

MONITORING ACTION AND STANDARD PROGRESS REPORT¹

No. and title: 00110255/00109283 EU Green Agriculture Initiative in Armenia (EU-GAIA)
Reporting period: 2021 September-December, Report

I. PURPOSE

- *Present project's goal, objectives, duration, theory of change (if available), implementing partner and responsible parties.*

The EU-Green Agriculture Initiative in Armenia (EU-GAIA) Project is part of the EU's Annual Action Programme for 2018 – Regional Development. The overall objective and the specific objective of the Action are in line with the Annual Action Programme (AAP) for 2018 and the Cooperation Strategy of the Austrian Development Cooperation 2012 - 2020. The overall objective is to contribute to the realization of shared and balanced inclusive growth in the Northern regions of Armenia through boosting green agriculture and enhancing local value added.

The proposed project will be implemented within the framework of the EU-GAIA project with exclusive funding from the Austrian Development Cooperation, while the Austrian Development Agency is the main implementing partner for the EU programme. The project activities will be mainly concentrated in Shirak, Lori and Tavush marzes as envisaged by EU AAP 2018. These marzes are located at high altitudes in border regions. They suffer from weak economic diversification, high poverty and unemployment rates and limited access to markets, as well as increased vulnerabilities of the rural population especially in remote and border parts.

UNDP will be responsible for the implementation of major parts of **EU-GAIA Specific Objective 3: Selected agribusinesses are more competitive through a rights-based approach and access to inputs, equipment, infrastructures and services**, and the following results are expected:

- 3.1. Pipeline of investable and high added value agribusinesses with demonstrated commitment to an inclusive and rights-based workplace environment created;
- 3.2. Agribusinesses have improved productivity through access to inputs, equipment, infrastructures and services;
- 3.3 Increased productivity in selected Value Chains through application of resource efficient and resilient farming practices;
- 3.4. Agribusinesses have improved access to local, national and international markets.

II. RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

- *Matrix showing project's total, annual and delivered resources and percentage by donor funds.*

	Total Project Budget	Current Year (2021)			All Years Delivery as of SPR date (USD)	All Years Delivery rate as of SPR date (%)
		Annual Budget	Delivery as of SPR date (USD)	Delivery rate as of SPR date (%)		
Donor 1	2,200,220	1,010,004	815,456.00	95.9%		
Donor 2						
Donor ...						
Total						

- *Indicate amount of leveraged resources, even if as a parallel funding.*

III. RESULTS, PROGRESS, INNOVATIVE AND TRANSFORMATIVE ASPECTS

- **Programme results: (1) Indicate the project's progress vis-à-vis UNDAF/CPD outcomes, outputs, baselines, and targets, as well as (2) UNDP Strategic Plan (SP) and (3) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).**

¹ The report shall be **evidence-based**, short, and informative. Please add up information through the monitoring cycles, thus the final report will contain key information for all years. Use the results language i.e., change vis-à-vis the baseline and target informing also about a 'so what' aspect. Financial performance to be indicated based on CDR amount (i.e., actual not committed). A second table on commitments-based delivery is optional. **UNDP Armenia timeline for monitoring action:** Q1 planning - 20 January; Q1 reporting - 15 April; Q2 - 15 July; Q3 - 15 October; Q4 provisional results - 15 November; Q4 final - 20 January. Do not delete guidelines from the report. **Distribution and filing:** Atlas/Attachments; UNDP Armenia e-Archive/Project folder; Project Board (Annual SPR; quarterly SPRs - as per Board's request; project files. Report filing names to be kept consistent.

The competitiveness in target areas is improved by providing agricultural equipment, livelihood, consultation. Regular visits to fields were held to monitor the progress of works, the way people use the knowledge and equipment. Thanks to this people, especially vulnerable groups, have greater access to sustainable economic opportunities. Local capacities strengthened to develop and implement innovative and diversified income-generating practices through participation in several marketing events, meetings and festivals.

Following the principles of inclusivity and “leave no one behind” the project ensures equal access to resources, services and infrastructure promoted through the various activities of the project by smallholder farmers, especially those belonging to marginalised groups such as minorities and people with disabilities and pay due attention to ensuring the rights of children/adolescent men and women that are formally and informally active in the agricultural sector. This approach is engendered in the Guideline for agribusiness support and is practiced by the project personnel involved in the fieldwork for engaging and collecting feedback from the vulnerable groups.

