

United Nations Development Programme



PROJECT DOCUMENT Kyrgyz Republic

Project Title: “Economic empowerment of youth and developing sustainable solutions for youth’s entrepreneurship at the local level for fostering greater social cohesion and resilience”

Project Number: 00130578

Implementing Partner: UNDP in the Kyrgyz Republic

Start Date: June 1, 2022

End Date: May 31, 2025

PAC Meeting date: February 3, 2022

Brief Description

In response to structural impediments that deter youth from entrepreneurial activities as well as considering multiple crises context, **the proposed project will offer a comprehensive approach for developing youth’s entrepreneurship** ranging from business acceleration and incubation, training, coaching and mentoring, institutional support, facilitating access to financing and market linkages with potential buyers, partners and investors, access to local, national and/or international value chains through improved knowledge and skills of young entrepreneurs in relation to business practices and exports.

The project will also create experimental pathways towards youth-oriented sustainable and integrated development of entrepreneurial ecosystem supporting green growth in rural contexts by bringing together local policymakers, business service providers, development agencies and investors and unlocking internal and external resources of local governments, so they produce economic value within local sustainable development plans and priorities. Over long-term perspectives, the project’s results will contribute to the development of the new business model, so to catalyse higher impact on youth’s entrepreneurship, self-employment and employment opportunities that foster social cohesion and resilience.

The project consists of three components: 1) formation and improvement of local mechanisms, tools and institutions that foster an integrated approach to youth entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystem; 2) enhancing job creation and income opportunities through education, business support and mentorship programmes; and 3) empowering youth with digital skills that fulfill employers needs in the creative economy, scaling up and building on existing successful initiatives. **The number of direct beneficiaries targeted by this program is a minimum of 400 vulnerable youth in rural and peri-urban areas. Indirectly, the program will have a positive effect on at least 45,000 people throughout society.**

The interventions pivot on the existing portfolio of projects and promote long-term societal transformations. The activities are designed around a cross-cutting approach to RTFD thematic areas 1-6 and strategic national priorities, including the National Youth Development Concept 2020-2030, as well as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, Socio-Economic Response Framework and UNDP Offer 2.0. This also aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Contributing Outcome (UNSDCF, CPD, RPD):

UNDAF: Outcome 1: By 2022, inclusive and sustainable industrial, agricultural and rural development contribute to economic growth, decent work, improved livelihoods, food security and nutrition, especially among women and vulnerable groups

UNDAF: Outcome 2: By 2022, institutions at all levels are more accountable and inclusive, ensuring justice, human rights, gender equality and sustainable peace for all.

CPD: Output 2.3. Women and youth are empowered to participate in decision-making at national and local levels.

Total resources required:	US\$2,000,000.00	
Total resources allocated:	US\$2,000,000.00	
	UNDP TRAC:	N/A
	Donor:	US\$2,000,000.00 (Covid recovery, RTFD ²)
		US\$382,320.00 (A4T, Finland)
		US\$30,000.00 (Digital skills, RTFD)

² RTFD – UNDP-Russia Trust Fund for Development

CPD: Output 1.2. Green/sustainable entrepreneurship and investment environment enhanced to increase economic productivity and trade, including labour productivity, especially for women and youth

CPD: Output.1.3. Women, youth and people from regions with high poverty rates benefit from improved services and infrastructure, better skills, access to resources, sustainable jobs and livelihoods

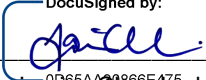
Indicative Output(s) with gender marker¹: 2

	Government:	
	In-Kind:	
Unfunded:		

Agreed by (signatures)³:

Agreed by (UNDP):

UNDP Resident Representative, Kyrgyz Republic

DocuSigned by:

 Mr. Louise Chamberlain

17-May-2022

Date

¹ The Gender Marker measures how much a project invests in gender equality and women's empowerment. Select one for each output: GEN3 (Gender equality as a principle objective); GEN2 (Gender equality as a significant objective); GEN1 (Limited contribution to gender equality); GEN0 (No contribution to gender quality)

³ Note: Adjust signatures as needed

Content

I.	Abbreviations	4
II.	Development Challenge.....	5
III.	Strategy.....	9
IV.	Results and Partnerships.....	12
V.	Resources Required to Achieve the Expected Results.....	22
VI.	Partnerships.....	22
VII.	Risks and Assumptions.....	24
VIII.	Stakeholder Engagement	25
IX.	South-South and Triangular Cooperation	26
X.	Digital Solutions	26
XI.	Knowledge	26
XII.	Sustainability and Scaling Up.....	27
XIII.	Project Management.....	27
XIV.	Results Framework	30
XV.	Monitoring And Evaluation	34
XVI.	Multi-Year Work Plan 2022-2025	37
XVII.	Governance and Management Arrangements	39
XVIII.	Legal Context.....	42
XIX.	Risk Management	42
XX.	Annexes.....	45
	<i>Offline Risk Log.....</i>	<i>49</i>
	<i>Terms of References for Project Board.....</i>	<i>50</i>
	<i>Terms of References for Senior Adviser on Social Cohesion</i>	<i>51</i>
	<i>Social and Environmental Screening</i>	<i>52</i>

I. ABBREVIATIONS

ADB – Asian Development Bank
EAEU – Eurasian Economic Union
GBV – Gender Based Violence
GEN2 – Gender Marker 2
ICT – Information Communication Technologies
KSTU – Kyrgyz State Technical University named after Razzakov
LVG – Low Value Grant
LPAC – Local Project Appraisal Committee
LSGs – Local self-governments
MSME – Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
NEET – Not in Employment, Education and Training
OshTU – Osh Technological University
RTFD – UNDP-Russia Trust Fund for Development
SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
SEO – Search Engine Optimization
SMM – Social Media Marketing
UNCDF – UN Capital Development Fund
UNCT – United Nations Country Team
YBAP – Youth Business Acceleration Programme
YECP – Youth Entrepreneurship Coordination Platform

II. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

COVID-19 has revealed the pre-existing multilayered vulnerabilities of youth and exposed risks to social cohesion. The vulnerabilities of youth include a range of issues from domestic violence to susceptibility to extremist ideologies, and from a lack of viable and formal income-generating opportunities to a lack of inclusive youth participation mechanisms. Underlying grievances such as the slow progress in resolving long-standing border disputes and socio-economic problems have further undermined confidence in government institutions, with COVID-19 setting into motion the series of political developments brought about from this pent-up frustration. Youth feel excluded from the formal mechanisms of civic participation and state governance, thus leaving them to resort to street justice. This calls for targeted investments that create platforms for youth to engage with key stakeholders, including local governments, in building reinforced and more sustainable bonds of social contract and green growth.

The COVID-19 pandemic trapped Kyrgyzstan in a storm of systemic crises: health, economic, political and social, exacerbating pre-pandemic long-standing challenges and vulnerabilities. In the aftermath of the 4 October 2020 parliamentary elections and the ensuing events, the country still remains vulnerable to numerous risks while dealing with the next wave of the pandemic. These crises have their deep roots in structural problems: endemic corruption, poverty, a large informal economy, the poor business environment debilitating private investment and job creation, the narrow tax base, lack of human capital impacting productivity and growth, and an overall low institutional capacity in governance, public administration and service delivery.

This combination of factors risks leading to a crisis among the worst in the recent history of the country. The fall in purchasing power of the most vulnerable population due to inflation induced by currency fluctuations exposes a vast segment of the population to economic consequences that the country has not seen since the depression in the early 1990s. Economic output fell by 8.9% in 2020 and while the recovery in 2021 is projected at 3.8%, uncertainty from virus transmission and political risk remains. According to the latest research, the crisis in incomes and employment is estimated to have generated an increase in the poverty headcount by 11 percentage points accounting for 700,000 people,⁴ in addition to the 22% of the population already living under the national poverty line (45% women) and the 71% of all employed people who are dependent on unpredictable and low incomes from informal economic activities. With almost the entire population of Kyrgyzstan vulnerable to falling into poverty, the COVID-19 induced crises present a significant risk of a new wave of chronic poverty, which will likely impact youth as a pre-existing vulnerable group in the country. This is coupled with an unemployment rate that may jump to 19-21% as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.⁵ However, due to the state's fiscal crisis, with a public debt of 68.1% of GDP at the end of 2020 and a budget deficit of 7.1% of GDP in the first 6 months of 2020, vulnerable segments are left with little protection.

With almost a third of the population between the ages of 15-25, youth has been hit hard by the COVID-19 fallout, which has exacerbated long-standing structural vulnerabilities. The joint UNDP and ADB led Socio-Economic Impact Assessment and the subsequent Socio-Economic Response framework confirm the urgency of the situation and the vulnerability of youth and offer specific interventions. Furthermore, the *'Survey on the impact of COVID-19 on youth in Kyrgyzstan'* undertaken by UNFPA and UNICEF in July 2020 confirmed that the pandemic had a negative impact on the income, employment, including unpaid domestic work, and education of youth. More than half (60%) of young people and adolescents experienced a high level of anxiety. This finding further reinforces the conclusions of an earlier survey in 2017 on *"Youth Wellbeing and Development Index"*, conducted by UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO and the Public Fund "Institute for Youth Development". Cumulatively, the Index was at 0.53 (with an ideal value of 1). It found that the overall rate of youth's coverage by education was only 62.2% and about 41.4% of young people did not visit cinemas, theaters, museums, libraries, exhibitions, hobby groups nor undertake other cultural activities. 35.8% of young people mainly worked part-time or help their parents in the household in their free time. Only 50.47% of youth had satisfactory access to health due to poor infrastructure and limited access to physical education and sports facilities. Among those surveyed, 65.4% of young people believed that educational institutions do not provide the necessary technical skills and 19.25% were not satisfied with the state of ICT in Kyrgyzstan, despite the relatively high use of mobile devices (74.9%). By mid-2016, only 28% of the total number of schools in the country (2,118) and only 467 schools had an Internet connection. Furthermore, it was concluded that rising crime rates have been linked to socio-economic factors such as social inequality and poverty, employment and education opportunities, poor public safety systems, juvenile

⁴ One Year Later in the Kyrgyz Republic's Battle Against COVID-19, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2021/03/17/one-year-later-in-the-kyrgyz-republic-s-battle-against-covid-19>

⁵ ADB/UNDP Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of Kyrgyzstan, August 2020. World Bank PID on Social Protection, August 2020. The latest assessment by WFP suggests that the minimum level of unemployment is now estimated at 18.8% and could be more severe than previously predicted, <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WFP-0000124521-2.pdf>

and penitentiary systems and the judiciary, and the popularization of criminal culture. Youth is generally more susceptible and tends to be involved and convicted of crime at relatively higher rates in comparison with the general population, especially for some types of crimes such as theft and racketeering. Around 85% of crimes are committed by men, who in the majority of cases have relatively low levels of education and are unemployed, and primarily take place in Bishkek and Osh cities.⁶

Youth is a driving force of labour migration, with the aim to provide a lifeline to their families back home. Unable to find decent employment opportunities, considering the youth unemployment rate of 14.79% (2019), many opt to go overseas. Out of one million of the country's labour migrants overseas, two out of three migrants are between the ages of 15-29 (60%) and nearly every second one is a woman (40%). The effects of labour migration have been felt in all corners of society, and specifically affected the young generation, but the biggest impact is felt in the south of the country. Those seeking better economic opportunities mainly travel to the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan, the top two destinations offering various labour mobility advantages in the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). While the share of remittances as a share of GDP hovers at around 30%, nearly 97% of remittances flows are channelled into consumption rather than productive investments. However, the narrative around migration is still mixed and has negative connotations for social development as family members become separated, which contributes to challenges for family cohesion, child neglect, abuse, and other severe challenges. Increased domestic demand from remittance consumption raised import spending and consumer prices, especially in real estate, making goods unaffordable for those who lack income from migrant family. Increased household incomes resulted in internal migrants purchasing property in peri-urban informal settlements in search of better employment, access to educational institutions and basic services.

