## Reporting Agency: UNDP Country: Armenia MONITORING ACTION AND STANDARD PROGRESS REPORT No. and title:

# Output: "00123014 Making Finance Work for Transformative Change in Armenia: Unlocking Finance for Armenia 2030"

Reporting period: 01 January 2022 - 31 December 2022

## I. PURPOSE

The Project, designed jointly with UNICEF and WFP, is developed to: (i) help the Government of Armenia (GoA) create clear links between policies, planning and budgeting processes (horizontal work stream); and (ii) deploy innovative and evidence-driven mechanisms to leverage partnerships and multiple sources of finance towards three priority areas in Armenia - climate change, food security and human capital (vertical work stream).

The project goal is to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs in Armenia by 2030 through multiple sources of financing, which will be unlocked to achieve social, economic, and environmental development objectives, thus accelerating the implementation of the SDGs in Armenia by 2030.

Duration:	July 2020 — December 2022, 30 months
Implementing partner:	UNDP
<b>Responsible parties:</b>	UN RCO, UNDP, UNICEF and WFP

# II. RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

	Total Project		Current Year (202	22)	All Years Delivery as of SPR date	All Years Delivery
	Budget	Annual Budget	Delivery as of SPR date (USD)	•	(USD)	rate as of SPR date (%)
UN Joint	549,980 USD	274,169 USD	274,169 USD	100%	543,245.83 USD	99%
SDG	USD	USD				
Fund						

# III. RESULTS, PROGRESS, INNOVATIVE AND TRANSFORMATIVE ASPECTS

## Contributing outcome/Output (UNDAF/CPD)

## <u>UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome 1/ Output</u> <u>1.2.2</u>

Enabling environment strengthened to expand public and private financing for the achievement of the SDGs.

## **Project progress**

The JP team has continued active collaboration and regular discussions with the main stakeholders of the project, particularly with the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Economy (MoE), Deputy Prime Minister's

#### (DPM's) office, Ministry of Environment (MoEn) and other relevant governmental authorities in relation to the Government Programme 2022-2026, the sectorial development policies, status of the ATS 2050, associated action plans, budget programs, and their alignments with SDGs.

- The JP team of local experts has continued regular support and assistance to MoF in designing of SDG budgeting methodology as well as strengthening of Public Finance Management (PFM) system during budgeting processes, including designing MTEF methodological guidelines and aligning budget programs with SDGs and development strategies.
- The technical specifications of Donor • Assistance Database (DAD) have been discussed by the stakeholders, particularly: the DPM office, Public Administration Reform (PAR) team, UN agencies and supplier company. The prototype for DAD flows as well as the system itself were designed by the supplier company and shared with the DPM's office for their reviewing. In addition, DAD was integrated in the PAR and has been several times discussed in different platforms. The final review and approval are still on hold in the Government which poses significant risks to the process of the implementation of DAD.
- UNDAF Outcome 1 /CPD Outcome 1 (10).

By 2020, Armenia's competitiveness is improved and people, especially vulnerable groups, have greater access to sustainable economic opportunities.

## Output 1.4.

- The partnership with the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) was continued in several directions, particularly in raising financial services' consumers protection instruments and increasing financial literacy levels within different groups of population. Terms of reference and architecture of e-learning platform for raising financial literacy levels in Armenia was finalized in close cooperation with the CBA's team.
- Two different studies were implemented to design innovative and sustainable finance mechanisms and instruments which will provide access to economic opportunities and sustainable business for different groups of population.
- The JP has continued dialogues with national stakeholders, UN agencies and donor partners

Number of new innovative financial mechanisms introduced to unlock (private) funding for SDGs.

# Sustainable Development Goals:

1, 5, 13, 16, 17

in the scope of Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) to clarify the intentions of the Government in designing of financing strategy for development policies in Armenia. The Development Finance Assessment (DFA) report was finalized in December 2021 and was shared with national stakeholders in Q1 2022. The DFA report covers the whole financial landscape of Armenia both for public and private finance flows. The final report, including the INFF roadmap is the main document to hold financing dialogues with the GoA for proceeding with the INFF and the design of a financing strategy for the country priority areas.

- A local consultant company has finalized the feasibility study on the "Innovative Financial Instruments for SDG acceleration" relevant for Armenia, including the analysis of Armenian context, the best international practice and three concept notes for priority finance instruments. A workshop was organized for the representatives of the GoA, CBA, and the financial sector to present and discuss the deliverables of the study.
  - The JP team of experts finalized the works in the scope of SDG - Budget (mapping of budget programs vs. SDGs) and Policy-Budget (mapping of budget programs vs. development strategies, disaggregated by goals) mapping tables. 2 methodologies and 2 databases were designed on "Development policies and budget programs alignments" as well as "SDGs and budget programs alignments" which were reviewed by the MoF. This activity covers 2022 state budget programs and acting development policies and strategies in Armenia. Continuous discussions were in place with the MoF for further development of the methodologies and their alignments with strategy documents on sustainable development in Armenia. The National Expert on SDGs has developed the final report on assistance to the line Ministries other governmental authorities in and integrating SDGs into sectoral strategies and into 2023-2025 MTEF and annual budget documents developed.
  - The JP has implemented 3 trainings on SDG budgeting for the staff of Ministries and

## Output 2.1: Financing needs and gaps are diagnosed in the achievement of climate change, food security and human capital sectoral targets

Yerevan Municipality. In addition, several discussions and workshops were organized for the Ministries' staff to discuss the findings and results of SDG budgeting exercises. 2 more trainings on SDG budgeting have been organized for the experts and staff of National Assembly of Armenia in cooperation with Modern Parliament for Modern Armenia project.

- The JP team of experts was actively cooperating with the staff of MoF and sharing the knowledge and the databases in the scope of SDGs-policies-budget programs alignments with them to provide the future sustainability of the designed methodology and implemented activities.
- A Climate Change Financing Framework (CCFF) for Armenia was designed, including a summary of the best international experience, suggested methodology and implementation plan.
- The JP team has shared the CCFF with the MoF and MoEn for their review and discussions on the next steps. The implementation of the CCFF should be done in close cooperation with MoEn and MoF and it should be integrated in with budgeting processes and with SDGs alignments.
- The initial discussion with the MoF, MoEn and MoE was organized during a special workshop on CCFF in cooperation with French Development Agency.