- **Project results: (1) Present the narrative of the project’s progress vis-à-vis the planned deliverables of the Results and Resources Framework of Prodoc, disaggregated by years. Present additional results with a separate subtitle. (2) Update RRF of Prodoc (see in annex a sample of UNDP standard RRF).**

1. **EU Green Agriculture Initiative in Armenia** implemented together with MOE (UNDP component funded by ADA, 2019-2022) the objective is to contribute to the realization of shared and balanced inclusive growth in the Northern regions of Armenia through boosting green agriculture and enhancing local value added.

UNDP is responsible for supporting three value chains: herbs, legumes and sheep in Tavush, Lori and Shirak regions.

Components:

- Pipeline of investable and high added value agribusinesses with demonstrated commitment to an inclusive and rights-based workplace environment created;
- Agribusinesses have improved productivity through access to inputs, equipment, infrastructures and services;
- Increased productivity in selected Value Chains through application of resource efficient and resilient farming practices;
- Agribusinesses have improved access to local, national and international markets.

Budget of UNDP component- 2mln EUR funded by ADA, partner- Ministry of Economy

- Budget of ADA- 9.7 mln Euro

Results so far:

- Established 3 demo sites with innovative resource efficient and climate smart practices, including Sheep Genetic Center, Herbs Seedling Center and Sheep Pedigree Farm with RFID electronic weighing and counting system of sheep.
- 80 beneficiaries selected, 60 out of which already received the necessary equipment and support
- Guidelines on cultivation of Herbs and Legumes developed, printed and shared among beneficiaries
- Support was provided to 20 beneficiaries for participation in 4 local expos and festivals as well as 1 international exhibition
- More than 350 beneficiaries trained on sheep breeding, herb and legume cultivation practices
- More than 400 heads of new efficient meat breed sheep are imported from France and distributed among beneficiary farmers
- About 20 ton of Elite type of legume seeds distributed among beneficiaries, which produced more than 200 tons of legume seeds
- Business model calculation online tools were developed for each value chain: legumes, herbs and sheep

- Number of promotional video and printed marketing materials were developed to promote the products of project beneficiaries
- One event for facilitation of market linkages was organized along the sheep breeding value chain
- Figures based on growth in productivity: Based on our interviews we estimate the growth of income and productivity at the level of about 20%. However, the external midterm evaluation of the project is currently being carried out and more precise data will be available in January 2022.

Innovative and transformative aspects: Highlight innovative practices and any transformative changes so far.

A new MoU on the provision of technical assistance and expert advisory support on technological development of agriculture in Armenia was signed between ANAU and EU-GAIA project. The aim of this MoU is to establish a cooperation framework for providing technical assistance to ANAU to strengthen institutional and technological capacity of ANAU in the field of green agriculture (including organic, innovative and digital agriculture).

Based on the capacity needs assessment of ANAU and recommendations provided through WEcR research the EU-GAIA project prioritized the following support actions to ANAU as the only higher educational institution in the agriculture sector in Armenia:

- provision of technical assistance and strengthening the institutional capacity of ANAU through the provision of special equipment (including drones and computers) for the development of geospatial technologies in agriculture project;
- strengthening of current educational programmes through provision of assistance to ANAU for the involvement of local and international experts in the development of new curricula on precision agriculture as a 1-year master's degree programme as well as development of training programme on green and sustainable agriculture.



- Present in the below table a performance snapshot of the current year planned deliverables.

Activity/Output	Expected Annual Targets/Indicators	Amount (\$)	Current Year (2021)					
			Planned				Actual	
			Q 1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Status	Comments
Output 1 Pipeline of investable and high added value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 # of green agri-businesse s selected, including 	8,400	2,000	4,000	2,400		Completed	

agribusinesses with demonstrated commitment to an inclusive and rights-based workplace environment created	women headed							
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.2 # of farmers trained on production and farm-finance 	8,400	3,000	2,000	3,400		Completed	
Output 2 Agribusinesses have improved productivity through access to inputs, equipment, infrastructure and services	2.1 # of businesses provided with required inputs, services and equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	269,400	28,900	51,700	100,000			
	2.2 # of agribusinesses trained on maintenance and management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	269,400	40,600	38,000	120,000			
Output 3. Increased productivity in selected VCs through application of resource efficient and resilient farming practices	3.1 Ha of land under sustainable use (resource-efficient and climate-smart practices)	104,101	20,000	31,000	43,000		Completed for Q1	
	3.2 System for farm data collection and semi-annual update in place	104,101	15,000	10,000	31,000			
Output 4. Agribusinesses have	4.1 # of agreement signed (market	51,000	0	2500	15.000			

improved access to local, national and international markets	linkages are established)							
	4.2 # of agribusinesses improved branding, packages and labelling	51,000	0	3500	0			

