Closure Stage Quality Assurance Report

Form Status: Approved

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<th>Overall Rating:</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
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<td>Decision:</td>
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<td>Portfolio/Project Number:</td>
<td>00063735</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portfolio/Project Title:</td>
<td>Energy Efficiency Policy Reforms &amp; Market Transf. of Bldg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portfolio/Project Date:</td>
<td>2016-08-01 / 2022-12-31</td>
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### 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 external environment was subject to change and included deterioration of the national economy due to sanctions and COVID-19 outbreak. The Pandemic itself delayed some project activities. All these factors were considered by project board and some adjustments were made accordingly.
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 development settings 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 relates to “Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development” as one of the development settings of the SP. The Project adopts one of the signature solutions on access to clean energy and RRF indicators are covered in the project log frame.

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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:

This project was not targeting marginalized and remote geographic areas. However, it has been implemented and monitored with full engagement and support of defined target groups.

One of the most important components of this project was providing required technical training for different target groups and increasing public awareness while considering gender equality and focusing on youth.

-50 training courses to 3100 men and 1050 women

-164 public awareness raising and cultural change events to 15000 persons

-10,000 school students and teachers

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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:
As lesson learnt, among 63 possible Energy measures, around 14 measures have been identified as applicable solutions. Based on this lesson learnt and prepared SOPs, we kept the project strategically relevant and such matters have been discussed in different Steering committees.

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:

In this project, instead of 400 pilots, more than 542 pilots were implemented that means project over-reached number of beneficiaries but for sustainability of project, there must be enforcement of rules/ regulations as well as Energy Efficiency market. Although the number of piloted schemes are not considered enough as at-scale, the policy work and changes in rules and regulations ensure the nation-wide scale of the project impacts. The CO has planned to replicate this experience in other climate settings in the country as well.

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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:
Around 25 percent of the project managers and technical experts for implementation of EEEB project were female. Based on the interviews, their capacity in terms of knowledge, technical and managerial experience has increased. The most considerable subjects for women involvement in the projects were: 1) Project management; 2) monitoring and evaluation (M&E); 3) measurement and verification (M&V).

Additionally, The number of 5090 girl students and female out of the total of 8170 participants received a awareness raising and general training program on building energy efficiency and environment subjects having 62% of the total participants which is a great engagement of the women in such program.

Additionally, based on draft report of Terminal evaluation, the project has made satisfactory progress in achieving gender equality during its implementation.

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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 and required action was taken.

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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:

No grievance mechanisms is available while UNDP CO didn't receive any complain in any form from beneficiaries.

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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:**

The project M&E plan was fully implemented.

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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:
A project progress report was submitted to the project board or equivalent at least once per year, covering results, risks and opportunities.

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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 maybe 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 6 months and risk log were updated accordingly. Some risks including COVID-19 outbreak and geopolitical problems were mitigated through contingency plans.

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Efficient

Quality Rating: Exemplary

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:
In addition to GEF resources which had more than 99% financial delivery, UNDP CO invested extra budget around 50% more than its commitments while government parallel funding was also quite acceptable although there has been huge devaluation of local currency since early beginning of this project.

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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:

Project had clear procurement plan which has been strongly supported by UNDP and some of the biggest international procurement cases have been done through UNDP Global Procurement Unit and contracted with LTA holders. Additionally, Annual Spending Limits were issued on time.

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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:

All procurement cases which have been done by government or UNDP were based on competitive approach. The best value for money always has been ensured. The project has considered all the relevant efforts by government to ensure complementarity and efficiency.
15. Was the project on track and delivered its expected outputs?

- [ ] Yes
- [x] No

**Evidence:**
Based on draft report of terminal evaluation, project has been implemented on track and delivered its expected outputs. Final TE will be submitted later.

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?
Evidence:

There was at least 2 reviews of the work plan per year with a view to assessing if project activities were on track to achieving the desired development results as well as financial delivery targets. Through some SOPs, lessons learned were used to inform the review(s). Any necessary budget revisions have been made.

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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:

his project was not targeting marginalized and remote geographic areas. However, this matter is mostly related to training and capacity building in EEEB project:
50 technical training courses delivered to 1800 persons on day in 4 categories to 4 target groups

Government stakeholders Practical training on new version of Code 19th, building energy standards and M&V framework

Schools Multimedia training products

Professional training to experts and engineers

Building owners and operators

Equip a training center for vocational and technical EEB training with 33 types of building energy system equipment

Vocational training needs assessment

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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:

Several important policies have been defined at national level with direct and indirect contribution of EEE B project which shows all relevant governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and partners were fully and actively engaged in this project. UNDP also provided support to implementation of project (in procurement, monitoring and evaluation).

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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:**

Some adjustments were made to compliment partner capacities. UNDP provide CO support to NIM upon receiving the request from national partner.

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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:
The Steering Committee, 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. Some changes were applied at activity level in close consultation with regional office.

Whenever it was required, contingency plans were prepared to keep the project running while achieving the intended results.

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QA Summary/Final Project Board Comments
Final Project Board Comments:
1) Enhancing cross-sectoral cooperation for practical implementation of Code 19th in diverse type of new buildings with allocating adequate and qualified human and financial resources;
2) Revising energy labeling standards of buildings with the aim of facilitating their implementation and mandatory implementation of building labeling standard in governmental office buildings;
3) Replication and promotion of pilot buildings in different provinces and climatic zones of the country for having a adequate case studies and experiences for adoption of EE technologies and increasing trust of building owners;
4) Promotion and completion of EMIS given data in national level and its application for the EEE market for energy saving and emission’s reduction purposes.

Project Achievements:

- Networking and cross sectoral cooperation among stakeholders

- EMIS BEID — (Energy Monitoring information system

- Construction of low energy building (EC+)

- 14 technologies implemented in 541 pilot buildings

- Capacity building and empowering 10 ESCO companies in A Z of EE projects

- 50 training courses to 3100 men and 1050 women

- 164 public awareness raising and cultural change events to 15000 persons

- Over 1000 direct and in direct jobs

- EEE Market model and drafts of executive instruction and EE certificate frameworks