

Closure Stage Quality Assurance Report

Form Status: Approved

Overall Rating:	Satisfactory
Decision:	
Portfolio/Project Number:	00106776
Portfolio/Project Title:	Energy Access SMEs Development Project
Portfolio/Project Date:	2018-01-01 / 2020-12-31

Strategic

Quality Rating: Satisfactory

1. Did the project pro-actively identified changes to the external environment and incorporated them into the project strategy?

- ☐ 3: The project team identified relevant changes in the external environment that may present new opportunities or threats to the project's ability to achieve its objectives, assumptions were tested to determine if the project's strategy was valid. There is some evidence that the project board considered the implications, and documented the changes needed to the project in response. (all must be true)
- ☒ 2: *The project team identified relevant changes in the external environment that may present new opportunities or threats to the project's ability to achieve its objectives. There is some evidence that the project board discussed this, but relevant changes did not fully integrate in the project. (both must be true)*
- ☐ 1: The project team considered relevant changes in the external environment since implementation began, but there is no evidence that the project team considered these changes to the project as a result.

Evidence:

The need in Renewable Energy (RE) diversification was present in both countries, albeit only emerging. Policies and regulatory environment for Non-Hydro Renewable Energy (NHRE) were mostly lacking before the project. In particular, this applies to tariffs, which signal wrong incentives to date. There were, however, signals of wanting to improve by the Governments and prospects for doing so are improving. In terms of policies and regulatory environment, while Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan seem to be less equipped to engage in NHRE than the other countries of Central Asia, their prospects for doing so are improving and there are already a few notable investments in solar in both countries. Access to affordable finance is crucial for NHRE diffusion: schemes are emerging, but they suffer from the unaffordability for many and lack of demand due to subsidized tariffs, narrowing the scope of products and services in demand. Public awareness and access to technical expertise are also invaluable for NHRE diffusion. Thus, by identifying relevant changes in the external environment described above the project was overall relevant and in line with UNDP's approach to de-risking of RE. But given the background and the available resources this project should be considered as an initial step for massive use of RE.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	Exsummaryofprojectreview_7943_301 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAForDocuments/Exsummaryofprojectreview_7943_301.docx)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 7:07:00 PM

2. Was the project aligned with the thematic focus of the Strategic Plan?

- ☐ 3: The project responded to at least one of the development settings as specified in the Strategic Plan (SP) and adopted at least one Signature Solution. The project's RRF included all the relevant SP output indicators. (all must be true)
- ☒ 2: *The project responded to at least one of the developments settings1 as specified in the Strategic Plan. The project's RRF included at least one SP output indicator, if relevant. (both must be true)*
- ☐ 1: While the project may have responded to a partner's identified need, this need falls outside of the UNDP Strategic Plan. Also select this option if none of the relevant SP indicators are included in the RRF.

Evidence:

The project interventions contributed towards achievement of the Outcome 2 of the UNDP Strategic Plan (2018-2021), underpinning “Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development”.

The project falls under the Outcome 1 of the Regional Program Document for Europe and the CIS (2018-2021) “accelerating structural transformations through more effective governance systems”. More specifically, the project responded to the Regional Programme commitment to address “gaps in access to modern, affordable, and sustainable energy, as well as raising energy efficiency levels and increasing the shares of renewables in national energy balances, by de-risking energy investments in the region along with engaging the private sector”.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	EnergyAccessandSMEsDevelopmentProject_7943_302 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/EnergyAccessandSMEsDevelopmentProject_7943_302.pdf)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 7:08:00 PM

Relevant**Quality Rating: Satisfactory**

3. Were the project’s targeted groups systematically identified and engaged, with a priority focus on the discriminated and marginalized, to ensure the project remained relevant for them?

- ☐ 3: Systematic and structured feedback was collected over the project duration from a representative sample of beneficiaries, with a priority focus on the discriminated and marginalized, as part of the project's monitoring system. Representatives from the targeted groups were active members of the project's governance mechanism (i.e., the project board or equivalent) and there is credible evidence that their feedback informs project decision making. (all must be true)
- ☒ 2: *Targeted groups were engaged in implementation and monitoring, with a priority focus on the discriminated and marginalized. Beneficiary feedback, which may be anecdotal, was collected regularly to ensure the project addressed local priorities. This information was used to inform project decision making. (all must be true to select this option)*
- ☐ 1: Some beneficiary feedback may have been collected, but this information did not inform project decision making. This option should also be selected if no beneficiary feedback was collected
- ☐ Not Applicable

Evidence:

The project closely engaged with target households and villages struggling with harsh energy shortages. The project stepped up its engagement with formal and informal groups, organizations, associations, and cooperatives, given their role in providing energy services and the importance of promoting transparent energy governance. Existing entrepreneurs and SMEs have been continuously engaged in the project activities, ensuring wider community outreach (e.g. local RE technicians and locally owned RE businesses) with a perspective to unlock their technical capacities and increase efficiency of their RE systems. Details are described in the final report (attached) under the Activity 1.2. The project also engaged with women, women's cooperatives and organizations as means to gain insights into women's energy needs and to identify the agents of local change. A detail report on targeted intervention in 10 villages of Tajikistan is attached.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	TajikistanOFIDreport-10villages_7943_303 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/TajikistanOFIDreport-10villages_7943_303.docx)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 7:13:00 PM

4. Did the project generate knowledge, and lessons learned (i.e., what has worked and what has not) and has this knowledge informed management decisions to ensure the continued relevance of the project towards its stated objectives, the quality of its outputs and the management of risk?