IV. GENDER MAINSTREAMING, CROSSCUTTING RESULTS, TARGETING

- Indicate the project's alignment with the corporate Gender Equality Strategy Outcomes and Strategic Entry Outputs (page 16 [GES](#)).

The project aims at reaching gender equality. While analyzing the call for applications, the preference will be given to women entrepreneurs or the applicants who have more women employers than men. The project addresses gender issues by promoting full and equitable participation of women in the selected sustainable farming practices, particularly through their involvement in investments and capacity-building activities. At the local level, the project uses participatory approaches to involve all members of the community in the planning and selection of business models. The project studies the distinct roles and responsibilities, which give rise to differences in vulnerability between men and women, and adjusts the interventions, so that these vulnerabilities are not deepened and mitigated. The Project facilitates the access of women to project benefits and takes into account: (i) proportional representation of women in farmer or producer groups associated to the project; (ii) contents and schedule of training activities is tailored to ensure that women are proportionally represented in each event. Women are expected to benefit indirectly from the increased family incomes through diversified production and higher yields to be achieved through the adoption of more sustainable practices. In terms of activities and outputs that explicitly include the gender dimension, the proposed project uses the same existing mechanisms available through the State agencies to encourage and ensure that women participate in the benefits of the project. The project's stakeholder engagement strategy regularly clarifies the success of women engagement and women empowerment approach based on feedback received from women. Specific requirements/interests of women were considered during the inception phase, and are now successfully implemented.

First awareness campaign audience gender distribution per communication channel

N	Channel	Women	Men	Main age groups
1	Facebook	42%	58%	25-34 / 35-44
2	Instagram	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	Google Display	52%	48%	25-34 / 35-44
4	YouTube	N/A	N/A	N/A
5	Eskimi*	42%	28%	18 24 / 45-54 / 35-39

*30% unknown gender

- Indicate the project's gender marker (GEN0-3) and **gender-responsive and gender-transformative results** vis-à-vis the prodoc framework (N.B. UNDP Country Programme Documents requests that all projects be designed and implemented at GEN2-3 level).

Gender mainstreaming in capacity development measures (e.g. training), management systems, standards, qualifications, and other relevant activities is ensured. Special attention is given that women are also involved in the decision-making processes.

- *Indicate also the project's **crosscutting results** (e.g., **youth empowerment**, **risk-informed development schemes**, **integrated development schemes**), as well as the project's contribution for **Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)** indicating particular **target groups**.*

Following the principles of inclusivity and “leave no one behind” the project ensures equal access to resources, services and infrastructure promoted through the various activities of the project by smallholder farmers, especially those belonging to marginalised groups such as minorities and people with disabilities and pay due attention to ensuring the rights of children/adolescent men and women that are formally and informally active in the agricultural sector. This approach is engendered in the Guideline for agribusiness support, and is practiced by the project personnel involved in the fieldwork for engaging and collecting feedback from the vulnerable groups.

V. RISKS AND CHALLENGES

- *Present the project's issues, challenges and bottlenecks along with the suggested solutions.*

Over the past 15 years, Armenia's economy has gone through a structural transformation from agriculture towards the service sector. In 2008, agriculture contributed 25% of the GDP and 44% of the employment, while in 2015 the share of agriculture to GDP had fallen to 19% and 35% of the employment.² In 2017, the employment ratio was further reduced to 31%, but still providing 70% of rural employment.³ Over 50% of the agricultural workforce is female, due to migration and a shift to non-farm employment by men.

However, with a total agricultural production worth 1.6 billion EUR, in 2017 it remains an important base and driver of growth of the Armenian economy; thus, agriculture is one of the sources for stronger and especially more inclusive growth in Armenia.⁴ Although the agricultural sector is growing economically, it faces several ongoing challenges, such as **small and fragmented holdings**, being a result of the post-independence reforms, when large-scale state and collective farms were privatised, poor labour standards and gender inequality. According to the Agricultural Census, Armenia officially has 346,000 agricultural holdings, of which 317,000 are used for actual agricultural production.⁵ Although the small average farm size of 1.5 ha together with land fragmentation and a lack of irrigation infrastructure limits the potential for commercial farming, agricultural land also serves as a social safety net due to the low minimum salary level and in times of unemployment and other hardships.