# Project results 2022

# **General information**

The compound crises of COVID-19, the escalation of the conflict in and around Nagorno-Karabakh (NK) during September-November 2020 and the war in Ukraine imposed major risks for Armenia with negative impacts on the political and economic stability of the country. These factors influence on the Government's priorities and active engagement in the JP's activities. Nevertheless, the JP team has built a strong partnership with the MoF in the context of SDG budgeting, MTEF methodological instructions and INFF which helped to implement planned activities within the scope and deadlines.

# <u>Output 1.1. Armenia strategy document on sustainable development is developed as an integrated, gender-sensitive and equitable national SDG framework</u>

Armenian Transformation Strategy (ATS) was partially designed and aligned with the SDGs in the scope of the JP in 2021. The analysis and assessments have been finalized in an analytical document on strategic issues for selected three Megagoals defined in the ATS. However, the status of the ATS is still unclear and the Government is mainly highlighting the Government Programme 2022-2026 as the main strategy document on sustainable development. The MoF is actively engaged in the process and currently discussions are in place with the responsible staff in the MoF regarding ATS alignments with development policies and budget programs. By the MoF request the team of experts of UNDP will continue works on ATS megagoals and state budget programs alignments to assess the contribution of the state budget to ATS implementation.

## Output 1.2. PFM and Public Investment Management systems are strengthened for better measurement and increased adequacy, effectiveness, and equitability of the distribution of public resources for the realization of gender-responsive, child-sensitive and SDG-aligned policies

- During the Q1-Q4 of 2022 the JP experts led the process of performing amendments to the budget circulars and/or MTEF/budget instructions with requirements on SDG relevance, bridging SDG targets with budget outcome frameworks, etc. including SDG/policy budget tagging and coding method/approach. Moreover, the Local PFM Expert continued leading communication with the MoF in the scope of the project and its deliverables of the support to the MoF, including communication, on-the-job support, and collaboration in PFM area.
- The JP has finalized the databases of SDGs and budget programs alignments as well as development policies and budget programs. The databases and the methodology were discussed with the Ministries and other governmental agencies during several round tables and workshops as well as 3 special trainings on SDG budgeting were organized for Ministries and Yerevan Municipality staff. In addition, for building better institutional framework special trainings were organized for the staff of the National Assembly of Armenia to engage them in SDG budgeting process as well. The trainings helped to share knowledge on better strategic planning and budgeting processes and building capacities in the Ministries for the sustainable and permanent implementation of the SDG budgeting.
- In the scope of JP, the methodologies for alignments of SDGs, their targets and indicators with budget program/measures as well as development polices/strategies and budget programs were designed and shared with MoF. The comments and feedback have been discussed with responsible staff of the MoF and the revisions were made to the documents.

#### <u>Output 1.3. Public, private and development financing landscape, including existing flows, gaps</u> and options, is mapped to inform the implementation of the Armenia strategy document on sustainable development (such as ATS or Government Program)

- The final DFA report, including the INFF roadmap was shared with the main stakeholders, particularly the DPM's office and the MoF. The dialogues with different Ministries are implemented to move forward to the next INFF building block and to design the financing strategy for SDGs implementation in Armenia. The concept note on further works and activities towards INFF was designed and agreed with Ministry of Finance. The new project will contribute to the Armenia Transformation Strategy alignment with development policies as well as designing a pilot financing strategy for a selected sector. After several discussions with the MoF Employment strategy has been selected as a pilot document which should include a financing strategy. It will serve as a basis for designing a methodological tool or a framework for other financing strategies.
- In parallel to the DFA, an independent analysis on the international experience related to SDG finance as well as SDG finance opportunities in Armenia are undertaken by the JP with

particular focus on blended finance mechanisms, catalytic investments, green and impact finance. A finalized report has been provided which will be shared and discussed with other portfolios and projects as recommended finance mechanisms and tools can be used in different sectors and projects.

- A local consulting company has implemented the feasibility study on "Innovative Financial Instruments for SDG acceleration" relevant for Armenia, including analysis of Armenian context and the best international practice as well as concept notes of priority finance instruments. A workshop was organized for the representatives of the GoA, CBA, and the financial sector to present and discuss the deliverables of the study.
- The technical specifications of DAD have been discussed with the main stakeholders, particularly: the DPM office, the PAR team and UN RCO. The prototypes and the main system of DAD were designed by the supplier company and submitted to the DPM's office. In addition, DAD was integrated in the PAR and has been several times discussed in different platforms. The process of the operationalization of DAD faces difficulties and not meeting deadlines as there are delays from the DPM's office during accepting the deliverables from the vendor company.
- In the scope of the partnership with the CBA e-learning platform is planned to be designed for sharing financial knowledge to the teachers and other interested parties. This platform is a key instrument for raising access to finance as well as the level of financial literacy for the different groups of population. The inception report, the concept note and draft Terms of Reference of the e-learning platform has been designed and agreed with the Central Bank. A special presentation/discussion was organized for all the responsible teachers at the schools who will be the main users of the platform in the first phase. After active discussions with UNDP and CBA teams the Terms of Reference of the E-learning platform architecture was finalized and shared with the CBA.

# Output 2.1. Financing needs and, gaps are diagnosed in the achievement of climate change, food security and human capital sectorial targets

Output 2.2. Coherent financing frameworks developed in the pre-selected sectors for the allocation of sufficient and adequate public and private resources

The CCFF for Armenia was designed and shared with the MoF and MoEn, including a summary of the best international experience and suggested methodology. The initial discussion with Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Economy was organized in the UN on CCFF. The general feedback of MoF has been received and further discussions with the main stakeholders, including MoF and MoEn should be continued in the next year to agree the CCFF and to design a specific action plan for the implementation of CCFF.