- ☐ 3: Knowledge and lessons learned from internal or external sources (gained, for example, from Peer Assists, After Action Reviews or Lessons Learned Workshops) backed by credible evidence from evaluation, corporate policies/strategies, analysis and monitoring were discussed in project board meetings and reflected in the minutes. There is clear evidence that changes were made to the project to ensure its continued relevance. (both must be true)
- ☒ 2: *Knowledge and lessons learned backed by relatively limited evidence, drawn mainly from within the project, were considered by the project team. There is some evidence that changes were made to the project as a result to ensure its continued relevance. (both must be true)*
- ☐ 1: There is limited or no evidence that knowledge and lessons learned were collected by the project team. There is little or no evidence that this informed project decision making.

Evidence:

Below lessons learned were identified and used by the project team for project implementation:

1. Government ownership is key in promoting GE, including the willingness to implement sometimes not popular reforms related to tariff reforms. It is important to stay tuned to the changes in Government stance, even if small and capitalize on the goodwill. For example, in Kyrgyzstan there was a willingness to support ambitious legislative improvement agenda, but not yet on the regulation on tariffs. As for the latter, the position of the institutional investors is key (as was the case in Tajikistan where electricity tariffs are subsidized to the least degree in Central Asia).
2. The role of champions like CREEED is essential in promoting reforms in challenging environments.
3. It is important to pace the reforms in stages- immediate short term, medium-term and long-term and stagger the reform agenda accordingly.
4. Awareness raising is an important factor in promoting GE, but needs to be done in the right way, in a targeted fashion, reaching out to the remotest villages, demonstrating the economic benefit to the potential users, and with demo centers in the regions.
5. Availability of technical experts for the installation and repair of the GE equipment is an important factor influencing the decisions of the potential consumers of GE to install GE Solutions, but it is important to build that capacity in a sustainable way, ensuring continuous flow of experts, partnering with technical colleges for example.
6. Access to affordable finance is an essential component influencing the decisions of the potential consumers to purchase GE technologies. While the demand is not large now, it is growing, and even in the current circumstances, the potential for niche markets (e.g. ecotourism, mountainous settlements) and products (fruit driers, solar water heaters) should be explored in full. Plus, options for cheaper loans with the MFIS need to be explored better.
7. It is very important to forge partnerships between development partners in each country context, to ensure non duplication but complementarity, especially in such cases as building platforms which are prone to sustainability risks.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	Lessonslearned_7943_304 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/Lessonslearned_7943_304.docx)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 7:16:00 PM

5. Was the project sufficiently at scale, or is there potential to scale up in the future, to meaningfully contribute to development change?

- ☐ 3: There was credible evidence that the project reached sufficient number of beneficiaries (either directly through significant coverage of target groups, or indirectly, through policy change) to meaningfully contribute to development change.
- ☒ 2: *While the project was not considered at scale, there are explicit plans in place to scale up the project in the future (e.g. by extending its coverage or using project results to advocate for policy change).*
- ☐ 1: The project was not at scale, and there are no plans to scale up the project in the future.

Evidence:

The project was overall relevant and in line with UN DP's approach to de-risking of RE. But given the background in both programme countries and the available resources this project should be considered as an initial step for massive use of RE.

There was a parallel project in Tajikistan, funded by Global Environmental Facility (GEF) - "Green Energy SME Development Project", which provided an opportunity to cover a larger scope of activities in that country.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	Recommendationsforscaleup_7943_305 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/Recommendationsforscaleup_7943_305.docx)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 7:19:00 PM

Principled**Quality Rating: Satisfactory**

6. Were the project's measures (through outputs, activities, indicators) to address gender inequalities and empower women relevant and produced the intended effect? If not, evidence-based adjustments and changes were made.

- ☐ 3: The project team gathered data and evidence through project monitoring on the relevance of the measures to address gender inequalities and empower women. Analysis of data and evidence were used to inform adjustments and changes, as appropriate. (both must be true)
- ☒ 2: *The project team had some data and evidence on the relevance of the measures to address gender inequalities and empower women. There is evidence that at least some adjustments were made, as appropriate. (both must be true)*
- ☐ 1: The project team had limited or no evidence on the relevance of measures to address gender inequalities and empowering women. No evidence of adjustments and/or changes made. This option should also be selected if the project has no measures to address gender inequalities and empower women relevant to the project results and activities.