While 32% of arable **land is not used**, access to land is a limiting factor since most of the unused land is unsuitable for agriculture due to remoteness, small size, location in a dangerous area (e.g. mined) or because it is affected by erosion. Almost all soils of Armenia exhibit varying degrees of **erosion** and **uncontrolled exploitation of grazing lands**. Especially on nearby pastures and in dry regions this is the main reason for soil erosion.

Armenia, like other countries, is also affected by **impacts of climate change**, which will increase in the future, resulting in rising temperatures, changes in seasonality of precipitation and more severe weather patterns incl. droughts. Direct risks and consequences for agriculture include reduced crop yields, increased pest and disease pressure, increased need for irrigation, soil degradation/erosion, deforestation and a loss of soil fertility.⁶

² World Bank Group, 2017

³ Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia, 2018

⁴ World Bank Group, 2017

⁵ Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia, 2018

⁶ USAID, 2017

- The promotion of **green agriculture** offers adequate solutions to address various environmental challenges, as a green growth strategy “*aims to ensure that enough food is provided, efficiently and sustainably, for a growing population. This means increasing output while managing scarce natural resources; reducing the carbon intensity and adverse environmental impacts throughout the food chain; enhancing the provision of environmental services such as carbon sequestration, flood and drought control; and conserving biodiversity.*”⁷ Besides offering environmentally friendly and climate-resilient solutions, perma- and green agriculture is per definition of green growth/economy also socially inclusive and gender transformative, thus, enhancing inclusive and equal access and benefits
- (1) Update the Project Risk Log in this report (2) and in Atlas (see a sample of UNDP standard risk log attached). N.B. Risks that are no further relevant shall not be deleted from the Log but a respective statement to be made in Risk treatment/management. SESP risks to be monitored in Risk Log.

VI. PRODOC CHANGES, HORIZON SCANNING

- Present the analysis in your project’s field (horizon scanning) regarding new opportunities, emerged stakeholders/donors, etc and hence the necessary changes recommended to the project document.

N/A

- State changes to the project document (both proposed and approved by Project Board). For substantive revision, a documented LPAC endorsement is to be presented to the Project Board. [N.B. Necessary actions regarding revised prodoc will follow].

No changes and revisions in the Pro Doc were initiated in the reporting period.

VII. PARTNERSHIPS, COMMUNICATION, KNOWLEDGE MATERIALS

- Present planned and already conducted international, cross-sectorial and inter-agency cooperation instances. Differentiate by categories e.g., “South-South Cooperation”, “Inter-agency cooperation”, etc.

The EU-GAIA project has established the Working Group Platforms (WGP) at National and Regional levels (NWGP and RWGP) to facilitate a *policy dialogue* on wider Agricultural policies as well as to promote green agriculture practices and knowledge through sectoral stakeholders. During the reporting period in total 18 WGP meetings and joint workshops have already organized and conducted by EU-GAIA project at National (NWGP) and Regional levels (RWGP). The WGPs consist of different stakeholders including state authorities, public institutions (educational actors ANAU, Agri-colleges), research organizations (expert groups), CSO representatives, and private sector (agri-business / farmers). During the first-launching event of the NWGP on 8 December 2020, the Memorandum of Association on the establishment of the NWGP was presented and approved by all members of the NWGP and at the end was signed by NWGP Chair- MoEc Deputy Minister and EU-GAIA project Team leader.

During the initial meetings, the members of RWGPs in the 3 targeted marzes prioritized the revision



of agricultural part of the 2017-2025 Regional Development Strategy. Since the old agricultural strategy part within all 3 marzes’ Regional Strategy were found by RWGPs members as

⁷ OECD 2011, A green growth strategy for the food and agriculture sector

insufficiently developed, the 3 targeted RWGPs aimed at the development of a new Agriculture Development Strategy for their marzes. During joint workshop events, the 3 RWGP members, facilitated by EU-GAIA project Policy and Advocacy expert, have prioritized their main agriculture value chains for the next 5 years to be involved in new agri-strategy.

