STANDARD PROGRESS REPORT

No. and title: 00093319-00097620 Support to Migration and Border Management in Armenia (MIBMA)
Reporting period: 01 January 2018- 31 December 2018

I. PURPOSE

Sustainable Development Goal 8, 9 and 16: Decent work and economic growth; Industry innovation and infrastructure; Peace, justice and strong institutions.

UNDAF Outcome 4: By 2020, migration, border, and asylum management systems are strengthened to promote and protect the rights of migrants and displaced people, especially women and girls.

CPD Outcome 2 (Outputs 2.3): By 2020, people's expectations for voice, accountability, transparency, and protection of human rights are met by improved systems of democratic governance.

UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome 2: Citizen expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance.

UNDP Strategic Plan Output 2.3: Capacities of government institutions to effectively manage borders and facilitate trade and legal flow of people in line with integrated border management standards enhanced.

The Gender Marker: Gen 2

The specific objective of the Project is to support the Government of Armenia (GoA) in establishing modern border crossing infrastructures for ensuring favourable conditions for secure and easy transit of people and goods, simplified and harmonised border management procedures, improved service delivery, and facilitated trade and transit.

The Project components supported Armenia's efforts towards:
(1) simplification of trade facilitation and cross border cooperation;
(2) modernization of Meghri border crossing point on the Armenia-Iran border;
(3) IT solutions for improving accountability and transparency in border management procedures.

Since its commencement, the Project underwent several changes that were agreed with all beneficiaries and partners. Moreover, implementation of the Project activities planned for spring-autumn 2018 was delayed due to political changes in the country and personnel changes in the state agencies involved in border management. In this situation UNDP has

requested and received a no-cost extension till the end of September 2019 to ensure full delivery of the planned activities.

During the reporting period the Project has progressed with implementing the activities planned, has successfully developed a network with counterparts from the Government, IT sector and independent experts. This ensured effective communication about the project objectives and expected results which are aligned with the priorities of the GoA.

II. RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

1. *Simple matrix showing project's total, annual and delivered resources, percentage, donors, funds. Attach CDR.*

Donor	Project Total	2018 budget	Delivered Year 2018, as of 28/12/2018	Delivery Rate Year 2018, as of 28/12/2018
EU	USD 1.000.515,36	USD 468.574	USD 284.346	60.58%

III. RESULTS, PROGRESS

See attached Results Resources Framework for details

All planned outputs were effectively developed as outlined in MIBMA Project Document, as follows:

1. **Challenges in cross-border procedures and trade at Armenian-Iranian border inventoried and addressed:** A tender was announced, and organization contracted for facilitation and event management of the Multi-lateral conference on "Regional Integration: The Armenia Connection" was planned and is scheduled to be conducted in June 2019. The Conference outcomes will contribute to the formulation of priority interventions necessary for Armenia to enhance a trade and transit corridor that connects the key EU and EEU markets with Iran and Georgia – with the focus on border and customs procedures and practices.

2. **Tender for Meghri BCP:** Final Detailed Design Package with Bill of Quantities and Final Cost Estimates are presented to the Inter-agency working group and approved. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) was conducted. "Meghri Business Case" was developed and provided to respective partners for consideration. A contractor was hired for formulation of energy efficiency assessment for integration in Detailed Design Package.

3. **Accountability, Transparency and Integrity:** The electronic system for submission of passengers' e-declarations, registering entry/exit time for vehicles and cargo, and for evaluation of services at the border was completed in August 2018. The handover documents of software and equipment are signed by UNDP and transferred to the SRC, as follows:

    a. Terminals to capture processing time and citizen feedback are installed at the Bavra BCP;

b. The e-package for submission of passengers' declarations is applicable in all 5 international border crossing points of Armenia.

A workshop on accountability, transparency and integrity on "ATI in border management was conducted in partnership with SRC on December 20-22, 2018. About 47 participants from the relevant bodies were present at the event including participants from Georgia and experts from Latvia. It is also planned to conduct another workshop on ATI in 2019, the subject, dates and other details of which to be negotiated and agreed with the Senior Beneficiary.

A tender process conducted, and a contractor identified for development of a software package for preliminary electronic data exchange at the Armenia-Iran and Armenia-Georgia borders was developed.

IV. GENDER MAINSTREAMING RESULTS

Gender mainstreaming actions of the project are in line with UNDP Armenia Gender Equality Strategy 2016-2020 and its annual action plans. UNDP Armenia Gender Equality Strategy consider addressed gender equality via seven parameters: Management, Capacities, Enabling Environment, Knowledge Management, Programme/Projects, Partnerships, Gender Equality Impact, and applies Gender Marker tool to categorize the level of gender mainstreaming. Gender Marker Tool for UNDP Armenia Country Programme Output 2.3 "Capacities of government institutions to effectively manage borders and facilitate trade and legal flow of people in line with integrated border management standards enhanced" is 2 out of 3 aimed at gender dimension to be one of significant objectives of the output.

