UNDP Funding Windows Annual Results Reporting

Summitting Office: Azerbaijan

Reporting Year: 2018-2019

# Project Details:

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| Project Output# | 00110839 |
| Project Title | Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication (SDPE) |
| Funding Windows | Strengthened national capacities for Implementation of the national SDG accelerators (with a special focus on gender) |
| Funding Sub-Window | N/A |
| Funding Window Amount | $250,000.00 |
| Gender Rating | GEN2 |
| Country Typology | MIC |

# Quantitative Report

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| Relevant Strategic Plan Output | 1.1.1:Capacities developed across the whole of government to integrate the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and other international agreements in development plans and budgets, and to analyse progress towards the SDGs, using innovative and data-driven solutions. |
| Project Output | Output 1: Policies responsive to Azerbaijan’s needs are promoted (GEN 2) Output 2: Data and capacities for evidence based feedback on SDGs are strengthened (GEN 2) Output 3: Knowledge sharing, reporting and SDGs engagement are enhanced (GEN 2) |

## Output Indicators and Achievements

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| **Strategic Plan Output Indicator#** | **Strategic Plan Output Indicator Desc** | **Project Output Indicator** | **Quantitative achievements against the project output indicator** |
| 1.1.1.1 | Number of countries that have development plans and budgets that integrate international agreements across the whole-of-government: <br>a) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development <br>b) Paris Agreement <br>c) Other international agreements | 1.1 Number of tools and techniques for considering alternative policy options 1.2 Results of simulation models and chosen trajectory is incorporated into Road-maps to promote implementation of nationalized SDGs  1.3 Number of consultations, training programs and workshops conducted | 1.1.1: Two Road-Maps and MAPS consultation  1.2.1: Updated RIA 2019  1.3.2: One Workshop, Two Tailored Training Seminars |
| 1.1.1.2 | Number of national and sub-national governments and other partners applying innovative and data-driven solutions from the Global South accessed through SSMART: <br>a) National government <br>b) Sub-national government <br>c) Other partners | 2.1 Number models, experiences and best practices presented as part of South-South exchanges at the SDG Regional Forum  2.2 # of innovative ideas and approaches generated as part of the Innovation Contest | 2.1.1: Baku SDG Forum conducted - Four thematic models and analytical best practices on SDGs Financing, Gender, Innovation and Stakeholder Engagement Presented; - Baku Principles which were drafted based on MAPS results were adopted 2.2.1: National Innovation Contest Held and Five innovative solutions closely relevant to SDGs accelerators have been identified and awarded;  2.2.2: Cleantech Ideation Bootcamp “Innovation for SDGs in Action” has been conducted, with two innovative ideas identified as most relevant and feasible in the context of SDGs; |
| 1.1.1.3 | Number of countries with data collection/analysis mechanisms providing disaggregated data to monitor progress towards the SDGs: <br>a) Conventional data collection methods (e.g. surveys) <br>b) Administrative reporting systems <br>c) New data sources (e.g. big data) | 3.1 SDG dynamic, interlinked system models developed and highlight all relevant SDGs connections between national data 3.2 SDGs information and dashboard are available online  3.3 Number of people trained and number of training(s) conducted   3.4 Data ecosystem established | 3.1.1: Policy Note on SDGs inter-linkages produced and National SDG Priorities (17 goals, 88 Targets, 119 Indicators) have been announced ;  3.2.1: • Two integrated portals have been developed one for general information and coordination around SDGs (www.sdgs.az) and one specifically for statistical data (http://sdg.azstat.org:8484/az/home)  3.3.1: Two sets of training programs organized and 46 members of SDG working groups have been trained on SDG tier classification, data-dis-aggregation, VNR, and data sources;  3.4.1: Data ecosystem under the framework of State Program for National Statistics established; |