Evidence:

The project has considered the need to ensure representation of women in all project activities, including training, awareness raising, pilots. There were also special measures to target women and vulnerable segments of the society. Specific measures include the incentive scheme for microcredits for women and targeting several maternity hospitals and centers for the Persons with disabilities under the public sector buildings' pilots.

In Tajikistan, the project together with national key stakeholders carried out the following actions toward empowering women economically, mostly focusing on increasing women's entrepreneurial activities through business training and small grants:

- strengthen public sector institutions, human resources, awareness, and knowledge for gender sensitive climate smart policy making.
- strengthen capacity of women entrepreneurs and women led SMEs to participate in the development of green markets.
- improve access of women led SME's to financing schemes.
- improve access of women to affordable and clean energy, in rural area.

Moreover, the project prepared a documentary film (10 minutes) with the title "Promotion of small-scale Green Energy technologies for rural women in 10 villages of Tajikistan" to show the potential impact of the Green Energy technologies to the livelihoods of the population, especially women, raise the awareness among population by producing an information knowledge product highlighting results, approaches, and practices achieved in the frame of the project in selected target districts.

Furthermore, the project provided participation of women in all civic awareness raising and public advocacy campaigns, as well as national PR/ communication

n events (e.g. Plant a tree_ <https://www.tj.undp.org/content/tajikistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/03/2020-trees-are-planted-in-victory-park-of-dushanbe.html>, World Energy Day), and in all other project activities. Some examples are provided in the following links:

<https://www.tj.undp.org/content/tajikistan/en/home/presscenter/stories/2020/solar-power-helps-fish-farmers-reach-record-survival-rate-of-you.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/eep.tj/posts/1557018494455634>

<http://systemavto.tj/news/pervyj-trening-dlya-razvitiya-potentsiala-znaniy-po-solnechnym-tehnologiyam-dlya-15-spetsialistov-montazhnikov-po-solnechnym-tehnologiyam-v-tadzhikistane/>

<https://neruisabz.tj/en/2020/04/18/123/>

<https://ecocentre.tj/2015/03/12/technologies/>

In Kyrgyzstan, the project ensured representation of women through development of woman-oriented renewable energy solution – solar driers of various sizes, distribution of which was supported by the project. Over 30 household solar driers were supported through 20% grant co-financing from the project and project implemented a competition among woman cooperatives across the country to receive developed within the project larger solar drier.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	GenderMainstreaming_7943_306 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/GenderMainstreaming_7943_306.docx)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 7:20:00 PM

7. Were social and environmental impacts and risks successfully managed and monitored?

- ☐ 3: Social and environmental risks were tracked in the risk log. Appropriate assessments conducted where required (i.e., Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for High risk projects and some level of social and environmental assessment for Moderate risk projects as identified through SESP). Relevant management plan(s) developed for identified risks through consultative process and implemented, resourced, and monitored. Risks effectively managed or mitigated. If there is a substantive change to the project or change in context that affects risk levels, the SESP was updated to reflect these changes. (all must be true)
- ☒ 2: *Social and environmental risks were tracked in the risk log. Appropriate assessments conducted where required (i.e., Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for High risk projects and some level of social and environmental assessment for Moderate risk projects as identified through SESP). Relevant management plan(s) developed, implemented and monitored for identified risks. OR project was categorized as Low risk through the SESP.*
- ☐ 1: Social and environmental risks were tracked in the risk log. For projects categorized as High or Moderate Risk, there was no evidence that social and environmental assessments completed and/or management plans or measures development, implemented or monitored. There are substantive changes to the project or changes in the context but SESP was not updated. (any may be true)

Evidence:

Social and environmental risks were tracked in the risk log, but project was categorized as Low risk through the SESP

COVID 19 pandemic caused some delay in the implementation of face-to-face project activities (e.g. workshops, roundtables, public hearings, etc.) as well as delays in delivery of the RE equipment. In order to address this challenge the project team has closely monitored the COVID-19 situation in the programme countries. All public gatherings and movements were restricted due to COVID-19 measures in the programme countries, limiting the planned face-to-face engagement and training activities. However, these delays did not impact the project finance. The team encountered these challenges by conducting regular virtual meetings and awareness related activities through online platforms wherever possible.

Since most of the facilities were shut down, and access to facilities prohibited, solar water plants have required and will require additional maintenance and repairs. To some extent, this risk was mitigated through maintenance trip just before the end of the project in November (in Kyrgyzstan), but some of the facilities are only opening now, and probably later in 2021, which means extra commissioning will be required. Finally, coordination with the GEF project was another challenge and required extra time to harmonize two parallel project responses in order to maximize impact and achieve synergy, while ensuring sustainability of the project.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	SocialandEnvironmentalScreening_7943_307 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/SocialandEnvironmentalScreening_7943_307.docx)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 7:28:00 PM

8. Were grievance mechanisms available to project-affected people and were grievances (if any) addressed to ensure any perceived harm was effectively mitigated?