However, remittances may have led to the Dutch disease. Remittances drove up demand for the Kyrgyz Som, leading to currency appreciation (of over 10% according to the IMF), higher relative labour costs and higher prices, discouraging investment in improving competitiveness and labour from engaging in export-oriented business. Efforts must therefore be made in rechannelling remittances into productive investments in local development, rather than predominantly consumption. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the migration patterns in Kyrgyzstan. An estimated 50-150,000 migrants have returned during the pandemic due to socio-economic challenges in the principal destination countries. The lockdowns induced by COVID-19 resulted in the unemployment of around 40% of labour migrants in the Russian Federation often resulting in evictions, and so youth who already faced high vulnerabilities abroad face renewed hardships back home.

Young women are highly vulnerable to the crisis and the resulting social disequilibrium. In the pre-crisis context, women's share of wage labour participation was on a downward spiral, as a result of several factors including the erosion of subsidized childcare facilities and increasing care responsibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. UN Women data suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a tripling of the work burden for women, especially in domestic tasks that are less visible and unpaid, which particularly affect young women. In 2020, the paid labour force participation rate for women was 44.5%, a stark contrast to the 75.7% figure for men. GBV is also an urgent issue in Kyrgyzstan, which is deeply rooted in patriarchal social norms and harmful practices of some inherited traditions. During COVID-19, the rate of GBV and domestic violence cases increased by 65%, 95% of which involve women as the victim. Forced and/or child marriage is still a scourge in Kyrgyzstan, with 13% of women between the ages of 20 and 24 having entered into marriage before the age of 18.⁷

Youth, and especially young women, are poorly represented in and lack access to participate in decision-making. The *Youth and Development Index* showed that youth's civic participation is insufficient, especially in social and political activities (18.4%), and an extremely low representation of young people in political parties (1.8%) and governing bodies (0.2%). One of the key causes of such low representation of young women and men is the traditional social norms and related negative stereotypes, especially in the southern regions where these groups face barriers in playing an active part in social life and decision-making, guided by the rule of 'respect for elders' rather than respect for human rights. An analysis of gender representation in Parliament and local councils (Kenesh) conducted in 2016 by the CSO 'Agency on Social Technologies' has shown a low level of women's representation in Parliament at 19%. There is also a trajectory of decreasing women's representation in local keneshes 2008 - 17%, 2012 - 13%, 2016 - 10%, in 86 local keneshes. There are other problems of an institutional nature which directly affect young men's and women's low participation, such as the centralized planning processes and dependency on state subsidies using scarce resources. Youth-government relations are in the process of formation and further work to strengthen the social contract and integrate effective mechanisms into laws and policies is required. These factors are leaving behind the ideas and experiences of young men and women in decision-making towards the green growth, as well as their solutions for the processes of local socio-economic development and

⁶ National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, Crime and public order in the Kyrgyz Republic, 2019

⁷ Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), United Nations Children's Fund, 2018.

recovery, which require a comprehensive programming approach targeting youth whose positive passion, wellbeing and decent life will bring about a longer-term peace dividend.

The lack of opportunities to participate in economic, social, cultural and political development presents a significant underlying issue for social cohesion. There is a systemic lack of human capital of youth (e.g., knowledge, skills, abilities, education, critical thinking etc.) from poor education standards in regions and degraded social infrastructure for positive leisure (sport, arts, education, etc.) and lack of knowledge on issues of statecraft, rule of law, human rights etc., as well as long-standing limited choices for personal growth, employment opportunities, political participation and other socio-political institutional problems that impact public service provision, policy implementation and poverty rates. During the recent political turbulence in Bishkek in October 2020, poorly educated and unemployed rural youth was the main force to make trouble in the capital. The resulting intergenerational grievances and multifaceted layers of vulnerability between Kyrgyzstan's heterogenous and ethnically diverse groups have prevented youth from using its passion towards creating creative and positive change. Consequently, social behavior and patterns are becoming increasingly more negative and intolerant, paving the ground for youth turning towards violent, nationalistic and religious narratives, identities and criminalistic values and culture. The recent rise in ethno-nationalistic movements being observed threatens the principles of democracy and secularity and weakens youth's political participation and competitiveness in the political arena.

Youth in the “not in employment, education, and training” NEET category also require special attention and tailored support. According to the World Bank Group, as of 2018, 20.5% of total youth population were in this category. The NEET youth, between the ages of 15-24, can be either unemployed or economically inactive and not be involved in education or training. These young people are at a heightened risk of becoming socially excluded, as they often have incomes below the poverty line, lack the skills to improve their economic situation and are easily susceptible to extremist ideologies. In the context of this project, the NEET youth hereinafter is referred as to *underserved youth representatives* such as those who have limited access to high-quality education, business opportunities and finance from vulnerable segments of the population. The *underserved youth representatives* will be identified in close partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection which maintains a list of vulnerable youth. At least the following criteria will be applied such as those who are from poor families, who have incomplete secondary education, and who don't have any official sources of income (unemployed) and those who are unskilled to access finances due to low literacy and communications skills. The deeper methodology for identifying underserved youth representatives will be devised in partnership with the Ministry of Social Protection and social affairs units of respective target local governments. Before launching project activities respective methodology will be devised in collaboration with national partners and deeper analysis will be undertaken to identify, target and engage underserved youth who can contribute to the green growth.

Low-productivity, which has only grown by 0.5% on average since 2000, is a structural vulnerability in the Kyrgyz Republic preventing the upward mobility of youth in value chains.⁸ This has proved to be a key constraint in the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that could provide more employment and income-generation opportunities for youth by focusing on green sectors of economy. While youth often have a high quantity of schooling, education may have been of low quality and they are typically under-skilled in economic sectors that demand labour. Low levels of human capital inputs and the resulting lack of opportunities for business growth have resulted in youth occupying a large proportion of the informal economy, which accounts for up to 40% of Kyrgyzstan's economy and as high as 60% in terms of labour informality. With the small size of Kyrgyzstan's internal market, it is vital to harness the potential of international markets. However, with low business and labour productivity, the country has thus far been unable to gain from the international competitiveness needed to enhance economies of scale. Despite the potential for innovation by youth, most do not strive to set up their own businesses. This could be due to the lack of appropriate skills and mentoring in taking these risks, low knowledge of the bureaucratic requirements, and inaccessibility to finance.

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated pre-existing needs for economic transformations, creating skills mismatches and structural unemployment. The increased use of digital technology owing to social distancing presents both a challenge and opportunity to build back better from COVID-19 and be a substantive part of the green socio-economic recovery. However, access to digital infrastructure, particularly in the most remote areas of the country, remains difficult or expensive, while there is also a significant digital skills deficit. The UNDP study on *Digital skills and opportunities for youth employment towards digital economy in the Kyrgyz Republic* (2020) carried out under the Digital Skills and Entrepreneurship Project (RTFD) highlights that only 10% of households in Batken own computers. While the same report fares Bishkek and Osh better at 47% and 27% respectively, this may not represent the true picture of informal settlements in peri-urban areas. Furthermore, the report highlights the need to focus on overall

⁸ World Bank Group, Kyrgyz Republic Country Economic Memorandum, <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/679681585289928309/pdf/Main-Report.pdf>

digital literacy paired with practical digital skills, establishing regional centres on digital skills, and greater collaboration between academia and businesses. Women's participation in the digital economy comprises 1.7 times less than men and only 35.8% of women comparing to 64.2% of men are involved in private sector business specialized in ICT, limiting their ability to harness digital technologies for engaging in international remote employment or cross-border trade. Improving the integration of youth into nationally driven digital transformation efforts, while utilizing their creative abilities, will be vital for overcoming the barriers faced in expanding businesses and accessing global markets.

Youth with disabilities face heightened difficulties in accessing quality education and training for enhancing their employment prospects. An estimated 3% of the total population has a disability in Kyrgyzstan, and the number has been increasing as the population grows. However, there is a widespread lack of data on the impact faced by people with disabilities in the labour market in general, and especially youth, because of the low rate of people officially registering their disability. Current support for people with disabilities has focused on a charity-based approach, without recognizing their potential to innovate in new competitive sectors, especially in the COVID-19 context. Lack of access to customized financing and training programs, low numbers of social workers, limited legislation and regulation implementation, and lack of awareness on their rights have prevented the integration of youth with disabilities into existing value chains. Women with disabilities face even harsher vulnerabilities due to their challenges in accessing quality education and employment. There is an urgent need to incorporate the agency of this group into ensuring inclusivity in Kyrgyzstan's society.

Similar to underserved youth representatives, the youth with disabilities will be identified in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and target local governments, which are maintaining a list of such groups. The basic criteria for identifying youth with disabilities include those who are from poor families and unemployed. Mainly, the youth with disabilities will be a target group under Component 3. Under Component 1 and 2 the youth with disabilities will be provided with peer-to-peer support by the proactive youth leaders of the Youth Action Groups. Before launching project activities respective methodology will be devised in collaboration with national partners and deeper analysis will be undertaken to identify, target and engage youth with disabilities.

In this context, the creative economy has substantial potential for improving employment creation and retention in the COVID-19 context. This vital sector includes a range of artistic industries, as well as other activities based on innovation and cultural production. This sector, if expanded, can substantially contribute to green growth. By various estimates, the share of the creative economy in the GDP of Kyrgyzstan ranges between 5-7% and most of it still remains invisible or informal. In 2019, 13,135 people worked in creative industries, with most being youth, and around 41% are women.⁹ Through leveraging digital platforms, including social media, most players in the creative economy are exporting their services to international markets, which holds a valuable potential avenue for youth to be linked directly to global value chains. However, a disconnect between the skills that job seekers have and what employers in the creative industry need constrain the potential of this industry. Due to this human capital deficit, limited access to international markets, and the high concentration of the creative economy in urban settings, the sector is therefore dominated by MSMEs and individual entrepreneurs. Furthermore, most youth see the power of social media platforms only as entertainment instead of engaging it as an income generating opportunity, confirmed by the study under the DigiSkills Project.