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- ii) strengthening of current educational programmes through provision of assistance to ANAU for the involvement of local and international experts in the development of new curricula on precision agriculture as a 1-year master's degree programme as well as development of training programme on green and sustainable agriculture.



The EU-GAIA project has provided 2 agricultural drones with full accessory pack and 4 computers for the establishment of geospatial technology laboratory at ANAU. The internal handover procedure as well as trial testing of the drones was organized by the EU-GAIA project team at ANAU field training centre located in Akunk village of Kotayk marz and during the Green week public event organized by Green Lane NGO in September 2021. The drones testing events were also covered by public media and ANAU media posts (see links in Annex 3).

- *Present a summary of communication and visibility activities with evidences (in line with Communication plan). It is recommended to include a table presenting events and links.*

The EU-GAIA project has formulated a ToR for technical assistance and expert advisory support for further development of the new Agri-strategy in the 3 Northern regions. The Consulting company- “AM Partners” was selected by EU-GAIA project to implement the assignment, which is projected to finish in February 2022.

To identify and reveal the needs, challenges and knowledge gaps of sectoral stakeholders and properly address to the needs and knowledge gaps of each stakeholder groups EU-GAIA project has initiated conduction of research on Stakeholders Capacity Needs Assessment.

The research was implemented by Wageningen Economic Research (WEcR) in partnership with local think-tank NGO-ERDSC within the period of November 2020 until March 2021.

Based on the identified needs and knowledge gaps obtained from 66 sectoral stakeholders through stocktaking meetings, interviews and surveys, a package of strategic recommendations for the capacity development of the targeted stakeholders including public, educational, extension, private

and non-private actors in the agriculture sector was developed and introduced to different stakeholder groups during the validation final workshop.

The EU-GAIA project will consider and use these recommendations as a base for further implementation of the measures and activities related to the capacity development of respective stakeholders.

- *Present the project's analytical and knowledge products in a similar table as in the above bullet point.*

Website for commissioned to Studio-1 company to design and build a website for the 3 calculators for sheep, herbs and legumes value chains. The Excel databases and calculators were converted into a website-based calculator. During the 9 months of development, various visibility and project related details were communicated with partners and website developers. The website was launched in late August and is available at www.gaia.am.

The website is available in languages Armenian, Russian and English, including multi-lingual “How to Use” video guides. The official launch of the websites is planned to take place in November 2021.

The system will later on be transferred to the MoEc for further management and elaboration of additional tools for other value chains.

VIII. EVALUATIONS

- *(1) Inform about planned and implemented project evaluations. (2) Attach the updated Management Response table if applicable.*

Mid-term evaluation is initiated by the donor. Monitoring to be done in 2022.

IX. DONOR REPORTS

- *Present the schedule of donor reports and requests for installments with the completion status.*

Donor reports to be presented annually

Requests for installments:

November 2019 – 600.000 EUR

September 2020 – 900.000 EUR

September 2021 – 480.198 EUR

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

- *Validation of results (field visit) document is to be prepared during Q2 and Q4 (i.e., Annual) reports. Include in the report the last field visit document.*

On 30 November 2021 Mr. Karen Harutyunyan (EU-GAIA (UNDP) coordinator), Mr. Paruyr Asatryan (EU-GAIA (UNDP) expert) and driver Mr. Armen Ghevondyan visited Azatan, Arapi villages of Shirak marz and Vanadzor, Stepanavan cities of Lori marz.

The purpose of the visit was to monitor of the process of designing, construction and final set up of the demo sites (Azatan, Arapi, Stepanavan) and inspection of the equipment purchased by the project and delivered to the beneficiaries (Azatan, Vanadzor) prior to signing the acceptance acts.

The following farms were visited:

#	Name of applicant/village/value chain	Beneficiary's investments by MOU	Implementation
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1	Demo sites	Applicant: Vardan Papoyan Village/city: Azatan Value chain: Sheep breeding	Construction of a barn - 120 sq.m Construction of Laboratory - 20 sq.m.	The buildings are almost finished. The interior works remained
2		Applicant: Slava Nazaryan Village/city: Arapi Value chain: Herbs	Construction of production and packing facility 154 sq.m.	Constructed, minor decoration works to be finalized before opening ceremony planned for spring
3		Applicant: Karo Kharajyan Village/city: Stepanavan Value chain: Legumes	Construction of packaging workshop, 150 sq.m.	The works have just started, the digging of concrete foundation trench is initiated, and partially accomplished
		Name of applicant/village/value chain	Equipment to be provided	Monitoring results
4		Applicant: Hmayak Poghosyan Village/city: Azatan Value chain: Legumes	Seed planter	The seed planter is delivered and tested in good condition
5		Applicant: Vruyr Ayvazyan Village/city: Gyulagarak Value chain: Legumes	Seed planter	The seed planter is delivered and tested in good condition
6		Applicant: Ruzanna Danielyan Village/city: Vanadzor Value chain: Herbs	Tea packaging machine	The packaging machine is delivered and accepted in good condition
7		Applicant: Nectaro Tea Village/city: Vanadzor Value chain: Herbs	Tea packaging machine	The packaging machine is delivered and accepted in good condition.

- *Formulate **lessons learned** in highly strategic way.*

Active stakeholder consultations, the after-support discussions with the beneficiaries, the project's monitoring mechanisms allow to document the knowledge and lessons learned throughout implementation, which are incorporated in the progress reports and inform the project implementation. The related changes to the implementation strategy are discussed at the project board and brought into action after approval.

- *Update **quality assurance report** in the system for ongoing projects quarterly (to be cleared by programme manager and endorsed by portfolio manager (Assurer role). It is submitted and approved in the Corporate Planning System annually (Q4) for the approval of UNDP Programme Manager (RR/Approver role), with prior clearance by Assurer/Portfolio manager. For closing projects, **Project Closure quality assurance reports** to be prepared and approved in the system and presented to the last Project's Board Meeting along with the Final Report of the Project.*

XI. FUTURE ACTIONS, WORK PLAN

- *Indicate key actions ahead and attach the multiyear AWP from Prodoc (UNDP template is attached).*
-

Results Framework ⁸										
Intended Outcome as stated in the UNDAF/Country Programme Results and Resource Framework:										
OUTCOME 1. By 2020, Armenia's competitiveness is improved and people, especially vulnerable groups, have greater access to sustainable economic opportunities										
Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan: 1.1.2 Marginalised groups, particularly the poor, women, people with disabilities and displaced are empowered to gain universal access to basic services and financial and non-financial assets to build productive capacities and benefit from sustainable livelihoods and jobs										
Project title and Atlas Project Number: Green Agriculture Initiative in Armenia 00110255/00109283 EU-GAIA ADA ref.# 6546-00/2019										
EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	FINAL	
Output 1 Pipeline of investable and high added value agribusinesses with demonstrated commitment to an inclusive and rights-based workplace environment created	1.1 # of green agri-businesses selected, including women headed	Individual farm concepts available Selection process documentation	0	2019	0	50	20	0	70	Document review, Local survey/questionnaires
	1.2 # of farmers trained on production and farm-finance	Training documents and evaluation sheet	0	2019	0	100	80	0	180	Survey

⁸ 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 2 Agribusinesses have improved productivity through access to inputs, equipment, infrastructures and services	<i>2.1 # of businesses provided with required inputs, services and equipment</i>	Handover acts, infrastructure & service providers' reports	0	2019	0	50	20	0	70	Document review, Field missions
	<i>2.2 # of agribusinesses trained on maintenance and management</i>	Self-evaluations of trainees	0	2019	0	50	20	0	70	Pre-and post-test for trainees / survey for trainees
Output 3. Increased productivity in selected VCs through application of resource efficient and resilient farming practices	<i>3.1 Ha of land under sustainable use (resource-efficient and climate-smart practices)</i>	Community statistics, Independent survey	0	2019	0	0	100	60	160	Document review /
	<i>3.2 System for farm data collection and semi-annual update in place</i>	Community and Regional statistics	0	2019	0	0	1	0	1	Document review
Output 4. Agribusinesses have improved access to local, national and	<i>4.1 # of agreement signed (market linkages are established)</i>	Project reports, Market surveys	0	2019	0	0	20	30	50	Document review, market survey
	<i>4.2 # of agribusinesses improved branding, packages and labelling</i>	Project reports, labels, photos	0	2019	0	0	20	10	30	Document review Social survey

international markets	<i>4.3 % increase in product sold per agribusiness per year</i>	Community statistics, Project reports, ,	<i>TBC at the selectio n stage</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Social survey</i>
	<i>4.4 # of farmers participated in trade fairs/# of sales agreement signed</i>	Trade fair aftercare reports	<i>0</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>20/5</i>	<i>5/1</i>	<i>25/6</i>	<i>Document review, Interviews</i>