				Plan	ned		Actual	
Activity/Output	Expected Annual	Amount	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Status	Comments
	Targets/Indicators	(\$)						
Output 1.1:	• Indicator 1.1.1:	\$13,600			\$6,600	\$7,000	Completed	
Armenia	Status of the							
strategy	alignments of							
document on	SDGs with							
sustainable	Armenia strategy							
development is	document on							
developed as an	sustainable							
integrated,	development /SDG							
gender-sensitive	alignment,							
and equitable	including gender							
national SDG	and age							
framework	considerations							

	•	Indicator 1.1.2:	\$3,400				\$3,400	Completed	
		Number of							
		harmonized							
		sectorial strategies							
		with /SDGs,							
		including gender							
		and age considerations							
Output 1.2:	•	Indicator 1.2.1:	\$6,992	\$6,992				Completed	
Public finance	•	Level of alignment	\$0,992	<i>ф</i> 0,992				Completed	
management and		of development							
Public		strategies/policies/							
Investment		SDG policy							
Management		targets/indicators							
systems are		with the							
strengthened for		MTEF/budget							
better		programmes							
measurement	•	Indicator 1.2.2:	\$9,000	\$7,500	\$1,500			Completed	
and increased		Existence of a							
adequacy,		system to track and							
effectiveness		make allocations							
and equitability of the		for specific SDG							
distribution of		targets, including gender equality							
public resources		and children (SDG							
for the		1.b, 5.c and 17.14)							
realization of	•	Indicator 1.2.3.:	\$13,000		\$3,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	Completed	
gender-		Number of			+-,	+-,	+-,	<b>F</b>	
responsive,		relevant GoA staff							
child-sensitive		trained on gender-							
and SDG-		responsive, child-							
aligned policies		sensitive and SDG-							
		aligned							
		programme-based							
Output 1.3:		budgeting	¢72 400	\$4,000	¢22.800	22.800	¢22.800	Committee d	
Public, private	•	Indicator 1.3.1:	\$72,400	\$4,000	\$22,800	22,800	\$22,800	Completed	
-		Overall							
and development financing		development finance landscape							
landscape,		for Armenia							
including		assessed as a basis							
existing flows,		for INFF							
gaps and	•	Indicator 1.3.2:	\$12,028			\$6,000	\$6,028	Completed	
options, is		Establishment of							
mapped to		DAD enabling							
inform the		alignment between							
implementation		countryowned							
of the Armenia		results							
strategy document on		frameworks, donor							
sustainable		supports and SDGs. (SDG							
development		17.15)							
(such as ATS or		17.10)							
Government									
Program)									
Output 2.1:	•	Indicator 2.1.1:	\$18,406		\$6,135	\$6,000	6,271	Completed	
Financing needs		Number of gender-							
and gaps are		sensitive and SDG							
diagnosed in the		related (climate							
achievement of		change, food							
climate change,		security and			1				

food security and human capital sectorial targets	exp rev ass	man capital) benditure iews and essments nducted							
	Fin opp ide prio cor and	licator 2.1.2: nancing gaps and portunities ntified in three oritized areas nsidering LNOB l gender nality principles		\$2,681				Completed	
Output 2.2: Coherent financing frameworks developed in the pre-selected sectors for the	Nu sen inc Fin Fra	licator 2.2.1: mber of gender- usitive and lusive lancing uneworks veloped	\$10,420	\$3,686	\$2,734	\$2,000	\$2,000	Completed	
allocation of sufficient and adequate public and private resources	<ul> <li>Ind Nu sen rela cha sec hun fina</li> </ul>	licator 2.2.2: mber of gender- usitive and SDG ated (climate ange, food purity and man capital) ancing options veloped	\$11,000	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	Completed	
Project Management, M&E		•	\$85,516	\$21,379	\$21,379	\$21,379	\$21,379	Completed	

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

In the scope of SDG budgeting activity gender policies were aligned with SDG targets and indicators as well as gender policies alignments with budget programs were analyzed and included in the databases and reports. The results will help to evaluate gender policies reflection in state budget more efficiently and the gender policies financing gaps. In later phases it will be possible to define innovative finance instruments to finance gender policies gaps in Armenia.

During the analysis and assessments of selected Megagoals of Armenia Transformation Strategy gender reflections were analyzed and highlighted as one of the key cross-cutting development policies. A special workshop on Gender budgeting was organized in Q3 for relevant Ministries to highlight the importance of gender mainstreaming in the budget process.

## V. RISKS AND CHALLENGES

• Some of the key development and sectorial strategies relevant to this JP, including the ATS have been put on hold or are pending revision to be adjusted in the rapidly changing context, including emerging social/health needs such as physio-social support and disability services and implications related to families affected by COVID-19 and military hostilities in and around Nagorno-Karabakh in 2020. It creates difficulties for designing a financing strategy in the scope of the INFF for the long-term development strategy for Armenia.

- The activities in the scope of the support to DAD implementation were delayed due to delays in DAD implementation in Armenia. The DAD implementation is still under discussion by PAR team and DPM's office and the activities are planned to be implemented in 2023.
- Exchange rate fluctuations between AMD and USD (16-20% AMD revaluation) since the beginning of 2022 and the uncertainty towards their relation in the future, have affected financial allocations of the JP, somewhat diminishing the scope of envisaged support.

Please see attached the updated Risk Log.

#### VI. PRODOC CHANGES, HORIZON SCANNING

No amendments have been done to ProDoc in 2022.

#### VII. PARTNERSHIPS, COMMUNICATION, KNOWLEDGE MATERIALS

#### **Inter-agency cooperation:**

• The Project is implemented in partnership with UNICEF and WFP, in coordination of UN RCO. Hence the synergy and the joint approach towards implementation of the activities is ensured at all stages of the Project. Equally, the Project initiates regular coordination meetings and prepares joint reports as relevant.

#### **Partnerships:**

- The JP maintains effective and efficient partnership with the MoF and DPM's office.
- New partnership with the CBA has been established in the context of green finance and increasing access to finance for the population (Increasing of financial literacy).
- ADB/AFD partnership has been established around CCFF.