Kyrgyzstan is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change in Central Asia. Youth is particularly vulnerable to its effects and a group that needs to cope with the consequences of decisions made presently in the future. It is projected that climate change may cause reduced water supplies, increased hazards such as droughts and floods, and damage to the country's rich ecosystems and biodiversity. This especially impacts the ability to improve productivity in agriculture, as water resource depletion and land degradation from unsustainable agricultural practices impact the ability for long-term income generation. It is obviously out of green trajectory of further growth. However, urbanization and a growing population, in conjunction with economic incentives, have resulted in a large increase in coal use and vehicle traffic, and subsequently high air pollution levels. In Bishkek, the 2020-2021 winter levels of PM 2.5 concentrations have been the highest on record, ranking among the worst cities for air pollution globally, causing higher levels of premature death from heart and lung disease. The Ministry of Health has estimated that around 80% of respiratory diseases in Bishkek are due to dangerous levels of air pollution, contributing to the disease in over 300,000 children. The situation around air quality in Osh could be even worse, but this lacks validation with representative data.

COVID-19 and the climate crisis present compound threats that must be confronted in an integrated manner to recover back better. The burning of coal, tyres and trash being the energy sources of choice in Kyrgyzstan for heating homes, demonstrates the linkage between underlying socio-economic issues and

⁹ October, 2020. Promotank. Report on results of assessment of creative industries in the Kyrgyz Republic.

resorting to cheap but dirty energy to survive. The lack of capacity and human capital in green activities are major constraints on ensuring a sustainable green recovery. However, by reconsidering growth and development in terms of a circular economy that views economic growth and environmental protection as inextricably interlinked, the project aims to empower youth through interventions that improve capacities in environmental activities.

In this context, there is an urgent need to further work on equipping the most vulnerable youth groups with capacity, knowledge, skills and information through targeted and integrated interventions to help make the transition to a more resilient system. The current context in the Kyrgyz Republic demonstrates the need for the deployment of a combination of comprehensive short-term interventions to stabilize the immediate impact of the COVID-19 induced crises, as well as long-term efforts to ensure a sustainable recovery and increased resilience for confronting new challenges in attaining durable peace, security and sustainable development. The agency of youth in this process is fundamental for finding innovative solutions that drive forward a new green, climate-smart and inclusive development paradigm that ensures youth ownership over their own futures and the world they want to live in. Young people are key agents for inducing social cohesion, and fostering social change, economic growth, environmental protection and technological innovation. It is therefore necessary to empower youth in civic and economic life and provide them with a seat at the table to harness the innovative ideas of youth and specifically young women, migrants and people with disabilities, at the forefront of all systemic change as the next generation of leaders.

III. STRATEGY

The proposal conforms with the Government's **Youth Development Concept 2020-2030**, formulated in consultation with young people, which recognizes youth as a potential driving force for transformation and development through their leadership, and aligns with its following key priorities:

- Priority area 1: Formation and improvement of mechanisms, tools, institutions that make it possible for young people to participate in achieving their goals.
- Priority area 2: Expanding the active participation of young people as equal participants in development and responsible decision-making.
- Priority area 3: Comprehensive and systemic increase in the competitiveness of youth.

The project's focus is informed by the inaugural Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Sadyr Japarov, "On the adoption of measures aimed at improving the migration situation", which commits to supporting an enabling socio-economic environment for returnees and establishing new instruments for diaspora to invest in the national economy. The Government and business community in Kyrgyzstan have developed a draft Concept Note for developing the creative economy that has received wide recognition as a vehicle for unleashing a large share of the economy. In addition, the recent Presidential Decree "On measures to ensure environmental safety and climate sustainability" raises the necessity to reduce air pollution, construct more green spaces in settlements, improve waste management processes, support sustainable businesses, and enhance investments in preserving the environment.

On his recent trip to Moscow in 2021, the President highlighted the importance of deepening Eurasian integration, considering established socio-economic and cultural ties. Specifically, he expressed interest in expanding joint cooperation in energy, industry, tourism, infrastructure and technological research. Creating an ecosystem conducive to business growth and investor confidence has also consistently been prioritized and promoted by the new President. In addition, expanding temporary labour contracts in public works activities has been pinpointed as a key priority for the new government under its 50 Point Action Plan to stimulate the labour market, together with supporting entrepreneurship and green energy investments. UNDP will therefore aim to kick-start this ambition and ensure the sustained integration of efforts for creating the greatest impact on reducing youth unemployment, enhancing environmental protection, supporting EAEU integration, and consequently strengthening social cohesion.

UNDP, through this project, will address the following RTFD Youth Window priorities:

1. Supporting youth employment and harnessing the innovation potential of youth
2. Promoting decent work, income-generating opportunities and improved wellbeing for youth in rural and remote areas
3. Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for young people
4. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for young people
5. Development of the young people's digital skills and creation of the job opportunities for youth in the digital economy
6. Support to effectively integrate volunteerism within national frameworks, enabling better engagement of young people in development processes

Approach: UNDP will implement activities based on the following approaches:

- Addressing the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the income and livelihoods of youth through activities that contribute to an environmentally sustainable and climate-proof recovery
- Using skills development and sustained support to achieve lasting impact
- Mobilizing and strengthening community engagement to inform local ownership and working through local authorities, business partners and local organizations/civil society partners when feasible
- UNDP CO will conduct a Social and Environmental Screening of the project by engaging UNDP CO's Gender and Environment teams for assigning an appropriate Gender Marker. It is expected to get GEN2 level.
- Adhering to the 'Do No Harm' principle through gender sensitive and conflict-sensitive programming
- Addressing systemic and structural factors that cause vulnerabilities, including through gender-sensitive interventions and conflict-sensitive programming
- Implementing soft skills and community development activities aimed at preventing societal divides by building confidence, trust and tolerance; and
- Aiming to build lasting resilience at the household and community levels.
- While implementing project interventions, UNDP CO will make a great focus on the principles of green growth, which is an overall strategy of UNDP CO discouraging 'brown economy'. This means that youth's projects should be environmentally friendly for preservation of the local natural ecosystems. By applying 'green growth' principles, the project's interventions will help to discourage any types of businesses that might potentially increase greenhouse gas emissions causing global weather temperature warming as well as deteriorate the natural ecosystem.

UN Frameworks: The proposed interventions build on recommendations from the joint UNDP-ADB Socioeconomic and Vulnerability Impact Assessment, as well as the UNCT Socio-Economic Response Framework, that emphasize the urgent need to enhance job creation and retention through labour-intensive work programs, integrated with sustainable active labour market programs for building capacities, to target new vulnerable groups and specifically youth in peri-urban informal settlements. This key assessment helped to inform UNDP's key role, together with other partners, in supporting the Government's Anti-Crisis Plans throughout 2020, focusing on alleviating the immediate impact of COVID-19 and mitigating its multifaceted effects. Moreover, these interventions are closely aligned with the relevant four areas of UNDP's Offer 2.0 on Governance, Social Protection, Green Economy, and Digital Disruption, and ensure synergies with national priorities at all levels of implementation through coordination and inter-sectoral collaboration. Specifically, the proposal is aligned with the immediate (50 steps program, 25 February 2021) and national strategic development programs 2040, adopted by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The interventions build on the UN's Youth, Peace and Security framework contained in UN Security Council Resolution 2250, which recognizes the importance of youth for the sustainability of all peacebuilding efforts and promotes their participation, leadership and empowerment in UN responses. Youth is strongly recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aims to "substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship" (target 4.4). The project will be informed by the SDGs at all stages of intervention, including: by reducing poverty and strengthening equal rights to economic resources (1), increasing agricultural productivity (2.3), improving women's access to education and training (4.3), ensuring the uptake of knowledge and skills for sustainable development (4.7), expanding infrastructure for supplying modern and sustainable energy services (7.b), achieving higher productivity through innovation and diversification (8.2), increasing productive employment and decent work including for youth and persons with disabilities and equal pay for work of equal value (8.5), reducing the number of youth not in employment or training (8.6), increasing access to IT (9.c), and enhancing the participation of youth in public institutions for ensuring accountability (16).

Key Considerations: The program applies a comprehensive approach by strengthening sustainable transformations as key to strengthening political stability and social cohesion. Therefore, labour market interventions through public work schemes will provide short-term relief, in conjunction with evidence-based market interventions that enhance the capacities of youth and create jobs in green and competitive sectors, with a focus on creative industries. Labour market inclusion will be coupled with activities aimed directly at preventing inter-generational, inter-ethnic, inter-regional conflicts and other societal divisions by co-organizing Youth Action Groups and harnessing existing Youth Centres established under the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Central Asia Project funded by Japan (2018 – 2021), and other permanent dialogue platforms. Enhancing the voices of youth in decision-making will help to foster greater confidence and trust between youth and government. Horizontal peer-to-peer learning and dialogue to bridge the gap between urban and rural youth will also be essential to building greater social cohesion.

To attain higher impact, these investments will harness the innovation of youth to contribute to the green socio-economic and cultural development of the country. Capitalizing on Kyrgyzstan's demographic dividend, the project will be informed by climate-smart and export-oriented measures that leverage digital solutions and build a strong trajectory towards a greener economy and stronger recovery. The different

experiences of women and migrants will also be harnessed in developing inclusive local community level solutions to the most pressing problems.

In designing and deploying interventions under this proposal, UNDP will apply a holistic approach that takes into account the solutions that had already been developed under prior or parallel projects and demonstrated clear pathways for scaling up. Activities will build on UNDP's own global experience in delivering labour market and job creation programs. UNDP will draw on lessons learned from the UNDP Osh area-based development program in 2010 with a similar model, as well as the recent work of other UN sister agencies on providing social assistance for low-income households. UNDP will build on the achievements of its long-term work regarding the social and economic empowerment of youth in local and cross-border communities around the country and leverage its global expertise and country work around migration and local economic development. In addition, components focused on social cohesion and youth participation will be informed by the Strengthening Community Resilience and Regional Cooperation for Prevention of Violent Extremism in Central Asia, funded by the government of Japan (2018-2021). Further, skills around conflict prevention, management and resolution, tailored for youth will be instrumental to this project.