# Narrative Report

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| How did the project target the most vulnerable/ poor / disadvantaged people and communities and did it do that successfully? |
| The primary objective of the project is to strengthen the center of the government and prepare national public institutions for mainstreaming SDGs in all its development planning and policies with focus on “Leaving No One Behind”. Along with the Secretariat of National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development which is responsible for coordinating the SDGs agenda, the project targeted SDGs working groups representing all public agencies in the country. The four SDG working groups (1) Social, (2) economic, (3) environment, and (4) monitoring, are also responsible for providing policy advice to decision makers to better mainstream, implement, monitor and report on the progress made on SDGs. The project also invested in broader advocacy campaign targeting members of parliament, civil society organizations, art groups, journalists, entrepreneurs and innovators in the quest to build broader coalition for prioritization of national SDGs, implementation and monitoring and lobby for financing (e.g. Parliament’s committee on sustainable development raised the issue of to direct resources towards SDG implementation during the 2019 budget discussion).  The preliminary list of national SDG targets and indicators has been widely discussed within and among national institutions and with the UN country team. The UN country team provided a constructive feedback to the government through a platform organized under the umbrella of this project. The National SDG priorities are further enriched taking into account the feedback provided by UNDP and other sister agencies with focus on SDG accelerators identified in the MAPS report.  The capacity building initiatives under the umbrella of this project focused on gender-based statistics, new sources of data, engaging with traditional and non-traditional stakeholders, online platforms and methodologies for measuring SDG targets and its relevant indicators.  The aforementioned target groups play a crucial role in shaping an inclusive agenda and its relevant instruments to prioritize most vulnerable/disadvantaged segments of the society in all phases (planning, implementing, monitoring and reporting) of the SDGs agenda.  The project is facilitated a more comprehensive platform for vulnerable segments to engage with the government in a meaningful and productive discussion to better meet their needs. This has been reflected in the second edition of Azerbaijan’s Voluntary National Review for HLPF 2019. |
| What did the project achieve in relation to the output and output indicators, and what specific interventions led to the change? |
| **January – March 2018**  1- SDG awareness event with parliamentarians was conducted in January 2018;  2- Post MAPS Workshop and consultation on MAPS Results has been conducted in February 2018 with the participation of 80 Government Officials, as a result of which the Baku Principles were Drafted;  http://www.az.undp.org/content/azerbaijan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2018/02/14/un-agencies-support-policy-engagement-on-sustainable-development-in-azerbaijan.html 3- SDG Statistical Dashboard is developed – waiting for launch with updated data  http://sdg.com/en  4- SDG Training for Journalists and Private Sector Conducted – 72 journalists (41 women and 31 men and 42 private sector representatives (20 Women, 22 Men); to spread awareness about SDGs and its institutional and policy frameworks at global and national levels;  http://www.az.undp.org/content/azerbaijan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2018/02/06/first-time-in-azerbaijan-journalism-and-sustainable-development-goals.html  5- Participation of UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub staff member at a panel of the ILO + Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Seminar on SDG 8 conducted in May 2018; http://www.mlspp.gov.az/SDG8Conference/   **July – December 2018**  1- SDGs prioritization workshop with the participation of – 87 representatives of government agencies (78 men, 9 women) , in order to mainstream SDGs in National Development Plans and Policies;  http://unazerbaijan.org/en/united-nations-and-azerbaijan-discuss-nationalisation-and-prioritisation-of-sustainable-development-goals/  2- SDG Working Groups have been reshuffled and new composition of members have been announced by the government;  3- Baku forum on Sustainable Development is conducted on 25-26 October 2018 with participation of 50 representatives of member states, UN officials, and private sector (x men, x women) and models from different countries in the region, experiences and best practices were presented by speakers in different panels; https://www.azernews.az/nation/139882.html  4- Baku principles for nationalization and effective implementation of SDGs were adopted; https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2971654.html  5- Social Innovation Contest with focus on leaving no one behind and gender equality and finding better solutions to the implementation of SDGs has been commenced, 200 businesses and entrepreneurs applied among which 15 applications were shortlisted