The project corresponds to UNDP Gender Marker GEN-2 score, with gender equality and women's empowerment as an important objective of the project. Mainstreaming gender into MIBMA Project offers an opportunity for addressing gender vulnerabilities by applying a cross-cutting approach and ensuring sufficient representation of women in decision-making processes and actions. It will undertake dedicated actions by hiring a short-term Gender Advisor for enhancing gender-responsive programming (Gen2) intervention, addressing gender specific unique needs and values, work to incorporate gender and age specific knowledge into border management related action. It is worth to mention that at the ATI workshop organized from 20-22 of December 2018, 40% of participants were female and about 50% of speakers/moderators/experts were female as well. The project is constantly stressing the importance of gender mainstreaming in all its activities.

V. RISKS LOG

See attached updated Risk Log

VI. LESSONS LEARNED

Due to the political changes that are consistently happen in Armenia from spring till autumn 2018, the turn-over of the staff is very high in Governmental structure of the Republic of Armenia. Because of this several planned activities have been prolonged for many times during this year. That is why the project management decided to revise the time frame for some main activities and plan their implementation process for a longer time in order not to infringe the sequence of the actions.

VII. EVALUATIONS

No evaluation foreseen within the framework of the Project.

VIII. INTERNATIONAL, BILATERAL COLLABORATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

The MIBMA Project has been collaborating with Georgian and Iranian counterparts regarding to Component 1 (Trade facilitation) and Component 3 (ATI in border management). The Project has been on constant contact with EBRD and EIB for funding related matters.

IX. PRODOC CHANGES, HORIZON SCANNING

Quarterly monitoring needs to be modified to annual monitoring in the Project Document.

In November the project requested donor for no cost extension until 30 September 2019 and on December 21, 2018 the Project received approval.

Moreover, there were changes in Annual Work Plan due to significant changes within the main beneficiary state agencies and RA Government. Subsequently, the organization of International Conference "Regional Integration: The Armenia Connection" was reorganized to take place in the second quarter of 2019. Also, the thematic workshop for representatives of relevant public entities and private sector (logistic providers, traders, exporters/importers, distributors, wholesalers, etc.) will be organized in 2019, to study modern customs and trade related issues and practices, as identified by the SRC. The Software for preliminary electronic data exchange at the Armenia-Iran and Armenia-Georgia borders will be developed as well.

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

See attached Field Visit Report

XI. FUTURE WORK PLAN

See attached 2019 Annual Work Plan

Output Verification Template

Field Visit Report Format

Date of visit: December 03. 2018

Subject and venue of visit: Project 00093319-00097620 "Support to Migration and Border Management in Armenia" project office

Purpose of the field visit: Annual validation of project results

Outcomes	Update on Outcomes	Outputs	Update on outputs	Reasons if progress below target	Update on partnership strategies	Recommendations and proposed action
Capacities of government institutions to effectively manage borders and facilitate trade and legal flow of people in line with integrated border management standards enhanced.	The role of the Armenian Government in establishing modern border crossing infrastructures for ensuring favourable conditions for secure and easy transit of people and goods, simplified and harmonised border management procedures, improved service delivery, and facilitated trade and transit is strengthened. Best practices and innovative IT solutions are introduced and in process to further enhance the integrated border management, trade facilitation and legal flow of people.	-Number of initiatives to strengthen capacities of border agencies; -Number of new key initiatives seeking to improve integrated border management system, address emerging cross border issues and facilitate legal flows of people and goals.	-One workshop is conducted for border agencies. Another one and a Conference will be organized in 2019; -The Software package is initiated and in process, the Detailed Design Package was developed.	Due to delays in implementation of related activities from the GoA caused by the political situation in Armenia.		

PROJECT PERFORMANCE—IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

The project generally meets its annual targets and results: detailed design package for reconstruction of border crossing point (BCP) in Meghri (at the Armenian-Iranian border), including assessment of possible sources of financing is available. In addition, in December 2018 the ATI related workshop was organized for the relative bodies. The Software package was initiated, developed and handed over to the Senior Beneficiary (The terminals to capture processing time and citizen feedback are installed at the Bavra BCP, the package for formulation and presentation of e-declarations for physical persons is applicable in all 5 international border crossing points of Armenia). The timeline of some deliverables was extended till September 2019 (the no cost extension of the Project was confirmed in December 2018).