Overall, the proposed project's interventions will leverage the development gains achieved under UNDP's SDG16, Socio-Economic Growth and Environmental Protection portfolios to ensure greater sustainability, scalability and impact. UNDP will pivot all new project efforts based on the ongoing milestones and foundations under the Russian Trust Fund supported "Digital skills and opportunities for youth employment towards digital economy in the Kyrgyz Republic" (*Digiskills Project*). This project being implemented will be essential in delivering the work around the digital stream, including in the creative, green and digital economy. For instance, the National Strategy on Digital Skills and Competencies and Roadmap have been drafted and new educational standards and curriculums developed. Training course contents have been created for conducting online trainings for teachers, and webinars, trainings and events were conducted with the High Technology Park and the private sector. In addition, masterclasses on e-commerce, videos on digital champions and girls in IT, and trainings on digital skills for women and girls were implemented. Digital tools have also been integrated with educational services while youth are being connected with the Coursera educational platform. Students from KSTU and OshTU have benefitted from improved education systems and use of the Oracle Academy. The establishment of the IT Hub or Youth Innovation Centre, in Osh is now being finalized for launch in the second half of 2021. Utilizing the plans, platforms and knowledge gained by trainees from this project, the vital creativity aspect of digitization and focusing on youth with disabilities as a key target group for this project will be promoted. Specific synergies and partnerships will also be explored with the local project "50,000 programmers", which aims to train one software developer per family to link them with the creative economy, by utilizing its online trainings, lessons learned and gaps in the services provided.

Insights from the acceleration programs for returned migrants under the newly launched project "Socio-Economic Recovery from negative consequences of COVID-19 in Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken provinces of the Kyrgyz Republic" (*COVID-19 Recovery*) will be essential for better linking the local labour force to EAEU markets and increasing the effects of their investment in climate-smart local socio-economic development. Work in building the digital skills of young girls and women, as well as start-up support will further complement proposed interventions that aim to unleash the creative abilities of the most vulnerable youth. UNDP will also draw on earlier work with the Russian Experts program in shaping the climate-smart and green economy focused interventions in local communities. For more detailed narrative on synergies between the COVID-19 Recovery Project and the new proposal, please see *Attachment 1*.

When designing the intervention in target communities, and especially in Batken province, UNDP will take 'Do No Harm' and conflict sensitive approaches into account. In particular, the project interventions will not address the cross-border natural resources management but will focus on the most pressing needs and priorities of youth.

Digital and innovative solutions: The project will aim to strengthen local ecosystems using digital and innovative solutions for facilitating youth's creativity and empowerment (e.g., training on creative digital skills that fits the needs of employers), especially for youth with disabilities. Innovative forms of education and career guidance will be implemented in universities through engineering cases. UNDP will also leverage its job matching app 'Ishtapp' and the Osh IT Hub to provide innovative ways in rolling out services for networking, mentorship and training. Furthermore, the project's innovative approach to integrating short-term cash-based programming with long-term productivity capacity building will ensure a holistic process to COVID-19 recovery.

Knowledge: The project will generate knowledge on all three levels at the national, provincial and district and local level. Knowledge will be generated through traditional means such as research and trainings, but also through the organization of various publicity actions and events. In order to ensure that the knowledge is assimilated, the project will assess absorption after each activity and adjust approaches where necessary.

In addition, each activity will have knowledge products, which will be made available online and in local media.

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Objective: UNDP will contribute towards increasing socio-economic inclusion of youth by targeting youth to develop and implement start-up and business ideas with focus on green growth, enter the labour market and gain sustainable livelihoods, through transparent and community-inclusive green job creation, capacity building programs and civic participation mechanisms, considering the risks of multiple crises in conjunction with fostering greater social cohesion and resilience

Key Overarching Principles: Based upon the UN system-wide Youth Strategy 2030, the proposed project interventions will focus on:

- *Engagement, Participation and Advocacy* – **Amplify youth voices for the promotion of a peaceful, just and sustainable world**
- *Informed and Healthy Foundations* – **Support young people’s greater access to quality services aimed at increasing human capital**
- *Economic Empowerment through Decent Work* – **Support young people’s greater access to decent work and productive employment**
- *Peace and Resilience Building* – **Supporting young people as a catalyst for Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action**

IV. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Expected Results

Output 1: Local mechanisms, tools and institutions that foster an integrated approach to the development of youth green entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystem formed and improved (Thematic priorities 4, 6)

Interventions will focus on addressing the structural bottlenecks that youth face in their upward mobility in global value chains through technical and/or vocational training based on identified market gaps, business advisory, support in accessing finance for productive investments, networking opportunities and mentoring with businesses in the EAEU and beyond, agricultural extension, training and job-matching. Use of UNDP’s updated app, ‘Ishtapp’, funded under the Japan Supplementary Budget (2020-2021), will support job seekers to match with businesses for closing the gap between labour supply and demand.

In this component, UNDP will pivot its existing network of 10 Youth Centres around the country as platforms for building the capacity around future-proof professions and ensuring broader sustainability. New 11 Youth Centres will be deployed in selected target areas prioritized as “drivers of regional development” (точки роста) in the Government’s Regional Development Concept. UNDP will procure the services of local partners in providing (re)training in practical skills such as: green agricultural practices, welding, carpentry, hairdressing, digital technologies, green manufacturing, processing technologies, and related support services to help with the replication of sustainable green activities.

This component aims at promoting an enabling green entrepreneurial ecosystem for the meaningful engagement of youth and their civil society groups in green entrepreneurship by developing appropriate accountable, inclusive and participatory mechanisms, tools and institutions. This will contribute to reducing financial and economic exclusion of youth, which in longer-term perspectives will strengthen youth-government relationships and trust (social contract) and building more cohesive and peaceful communities (to prevent youth’s grievances and distrust).

An integrated approach to building youth green entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystem will be ensured through sustaining local mechanisms, tools and institutions that promote meaningful participation of youth in entrepreneurial activities that is of paramount importance for building social cohesion. Such participation cannot be created autonomously without enabling youth to express their needs, priorities and passion into broader local sustainable development processes and local governance arrangements, including policies related to local budgeting, service provision, social protection, regional development and economic empowerment. Therefore, the role of this component is cross-cutting within the project proposal, it provides a setting for all interventions on the social contract angle, and it serves as a solid foundation for ensuring ownership and sustainability.

For strengthening local mechanisms, tools and institutions the component will promote an integrated approach to building youth green entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystem through building capacities and establishing youth centres, engaging private sector and businesses to backbone multilateral

youth entrepreneurship coordination platforms for increasing green entrepreneurial aspirations, and mobilizing an increasing number and diversity of youth networks for implementing youth entrepreneurship activities. Furthermore, this component will contribute towards improving the social cohesion using youth's potential and providing greater space for youth's socio-economic inclusion, which are far important in building peace, security and stability in times of multiple crises. Encouraging an inclusive policy environment will be vital for building integrated development solutions that improve youth's resilience and is coherent with RTFD thematic priorities.

The project will pursue that pro-active youth leaders of the Youth Action Groups will provide peer-to-peer support to underserved representatives of youth and youth with disabilities.

UNDP will observe the key principles of meaningful youth engagement recognizing that youth is *institutionally mandated, rights-based, safe, designated, resourced, transparent, accessible, voluntary and informative, with reciprocal accountability and due consideration for diversity and inclusion*. These principles will help UNDP design and deploy interventions that encourage a legally and socially inclusive environment for youth's meaningful participation in local green development and entrepreneurship while increasing the competencies of youth and local self-governments.

Activity 1.1. Establishment and strengthening of existing local mechanisms, tools and institutions to foster an integrated approach to youth entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystem.

An enabling entrepreneurial ecosystem in rural and peri-urban areas cannot be achieved without the support of public and municipal authorities and partnership with businesses and private sectors. The project therefore will create experimental pathways towards youth-oriented sustainable and integrated development of the green entrepreneurial ecosystem in rural contexts by bringing together local policymakers, business service providers, development agencies and investors, so they produce economic value within local sustainable development plans and priorities. Over long-term perspectives, the project will contribute to the shift towards an integrated approach to youth green entrepreneurship by boosting the green entrepreneurial ecosystem at the grassroots level and by taking into account connectedness to local, national and international marketplaces and value chains.

In this context, locally designed multilateral partnership arrangements will be enhanced by bringing together capacities and resources of Business Accelerators and Business Incubators, municipal and public authorities, private sector and Youth Centres to provide comprehensive support for young people in establishing and developing their own businesses in green sectors, with special emphasis on underserved youth representatives.

By promoting multilateral collaboration, this activity aims to design **locally tailored partnership models**, which will be achieved through a combination of instruments such as:

- Creating *Youth Entrepreneurship Coordination Platforms (YECPs)* for integrating resources and capacities of local governments, local businesses and other entrepreneurship service providers. *Youth Entrepreneurship Coordination Platforms* will pursue a mission of becoming effective networking, mentorship, knowledge sharing and collaboration platform for young entrepreneurs in green sectors.

As a network of organizations and individuals, *Youth Entrepreneurship Coordination Platforms* will be networked both domestically and internationally, notably with the Russian counterparts, to help build local level collaborative entrepreneurship service delivery and support programmes, which young entrepreneurs need to move successfully into the regional, national and/or global marketplaces, including those operating through digital spaces and under EAEU. Special emphasis will be made to build the capacity of *YECPs* to coordinate with the EAEU Secretariat and benefit from its service lines in exploring possible trade links and facilitating youths' integration into global value chains.

The created *YECPs* will be backboneed by the existing 9 Youth Centres through enabling them to generate, coordinate and integrate entrepreneurship support programmes in association with respective local governments, national and local business communities. This youth infrastructure was created under the Japanese-funded project on "Strengthening community resilience and cross-border cooperation for preventing violent extremism in Central Asia". The national and local authorities expressed a high motivation and interest in expanding Youth Centres across the country.

By pursuing the same objective, additional 11 Youth Centres will be established in geographical locations other than the existing 11 Youth Centres and by selecting them from the list of municipalities that have been prioritized as "drivers of regional development" (точки роста) under the Concept of Regional Development. If the project is approved, the proposed target locations will be agreed upon additionally with national counterparts and the Russian Embassy in Kyrgyzstan at the stage of LPAC.

The already established 9 Youth Centres are paired with **Youth Action Groups** consisting of more than 100 permanent members (at least 10 members per each on average) who serve as a leading and coordinating driving force for youth networks created in their own municipalities. Currently, there are two youth networks created by UNDP such as “Janyration” (translated as a New Generation, another meaning is a Renewal) and “Dilgir” (translated as Enthusiast) with a wide range of community youth members selected from different segments of the rural and urban population. Both networks are functional and have been trained on entrepreneurship skills and supported with initial small scale start-up support and most of them succeeded and grew up until business entities mainly because of engaging business mentorship and consultancy, establishing peer-to-peer support within youth networks and coordination mechanisms with respective local governments and Youth Centres. Some of them successfully scaled up to sub-national and national level markets despite the small amount of start-up funding (up to \$3K). The members of these networks have already demonstrated entrepreneurial talent and **need for further financial support, so they develop their new start-up and business ideas and enter broader marketplaces under Component 2.**

Building upon UNDP CO’s successful experience in the establishment of Youth Action Groups and Youth Centres, **the project will establish similar kinds of youth groups and youth centres in additional 11 new target locations** that have been prioritized as “drivers of regional development” (точки роста). It should be highlighted that UNDP CO’s previous experience in building Youth Action Groups and Youth Centres strategically focused on increasing *youth’s civic participation in local decision making* with smaller entrepreneurship components, however, the present project will focus on building full-fledged entrepreneurship-oriented Youth Action Groups and Youth Centres.