- ☐ 3: Project-affected people actively informed of UNDP's Corporate Accountability Mechanism (SRM/SECU) and how to access it. If the project was categorized as High or Moderate Risk through the SESP, a project -level grievance mechanism was in place and project affected people informed. If grievances were received, they were effectively addressed in accordance with SRM Guidance. (all must be true)
- ☒ 2: *Project-affected people informed of UNDP's Corporate Accountability Mechanism and how to access it. If the project was categorized as High Risk through the SESP, a project -level grievance mechanism was in place and project affected people informed. If grievances were received, they were responded to but faced challenges in arriving at a resolution.*
- ☐ 1: Project-affected people was not informed of UNDP's Corporate Accountability Mechanism. If grievances were received, they were not responded to. (any may be true)

Evidence:

Through COs staff we informed our partners on the projects sites about UNDP's Corporate Accountability Mechanism and how to access it. But no grievances were received during project implementation.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	MitigationMeasures_7943_308 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/MitigationMeasures_7943_308.docx)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 7:53:00 PM

Management & Monitoring

Quality Rating: **Satisfactory**

9. Was the project's M&E Plan adequately implemented?

- ☐ 3: The project had a comprehensive and costed M&E plan. Baselines, targets and milestones were fully populated. Progress data against indicators in the project's RRF was reported regularly using credible data sources and collected according to the frequency stated in the Plan, including sex disaggregated data as relevant. Any evaluations conducted, if relevant, fully meet decentralized evaluation standards, including gender UNEG standards. Lessons learned, included during evaluations and/or After-Action Reviews, were used to take corrective actions when necessary. (all must be true)
- ☒ 2: *The project costed M&E Plan, and most baselines and targets were populated. Progress data against indicators in the project's RRF was collected on a regular basis, although there may be some slippage in following the frequency stated in the Plan and data sources was not always reliable. Any evaluations conducted, if relevant, met most decentralized evaluation standards. Lessons learned were captured but were used to take corrective actions. (all must be true)*
- ☐ 1: The project had M&E Plan, but costs were not clearly planned and budgeted for, or were unrealistic. Progress data was not regularly collected against the indicators in the project's RRF. Evaluations did not meet decentralized evaluation standards. Lessons learned were rarely captured and used. Select this option also if the project did not have an M&E plan.

Evidence:

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project has been regularly monitored through the regular visits and coordination/monitoring calls.

The project has a M&E Plan, and all baselines and targets were populated. Progress data against indicators in the project's RRF was collected on a regular basis. Lessons learned were captured but were used to take corrective actions (see the final report).

Also, please see attached examples of BTORs from missions.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	2-OFIDTajikistanMarch2019_7943_309 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/2-OFIDTajikistanMarch2019_7943_309.docx)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 1:06:00 PM
2	9-OFIDTajikistanAugust2019_7943_309 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/9-OFIDTajikistanAugust2019_7943_309.docx)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 1:06:00 PM

10. Was the project's governance mechanism (i.e., the project board or equivalent) function as intended?

- ☐ 3: The project's governance mechanism operated well, and was a model for other projects. It met in the agreed frequency stated in the project document and the minutes of the meetings were all on file. There was regular (at least annual) progress reporting to the project board or equivalent on results, risks and opportunities. It is clear that the project board explicitly reviewed and used evidence, including progress data, knowledge, lessons and evaluations, as the basis for informing management decisions (e.g., change in strategy, approach, work plan.) (all must be true to select this option)
- ☒ 2: *The project's governance mechanism met in the agreed frequency and minutes of the meeting are on file. A project progress report was submitted to the project board or equivalent at least once per year, covering results, risks and opportunities. (both must be true to select this option)*
- ☐ 1: The project's governance mechanism did not meet in the frequency stated in the project document over the past year and/or the project board or equivalent was not functioning as a decision-making body for the project as intended.

Evidence:

The project's governance mechanism (Project Board) met in the agreed frequency and minutes of the meeting are on file. A project progress report was submitted to the project board or equivalent at least once per year, covering results, risks and opportunities. See attached examples of PB minutes.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	OFIDProjectBoardMeetingminutes_signed_7943_310 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/OFIDProjectBoardMeetingminutes_signed_7943_310.pdf)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 1:10:00 PM
2	MinutesoftheVirtualProjectBoardmeetingOFIDFeb82019_7943_310 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/MinutesoftheVirtualProjectBoardmeetingOFIDFeb82019_7943_310.pdf)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 1:10:00 PM

11. Were risks to the project adequately monitored and managed?

- ☐ 3: The project monitored risks every quarter and consulted with the key stakeholders, security advisors, to identify continuing and emerging risks to assess if the main assumptions remained valid. There is clear evidence that relevant management plans and mitigating measures were fully implemented to address each key project risk and were updated to reflect the latest risk assessment. (all must be true)
- ☒ 2: *The project monitored risks every year, as evidenced by an updated risk log. Some updates were made to management plans and mitigation measures.*
- ☐ 1: The risk log was not updated as required. There was may be some evidence that the project monitored risks that may affected the project's achievement of results, but there is no explicit evidence that management actions were taken to mitigate risks.