LESSONS LEARNED

Due to the political changes that are consistently happen in Armenia from spring till autumn 2019, the turn-over of the staff is very high in Governmental structure of the Republic of Armenia. Because of this several planned activities have been prolonged for many times during this year. That is why the project management decided to revise the time frame for some main activities and plan their implementation process for a longer time in order not to infringe the sequence of the actions.

Participants in the field visit:

Prepared by (Project Coordinator): Arsen Avetisyan, MIBMA Project Manager_____
(Name, title)

Approved by: Alla Bakunts, D&G Portfolio Analyst_____
(Name, title)

Results Framework[1] - PUT UPDATED PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK FROM PRODOC

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS[2]	DATA SOURCE	2018 Baseline	2018 Actual	2019	FINAL	DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS — Comments
Output 1 Workshops for representatives of relevant public entities and private sector (logistics providers, traders, exporters/importers, distributors, wholesalers, etc.)	1.1 A multi-lateral conference named "Regional Integration: The Armenia Connection"	LoP, Final Report	X	X In progress	X		Due to political development in Armenia and at the request from the SRC, UNDP postponed it for 2019 and will finalize its format with the EU Delegation, ICMPD, and the GoA.
Output 2 Detailed design package and tender documentation for reconstruction of border crossing point (BCP) in Meghri (at the Armenian-Iranian border), including assessment of possible sources of financing, is available.	2.1 Final Detailed Design Package with Bill of Quantities and Final Cost Estimates as well as full set of Tender Documentation	Final Detailed Design Package with Bill of Quantities and Final Cost Estimates approved by the IWG	X	X	X		IWG has approved the Package, following to which it was sent to an independent expertise conclusion
	2.2 GoA has started negotiations for possible funding in the range of EURO 18-20 million.	Official statement		X In progress	X		
Output 3 Development of software to capture processing time and/or evaluation at the border for heavy trucks, vehicles and passengers. This software will give evidence and tools both to the public and to the government to assess efficiency of border services, increase accountability and transparency of their work as well as reduce corruption risks.	3.1 The final software package developed and accepted a. The terminals to capture processing time and citizen feedback are installed at the Bavra BCP, b. The package for formulation and presentation of e-declarations for physical persons is applicable in all 5 international border crossing points of Armenia.	Handover Note	X	X Done			The implementation of 1 workshop was organized in December 2018. 2nd planned workshop is scheduled for 2019, dates and other details of which is to be negotiated and agreed with SRC.
	3.2 Software package for preliminary electronic data exchange at the Armenia-Iran	Handover Note	X	X In progress			

1 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.

2 It is recommended that projects use output indicators from the Strategic Plan IRRF, as relevant, in addition to project-specific results indicators. Indicators should be disaggregated by sex or for other targeted groups where relevant.

and borders.					
Armenia-Georgia	LoP, Media coverage	X	X Partially accompli shed	X	
3.2.1 ATI thematic workshops					

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
GUIDANCE:	Enter a brief description of the risk. Risk description should include future event and cause. Risks identified through HACT, SES, Private Sector Due Diligence, and other assessments should be included.	Social and Environmental Financial Operational Organizational Political Regulatory Strategic Other Subcategories for each risk type should be consulted to understand each risk type (see Enterprise Risk Management Policy)	Describe the potential **effect** on the project if the future event were to occur. Enter **probability** based on 1-5 scale (1 = Not likely; 5 = Expected) Enter **impact** based on 1-5 scale (1 = Low; 5 = Critical)	What actions have been taken/will be taken to manage this risk.	The person or entity with the responsibility to manage the risk.
1	Low commitment and willingness to cooperate among beneficiary agencies.	Operational	Medium I = 1 P = 3	Armenian authorities have been consulted in the course of project development and confirmed their commitment to cooperate and achieve results of the project. Ongoing dialogue on the high (Steering Group meetings) and operation level (Working Groups), as well as regular ad hoc meetings with the beneficiaries will assist in monitoring the level of their commitment.	Project Manager
2	Institutions and agencies do not incorporate project initiatives in their national strategic and operational levels	Political	Medium I = 1 P = 3	Regular dialogue with beneficiaries and stakeholders during the implementation period will aim to reassure that the project, its objectives and expected outcomes are clear to all involved agencies and adhered.	Project Manager
3	Insufficient institutional memory due to high staff turn-over in Armenian	Operational	Medium I = 3	Sufficient time for the project implementation on the one hand, and project activities, which are designed to achieve sustainable results in policy development and ensure an effective knowledge transfer shall mitigate the	Project Manager