Building of new 11 Youth Centres and Youth Action Groups will be achieved by:

- construction of new buildings or renovation of existing premises and equipping them with necessary office and computer equipment.
- refining legal framework to ensure sustainability of youth centres as well as developing an online platform (website) to increase effectiveness of coordination with other key stakeholders
- identifying youth pro-active leaders and youth representatives from underserved groups and bring them together, so they can provide peer-to-peer support to each other

Having already appropriate legal foundations in place, creating Youth Centres has proved to be the most predictable and sustainable way for formalizing youth’s networks as non-profit entities, which allow them to be legally affiliated with municipalities and handle institutional relationships with respective local governments and other stakeholders. It is therefore, the project is putting a great focus on pivoting around Youth Centres and Youth Action Groups. In this context, necessary statutory instruments will be developed and further adopted through local government bodies in order to sustain the work of Youth Centres.

- Promoting *youth-friendly green Local Investment Programmes* in order to leverage internal and external resources, mobilize public and private investments for catalyzing higher impact on youth entrepreneurship through increasing access of youth to broader financial, economic and entrepreneurial opportunities and frameworks.

Youth-friendly Local Investment Programmes therefore will serve as an implementation tool to unite the efforts of *Youth Entrepreneurship Coordination Platforms* for shifting towards an integrated, impact-oriented approach to the development of youth entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The development of *Local Investment Programmes* will be achieved by:

- Analysing youth-related Local Investment current context and identifying investment gaps and needs
- Exploring new innovative financial and economic instruments and/or solutions that could expand options for youth-friendly and green Local Investment programming
- Supporting in the preparation of longer-term youth-friendly and green *Local Investment Programmes*, capacitating in building partnership with relevant stakeholders for attracting green development finances and investments
- In addition, UNDP will build the capacity of Youth Entrepreneurship Coordination Platforms to provide support and guidance for the effective investment of remittances by engaging knowledge and skills of Russian expertise through EAEU back to receiving communities. The Youth Entrepreneurship Coordination Platforms will raise awareness of investment opportunities in Kyrgyzstan at the local community level and the benefits for diaspora and their families in Kyrgyzstan, and provide support in navigating the local regulatory environment

- Raising awareness of the regulatory requirements and the benefits of investing in sustainable strategies, as well as helping youth in financing new ventures, would support a more sustainable and greener recovery from COVID-19.

Overall, this intervention will have a longer-term effect such as that youth's socio-economic exclusion reduced, and therefore the state to citizen relations fortified, grievances and social distrust prevented.

Activity 1.2. Capacity development for Youth Entrepreneurship Coordination Platforms, education and career guidance for youth through training programmes of academia and companies

This intervention will help support target groups to increase their awareness and gain the necessary knowledge, skills and capacities to interact in a collaborative environment that leads to the positive impact on the development of youth entrepreneurship.

Therefore, the educational component of the project will be implemented through the following capacity building and educational activities:

- In association with the Academy of Public Administration the capacities of the new Youth Action Groups (leaders) and Youth Specialists of target municipalities will be strengthened through six-month training courses aimed at increasing leadership and communication skills, effective formulation and implementation of youth-related development agendas in order to enable them to effectively interact in local green development and the development of youth entrepreneurship.
- *Youth Entrepreneurship Coordination Platforms* and *Youth Action Groups* will be capacitated on i) attracting green development financing and investments through engaging national-level businesses ii) find highly qualified green business mentors and partners and establish business contacts both locally and internationally, especially from the Russian Federation iii) gain access to new technologies, innovations, best business practices and/or innovations through EAEU Secretariat
- In association with the Ministry of Social Development and Labour, local authorities and lyceums, selected young men and women from underserved youth representatives will pass through Vocational Education Trainings in various professional areas that are demanded both in local and international labour markets, especially in EAEU. Representatives of underserved groups of youth will be offered the Russian language courses. The Vocational Trainings will also include the pre-departure orientation courses, so they observe the legislation, norms and culture of countries of destinations, by focusing on Russia. Vocational Education Trainings will serve as a good platform for educating young generation not only finding jobs but also to grow in terms of culture. The priority courses, themes for Vocational Education will be also coordinated with Russian development institutions, such as RosSotrudnichestvo.
- The local businesses and private sector entities operating at the local level in green sectors will be engaged to project activities, so they provide business mentoring for young entrepreneurs and start-uppers and/or take them for apprenticeship/internship
- The target youth will be also trained and empowered, so they become a more impactful driving force for resolving local-level challenges and handling collaboration with diasporas of Russia.
- The project will support specialized technical universities of the country to shift to a new format of education and career guidance for selected young students, namely the creation of engineering cases (practical tasks from companies of the real sector of the economy). This educational format is now successfully developing in the Russian Federation and is beginning to gain popularity in EAEU countries. The solution of practical tasks has an educational and career guidance component. At the stage of case preparation, companies formulate non-standard tasks for youth teams, which are then transformed into an engineering case for remote solution.
- Mastering new forms of training by universities will allow participation in the international engineering championship "CASE-IN"® among the teams of the EAEU countries. Currently, teams from almost 50 universities of Russia, as well as universities of Belarus and Kazakhstan, participate in the championship. Student teams who won the qualifying stages in universities in Kyrgyzstan, with the support of the project, will be able to take part in the annual finals.

These capacity development programs will enable engaged beneficiaries and stakeholders to plan, design and implement specific activities for cooperating proactively in the development of youth green entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystem at the grassroots levels. The existing and new Youth Centres will be the main platforms for this capacity development. Specific support for selected target locations will be provided with local government budget planning and implementation in order to ensure the investments for the development of youth entrepreneurship and the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Expected Results:

- Ten new Youth Action Groups created in target locations and 11 new Youth Centres established with respective Youth Action Plans aimed at increasing youth's wellbeing and development.
- One analytical report with policy recommendations to sustain youth centres developed and submitted to the Government's consideration and follow up
- One online platform (website) developed and operational aimed at increasing coordination among key stakeholders
- 20 Youth Entrepreneurship Coordination Platforms established; 20 youth-friendly Local Investment Programmes devised.
- 400 youth directly and 45,000 youth indirectly benefiting from the improved local mechanisms, tools and institutions.
- Technical or vocational training provided for at least 100 youth, with at least 50% for young women.
- 50 students from Kyrgyzstan are prepared to participate in the international engineering championship.
- At least 2 Russian expertise engaged from highly qualified green business mentors and private sector through the EAEU Secretariat
- At least 1 strategic partnership is established between the Federal Agency on Youth Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Culture and Youth of the Kyrgyz Republic based upon results on the official visit of the Russian Federation headed by the President of Russia in 2019

Output 2. Job and income opportunities enhanced through education, business support and mentorship programmes (Thematic priorities 1, 2)

An enabling green entrepreneurial ecosystem is considerably underdeveloped at the grassroots level which often fails to address the growing demand of youth for green entrepreneurship, employment and self-employment opportunities. In particular, limited access to financial resources and capital, high-interest rates of credits ranging at 30-32% on average, or young people are required to mortgage real estates that are most likely owned by their parents, necessity to prove credit solvency with official sources of incomes (e.g. salary, incomes), complex administrative procedures for getting credits, the absence of obligations of banks to nurture businesses and take risks, a strict schedule of repayments, inadequate access to professional support and mentorship and alike are almost insurmountable obstacles for youth's entrepreneurship, employment and self-employment opportunities, especially for rural youth and underserved youth. On the other hand, the role of the private sector in supporting youth entrepreneurship is weak.

To fill the above critical gaps, there is a need to devise and pilot more diversified and innovative financial mechanisms for ensuring increased access to finances among rural youth through more simplified administrative procedures and micro-financing.

The interventions therefore will accelerate and incubate youth-led green businesses considering access to local, national & international markets and value chains as well as improving the knowledge and skills of young entrepreneurs (members of Youth Action Groups) in relation to business practices and exports with a great focus on EAEU. Also, business acceleration and incubation will be aimed at youth's business development, job creation and ensuring an increased revenue, profitability and growth by offering a comprehensive business consultancy, coaching and mentoring support ranging from institutional support, facilitating access to finance and facilitating market linkages with potential buyers, partners and investors.

Therefore, the purpose of this Component is to a) support young entrepreneurs to establish and grow their own businesses in green sectors and b) to support young entrepreneurs to be connected to local, national and/or international markets and/or global value chains under EAEU. As a result of project implementation, young people will be enabled to start their own businesses and youth-owned start-up and businesses and where feasible be connected to local, national and/or international marketplaces by focusing on the EAEU market.

Building on the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of the Covid19 pandemic as well as the United Nations Covid-19 Socio-Economic Recovery Framework for the Kyrgyz Republic, UNDP will conduct a follow up rapid quantitative and qualitative assessment to help fine-tune youth's start-up and businesses in green sectors to the current multiple crises context. Also, building upon previous UNDP experience in implementing youth entrepreneurship projects under the Covid19 pandemic, this activity will conduct specific training for selected young entrepreneurs and micro and small business participants on the issues of crisis management, searching for new green opportunities, online sales adapted to the current crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic. Training might be held either online or offline, depending on the epidemiological situation in Kyrgyzstan.

Often due to social norms and cultural patterns, customs and practices, stereotypical beliefs and concepts, patriarchal family environment and disproportionate burden of unpaid care work women continue to be

excluded from economic activities. Providing business skills trainings, increasing financial literacy and access to finances are basic steps towards empowering women in entrepreneurship, however, while essential, they cannot alone help grow women-owned businesses unless female beneficiaries are supported to overcome obstacles of social and stereotypical nature.

Therefore, to make young women more economically active and motivated, the project will move beyond basic entrepreneurship skills raising or providing start-up capital by simultaneous raising their soft skills, such as leadership, communications, interpersonal skills, motivation etc. to help them overcome social constraints they are facing with in their own families or communities.

Overall, increased access to finances and global value chains will increase youth's financial and economic inclusion and therefore will address grievances, build trust, strengthen social cohesion and enhance the resilience of local communities to future shocks.

Activity 2.1. Building and implementing Youth Business Acceleration Programmes to support the green growth and development of regional (subnational) business and entrepreneurship ecosystems

Youth Business Acceleration Programme (YBAP) will support young people (18-28 years) wishing to establish or already running micro and small enterprises with special emphasis on underserved youth representatives such as those with limited access to education, business opportunities and finance from vulnerable segments of population. The **Youth Business Acceleration Programme** will support the development of entrepreneurial talent of youth by working in partnership with Business Accelerators and Business Incubators and equipping them with the tools and skills required to start and grow successful businesses, micro and small enterprises.

