mr. Bakhadur Paluaniyazov, ECAC Lead

Date of approval