#### Visibility:

• Communication strategy of the JP is being implemented according to the action plan. The analytical documents are shared on UNDP Armenia website.

#### **VIII. EVALUATIONS**

#### **Evaluation Plan**

A local consultant is hired for the development of the Evidence-based Final Narrative Report for the JP to be completed by January 2023.

#### **IX. DONOR REPORTS**

Donor reports have been prepared and submitted as per donor requirement and stipulated timeline.

**Annual report and INFF survey** –submitted on January 20, 2022 to Joint SDG fund. **Semiannual report** – submitted on July 22, 2022 to Joint SDG fund.

## X. VALIDATION OF RESULTS (FIELD VISITS) AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

Please find attached.

#### XI. FUTURE ACTIONS, WORK PLAN

• <u>Output 1.1. Armenia strategy document on sustainable development is developed as an integrated, gender-sensitive and equitable national SDG framework</u>

In addition to the undertaken activities in alignments between the ATS and SDGs budget programs and development policies, there are ongoing discussions with the MoF on the

alignments of the ATS with development policies, budget programs as well as on the design of a comprehensive approach of these alignments. A special methodology design has been requested by the MoF for the implementation of the alignments between the ATS Megagoals and state budget programs. In parallel, the JP will continue negotiations and discussions with the Strategy team and DPM's office on the possible cooperation and assistance in strategic planning and SDGs alignments with other strategic documents, including the ATS.

# • <u>Output 1.2. PFM and PIM systems are strengthened for better measurement and increased adequacy, effectiveness and equitability of the distribution of public resources for the realization of gender-responsive, child-sensitive and SDG-aligned policies</u>

The JP will continue providing technical assistance and support to the MoF in adjusting and in practical implementation of the 2023 MTEF, budget methodological instructions and new templates, in policy-budget programs and SDG-budget program alignments in the scope of PFM Strategy as well as in capacity building in the governmental authorities for selected priority topics. The JP will continue the support to MoF in strengthening the PFM systems for better measurement and increased adequacy, effectiveness, and equitability of the distribution of public resources for the realization of gender-responsive, child-sensitive and SDG-aligned policies. Further discussions will be organized with Ministry of Finance and line Ministries on "SDG budgeting" and "Development policies-budget programs alignments" methodologies.

### • <u>Output 1.3. Public, private and development financing landscape, including existing</u> flows, gaps and options, is mapped to inform the implementation of the Armenia strategy document on sustainable development (such as ATS or Government Program)

- Towards to the implementation of the INFF in Armenia the activities will be undertaken for the next building block of the INFF, in particular designing a financing strategy for a selected priority area or a strategy. Later financial dialogues will be implemented during Q1-Q2 2023 with the MoF and other line Ministries for the implementation of the INFF.
- Based on the feasibility study on innovative finance instruments new concepts will be designed and initiated for the deployment of innovative and evidence-driven mechanisms to leverage partnerships and multiple sources of development finance to bridge investment gaps.
- New proposals on blended finance vehicles, green finance and innovative finance instruments will be designed for new funding opportunities in 2023.
- Technical assistance will be provided upon the request from the DPM's office during the operationalizing of DAD.
- <u>Output 2.1. Financing needs and gaps are diagnosed in the achievement of climate change,</u> <u>food security and human capital sectorial targets</u>
- <u>Output 2.2. Coherent financing frameworks developed in the pre-selected sectors for the allocation of sufficient and adequate public and private resources</u>
- Further discussions will be held with the governmental stakeholders on the institutional implementation of CCFF.

# **Results Framework**<sup>1</sup>

	0		put 1.2.2 Enabling		U			U					
			(10). By 2020, Cor					groups, have great	ter access to susta	inable econ	omic opportunitie	es.	
	Gender marker		financial mechanis	ins introduced to	b unlock (priva	(te) funding for	I SDOS.						
EXPECTED	OUTPUT	DATA	BASEI	INE			TAI	RGETS (by freque	ency of data collec	ction)			DATA COLLECTION
OUTPUTS	INDICAT ORS	SOURCE	Value	Year	20	ar 1 )20	Y 2	ear 2 2021	Year 2022	3	FIN	AL	METHODS & RISKS
Output 1.1: Armenia strategy document on sustainable development is developed as an integrated, gender- sensitive and equitable national SDG framework	Indicator 1.1.1: Status of the alignments of SDGs with Armenia strategy document on sustainable developme nt /SDG alignment, including gender and age considerati ons	Armenia strategy document on sustainable developmen t and results framework	N/A	2020	Planned N/A	Actual N/A	Planned Draft document partially aligned with SDG- s, with gender/age considerati ons	Actual Draft document partially aligned with SDG-s, with gender/age consideration	Planned Advanced Draft aligned with SDG-s, with gender/age consideration s	Actual Advanc ed Draft aligned with SDG-s, with gender/ age conside rations	Planned Advanced Draft aligned with SDG-s, with gender/age consideratio ns	Actual Advanced Draft aligned with SDG-s, with gender/age considerati ons	Assessment of the Armenia strategy document on sustainable development. Risks includes delays in SDG nationalisation and ATS finalisation
	Indicator 1.1.2: Number of harmonize d sectorial strategies with /SDGs, including gender and age considerati ons	Armenia strategy document on sustainable developmen t document and sectoral strategy documents and results frameworks	N/A	2020	1	1	1	1 (Draft Education sector development strategy targets/indica tors were aligned with SDGs)	3	3	3	3	Assessment of the Armenia strategy document on sustainable development and sectoral strategies Risks include delays in SDG nationalisation and ATS and sectoral strategies finalisation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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.