for pitch event and 5 winners identified based on their state of the art innovative solutions  6- Cleantech Ideation Bootcamp “Innovation for SDGs in Action” has been conducted, with two innovative ideas identified as most relevant and feasible in the context of SDGs; 7- The prioritization process has been completed, and the government of Azerbaijan identified its National SDG Priorities (chosen SDG targets and indicators will be published online soon) 8- SDG Statistical Dashboard and SDG Portal have been upgraded, both platforms (www.sdg.az) and one specifically for statistical data (http://sdg.azstat.org:8484/az/home) can be accessed online 9- Stakeholder Mapping Interactive Tool as well as Gender Mainstreaming Interactive Tool for better implementation of SDGs have been developed and presented to SDG working groups to use them during planning, implementation and monitoring of SDGs;  10- Two sets of training programs organized and 46 members of SDG working groups have been trained on SDG tier classification, data-disaggregation, VNR, and data sources;  **January – July 2019**   1. To unleash the transformative capacity of the business sector for development, UNDP and the Government launched the first Public Private Sector Dialogue on SDGs, a pilot initiative supported by this project and commenced in May 2019;   <http://www.az.undp.org/content/azerbaijan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2018/UNDP-AZE-Private-Sector-Dialogue.html>   1. Azerbaijan conducted the second edition of Voluntary National Review (VNR) of SDGs for HLPF 2019. The preparation of the review, relevant stakeholder consultations, data collection and other elements in line with the UNDESA guidelines were commenced with the technical and financial support of UNDP under the framework of this project; <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/azerbaijan> 2. UNDP supported National Assembly of Youth Organization in conducting an online survey titled “Youth Organizations for Sustainable Development Goals”   <http://www.az.undp.org/content/azerbaijan/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2018/undp-resident-representative-a-i--alessandro-fracassetti-s-speac.html>, the survey outlines the state of awareness about SDGs among youth and provides recommendations for various stakeholders on what needs to be done further to actively engage youth in all Stages of the SDGs implementation;   1. UNDP and the State Statistics Committee of Azerbaijan launched the National Information Portal on the SDGs (<http://sdg.azstat.org:8484/az/home>) recognizing the crucial importance of strengthening the statistical capacity in the country. Responding to a growing demand for national and international data to track and monitor the progress towards the implementation of the SDGs, the new portal introduces an interactive dashboard, which collects consolidated data on the SDGs from designated government institutions. The platform also uses data from the State Statistics Committee in a way that allows users to explore and visualize data and analyze the progress towards goals, targets and indicators.   <http://unazerbaijan.org/en/new-sdg-portal-to-strengthen-national-data-systems-in-azerbaijan/>  **Narrative:** UNDP led the support to the Government on SDGs nationalization and prioritization process and promoted the SDG agenda throughout all segments of society, including women, youth, private sector, media and CSOs.  Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) mission results were presented and discussed with the government in February 2018. MAPS identified areas of acceleration (SDG platforms): (i) inclusive labor market; (ii) green growth promotion, (iii) enhanced service delivery. Subsequently, UNDP organized SDGs prioritization workshop in July 2018 based on the MAPS results and context of socio-economic realities of Azerbaijan. UNDP further supports South-South Cooperation as a vehicle to share and disseminate knowledge, and facilitate policy and technical exchange for better implementation of SDGs. To this effect, UNDP provided extensive technical and financial support and co-organized the Baku Forum on Sustainable Development on 25 and 26 October 2018. While the Forum placed a particular emphasis on Azerbaijan, the primary objective of the event was to share regional experiences from across participating countries and learn how their governments work towards translating the SDGs into national development plans and processes. More specifically, the Forum capitalised on challenges facing the world in the implementation of SDG 4 (quality education and lifelong- learning), SDG 8 (decent work and inclusive economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (climate action), and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), in addition to SDG 17 (partnerships for the Goals). All of these priority areas are in line with the theme of the forthcoming 2019 edition of HLPF, where Azerbaijan will be presenting its second round of the VNR report, in an overarching framework of empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality. MAPS report and highlights of maps mission recommendations were elaborated once again to align new strategies and development plans with SDGs, MAPS report is approved by the government. Baku Principles which were drafted as result of MAPS mission are adopted with an additional suggestion from representatives of Belarus during the Baku Forum on Sustainable development.  