Evidence:

The project monitored risks every year, as evidenced by an updated risk log in ATLAS. Some updates were made to management plans and mitigation measures. Especially regarding COVID 19 impact to the project. COVID 19 pandemic caused some delay in the implementation of face-to-face project activities (e.g. workshops, roundtables, public hearings, etc.) as well as delays in delivery of the RE equipment. In order to address this challenge the project team has closely monitored the COVID-19 situation in the programme countries. All public gatherings and movements were restricted due to COVID-19 measures in the programme countries, limiting the planned face-to-face engagement and training activities. However, these delays did not impact the project finance. The team encountered these challenges by conducting regular virtual meetings and awareness related activities through online platforms wherever possible. Since most of the facilities were shut down, and access to facilities prohibited, solar water plants have required and will require additional maintenance and repairs. To some extent, this risk was mitigated through maintenance trip just before the end of the project in November (in Kyrgyzstan), but some of the facilities are only opening now, and probably later in 2021, which means extra commissioning will be required. Finally, coordination with the GEF project was another challenge and required extra time to harmonize two parallel project responses in order to maximize impact and achieve synergy, while ensuring sustainability of the project.

More details could be found in ATLAS and in the final project report.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	RisksandMitigationMeasures_7943_311 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/RisksandMitigationMeasures_7943_311.docx)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 7:31:00 PM

Efficient**Quality Rating:** Satisfactory

12. Adequate resources were mobilized to achieve intended results. If not, management decisions were taken to adjust expected results in the project's results framework.

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Evidence:

Adequate resources were mobilized to achieve intended results, but considering the scale of the issues, we still consider this project as an initial step for RE development in both countries. Cooperation with GEF funded Green Energy project helped us to be more ambitious, but required a lot of time for coordination of both projects. Please see attached the monitoring table confirming that all planned results were achieved with the financing available.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	Resultsmonitoring_7943_312 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/Resultsmonitoring_7943_312.docx)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 7:39:00 PM

13. Were project inputs procured and delivered on time to efficiently contribute to results?

- ☐ 3: The project had a procurement plan and kept it updated. The project quarterly reviewed operational bottlenecks to procuring inputs in a timely manner and addressed them through appropriate management actions. (all must be true)
- ☒ 2: *The project had updated procurement plan. The project annually reviewed operational bottlenecks to procuring inputs in a timely manner and addressed them through appropriate management actions. (all must be true)*
- ☐ 1: The project did not have an updated procurement plan. The project team may or may not have reviewed operational bottlenecks to procuring inputs regularly, however management actions were not taken to address them.

Evidence:

The project had updated procurement plan every year. The project annually reviewed operational bottlenecks to procuring inputs in a timely manner and addressed them through appropriate management actions. Considering significant number of procurement cases in Tajikistan, the IRH supported CO by providing corresponding technical expertise. Please see attached and example of procurement plan for Y1.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	Procurementplan-year1EnergyAccessinCAV1_7943_313 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/Procurementplan-year1EnergyAccessinCAV1_7943_313.docx)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 1:33:00 PM

14. Was there regular monitoring and recording of cost efficiencies, taking into account the expected quality of results?

- ☐ 3: There is evidence that the project regularly reviewed costs against relevant comparators (e.g., other projects or country offices) or industry benchmarks to ensure the project maximized results delivered with given resources. The project actively coordinated with other relevant ongoing projects and initiatives (UNDP or other) to ensure complementarity and sought efficiencies wherever possible (e.g. joint activities.) (both must be true)
- ☒ 2: *The project monitored its own costs and gave anecdotal examples of cost efficiencies (e.g., spending less to get the same result,) but there was no systematic analysis of costs and no link to the expected quality of results delivered. The project coordinated activities with other projects to achieve cost efficiency gains.*
- ☐ 1: There is little or no evidence that the project monitored its own costs and considered ways to save money beyond following standard procurement rules.