Output 1.2: PFM and PIM systems are strengthened for better measurement and increased adequacy, effectiveness and equitability of the distribution of public resources for the realisation of gender-	Indicator 1.2.1: Level of alignment of developme nt strategies/ policies/SD G policy targets/indi cators with the MTEF/bud get programm es	MTEF, Budget Message Annex 3, expert report	N/A	2020	N/A	N/A	Budget programme s (2021) matched against developmen t strategies/p olicies	Budget programmes (2021) matched against development strategies/poli cies	Development strategies/pol icies matched against SDG targets and indicators	Develop ment strategi es/polic ies matche d against SDG targets and indicato rs	Development strategies/pol icies matched against SDG targets and indicators	Budget programme s (2022) matched against developmen t strategies/p olicies	Assessment of MTEF/ Budget Message Annex 3. Risks include delays in SDG nationalisation and ATS and sectoral strategies finalisation
responsive, child-sensitive and SDG- aligned policies	Indicator 1.2.2: Existence of a system to track and make allocations for specific SDG targets, including gender equality and children (SDG 1.b, 5.c and 17.14)	Published budget reports by ATS/SDGs	The budgeting system does not include an SDG perspective and partially specifies allocations to gender equality and children in the relevant sectors and agencies	2020	The budgeting system does not include an SDG perspectiv e and partially specifies allocation s to gender equality and children in the relevant sectors and agencies	The budgeting system does not include an SDG perspectiv e and partially specifies allocation s to gender equality and children in the relevant sectors and agencies	The budget methodolog ical instructions include a requiremen t for SDGs alignments with budget programme s in the planning (budget submission process) stage	The budget methodologic al instructions include a requirement for SDGs alignments with budget programmes in the planning (budget submission process) stage	The budget methodologic al instructions include a requirement for identifying tagging budget new initiatives against cross-cutting policies (gender, climate)	The budget method ological instructi ons include a require ment for identifyi ng tagging budget new initiativ es against cross- cutting policies (gender , climate)	The budget methodologic al instructions include a requirement for identifying tagging budget new initiatives against cross-cutting policies (gender, climate)	The budget methodolog ical instructions include a requirement for SDGs alignments with budget programme s in the planning (budget submission process) stage	Automatic budget reporting system. Published budget reports by ATS/SDGs.

	Indicator 1.2.3.: Number of relevant GoA staff trained on gender- responsive, child- sensitive and SDG- aligned programm e-based budgeting	Training materials and reports; pre- and post- training assessments	0, considering all three aspects (gender, age, SDGs)	2020	0, considerin g all three aspects (gender, age, SDGs)	0, considerin g all three aspects (gender, age, SDGs)	50 GoA staff	50 GoA staff	100 GoA staff	120 GoA staff	100 GoA staff	120 GoA staff	Online-based pre- and post-training surveys. Risks include unwillingness to partake in the surveys
Output 1.3: Public, private and development financing landscape, including existing flows, gaps and options, is mapped to	Indicator 1.3.1: Overall developme nt finance landscape for Armenia assessed as a basis for INFF	INFF roadmap, DFA report MTEF, 2023 annual budget	Not assessed	2020	Not assessed	Not assessed	DFA conducted	DFA conducted	INFF roadmap designed based on DFA findings	INFF roadma p designe d based on DFA findings	INFF roadmap designed based on DFA findings	DFA conducted INFF roadmap designed based on DFA findings	Assessment of conducted tasks. Risks include delays in ATS development
inform the implementatio n of the ATS	Indicator 1.3.2: Establishm ent of DAD enabling alignment between countryow ned results framework s, donor supports and SDGs. (SDG 17.15)	Donor Assistance Database 2022 Budget Message	N/A	2020	N/A	N/A	The prototype of DAD is developed and presented to the GoA.	The prototype of DAD is developed and presented to the GoA.	The DAD is developed enabling SDGs tagging with donor support programmes.	The prototy pe of DAD is develop ed and present ed to the GoA.	The DAD is developed enabling SDGs tagging with donor support programmes.	The prototype of DAD is developed and presented to the GoA.	Review of DAD and 2022 Budget message. Risks include delays in SDG nationalisation and ATS and sectoral strategies finalization Support to DAD implementation wasn't provided as the implementation of the DAD system has been postponed.

Output 2.1:	Indicator	0	0	2020	0	0	At least 2	At least 2	At least 3	At least	At least 3	At least 3	Review of Climate
Financing	2.1.1:						gender-	gender-	gender	3	gender	gender-	Public Expenditure &
needs and	Number of						sensitive	sensitive and	sensitive and	gender	sensitive and	sensitive	Institutional Review,
gaps are	gender						and SDG	SDG related	SDG related	sensitiv	SDG related	and SDG	Climate Change
diagnosed in	sensitive						related	expenditure	expenditure	e and	expenditure	related	Financing Gap
the	and SDG						expenditure	reviews and	reviews and	SDG	reviews and	expenditure	Assessment
achievement	related						reviews and	contextual	assessments	related	assessments	reviews and	
of climate	(climate						contextual	assessments	conducted	expendi	conducted	contextual	
change, food	change,						assessments	conducted.		ture		assessments	
security and	food						conducted	WFP		reviews		conducted.	
human capital	security							completed		and		WFP	
sectoral	and human							reviews of		assessm		completed	
targets	capital)							two specific		ents		reviews of	
	expenditur							policies: The		conduct		two specific	
	e reviews							Strategy on		ed		policies:	
	and							Main				The	
	assessment							Directions				Strategy on	
	S							Ensuring				Main	
	conducted							Economic				Directions	
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								of the				Economic	
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								and the Food				Armenia for	
								Security				2020-2030	
								Strategy				and the	
								(2019-2022)				Food	
												Security	
												Strategy	
												(2019-	
												2022),	