	1) Standard Risk	2) Description of Risk	4) Risk Level	5) Risk Management Measure			
#	Selection as per risk catalogue	What could happen/be triggered and what impact would this event cause?	Automaticall y calculated	Description What measure will be taken to avoid, reduce, transfer or mitigate the risk effectively?	Intended effect	Responsibl e (Name)	Implementati on timeline
1	Restrictive legislation impedes project	State export policies, logistics, and export market requirements may limit the export potential. The risk stems more from the regional context, especially export routes via land being important for exporting agriculture produce.	Low	Careful selection of the value chains and potential export products, with high local value added and posing less logistical problems.	Reduce impact	Coordinati on Office / EU-GAIA Team Leader	During course of implementati on
2	Violence threatens staff or project	Security situation especially in bordering communities of Tavush region. Can affect the access of agribusinesses to orchards/ farms, destroy their assets and affect their incomes. Additionally, access to demo sites and post-harvest infrastructure may be complicated. <i>After effects of the Artsakh conflict and possible resumption of hostilities or political instability in or around the conflict zone could lead to a slowdown and worsened socio-economic situation in Armenia.</i>	high	Constant monitoring of the security situation; careful selection of demo sites and post-harvest infrastructure. <i>Partly beyond project control, possible revision of certain programme aspects to meet emerging socio-economic priorities and needs.</i>	Reduce impact	Coordinati on Office / EU-GAIA Team Leader	During course of implementati on
3	Natural events threaten staff or project	Production risks related to pests, diseases, natural disasters may decrease yields and thus also incomes of agribusinesses, especially smallholder farmers are affected. Moreover, soil contamination, land degradation, other pollution etc. could limit agricultural production and productivity; would make transition to organic agriculture impossible. <i>Continuation of the spread of the Covid-19 virus:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Negative impact on economy• Reduced interaction and travelling of people impacting the opportunities to organize meetings	moderate	Partly beyond project control. The project will promote integrated pest management, furthermore solutions will be sought in cooperation with research/extension service providers. Mitigation will also be ensured through promotion of quality infrastructure and climate-/heat-resistant seeds, efforts to revitalise degraded land where feasible. <i>Partly beyond project control, measurements as proclaimed by the Government will be adhered to, e.g., for Covid-19 the work, meeting and travel restrictions are followed-up. Within the office, information on the pandemic is shared and sanitary provisions are made available for employees and visitors. Risks can partially be mitigated for agribusinesses, based on the recommendations of the Covid-19 impact assessment, by promoting use of mass media and distant communication tools for organizing meetings and raising awareness.</i>	Reduce both likelihood and impact	ADA Coordinati on Office / EU-GAIA Team Leader	During course of implementati on
4	Economic and developmental situation in-country impedes project	Market risks/failures, price instabilities. May lead to decreased incomes.	moderate	Beyond project control; Risks can partially be mitigated partially for agribusinesses by promoting agricultural diversification and proper business planning provided to agribusinesses.	Reduce impact	Coordinati on Office / EU-GAIA Team Leader	During course of implementati on
5	Lengthy negotiations	Lack of cooperation of government or regional administration and other state structures; lack of	low	Partly beyond project control, but involving respective ministries and institutions in the project development and implementation will	Reduce impact	Coordinati on Office /	during course of