Thematically led by Business Accelerators and Business Incubators, **Youth Business Acceleration Programme** will provide a wide a range of services that will help young start-uppers and entrepreneurs to grow their green businesses and create green jobs in a collaborative environment with national and international business entities, turning their initial business and start-up ideas into products and services with broader market impacts with a great focus on EAEU.

As such, **Youth Business Acceleration Programme** will provide entrepreneurship services to incubate and accelerate businesses among young women and men with special focus on underserved youth representatives:

- **Conducting workshops** to enhance green entrepreneurial skills through specialized training workshops, courses and diverse events facilitated by experienced entrepreneurs offering entrepreneurship knowledge, start-up tools, programs and expertise to help young people to develop their own green businesses
- **Business Advice & Mentorship** to provide business advice and mentorship and support the development of business plans for youth-led green start-ups and businesses
- **Market Intelligence** to help determine green market size, market trends and opportunities to target the right product, services, consumers, markets, strategies, potential investors and partners, to make informed decisions by young entrepreneurs, as well as access to relevant intellectual property, innovation and/or best business practices
- **Connect & Collaborate** to expand a network of youth, discover opportunities for collaboration and connect with other businesses, educational and entrepreneurial partners to support youth-led green businesses to grow in a community of collaborative, innovative and like-minded entrepreneurs.

Activity 2.2. Support innovative youth-led start-ups and entrepreneurship and facilitate further commercialization and scale-up

This activity aims to translate the results of Component 1 into the real youth-led green start-ups and businesses by focusing on access to local, national and/or international marketplaces, global value chains and improve trade links with the EAEU. Youth will be paired with business support, advice and mentorship in partnership with Business Accelerators and Business Incubators, members of associations of entrepreneurs, including through UNDP's Business Support Facility and UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), to assist in starting up new businesses and growing businesses.

Young people in rural areas, especially those from underserved groups often face greater challenges in accessing start-up financing due to a lack of collateral, absence of credit history and solvency, limited financial literacy, high-interest rates, complex administrative procedures and other structural barriers, which all together act to deter youth from entrepreneurial activities. The financial exclusion of youth is especially prevalent in low-income households who might be completely excluded from formal and informal financial services.

Considering structural barriers, the project will be exploring financially and environmentally sustainable business models such as the ***fund revolving scheme*** rather than applying one-way grant-dependant activities. The *Fund revolving schemes* are widely practiced in the world, especially in underdeveloped business environments with limited access to start-up finances due to structural barriers. The *fund revolving scheme* will apply repayable microloans and allow funding youth on a *revolving* basis for reusing the same capital more than once in green sectors. Applying a *fund revolving scheme* will help to avoid one-way traditional *grants*, which are non-repayable and therefore have no chance of being recuperated and generate a long-term development impact on youth's entrepreneurship. The returned funds therefore will be reused to provide loans to other cohorts of Youth Action Groups, who would like to develop their own business and start-up ideas.

In this project, the *fund revolving scheme* will not apply interest rates, mortgages, and bureaucracy. In this sense, *the fund revolving scheme* is an experimentation and exploration tool for opening new avenues for financial inclusion of youth for challenging structural barriers at the peripheral areas deterring youth from entrepreneurial activities. It may be reasonably expected that successful results of *the fund revolving scheme* will be further scaled up at the national level by offering it as an alternative and innovative socially oriented business model to support youth's green entrepreneurship at the grassroots level considering the existing structural barriers.

The project envisages establishing *fund revolving scheme* within the Business Accelerators, Business Incubators and/or domestic financial institutions to be selected through an open and competitive process and who will own and manage funds and serve as *lending institutions*¹⁰. Clear legal mechanisms of relationships between the *lending institution* and beneficiary youth will be developed on the terms of agreement. Apart of providing loans, the selected *lending institutions* will provide business advisory, mentorship and coaching services (activity 2.1) and take obligations and risks until businesses become mature and profitable. It is expected that green businesses which succeeded to grow up until national or international markets will become business partners of *lending institutions*, which generates therefore a sense of ownership and institutional interest of *lending institutions*, thus ensuring financial viability and sustainability of the *fund revolving scheme*.

The project will explore a partnership between *lending institutions* and domestic banks, so the latter ones devise socially oriented credit portfolios, specifically targeted at youth at the grass roots level with a more simplified youth-tailored approaches. While exploring the partnership with domestic banks, the project will explore the engagement of the State Guarantee Fund to provide guarantee support for youth entrepreneurs in green sectors, who may wish to leverage their small and medium enterprises by getting credits from domestic banks.

Considering that UNDP at the corporate level doesn't have a mandate to implement micro-financing activities, the project will partner with UNCDF (e.g., through UN interagency cooperation tolls) to implement this activity. UNCDF is playing an increasingly active role in the application of catalytic loans and guarantees for mitigating risks for public and private investors and has generated relevant expertise, tools and procedures to invest in private sectors for sustainable financing solutions.

The youth's start-up and entrepreneurship ideas will encompass all SDGs with a greater focus on innovative approaches that would enable resolving local challenges, fill in local market gaps, and have a high potential for scale-up to national or international markets, including EAEU. Through coordination with the EAEU Secretariat, trade links will be explored with member countries to improve the Kyrgyz Republic's export potential and facilitate the ease of youths' integration into global value chains.

The implementation of youth's green start-up and entrepreneurship ideas will be done in coordination with national and local authorities to promote ownership and the potential for future upscaling.

The income generation opportunities can be very delicate issues; hence the project will envisage a well-developed framework of objective criteria and safeguard the transparency of the process. Therefore, respective activities have been designed in a participatory and inclusive way that applies multi-stakeholder engagement, which will increase the transparency of the process, for example, Youth Entrepreneurship Coordination Platforms, advocating youth-friendly Local Investment Programmes. These approaches will distil any sensitive or delicate issues, such as equitable access to project resources, Leave No One Behind, fairness, competitiveness, etc. On the other hand, for purchasing professional services, the requirement will be to arrange an open and competitive selection process under respective Terms of References. The project

¹⁰ A lending institution is any type of financial organization or institution that provides loans to borrowers

will also be coordinating each activity with national counterparts on a day-to-day basis and within the Project Board at the strategic level.

Activity 2.3. Increasing responsiveness of local government investments to catalyse higher impact on youth's wellbeing and development

Working with local governments, national and local businesses, this activity aims to pilot and test out *youth-friendly green Local Investment Programmes* (designed under activity 1.1) in a way that incentivizes local government investments (i.e., local budgets) towards green infrastructure investments for youth, expand youth's access to diversified sources of financial, economic, social, educational and cultural service delivery.

This will be achieved by allocating small grants to support the practical implementation of *youth-friendly green Local Investment Programmes*, which could include projects, for instance: the revitalization and/or creation of public parks, promoting smart technologies in natural resources management, disaster risk reduction and/or climate change adaptation, employment in sorting recyclables and recycling dark glass, businesses collecting food and animal waste for producing biogas, converting coal boilers to solar and gas, solar PV, installing energy efficiency improvements and sustainable Natural Resource Management and agricultural practices and/or renewable energies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the context of Kyrgyzstan's updated Nationally Determined Contributions.

Potential social facilities for sub-projects could also include local community centres, libraries, cultural venues, childcare, day-care, markets, information hubs, sanitary facilities, and business advisory and training hubs.

Partnerships will be sought with local authorities for obtaining permissions and clarifying the ownership of assets, while working with the business community would support sustainability efforts. To select specific projects, UNDP will harness community-level trusted and inclusive platforms such as Youth Centres and their Youth Action Groups as critical vehicles to drive forward this intervention and apply a consistent approach across communities. UNDP will deploy its expertise in identifying and monitoring the work of competent local partners to support the wide participation of youth in communities in selecting the investments to deliver the results in an efficient and transparent manner, leveraging digital technology for transparency. Gender-related concerns will be ensured throughout the intervention to ensure that women's needs are met, including through engaging in consultations with target communities, promoting inclusive participation with at least 50% of beneficiaries being women, and providing leadership roles for women. Health and safety for workers will be ensured throughout the implementation of public works, including through a gender-sensitive lens. An effective communications strategy will also promote transparency, local awareness of new public works activities and manage expectations.

Expected results:

- Business advisory support delivered to 400 direct youth beneficiaries
- At least 2 fund revolving schemes operationalized for sustainable funding of youth green entrepreneurship
- At least 100 new green businesses established, and employment provided for at least 300 youth (50% for young women)
- 20 youth-friendly Local Investments Programmes supported with small grants by the project
- Local governments allocated at least 30% of funds for implementing youth-friendly Local Investment Programmes from local budgets to improve local infrastructure benefiting at least 40,000 youth
- Improved local infrastructure bring benefits for approximately 10,000 (50% young women) within the project lifespan
- At least 1 Russian expertise engaged from the municipalities of the Russian Federation that have vast experience in the development of youth green entrepreneurship

Output 3. Youth empowered through digital skills training that fits the needs of employers in the creative economy (Thematic priority 5)

The development of this climate-smart sector based on innovation and cultural production is a way to generate high-quality employment, particularly for youth with disabilities. With the innovative drive of youth, strengthening the participation of these vulnerable groups in creative industries presents significant potential. Promoting the industry's export-orientation through targeting international markets would require ensuring the competitive quality of products and creating a recognizable brand for Kyrgyz exports. The creative economy could thus help decrease dependency on extractive industries and remittances, as well as contribute to the meaningful spiritual and cultural development of the nation. Another vital avenue for the industry is for job seekers to consider remote global opportunities in the sector, which is enabled by the increasing adoption of IT. Considering the importance of digitalization in the context of COVID-19 social distancing, investing in IT skills remains a high potential option to increase employment due to the relatively

low initial investment requirements, quickly attainable skills and opportunities for remote work, which can accommodate workers with disabilities and help prevent the future spread of the virus. Previous consultations with creative enterprises have identified the significant potential of this industry for growth domestically, but the lack of human capital and collaboration platforms have been recognized as the main obstacles in business growth and subsequent employment outcomes. Building on previous and current interventions in digital skills, this activity will become the next step for the creation of enabling opportunities for encouraging a new generation of creative people through leveraging on the agency of the most vulnerable groups.

Activity 3.1. Identify the gaps in skills and knowledge within the local digital labour market of the creative economy.

A robust assessment for developing an in-depth understanding of the patterns of skill distribution, available training, and gaps between the existing human resources and the desired profile through quantitative and qualitative studies will be undertaken. These studies will inform the targeting of training opportunities to equip beneficiaries effectively. Industry insight will be utilized to formulate recommendations and design interventions for the project.

This activity will also explore viable strategies to engage youth with disabilities in the creative labour market. The study will build on the assumption that people with disabilities can be equitably employed in the creative economy with ease, as they can make use of remote computer-based modes of work. A recommendation concept notes on disability inclusion strategies and specific ways to mainstream this approach will be developed.