	Indicator 2.1.2: Financing gaps and opportuniti es identified in three prioritized areas considerin g LNOB and gender equality principles	Climate Public Expenditure & Institutional Review, Climate Change Financing Gap Assessment	No gaps nor opportunities identified	2020	No gaps nor opportunit ies identified	No gaps nor opportunit ies identified	Financing gaps and financing opportuniti es identified in at least 1 prioritized area considering LNOB and gender equality principles	Financing gaps and financing opportunities identified in the priority areas of Food Security and Agriculture considering LNOB and gender equality principles	Financing gaps and financing opportunities identified in 3 prioritized areas considering LNOB and gender equality principles	Financi ng gaps and financin g opportu nities identifie d in 3 prioritiz ed areas conside ring LNOB and gender equality principl es	Financing gaps and financing opportunities identified in 3 prioritized areas considering LNOB and gender equality principles	Financing gaps and financing opportuniti es identified in the priority areas of Food Security and Agriculture considering LNOB and gender equality principles	Review of Climate Public Expenditure & Institutional Review, Climate Change Financing Gap Assessment
Output 2.2: Coherent financing frameworks developed in the pre- selected sectors for the allocation of sufficient and adequate public and private resources	Indicator 2.2.1: Number of gender- sensitive and inclusive Financing Framewor ks Developed	Climate Change Financial Framework	0	2020	0	0	1	1	3 gender- sensitive and inclusive pilot Financing Frameworks developed for the 2022- 2024 MTEF process	3 gender- sensitiv e and inclusiv e pilot Financi ng Framew orks develop ed for the 2022- 2024 MTEF process	3 gender- sensitive and inclusive pilot Financing Frameworks developed for the 2022- 2024 MTEF process	3	Review of Climate Change Financial Framework

	dicator	Climate	0	2020	0	0	At least 1	At least 1	At least 3	At least	At least 3	At least 3	Review of Climate
2.2	2.2:	Change					gender-	gender-	gender-	3	gender-	gender-	change-related reports
Nu	umber of	Financial					sensitive	sensitive and	sensitive and	gender-	sensitive and	sensitive	
ger	ender-	Framework					and SDG	SDG related	SDG related	sensitiv	SDG related	and SDG	
ser	nsitive						related	financing	financing	e and	financing	related	
an	ıd						financing	option	options	SDG	options	financing	
SD	DGrelate						option	developed.	developed	related	developed	option	
<i>d</i> (	(climate						developed	WFP has		financin		developed.	
che	nange,							developed		g		WFP has	
foc	od							one financing		options		developed	
sec	curity							mechanism,		develop		one	
an	nd human							designed to		ed		financing	
cap	ipital)							provide SMEs				mechanism,	
fin	nancing							access to				designed to	
op	otions							finance to				provide	
de	eveloped							install solar				SMEs	
								stations. The				access to	
								pilot is being				finance to	
								funded by				install solar	
								SDG and is				stations.	
								currently				The pilot is	
								under				being	
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								n.				SDG and is	
												currently	
												under	
												implementat	
												ion.	

# **OFFLINE RISK LOG**

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
1	Destabilization of the socio- economic and political situation in the country, slowing down the implementation of the JP.	Contextual risk	P = 2 I = 4	The PUNOs and UNRCO will closely monitor the socio-economic and political situation in the country, maintaining neutrality and impartiality and offering to act as mediator to solve the situation. The JP is designed with strong high-level GoA ownership and buy-in and will be embedded in the UNSDCF 2021-2025. Moreover, the sequence of specific activities can be adjusted to minimize JP delays.	UNRCO: country economist babken.dergrigorian@un.org with support from UNCT, particularly UNDP, UNICEF and WFP
2	COVID-19 outbreak continuation impacting GoA planning and budgeting processes with prolonged state of emergency, resulting in boosted expenditures on health, social protection and food security to address immediate shocks	Contextual risk	P = 3 I = 3	The UNRCO will be maintain constant communication with the Commander, high-level Government officials and the PUNOs through established channels, as well as the DMCT to maintain contingency and business continuity through established procedures to ensure continuity of work and disruption. Moreover, considering that food security and human capital are key areas addressed by the JP (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5), and are areas of direct interest of the GoA's COVID-19 response, the PUNOs will work on aligning GoA priorities and decisions for short-term response with long-term and results-based programming and budgeting in those areas.	UNRCO: Partnerships and Development Finance Adviser arevik.anapiosyan@u n.org with support from UNCT, particularly UNDP, UNICEF and WFP
3	Escalation of conflict in the region and other shocks disrupting JP implementation by diverting away both attention and resources	Contextual risk	P = 2 I = 5	The PUNOs together with the UNRCO will maintain contingency and business continuity plans to minimize disruption, as per agency specific guidelines, as well as through the DMCT. Moreover, UN coordination structures have been put in place to ensure alignment of response and further recovery, including development of an Inter- agency response plan together with development partners and the GoA.	UNRCO: Partnerships and Development Finance Adviser arevik.anapiosyan@un.org UNDP: Peace and Conflict advisor: naira.sultanyan@undp.org with support from UNCT, particularly UNICEF and WFP
4	Lack of funding for the successful scale-up of developed tools and methodologies as well as lack of GoA capacity and buy-in for INFF roadmap implementation	Programmatic risk	P = 3 I = 3	The JP team will work closely with the GoA and explore, forge and deepen partnerships with various stakeholders (e.g. donor community, IFIs/DFIs, private sector, diaspora, etc.) to mobilize, target and use multiple sources of public and private funding for successful implementation and scale-up of all JP interventions	UNDP: Team Leader for Innovation, Acceleration & SDG Finance tatevik.koloyan@undp.org and the to be appointed JP project manager. Each PUNO will also be responsible for sector specific monitoring and reporting.
5	Government changes impacting continuity of planning and budgeting for SDGs	Programmatic risk	P = 3 I = 3	The PUNOs and the UNRCO will use structured venues for project implementation to minimize the possible negative effects of government staff changes on the pace and quality of JP implementation. These venues would include the National SDG Council, JP Steering Committee, Donor Coordination Groups and	UNRCO: Partnerships and Development Finance Adviser arevik.anapiosyan@un.org, UNDP: Team Leader for Innovation, Acceleration & SDG Finance