Evidence:

The project monitored its own costs. The project coordinated activities with other projects (GEF funded Green Energy project) to achieve cost efficiency gains. Some activities in Tajikistan were funded from 2 projects, for example comprehensive legal study, as well as various awareness raising activities. Also project by applying UNDP rules and procedures ensured the best quality of results delivered and goods procured.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	2018ProgressReportOFIDforboardfinal_7943_314 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/2018ProgressReportOFIDforboardfinal_7943_314.docx)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 7:51:00 PM
2	2018FinancialreportOFID_7943_314 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/2018FinancialreportOFID_7943_314.docx)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 7:51:00 PM

Effective**Quality Rating: Satisfactory**

15. Was the project on track and delivered its expected outputs?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Evidence:

Project on a regular base monitored expected results and outputs.
 Output 1: Enabling policy framework and capacity development for green energy.
 The project performance differed by country in relation to the policy/regulatory component. Kyrgyzstan achieved impressive results, with 9 regulations, facilitated by successful coordination of activities such as multi-party stakeholder dialogue and high-level policy advocacy, as well as formalization of the high level

y advocacy, as well as formalization of the high-level Working Group on the elaboration of the secondary legislation, working closely with the State Committee of Industry, Energy and Subsoil. The project's role in formulating and approval of the Regulation "On the conditions and procedure for the implementation of activities for the generation and supply of electricity using renewable energy sources" was momentous for the RE investors and companies, enabling a structured operating mechanism for the investors, especially for those who want to build renewable energy plants and produce electricity from the clean energy.

In Tajikistan, a comprehensive review of the legislative and policy framework related to energy sector was conducted and recommendations for several regulatory acts have been developed and presented to the Government for improvements. Also, in Tajikistan, the project implemented a nationwide marketing and awareness raising campaign (MARC) on solar technologies for households and businesses, giving particular attention to female households. During the campaign, the "Mobile Energy Vehicle" travelled through the country, carrying samples of Solar Photovoltaics (PV), Solar Water Heating (SWH), and other solar-based technologies, aiming to increase rural population awareness as well as their willingness to use solar technologies.

Within the project various trainings for technicians were completed, focusing on construction, maintenance and installation of their own energy efficient cook stoves, solar thermal systems and other energy generating systems. The project has reached out more than 1,000 people in both countries. Awareness was raised through various events, targeting a wide typology of stakeholders. As an integral part of the capacity development activities, and with the support of Energy Access Centers, the project supported five SMEs to strengthen their use of green energy technologies to demonstrate benefits from RE usage for economic development.

Output 2: Access to finance enabled and business models for green energy SMEs and energy service users piloted.

The Energy Access Platforms are considered as critical mechanisms for those who are willing to invest and access in green energy technologies. The project has tested and operationalized two energy access platforms (www.greenenergy.kg in Kyrgyzstan and www.neruisabz.tj in Tajikistan) with a perspective to stimulate investments in green energy projects and to attract RE market investors. The two energy access platforms could also serve as crowdfunding mechanisms, depending on the level of interest from national

sms, depending on the level of interest from national and local stakeholders. As part of enabling access to finance, the project established a cooperation with 10 microfinance institutions (MFIs) and banks, working closely with institutions and national counterparts. In Kyrgyzstan, for example, the project developed and tested several new renewable energy-using solutions, including solar driers, that provides an opportunity to start a new small businesses, which also allows the business owner to sell or to use the clean power from the RE sources. Therefore, the project's role was instrumental in making the connections between different stakeholders such as suppliers, manufacturers and financial institutions that offer new financial products for end-users and improving access to finance for green solutions. The coordination was ensured through regular working level meetings. In Tajikistan, the project introduced and demonstrated new business models for green SMEs, mostly under "Cooperative" and "RESCO" modalities. These models were the initial steps of establishing more complex models in order to increase and improve access to modern, affordable, and sustainable energy services in the near future.

Output 3: Access to sustainable energy services in remote rural areas provided.

As complementary to the first two components, the third component focused on bringing energy access in rural areas, closely coordinating the project stakeholders at three different levels: (i) household level, (ii) public buildings level, and (iii) village level. The project supported implementation of seven mini-grids (off-grid) on a village level in Tajikistan. Moreover, 20 public buildings were equipped with sustainable PV and water heating energy systems in Tajikistan. Whereas in Kyrgyzstan, the project supported 11 public buildings with new solar PV, water heating and energy efficient solutions, including maintenance of their available RE equipment. In total, the project activities promoted access to sustainable energy services in 31 public buildings located in rural areas. By doing so, the project promoted green energy access by reaching up to more than 16,000 households in remote rural areas. The activities implemented under this component provided a profound basis for similar interventions and sustainable scale up in the region.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	Indicators_7943_315 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/Indicators_7943_315.docx)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 1:43:00 PM

16. Were there regular reviews of the work plan to ensure that the project was on track to achieve the desired results, and to inform course corrections if needed?