#	Risk	Type	Rating	Mitigation	Owner
	migration and border agencies		P = 3	risk. Furthermore, involvement of the counterparts at the political and technical levels shall ensure sustainability of the results.	Project Manager
4	Low quality of geological, hydrological and other surveys, inadequate engineering solutions will lead to longer than planned period need by the Government to discuss and accept tender package	Operational	Medium I = 3 P = 2	Tender documentation will be developed in accordance with the technical specifications, operational needs and costs. Regular dialogue with beneficiaries, including updates, clarifications and corrections will take place at each stage of the process of tender development and implementation of works.	Project Manager
5	Lack of willingness of the civil society and traders to cooperate in the course of the outreach activities	Operational	Medium I = 2 P = 2	The project will seek to establish contacts with other projects implemented for the traders and civil society, ensure support of the Embassies and other international stakeholders in order to minimize this risk	Project Manager

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INDICATE YEAR e.g., 2019 Work Plan [34] – PUT UPDATED PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK FROM PRODOC

All anticipated programmatic and operational costs to support the project, including development effectiveness and implementation support arrangements, need to be identified, estimated and fully costed in the project budget under the relevant output(s). This includes activities that directly support the project, such as communication, human resources, procurement, finance, audit, policy advisory, quality assurance, reporting, management, etc. All services which are directly related to the project need to be disclosed transparently in the project document.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year	Responsible Party	PLANNED BUDGET		
				Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount (USD)
Output 1: Challenges in cross-border procedures and trade at Armenia-Georgia and Armenian-Iranian border inventoried and addressed.	1.1 Organization of International Conference "Regional Integration: The Armenia Connection", which will identify the challenges in cross-border procedures and subsequent priority interventions necessary for Armenia to establish a trade and transit corridor that connects the key EU and EEU markets with Iran. It will also contribute to the capacities of government institutions to effectively manage borders and facilitate trade and legal flow of people in line with integrated border management standards enhanced.	2019	UNDP	ICMPD	Local Consultants	5.000
					International Consultants	6.000
					Travel	30.000
					Learning workshops/ conference	50.000
					Facilities and Administration	6.370
	Sub-Total for Output 1					USD 97,370
Output 2: Meghri BCP Modernization	2.1.Detailed design package and tender documentation for reconstruction of border crossing point (BCP) in Meghri (at the Armenian-Iranian border)	2019	UNDP	ICMPD	International Consultants-Border Management	2.528,56
					Local Consultants	6.242,64
					Travel	3.300
					Contractual Services	188.303,61
					Facilities and Administration	14.026,24

					USD
Sub-Total for Output 2					**214.401,05**
Output 3: <u>Accountability, Transparency and Integrity</u>					
3.1 Activity - Software package for preliminary electronic data exchange at the Armenia-Iran and Armenia-Georgia borders.	2019	UNDP			
3.2 Activity – ATI Thematic workshop for representatives of relevant public entities and private sector (logistic providers, traders, exporters/importers, distributors, wholesalers, etc.) to study modern customs and trade related issues and practices, as identified by the SRC.		ICMPD	International Consultants	7.000	
			Local Consultants	5.500	
			Travel	5.000	
			Contractual Services	125.414,46	
			Learning workshops/ conference	19.000	
			Facilities and Administration	11.334,01	
Sub-Total for Output 3					**USD 173.248,47**
Output 4: <u>Project Implementation</u>	2019	UNDP			
		ICMPD	Programme Management	7.000	
			Service Contracts/Individual Contracts	33.480	
			Travel	16.909,40	
			Accommodation /Furniture	1.000	
			Fuel/Oils	2.000	
			Audio/Video Equipment	2.000	
			Supplies	2.000	
			Misc. Exp.	3.300	
			Software maintenance	2.000	

Other equipment rent and maintenance			2.000
Audio visual printing Production			2.000
Facilities and administration			5.158,26
Dep. Vehicle			3.091,02
Vehicle			14.682,32
Sub-Total for Output 4			**USD 96.621**
Total			**USD 581.640,52**

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ATLAS Reporting Table

Indicators	2018 Targets	2018 Progress
1. Introduction of international standards of border management and principles through increased inter-agency cooperation on strategic and operational levels. 2. The border crossing time for passengers and goods is reduced.	1. Preparation of the tender documentation for the organization of multi-lateral conference on "Regional integration and Trade: Armenia Connection". 2. Submission of Final Detailed Design and development of Software according to ToR.	1.Preparatory works conducted for organization of International Conference "Regional Integration and Trade: Armenia connection". Tender announced for the event management and contract signed. 2. Detailed design was accepted by IWG in November 2018. "Meghri Business Case" Study was prepared. Study on Energy Efficiency for Meghri BCP design prepared. The software package was handed over to SRC in August 2018. Tender conducted, and contract signed for development of software for preliminary exchange of customs related information on Armenia-Iran and Armenia-Georgia borders. Workshop conducted on ATI in Border Management, in cooperation with the Senior Beneficiary.

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