6	Uneven or a non- holistic approach to SDG prioritization/ Government policy harmonization	Programmatic risk	P = 2 I = 3	<ul> <li>UNSDCF. Moreover, many staff will be involved in capacity development to counteract potential turnover. Regular monitoring of the situation, as well as constant communication with GoA counterparts will be pursued.</li> <li>The UNRCO and PUNOs have extensively consulted with the Government, including the DPM's office and Ministries of Finance and Economy, ensuring buy-in to the policy harmonization, budgeting and prioritization process. Moreover, the National Council on Sustainable Development has been formed per UN joint suggestions, thus paving the way for full SDG nationalization. Finally, the cross-sectoral involvement of PUNOs will enable harmonization in multiple sectors, including embodiment of gender equality and other LNOB considerations.</li> </ul>	tatevik.koloyan@undp.org and the to be appointed JP project manager. UNRCO: Partnerships and Development Finance Adviser arevik.anapiosyan@un.org UNDP: SDG Liaison officer louise.skarvall@undp.org with support from the National SDG Task Force, particularly UNICEF and WFP
7	Low interest by donors and the private sector in SDG-aligned programming	Programmatic risk	P = 2 I = 2	The UNRCO and PUNOs will use all donor coordination venues, as well as working groups (e.g. on PFM or PAR) to exchange information and advocate for joint action for SDG-aligned budgeting and programming. Moreover, through various programmatic initiatives targeting the private sector, the JP will increase the awareness of the business opportunities that the SDGs and impact investment present, thus creating buy-in and ownership for the 2030 Agenda.	UNRCO: Partnerships and Development Finance Adviser arevik.anapiosyan@un.org UNDP: SDG Liaison officer louise.skarvall@undp.org with support from UNCT, particularly UNICEF and WFP
8	Limited availability and disaggregation of financial and budgetary data, including by gender and age	Programmatic risk	P = 2 I = 2	The PUNOs will work with the Ministry of Finance, line Ministries and the ArmStat to obtain available SDG and budgetary data, disaggregated by gender, age etc. for better and more informed SDG-alignment of budgetary programmes and sub-programmes, as well as comprehensive SDG tagging/coding. The potential lack of budgetary data will be avoided through data generation, development of innovative data collection methods, or by using assumptions and weights, wherever applicable (within acceptable error intervals).	UNDP, UNICEF and WFP, under the overall leadership of the to be appointed JP project manager and with data collection and analysis support from the Armenia national SDG Innovation Lab tigran.tshorokhyan@undp.org
9	Internal GoA resistance to adjust financial policies and procedures towards achievement of SDGs, gender equality and LNOB	Institutional risk	P = 2 I = 3	The PUNOs, under the leadership of the UNRCO, will support the GoA through the National SDG Council and line Ministries during the nationalization of the SDGs and the development of the national development and sectoral strategies to achieve full integration of the Agenda 2030 with focus on gender equality and LNOB. Existing coordination and cooperation frameworks with the highest level of the GoA, including the JP Steering Committee, will be utilized. Moreover, the PUNOs will develop SDG-aligned methodologies, tools and financial frameworks that will facilitate the process of linking policies and budgets. Capacity development and on-the-job technical assistance will be provided to involved ministries and	UNDP: JP project manager, Ligia Ghazaryan ligia.ghazaryan@undp.org with support from UNRCO, UNCT, UNICEF and WFP

10	Varying level of knowledge and capacity to absorb SDG-aligned methodologies and approaches for gender- and child-sensitive programming and programme budgeting and planning	Institutional risk	P = 3 I = 2	technical staff for better ownership and more informed implementation. The PUNOs together with the UNRCO will work closely with DPMs' office, all relevant line Ministers and other government personnel to build sufficient capacity and knowledge to successfully implement developed tools, methodologies and approaches to operationalize SDG aligned policies and budgets, with focus on gender equality and LNOB.	UNDP: JP project manager Ligia Ghazaryan ligia.ghazaryan@undp.orgUNICEF: Armenuhi Hovakimyan ahovakimyan@unicef.org with support from UNRCO and WFP
11	JP implementation is delayed due to constraints with PUNOs	Institutional risk	P = 1 I = 3	UNDP, UNICEF and WFP have previously implemented joint projects and coordination structures have been designed for JP implementation, including inter-linked outputs and activities. Considering the integrated nature of the JP, the UN agencies will have a core group of focal points for the JP delivery, coordinated by a joint Project Coordinator to ensure linkages, synergies and timely implementation. Regular coordination and monitoring will also be undertaken by the UNRCO.	UNRCO: Partnerships and Development Finance Adviser arevik.anapiosyan@un.org, UNDP: Team Leader for Innovation, Acceleration & SDG Finance tatevik.koloyan@undp.org and the to be appointed JP project manager
12	Financial mismanagement of the JP by UN implementing agencies or contractors leading to sub-optimal achievement of results	Fiduciary risk	P = 1 I = 3	The JP Steering Committee will regularly meet every two quarters to review the implementation of activities and management of financial expenditures. Moreover, PUNO rules and regulations will be used for contracting purposes (e.g. procurement of services and hiring of individual contractors), which go through a competitive selection process, deliverable-based payments and close monitoring and quality control. In case of transfer of funds to third parties, UN Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) will be used, which is complemented by a whole set of quality assurance activities, depending on transfer size.	UNRCO: Partnerships and Development Finance Adviser arevik.anapiosyan@un.org, UNDP: Team Leader for Innovation, Acceleration & SDG Finance tatevik.koloyan@undp.org, the to be appointed JP project manager as well as UNICEF and WFP senior management, in partnership with GoA, line Ministries and partners

# **Output Verification Template**

#### **Field Visit Report Format**

The content of the field visit report varies depending on the purpose of the visit. At a minimum, any field visit report must contain an analysis of the progress towards results, the production of outputs, partnerships, key challenges and proposed actions. This format may be slightly adjusted.