- ☐ 3: Quarterly progress data informed regular reviews of the project work plan to ensure that the activities implemented were most likely to achieve the desired results. There is evidence that data and lessons learned (including from evaluations /or After-Action Reviews) were used to inform course corrections, as needed. Any necessary budget revisions were made. (both must be true)
- ☒ 2: *There was at least one review of the work plan per year with a view to assessing if project activities were on track to achieving the desired development results (i.e., outputs.) There may or may not be evidence that data or lessons learned were used to inform the review(s). Any necessary budget revisions have been made.*
- ☐ 1: While the project team may have reviewed the work plan at least once over the past year to ensure outputs were delivered on time, no link was made to the delivery of desired development results. Select this option also if no review of the work plan by management took place.

Evidence:

Project team every year reviewed project plans with a view to assessing if project activities were on track to achieving the desired development results and adjusted it considering progress achieved and challenges faced. Every year Project Board approved annual work plans with description of planned activities and budget available. Please see attached project AWP s.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	AWPOFID2018_7943_316 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/AWPOFID2018_7943_316.docx)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 1:56:00 PM
2	AWPOFID2019final_7943_316 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/AWPOFID2019final_7943_316.docx)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 1:56:00 PM

17. Were the targeted groups systematically identified and engaged, prioritizing the marginalized and excluded, to ensure results were achieved as expected?

- ☐ 3: The project targeted specific groups and/or geographic areas, identified by using credible data sources on their capacity needs, deprivation and/or exclusion from development opportunities relevant to the project's area of work. There is clear evidence that the targeted groups were reached as intended. The project engaged regularly with targeted groups over the past year to assess whether they benefited as expected and adjustments were made if necessary, to refine targeting. (all must be true)
- ☒ 2: *The project targeted specific groups and/or geographic areas, based on some evidence of their capacity needs, deprivation and/or exclusion from development opportunities relevant to the project's area of work. Some evidence is provided to confirm that project beneficiaries are members of the targeted groups. There was some engagement with beneficiaries in the past year to assess whether they were benefiting as expected. (all must be true)*
- ☐ 1: The project did not report on specific targeted groups. There is no evidence to confirm that project beneficiaries are populations have capacity needs or are deprived and/or excluded from development opportunities relevant to the project area of work. There is some engagement with beneficiaries to assess whether they benefited as expected, but it was limited or did not occurred in the past year.
- ☐ Not Applicable

Evidence:

The project targeted specific groups and geographic areas, based on needs, deprivation and exclusion from development opportunities relevant to the project's work. That is why project worked closely engaged with rural households and villages in Tajikistan, struggling with harsh energy shortages. In both countries, the project involved both formal and informal groups and organizations, associations, and cooperatives. Existing entrepreneurs and SMEs have been continuously engaged in the project activities. The project also engaged with women, women's cooperatives and organizations as means to gain insights into women's energy needs and to identify the agents of local change.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	Stakeholdersengagement_7943_317 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/Stakeholdersengagement_7943_317.docx)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 7:45:00 PM
2	TajikistanOFIDreport_7943_317 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/TajikistanOFIDreport_7943_317.docx)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 7:48:00 PM

Sustainability & National Ownership**Quality Rating: Satisfactory**

18. Were stakeholders and national partners fully engaged in the decision-making, implementation and monitoring of the project?

- ☐ 3: Only national systems (i.e., procurement, monitoring, evaluation, etc.) were used to fully implement and monitor the project. All relevant stakeholders and partners were fully and actively engaged in the process, playing a lead role in project decision-making, implementation and monitoring. (both must be true)
- ☒ 2: *National systems (i.e., procurement, monitoring, evaluation, etc.) were used to implement and monitor the project (such as country office support or project systems) were also used, if necessary. All relevant stakeholders and partners were actively engaged in the process, playing an active role in project decision-making, implementation and monitoring. (both must be true)*
- ☐ 1: There was relatively limited or no engagement with national stakeholders and partners in the decision-making, implementation and/or monitoring of the project.
- ☐ Not Applicable

Evidence:

Efficient stakeholder engagement was also a key enabler to achieve impressive results, considering the limited financial options. The project closely engaged with rural households and villages in Tajikistan, struggling with harsh energy shortages. In both countries, the project involved both formal and informal groups and organizations, associations, and cooperatives. Existing entrepreneurs and SMEs have been continuously engaged in the project activities. The project also engaged with women, women's cooperatives and organizations as means to gain insights into women's energy needs and to identify the agents of local change.

The project benefitted from very effective management by CREEED in Kyrgyzstan: this highlights the need to identify local champions in the next projects. The project suffered significant delays, due to several reasons: change of staff and Government counterparts in Tajikistan, and COVID19 in both countries. While the project has been benefitting from the participation and strong support from the national partners, political support is the key enabler for promoting approval of the policy and legislative recommendations to deploy green energy services and products, and this was stronger in Kyrgyzstan. It is important that the project implementers actively cooperate with the IFIs, donors, etc, so that not to use the financial resources on duplicative efforts.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	TOR_RPA_CREEED_7943_318 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/TOR_RPA_CREEED_7943_318.docx)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 7:45:00 PM
2	CREEEDmicro-assessment_7943_318 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/CREEEDmicro-assessment_7943_318.pdf)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 7:45:00 PM

19. Were there regular monitoring of changes in capacities and performance of institutions and systems relevant to the project, as needed, and were the implementation [arrangements](#)⁸ adjusted according to changes in partner capacities?