UNDP further provided technical support in finding appropriate methodologies for measuring Tier 3 indicators of SDGs.  UNDP also supported the participation of government officials in tailored technical workshop on SDG 16 which will be on the spotlight for thematic review during HLPF 2019. Partnership with relevant stakeholders including line ministries and National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development (NCCSD) has been enhanced. UNDP further supported the upgrade of two (www.sdg.az) and (http://sdg.azstat.org:8484/az/home), the first provides general overview and serves as an online information platform for coordination around SDGs in the country, the later serves as statistical dashboard and provides national statistical data on SDGs.  UNDP further supported the organization of national innovation contest on SDGs. The national innovation contest on SDGs is an annual event to encourage entrepreneurs to come up with innovative ideas and solutions in line with SDGs and with focus on improving people’s lives. UNDP in close cooperation with Ministry of Economy contracted a private independent local start-up development group – the Social Innovation Lab (SiL) who brings exceptional knowledge of international acceleration programmes and links innovative solutions with modern technologies, global markets and networks. The aim of this mechanism was to (i) plan and execute additional engagement and outreach events (e.g. pitch events) for innovation contest, (ii) run complementary communication campaign, and (iii) ensure additional peer review mechanism as an advisory to the existing selection committee. This was a critical development as it enabled a broader, more transparent and participatory process. Along with the cash prize for the winners, UNDP also sponsored the winners of National Innovation Contest on SDGs to participate in the Istanbul Innovation Days 2018 for more exposure and knowledge exchange.  Achieving the SDGs opens significant market opportunities for business across key sectors of the world economy, including food and agriculture, cities, energy and materials, and health and well-being. In Azerbaijan, each of these industries has a tremendous potential to transform the lives of the vulnerable and to unleash the capacity of both large, medium-sized and small enterprises to increase their bottom-line while making a social impact like never before. Globally, these four areas of intervention represent around 60 percent of the real economy and are critical to delivering the SDGs. The public private sector dialogue capitalized on the subject area to create an enabling environment and a roadmap for public and private sectors to deliver on the SDGs.  The preparation of the second VNR witnessed a more coherent approach to the monitoring and reporting on progress made on SDGs. The review report presents disaggregated statistics as well as comprehensive review of challenges, and way forward.  It provides specific recommendations for example, for the private sector, being the largest employer of youth, to build capacities of the employed labour force and to explore the opportunities for public-private partnerships for promoting youth employment which will ultimately help in advancing progress to the inclusive labour market.  The online survey on “Youth and SDGs” outlined that youth led organizations need to be encouraged and empowered to participate in translating the 2030 Agenda into local, national and regional policy. They play a significant role in the implementation, monitoring and review of the Agenda as well as in holding governments accountable; Young people need to be trained for skills that match labour market demands in order to reduce distinct shortages of decent work opportunities. |
| How did the project leverage partnerships, attract other donors/resources, and scale up pilot initiatives, etc.? |
| The project leveraged partnerships in the quest of achieving the following short term and long term objectives: 1- Build public private partnership for monitoring and reporting on SDGs (Short Term with reference to the development of VNR for HLPF 2019): Continuous and meaningful engagement with the national coordination council for sustainable development led to mutual agreement on involving the private sector in the preparation of VNR for HLPF 2019. As a result, two Multi-National Companies (with local offices in Baku) will be leading on the data collection, case studies, as well as analytical insights from the private sector - a whole new chapter that will be included in the second edition of VNR for HLPF 2019;  2- Innovation is the Focus of the Government of Azerbaijan: the project mobilized contacts and mutual agreement between local start-ups and the government to run national innovation contest. The start-up company (Social Innovation Lab) and Ministry of Economy will introduce winners of the contest to both government agencies as well as private sector to further develop their ideas and prototypes. Moreover, discussions underway to develop a comprehensive mechanism for investment by government as well as private sector in new ideas and innovative