#### Date of visit: 25 December 2022

#### Subject and venue of visit: <u>"00123014 Making Finance Work for Transformative Change in Armenia: UN-locking Finance for Armenia 2030"</u>

#### Purpose of the field visit: Quarterly 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
OUTCOME 1. Armenia strategy document on sustainable development (such as the ATS or a Government Programme) is anchored in an SDG-aligned, integrated, gender-	Active discussions and negotiations were continued with the DPM's office, MoF, MoEn and other relevant governmental authorities in relation to the status of ATS 2050, the Government	Output 1.1. Armenia strategy document on sustainable development is developed as an integrated, gender- sensitive and equitable national SDG framework	There were ongoing discussions with the Government and Ministry of Finance on defining the strategic priorities and the clarification of the methodology for the alignment of the ATS and Government Programme 2022-2026 with SDGs targets and indicators	N/A	In partnership with the staff of GoA, MoF, MoE.	To continue the activities in 2023 when Strategy team of PM office and MoF will have clearer understanding of the ATS status and development activities.
sensitive and equitable financing framework	Programme 2022-2026, the sectorial strategies, associated action plans, budgets, and their alignment with SDGs. The continuous support was provided to the MoF in the scope of PFM reform with particular focus on development policies/strategies napping and alignments with budget programs.	<b>Output 1.2.</b> PFM and PIM systems are strengthened for better measurement and increased adequacy, effectiveness and equitability of the distribution of public resources for the realisation of gender- responsive, child- sensitive and SDG- aligned policies.	<ul> <li>The final databases and methodologies on the analysis of budget programs/measures alignments with development policies as well as SDGs targets and indicators has been finalized by the JP and shared with the MoF.</li> <li>Three capacity building workshops and 5 trainings (120 participants) were organized for the main Ministries and DPM's office to present the results of the analysis and designed methodologies as well as to discuss the findings and next steps of these activities</li> <li>The JP team of experts was actively cooperating with the staff of MoF and sharing the knowledge, methodologies and the databases in the scope of SDGs-policies-budget programs alignments with</li> </ul>	N/A	In partnership with MoF, other Ministries.	To continue the support and assistance to the MoF in the scope of PFM reform activities, MTEF process and SDG budgeting. To implement 2-3 trainings for Ministries' and National Assembly respective staff on SDG budgeting and Program Budgeting in 2023.

		<b>Output 1.3.</b> Public, private and development financing landscape, including existing flows, gaps and options, is mapped to inform the implementation of the Armenia strategy document on sustainable development (such as ATS or Government Program).	<ul> <li>them to provide the future sustainability of the designed methodology and implemented activities.</li> <li>The DFA report including the INFF roadmap has been finalized, including financial flows analysis, and further discussed with the main stakeholders. Discussions with the MoF have been undertaken for the implementation of the next building block of the INFF, in particular for designing a pilot financing strategy for a selected sector.</li> <li>A local consultant company has finalized the feasibility study on a profound analysis and provided summary of the best international practice of the "Innovative Financial Instruments for SDG acceleration" relevant for Armenia. A workshop was organized for the representatives of the GoA, CBA, and the financial sector to present and discuss the deliverables of the study.</li> <li>The architecture design of e-learning platform for raising financial literacy levels within population has been implemented in a close collaboration with the CBA.</li> </ul>	N/A	In partnership with Ministries and CBA	To continue the discussions and collaboration with the main stakeholders on the next steps towards the INFF next building blocks, in particular designing a financing strategy, monitoring and review systems as well as governance and coordination infrastructures. To continue discussions with the donors, local counterparts for the implementation of the priority innovative finance instruments and tools
OUTCOME 2. Public and private investment and financing options for climate change, human capital and food security are identified, enabling	The negotiations with MoEn, MoF, MoE and DPM's office are in the process.	Output 2.1. Financing needs and gaps are diagnosed in the achievement of climate change, food security and human capital sectoral targets.	• Budget programs contributing to climate change policy as one of the main cross- cutting policies have been analyzed to find out the gaps between country policies and budget programs	N/A	In partnership with Ministries.	To continue the activities in close collaboration with Ministries
accelerated, evidence- based and accountable progress towards selected SDGs		Output 2.2. Coherent financing frameworks developed in the pre-selected sectors for the allocation of sufficient and adequate public and private resources.	<ul> <li>The CCFF for Armenia was designed, including a summary of the best international experience and suggested methodology.</li> <li>The JP team has shared the CCFF with the MoF and MoEn as well as organized a workshop for MoF, MoEn, MoE in collaboration with French Development Agency on climate change budgeting and tagging.</li> </ul>	N/A	In partnership with MoEn, MoE.	To organize round table discussions with the MoEn, MoF, DPM's office, other donors for the finalization of CCFF methodology and implementation plan.

### **PROJECT PERFORMANCE—IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

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

- Compound crisis due to the Covid-19 and the escalation of the conflict in and around Nagorno-Karabakh (NK)
- Exchange rate fluctuations
- Due to changes of Government officials, there were challenges in changes in the GoA priorities and the design of the ATS and DAD implementation Above-mentioned challenges imposed major risks and created uncertainties in the political and economic stability, public health, social protection and other

development sectors of Armenia. Many of the key development and sectorial strategies relevant to this JP, including the ATS and the DAD implementation have been put on hold or are pending revisions. Some reforms, such as DAD implementation and the ATS design and discussions are still unclear. Exchange rate fluctuations had a negative impact on the JP budget which was mitigated by efficient usage of the existing funds.

## LESSONS LEARNED

Describe briefly key lessons learned during the project:

- The Project is mainly based on high-level policy decisions, which is affected significantly by the corresponding developments, including the political volatilities, changes in the Government and frequent changes in Government priorities. This impacted the process and developments in connection with the ATS and sectorial development strategies as well as SDG's nationalization and budgeting. The Project continued its consultations with the Government, DPM' offices and Ministries and consultations are followed up and addressed with the main stakeholders, by using efficient and well-built partnerships.
- Certain activities that envisaged close cooperation/coordination with the Government had to be postponed, such as the support in the scope of the ATS and DAD and the Project had to apply more agile approach and reposition the project to ensure relevance and focus on such activities which had a demand from the GoA and MoF as the main stakeholders.

## Participants in the field visit:

## **Project // Portfolio**

**Project:** Ligia Ghazaryan Project Coordinator



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Innovation and SDG Finance portfolio lead

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