- ☐ 3: Changes in capacities and performance of national institutions and systems were assessed/monitored using clear indicators, rigorous methods of data collection and credible data sources including relevant HACT assurance activities. Implementation arrangements were formally reviewed and adjusted, if needed, in agreement with partners according to changes in partner capacities. (all must be true)
- ☒ 2: *Aspects of changes in capacities and performance of relevant national institutions and systems were monitored by the project using indicators and reasonably credible data sources including relevant HACT assurance activities. Some adjustment was made to implementation arrangements if needed to reflect changes in partner capacities. (all must be true)*
- ☐ 1: Some aspects of changes in capacities and performance of relevant national institutions and systems may have been monitored by the project, however changes to implementation arrangements have not been considered. Also select this option if changes in capacities and performance of relevant national institutions and systems have not been monitored by the project.
- ☐ Not Applicable

Evidence:

Aspects of changes in capacities and performance of relevant national institutions and partners were monitored by the project team by using indicators. Some management adjustments were made to implementation arrangements to reflect changes in partner capacities and status. For example NGO CREEED was included as a project implementing partner and played a key role in project implementation in Kyrgyzstan.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	minutes_7943_319 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/minutes_7943_319.pdf)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 1:30:00 PM

20. Were the transition and phase-out arrangements were reviewed and adjusted according to progress (including financial commitment and capacity).

- ☐ 3: The project's governance mechanism regularly reviewed the project's sustainability plan, including arrangements for transition and phase-out, to ensure the project remained on track in meeting the requirements set out by the plan. The plan was implemented as planned by the end of the project, taking into account any adjustments made during implementation. (both must be true)
- ☒ 2: *There was a review of the project's sustainability plan, including arrangements for transition and phase-out, to ensure the project remained on track in meeting the requirements set out by the plan.*
- ☐ 1: The project may have had a sustainability plan but there was no review of this strategy after it was developed. Also select this option if the project did not have a sustainability strategy.

Evidence:

There was a review of the project's sustainability plan, including arrangements for transition and phase-out, to ensure the project remained on track in meeting the requirements set out by the plan. In Tajikistan CO will continue implementation of the Green Energy project where some activities will be based on SMEs energy access project results. In case of Kyrgyzstan, the project partner, NGO CREEED is key player in RE promotion and will ensure sustainability of project interventions.

The fact that the project worked both upstream (with supporting legislation and policy) and downstream (with pilots), coupled with capacity building and awareness raising is a good mix to support sustainability prospects. Significant number of legislative improvements took place in Kyrgyzstan is a case to be hopeful that sustainable improvements in terms of SME access to GE will take place in this country, working closely with national stakeholders and line ministries. Having the two committed centers in two countries is a case to be hopeful that these will be there to support the promotion of the GE further: however, these need further strengthening and expansion with regional networks. The sustainable use of the equipment provided will be supported by the trained technical experts, but there is a need in a training program for technicians operating on a sustainable basis. Supporting the pilots (public buildings, households, model demos) could support sustainability if the lessons are

distilled and the Government owning them, to feed into the reform when they accelerate. And finally, engaging the MFIs, even at limited scale at this stage, supporting the learning curve, and future reforms by building the MFI's knowledge and experience-base in terms of the niche areas is an important basis to build and be prepared when the demand could grow stronger soon, with modalities of affordable and accessible finance identified, etc.

Given higher investment risks in these economies, to make the reform efforts more sustainable, coalitions with development partners need to be built. The institutional investors could for example, apply stricter sustainability criteria when considering energy investment in such economies. To compete for ODA and FDI, the recipients are expected to demonstrate the adequacy of their regulatory and institutional capacities.

In Kyrgyzstan, all legislative initiatives were handed over to State Committee on Industry, Energy, and subsoil. CREEED and Association of RE are following up and consulting the Renewable energy Sector on further advocacy if needed. Energy access platform will be sustained and further developed by CREEED, who will also continue consulting Texas café and large drier owner – Svetlaya Polyana health committee, as well as public buildings with installed green energy and energy efficiency solutions. In Tajikistan, the results were handed over to the GEF project, which will continue to take up on the work initiated with the MFIs and to further scale up the demo projects demonstrated at rural areas.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	EnergyaccessSMEprojectFinalProgressReport_7943_320 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/EnergyaccessSMEprojectFinalProgressReport_7943_320.docx)	stanislav.kim@undp.org	3/18/2021 12:27:00 PM

QA Summary/Final Project Board Comments