solutions that are in line with the SDG accelerators; 3- The project further conducted extensive consultation as well as advocacy for specific budget allocation by the government in capacity development and infrastructure for SDG accelerators  Public Private Sector Dialogue organized under the framework of this project was an active and meaningful platform with the goal of advancing progress on sustainable development goals where the round-table focused on:  (1) Seeking ideas for public–private engagement and leverage synergies for implementation of SDGs at the national and sub-national levels;   (2) Presented National SDGs priorities and MAPS accelerators to the business community: explored feasibility of developing a joint partnership agenda and an action plan for the private sector’s contribution in the implementation of SDGs and its monitoring and review process;   (3) Explored modalities for engagement of large as well as small and medium enterprises (SMEs) on the SDGs;   (4) Highlighted best practices and models of highly successful partnerships on SDGs in the region as well as at the global level, creating a mutual understanding and a follow up action plan;  With the inception of this inaugural dialogue platform, Azerbaijan sets out a strategic course to engage the country’s vibrant business community in a joint action with the Government to address some of the most pressing challenges of our time, from poverty reduction to gender equality and greener economy, to name a few. This initiative will emerge as an annual platform for both public and private sectors to discuss broader aspects of SDGs implementation as well as contribution from both sectors.  The |
| What were the challenges encountered, and how were they resolved? How did the project deal with the risks identified at the onset of the project? What were the lessons learned? |
| The SDG Nationalization (Prioritization) process was a time consuming process. Both capacity building activities and speeding up the prioritization process had to go ahead simultaneously. The project advocacy and consultation activities as well as training and seminars helped improve understanding of complexities around the 2030 Agenda and analytical understanding (Statistical Framework) of SDGs at the national level. However, building institutional capacities require more investment and exposure to global best practices.  The project identified following lessons learned: engage with more public institutions and build partnership in each area of SDG acceleration than working with only one or two agencies as implementing partner (identified in the project document), invest in building capacity for multiplier effect as the government moves towards the localization of SDGs agenda, invest in data infrastructure and capacities for monitoring, data collection and reporting, focus on building public private partnership for the implementation of SDGs especially on monitoring and data ecosystem, invest in digital consultation with wider networks and stakeholders.  Identification of non-traditional stakeholders require a comprehensive framework, therefore, the project will keep providing technical support to the national coordination council as well as development partners in identifying disadvantaged and vulnerable communities, identify and engage new actors in the implementation of SDGs with focus on start-ups and SMEs based on accumulated best practices. |
| What specific gender-focused initiatives have been implemented, and what was achieved? |
| Gender is identified as one of the main accelerators in the MAPS mission report. Gender sensitive implementation of SDGs is another area where UNDP provides state of the art knowledge and expertise to the government of Azerbaijan and Civil society organization in the quest for close the gender gap, strengthen support for gender equality institutions at all levels, and to systematically embed gender perspective into all aspect of SDGs implementation. Under current funding window, UNDP developed "The Gender Mainstreaming Interactive Tool" which will be put online in all SDG platforms so that government officials, private sector and CSOs use the same for better mainstreaming of gender perspective in all strategic plans as well as policy development processes.  In the prioritization of SDGs, gender is the area of focus both in terms of policy as well as statistical framework. The project provided extensive consultation and support to the State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan on disaggregating all relevant SDG indicators by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural), physical challenge (disability), as required by the global SDG indicator framework. The statistical dashboard provides a comprehensive and easy to read options and illustrations of national targets and indicators based on Sex, Age and Disability Status.  Stakeholder consultation for the implementation of SDGs as well as VNR engaged CSOs advocating for women issues and other gender focused groups. The project already built partnership with other UNDP projects in building capacities of women groups, vulnerable communities, and CSOs to institutionalize the gender equality and its subsidiary aspects at the national and sub-national levels with focus on accelerating progress on SDGs. |