1) Standard Risk	2) Description of Risk	4) Risk Level	5) Risk Management Measure				
#	Selection as per risk catalogue	What could happen/be triggered and what impact would this event cause?	Automaticall y calculated	Description What measure will be taken to avoid, reduce, transfer or mitigate the risk effectively?	Intended effect	Responsibl e (Name)	Implementati on timeline
	between multiple stakeholders impede project progress	political and policy support. Can slow down the development of policy documents and the implementation of project results.		clearly mitigate this risk (specific objective 1). Qualitative and inclusive project development and implementation according to Armenian demands in agriculture.		EU-GAIA Team Leader	implementati on
6	Lack of stakeholder ownership weakens results and sustainability	Lack of qualified agribusinesses willing or able to participate in the project. Can limit the number of beneficiaries and delivery of the project results, especially for PPPs and investable projects. Lack of coordination/cooperation amongst actors along the value chains. Inefficient, non-inclusive and unsustainable value chains.	low	Careful selection of the value chains and beneficiaries, open / competitive calls. In case of lack of agribusinesses an extension of the target area. to bordering Southern marzes is possible. Careful selection of value chains, cost-benefit analyses, strengthening of all actors along selected value chains.	Reduce likelihood	EU-GAIA Team Leader	During course of implementati on
7	Project negatively impacts the environment	Apart from negative impacts on the environment, agricultural production and productivity could be limited; makes transition to organic agriculture impossible.	moderate	Promotion of sustainable management of natural resources., protection of biodiversity, waste management and climate actions will be considered throughout the project. This is also reflected within the EGSIM Manual and specifically within the standards pertaining to environmental sustainability	Reduce both likelihood and impact	EU-GAIA Team Leader	During course of implementati on
8	Project exacerbates gender inequality and/or undermines empowerment of women and girls	Exclusion of certain people and/or groups, such as women, youth or vulnerable groups. Equitable access and benefit cannot be guaranteed completely.	moderate	Equitable opportunities and benefits (e.g. targeting of women, youth and vulnerable groups in calls) will be ensured throughout the project. Will be addressed through the gender and social inclusion strategy.	Reduce both likelihood and impact	EU-GAIA Team Leader	During course of implementati on

7	Project negatively impacts the environment	Apart from negative impacts on the environment, agricultural production and productivity could be limited;	Environmental	2	Promotion of sustainable management of natural resources, protection of biodiversity, waste management and climate actions will be considered throughout the project. This is also reflected within the EGSIM Manual, mentioned above, and specifically within the standards pertaining to environmental sustainability	UNDP Project Coordinator
8	Project exacerbates gender inequality and/or undermines empowerment	Exclusion of certain people and/or groups, such as women, youth or vulnerable groups. Equitable access and benefit	Social and environmental	3	Equitable opportunities and benefits (e.g. targeting of women, youth and vulnerable groups in calls) will be considered throughout the project. Will be addressed through the gender and social inclusion strategy.	UNDP Project Coordinator

	of women and girls	cannot be guaranteed completely.				
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OFFLINE RISK LOG

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: 29/04/2021

Subject and venue of visit: Organization of Blanche du Massif Central and Local Sheep Breeds Feeding, Care and Mating , Artik, Shirak Marz

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

00110255/00109283 **EU-GAIA**

Purpose of the field visit:

Outcomes	Update on outcomes	Outputs	Update on outputs	Reasons if progress below target	Update on partnership strategies	Recommendations and proposed action
EU-GAIA team provided individual consulting to the beneficiaries in order to ensure that investments in agribusinesses comply with green agriculture practices.	The EU-GAIA team also paid attention to compliance of the investment assets to the terms of the SAP call, i.e. whether capital investments are directed to the production volumes and income increase of small farming businesses, their	The procurement of investment assets for SAP call 1 beneficiaries are Ongoing.	Procurement plan for SAP call 2 beneficiaries is prepared.	N/A	Partnership strategies were developed with Partnersheep France company to promote sheep breeding value chain in Armenia.	Development of Sheep breeding and herding - including primary production, slaughtering, packaging, milk, skin and wool processing.

	employees and suppliers					
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PROJECT PERFORMANCE—IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

[If the person conducting the field visit observes problems that are generic and not related to any specific output, or that apply to all of them, he or she should address the ‘top three’ such challenges.] List the main challenges experienced during implementation and propose a way forward.

The project’s field officers provide regular monitoring of the used innovations, if required this is guided by the project’s experts. In case of quality issues of the provided assets, any feedback from the observations is directed to the project management team as well as to the suppliers or other service providers to remedy the observed issues. In all cases, the beneficiaries are involved in the proposed solution to ensure the ownership.

LESSONS LEARNED

Describe briefly key lessons learned during the project:

The project has a Monitoring and evaluation plan, stated in the ProDoc (please see attached). The required monitoring action is conducted, most baseline and targets are populated. Lessons learned are used to take corrective actions when necessary. For evidence please see the M&E plan attached.

Participants in the field visit:

Anna Gyurjyan, SED Portfolio Manager
Karen Harutyunyan, EU GAIA Project Coordinator
Paruyr Asatryan, EU GAIA Project Expert
Seda Kalantaryan, EU GAIA Project Assistant

Project // Portfolio

Green Agriculture Initiatives in Armenia (00109283)
SED Portfolio