Activity 3.2. Provide targeted online and offline practical courses for youth, including those with disabilities, operating through Youth Centres.

Through employing insights from the assessment, training programs will be implemented that fit with employers' needs in the COVID-19 context (and complement the courses already available). Trainings would focus on IT innovation with potential courses on creativity to be designed being SMM, SEO, video and photo editing, 3D animation, copyrighting, storytelling, and web development. These skills are in high demand and allow the target audience to work remotely, combine with other household duties and become more financially stable. UNDP is currently developing online courses on Marketing for MSMEs, Graphic Design, and Blogging related to the creative economy. The data collected in Activity 3.1. will help to adjust these courses for the specific needs of youth with disabilities. In addition, the participation and employment rate after completion of the existing courses will shed a light on the needs of the labour market and provide insights for the development of strategies for new courses. The courses will be set up in online mode and designed in cooperation with Russian institutions and educational centres to provide advice on starting a business in the creative industry and scaling businesses solutions.

This activity will be interlinked with an apprenticeship program in collaboration with employers in the creative industry to encourage on-the-job training and employment opportunities. This will translate into the increased employment of students who successfully completed online and offline trainings. Interventions will support behavioural changes by demonstrating the benefits the creative economy has for inclusive development in the long-term.

Online and blended webinars and career events will be organized to increase the awareness of key stakeholders about global remote work and freelance opportunities in creative industries and teach job seekers to use international job application platforms. This activity will focus on supporting rural youth (ages 15-18) through providing guidance and advice in terms of potential professional education and career paths. These will be based on Employability Basics and Freelancing profession courses that UNDP is developing, which will complement the practical trainings and create more opportunities for vulnerable groups in local and international labour markets. Youth with disabilities are more motivated to gain jobs, therefore the project will support such youth by increasing their opportunities for green jobs (e.g., purchase of computers, train them on increasing digital skills and allocate small grants for implementing creative projects).

UNDP will explore expanding some of its existing Youth Centres in the regions as potential Creative Economy Spaces. By bringing together youth, collaborative learning can support knowledge transfer and idea sharing in these Centres. Access to up-to-date online resources through Youth Centres could also be enhanced, and access to all activities in these Centres will be ensured for youth with disabilities.

Knowledge and experience sharing will be facilitated with Russian creative industries, especially in terms of new and emerging industries that are based on digital technologies as well as promotion of products through IT technologies in domestic and international markets. The creation of a partnership with the Worldskills Russia will be facilitated to gain access to its expertise in the creative industry.

UNDP will partner with a variety of relevant local partners and private companies focused on digital solutions to ensure training courses meet needs and provide links between beneficiaries and employers. UNDP will act as an integrator to help establish a platform for developing the digital sub-cluster of the creative economy, focused on leveraging global social media. The courses will be set up in online mode and designed in cooperation with Russian institutions and educational centres for advice on starting a business in the creative industry and scaling businesses solutions.

Improved usage of social media and other online platforms can also support activities under Component 1 to improve youth's access to information and ability to engage with each other and with decision-makers on national and local development issues. This will promote youth's ability to hold authorities to account, improve the effectiveness of their engagement, as well as facilitate the input of their ideas with ease on issues important to them.

Expected results:

- An assessment report detailing the current state of the national creative sector produced with proposed policy recommendations to engage the most vulnerable groups in the creative economy.
- Recommendation concept notes on disability inclusion strategies prepared.
- Training in the creative economy tailored to the COVID-19 context provided for 100 youth.
- At least 1 free access courses with several sub-courses produced tailored to specific needs.
- Apprenticeship programs in creative sectors provided for 100 youth with at least 50% for young women.
- Online and blended webinars and career events provided for 100 youth
- At least 1 Russian expertise engaged on creative industry
- At least 1 strategic partnership established between the Federal Agency on Youth Affairs of Russian Federation and the Ministry of Culture and Youth of the Kyrgyz Republic based upon results on the official visit of the Russian Federation headed by the President of Russia in 2019.

V. RESOURCES REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE THE EXPECTED RESULTS

#	Outputs	Inputs	Budget
1.	Output 1: Local mechanisms, tools and institutions that foster an integrated approach to development of youth entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystem formed and improved	Supplies, Commodities, Materials; Contractual services; Staff and other personnel; LVGs (Low Value Grants)	US\$505,000.00
2.	Output 2: Job and income opportunities enhanced through education, business support and mentorship programmes	Supplies, Commodities, Materials; Contractual services; Staff and other personnel; LVGs	US\$1,070,000.00
3.	Output 3: Youth empowered through digital skills training that fits the needs of employers in the creative economy	Supplies, Commodities, Materials; Contractual services; Staff and other personnel; LVGs	US\$145,000.00
4.	Personnel and Management	Staff costs Administrative costs	US\$70,000.00 US\$47,000.00
5.	Evaluation	Independent Evaluator	US\$14,852.00
6.	General Management Support (8%)	GMS	US\$148,148.00
7.	GRAND TOTAL:		US\$2,000,000.00

VI. PARTNERSHIPS

Partnership Strategy

The project's core strategy is situated to create a collaborative environment and impactful multi-stakeholder partnerships, drawing on existing good practices. UNDP is aware of the generous Russian bilateral COVID-19 aid to the Kyrgyz Republic. To avoid any duplications with previous support, the UNDP CO will ensure this by closely coordinating with the Russian Federation Trust Fund for Development, the Embassy of the Russian Federation and the Trade Mission throughout the projects' interventions during joint projects' Board meetings and by introducing a joint management arrangement. Beyond the governance and oversight agenda, the Board members will be invited to join monitoring efforts undertaken by the CO and the project management. Cooperation with sister UN agencies will also be ensured to create synergies between activities in Kyrgyzstan and support advocacy plans.

UNDP will consult with key government counterparts on all output activities: Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Ministry of Labour, Social Development and Migration, State Agency on the affairs of Civil Service and Local Self-Governance, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision, and national green businesses. On the local level, the project will collaborate with the State administrations of the Province and Districts, as well as with the Local Self-Governments of target communities. Other partners will be included but not limited to various service providing companies of the private sector, local universities, the High Technology Park of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Creative Central Asia Network, the National Patent Agency, the local Creative Economy Business Association, and CSOs/NGOs, which will be engaged to support project implementation.

Furthermore, UNDP will prioritize, where relevant, cooperation and partnership with Russian public and private institutions during the design and implementation of the envisioned project activities. To deliver activities on youth platforms and participation in the first component, UNDP envisions multiple partnerships. UNDP will facilitate collaboration between Youth Agencies of the Russian Federation and Kyrgyzstan, based on the priority areas identified between the two agencies during the official visit to the Kyrgyz Republic of the President of Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin in 2019. This provides high potential for the requested project to engage Russian Expertise as well as arrange various youth exchange programs for building partnerships among youth nets of both countries. Youth platforms in the EAEU such as the Young Leader

School will thus be utilized, and activities will build on best practices from the Eurasian integration agenda and the Eurasian Economic Commission.

For activities under the Component 2, coordination will be undertaken with the EAEU Secretariat to ensure that trade links can be expanded between empowered youth and member countries to improve the Kyrgyz Republic's export potential and broaden youths' integration into global value chains. UNDP will also partner with relevant experts from the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation and its subsidiary think tanks to foster dialogue and build on its expertise in connecting youth-led businesses in Kyrgyzstan with enterprises abroad and assisting in building businesses competitiveness in international markets for moving up value chains. UNDP will also explore partnerships between Diaspora Associations in the EAEU for providing networking opportunities, encouraging inward investment and expanding cross-border trade with member countries.

The project engagement strategy will follow UNDP rules and operational procedures. The UNDP Country Office will lead the national level stakeholders' collaboration, while also leading, providing needed coordination and supporting Project Board sessions.

Potential partnership with ongoing UNDP projects

All parallel financed projects presented below are selected based on their complementary nature to the design and implementation of the proposal. Through portfolio approach strong coordination will allow the delivery of the proposed interventions in a more seamless way. This will provide value-added for achieving the overall objectives that UNDP aspires to reach.

1. «Socio-Economic Recovery from negative consequences of COVID-19 in Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken provinces of the Kyrgyz Republic» (Russian Federation-UNDP Trust Fund for Development) – USD 1,555,828.00 in parallel funding. (Ends March 2024)

The Project aims to promote social and economic recovery by empowering women and youth, thus engaging in peacebuilding efforts that can strengthen social cohesion. It will promote decent employment through future-proof digital skills, supporting entrepreneurship and improving cross-border trade cooperation in the Ferghana Valley. Complimented by strengthening Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) capacities, social cohesion will be built for sustainable economic recovery. The project is underpinned by regional analyses and capacity building efforts which will be coordinated across UNDP's three Ferghana Valley country offices (Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan).

To reinforce this new project and avoid duplication, the activities in Ferghana Valley such as PPE production, the stimulation of start-ups across Ferghana Valley, EWER and fomenting Cross-Border trade adopt a different approach from the activities of this proposal, which ensure new innovative methods to addressing the COVID-19 crisis and where possible will complement and avoid duplication. When it comes to the digital empowerment of youth and women and facilitating youth entrepreneurship and decent employment opportunities for returning migrants under the above project, the activities will be implemented in different target locations and target new vulnerable groups, building upon best practices and lessons learned. Secondly, the creative economy and cash+ interventions will be implemented through engaging with Youth Centres and local self-governments (i.e., local mechanisms and institutions) by simultaneous linking up with local self-governments' development planning and budgeting processes, in order to build institutional long-term cooperation between the youth and municipalities in digital and economic empowerment as well as municipal service provision. Our work on EWER in this project will inform the selection of specific geographic locations at the inception of the proposed new project. Additional details of areas for potential synergy are provided in Attachment 1.

2. "Digital Skill and Opportunities for Youth Employment towards Digital economy in the Kyrgyz Republic" (Russian Federation-UNDP Trust Fund for Development) – USD 30,000.00 in parallel funding. (Ends 2021)

The goal of the project is to help the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to strengthen the enabling environment and ecosystems that would advance opportunities for youth in digital economy, support their better integration into the global development community and create sustainable jobs.

Within the framework of output 2 of the project, the establishment of ITHubOsh in Osh City for young entrepreneurs and the application of new learning models in non-formal educational settings are planned for the second half of 2021. There is a potential for considerable synergies between the two projects, as well as new opportunities to engage young women and men under the proposed project that help them benefit from the IT Hub services and existing best practices to develop new IT skills in new non-formal educational settings. It will help vulnerable youth to establish new business contacts and maintain networking with more experienced residents of the IT Hub. Under this new project, the IT Hub will also be further expanded to integrate the creative economy and design thinking offer for youth in Osh and sponsor similar interventions in Youth Centers in Osh and Batken oblasts.

3. “Aid for trade” Project (Finland) – USD 382,320.00 in parallel funding (Ends 2022).

The project supports inclusive growth in Central Asia, including the Kyrgyz Republic, through the promotion of trade and enhancement of competitiveness to support the countries’ efforts to reduce poverty and improve people’s lives.

It is envisaged that the higher productivity and export readiness of target products/value chains (VCs) through the use of innovative technologies will be increased. The findings of the research on production and export readiness will directly inform the beneficiaries and new startups of this project, who will be interviewed and otherwise engaged to produce more integrated results. Both projects envisage support for young women entrepreneurs in different sectors. The interventions of both projects will be coordinated to have larger coverage and diversification of different sectors. Currently, the project is under discussion for an extension till 2025.

The project pursues two objectives such as i) providing assistance in the development of export policy and ii) developing of manufacturers and exporters in the Kyrgyz Republic in green sectors. As such, the project doesn’t directly address the issues of promotion of Kyrgyzstan’s membership in the Eurasian Economic Union but takes into account EAEU as a general side effect result due to implementation of activities.

Cooperation with Institutions in the Russian Federation

The project is ideally situated to benefit from the digital transformation in the Russian Federation, building on established partnerships for supporting digital skills development. Under the program for improving the digital skills of youth in the creative economy, we will explore the creation of a partnership with the HSE Art and Design School in Russia to gain access to its expertise in the creative industry, especially in digital animation and online film making. The Digital SGD Accelerator under the Eurasian Economic Union, Kazan high-technology techno-park and Skolkovo Innovation Center will be approached for the relevant interventions that help harness digital networks and build strong linkages to CIS and global expertise, networks and markets to stimulate innovation and cooperation. Moreover, linkages with experts in the creative industry in Moscow and St. Petersburg will be engaged to build linkages with youth-led entrepreneurs in the Kyrgyz Republic for advice on starting and scaling up businesses. Furthermore, UNDP will build on the partnership with the Agency for Strategic Initiatives (ASI) of the Russian Federation around identifying socio-economic problems and crowdsourcing solutions through the Artificial Intelligence and Digital platforms (www.datamaster.ru). During the implementation of the project, UNDP will consult the Russian pool of experts (<http://developmentexperts.ru>) to attract top-notch expertise in relevant areas.

The UNDP Country Office will draw on international expertise from the Russian Federation for designing and deploying solutions in all project interventions. Our work around increasing socio-economic inclusion of youth rests on freshly finished projects in all key regions of the country funded by the Government of Japan. Interventions around digital skills for youth empowerment in creative economy will be informed by our expertise gained under the «Digital skills and opportunities for youth employment towards digital economy in the Kyrgyz Republic» project.

VII. RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The highly probable risk factors with a high scale of impact include:

- Ongoing multiple crises context (Covid19, political instability and associated reforms, economic recession, Batken crises) makes the overall socio-political situation volatile, fluid and rapidly unfolding. The current context is highly dependent on the **political dynamics** impacting the sustainability of the Government, causing frequent changes of governmental and local government officials. The next parliamentary elections have been set forth for Oct/Nov’21, which is usually followed by protests.
- The political risk factors, therefore, are the highest risky ones for the project, since they cause impacts in many ways such as low commitment and consistency of the national partners to achieving the project results, losing of an institutional memory due to frequent re-shuffling of officials in beneficiary institutions and others.
- Having gained considerable experience in crisis and post-crisis situations, UNDP in Kyrgyzstan will mitigate the impacts through the Project Board as a strategic decision-making body of the project as well as by working with medium level managers of partnering institutions. Fortunately, the local elections resulted in the formation of local councils (local parliaments, the main decision-making bodies, including financing ones), which will work sustainably over the next five years. Therefore, the project will be engaging local councils while strengthening local mechanisms, tools and institutions such as Youth Entrepreneurship Coordination, youth-friendly Local Investment Programmes and Youth Centres which will have to be approved through local councils. Necessary statutory instruments will be devised and promoted to be approved through local councils.

- The structural barriers deterring youth from entrepreneurial activities, the underdeveloped nature of the local level entrepreneurial ecosystem in green sectors represent **financial, economic, and environmental risk factors**.
- The impacts of the underdeveloped ecosystem might include the low level of motivation from local governments, local businesses and the private sector to be engaged and to invest in green growth.
- UNDP in Kyrgyzstan will be promoting integrated approaches to the development of youth entrepreneurship ecosystem in green sectors through a wide range of business consultancy, mentorship and capacity building raising activities as well as by experimenting with sustainable financing solutions such as fund revolving schemes as well as increasing trade links with EAEU marketplaces.
- Due to protracted Covid induced crisis and multiple crises, the budget allocation opportunities of central and local authorities decreased, which represent **risks of fiscal nature**.
- The impacts of fiscal risk factors are that youth-friendly Local Investment Programmes and local government investments may not find appropriate co-sharing from local budgets.
- Therefore, the project will be exploring opportunities to engage resources of Kyrgyz diasporas from Russia and other countries for investing to their own host communities, as well as resources of the interested businesses, private sectors, investors and/or crowd-funding approaches.
- The post-conflict situation in Batken province, regular incidents at border areas represent **risk factors of a security nature**.
- The impacts of security factors might be multi-facetted starting from security restrictions for traveling and ending with diversion of Batken local authorities' attention from project activities towards response and recovery.
- In cases of escalation the situation, UNDP in Kyrgyzstan will implement project activities in that region, especially activities related to youth entrepreneurship, as part of the broader UN/DP Crisis Response mechanism, which is co-led by the Government and UN RC.
- Due to border closures under Covid lockdown, restrictions on cross-border and international movements of goods, political instability caused deterioration of the investment climate, the rapid devaluation of the national currency, decreasing in the purchasing power of the private sector, businesses and the population. Especially, the prices for construction materials and fuel trended up twice, which are imported from abroad. Plans of the Government to increase tariffs for electricity will also raise the costs of nationally produced goods or services. The epidemiological situation introduced special quarantine measures over international travels. These factors represent **risks of organizational nature** in delivering project results, especially in purchasing import-dependent goods or international services.
- The impacts of organizational risks might be that prices will increasingly grow, which may increase costs, e.g., while construction of Youth Centres.
- As a response measure, UNDP will be looking at the cost-effective solutions, concluding contracts in hard currency to avoid losses due to fluctuation of exchange rates and closely look at the dynamics.
- Private sector and businesses are weakly developed in rural areas, whose situation was further exacerbated by the impacts of the multiple crises. This may cause that local businesses and the private sector might have a low interest in apprenticeship/internship activities, which represent **risk factors of operational nature**.
- The probability of such types of risk factors is low, however, to mitigate the impacts, UNDP in Kyrgyzstan will be exploring apprenticeship/internship activities as part of broader TORs while purchasing of appropriate services, so that contractors became committed under the terms of contracts.

VIII. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Key government counterparts on all output activities include: Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy, Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Ministry of Labour, Social Development and Migration, State Agency on the affairs of Civil Service and Local Self-Governance, State administrations of the Province and Districts, Local Self-Governments of target communities, CSOs, youth-led organizations, private sector.

Youth in the “not in employment, education, and training” NEET category (hereinafter is referred as to *underserved youth representatives*) such as those who have limited access to high-quality education, business opportunities and finance from vulnerable segments of the population. The *underserved youth representatives* will be identified in close partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection which

maintains a list of vulnerable youth. At least the following criteria will be applied such as those who are from poor families, who have incomplete secondary education, and who don't have any official sources of income (unemployed) and those who are unskilled to access finances due to low literacy and communications skills. The deeper methodology for identifying underserved youth representatives will be devised in partnership with the Ministry of Social Protection and social affairs units of respective target local governments. Before launching project activities respective methodology will be devised in collaboration with national partners and deeper analysis will be undertaken to identify, target and engage underserved youth who can contribute to the green growth.

The *underserved youth representatives* will be engaged into the local decision-making processes and entrepreneurship activities through Youth Action Groups and Youth Centers

IX. SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

The project will be implemented as part of UNDP's broader Social Cohesion Programme and complemented with the interventions of PBF-funded project on "Inclusive governance and shared civic identity for sustainable peace and development" as well as Japan-funded project on preventing violent extremism, which is in the resource mobilization pipeline. Moreover, the project will be seeking for strategic partnerships with Russian institutions specified under the Results and Partnership section.

The PBF-funded project will complement in: (i) ensuring a meaningful engagement of women led CSOs into central and local Infrastructures for Peace (I4P) (ii) gender mainstreaming and integrating priorities of the National Gender Action Plan with national and local peacebuilding action plans (iii) empowering female civil and municipal servants and young women in local level conflict prevention and resolution (iv) ensure that data collection and analytical methodologies are gender and age disaggregated under the Early Warning and Early Response system.

The Japanese-funded project (in the resource mobilization pipeline) will complement in: (i) increasing youth's meaningful participation in local development, decision-making, conflict prevention and preventing violent extremism through construction of 5 Youth Centers, benefiting at least 1000 young men and women indirectly (ii) establishing 5 socially mixed Youth Action Groups (at least 100 members in total) to empower and promote youth's meaningful engagement and civic participation in social dialogue, peacebuilding, preventing VE, local development and decision-making.

X. DIGITAL SOLUTIONS¹¹

Digital technologies and solutions to improve the target beneficiaries and partners' experiences and solve the development challenge(s) will be addressed under the **Output 3** Youth empowered through digital skills training that fits the needs of employers in the creative economy.

For these purposes two key activities will be implemented such as **Activity 3.1.** identify the gaps in skills and knowledge within the local digital labour market of the creative economy and **Activity 3.2.** provide targeted online and offline practical courses for youth, including those with disabilities, operating through Youth Centres.

XI. KNOWLEDGE

Under Output 1, one analytical report with policy recommendations to sustain youth centres will be developed and submitted to the Government's consideration and follow up as well as one online platform (website) will be developed and operationalized aimed at increasing coordination among key stakeholders

Under Output 2, the Youth Business Acceleration Programme (YBAP) will be devised and published

Under Output 3, the assessment report detailing the current state of the national creative sector will be produced with proposed policy recommendations to engage the most vulnerable groups in the creative economy as well as recommendations on disability inclusion strategies prepared.

All knowledge products will be broadly disseminated through UNDP's web resources and social media to ensure maximum coverage.

¹¹ Please see the [Guideline "Embedding Digital in Project Design"](#).

XII. SUSTAINABILITY AND SCALING UP

Sustainability: The proposed project will offer a comprehensive approach for developing youth greener entrepreneurship and create experimental pathways towards youth-oriented sustainable and integrated development of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in rural contexts.

In this regard, the *Youth Entrepreneurship Coordination Platforms, youth-friendly Local Investment Programmes and Local Government Investments for local infrastructure, Youth Centers integrated with Youth Action Groups, revolving fund schemes, partnership with the private sector* all together are aimed at making the project nationally owned and sustainable. At the same time, all of these elements together are treated as the critical elements of and constitute an entrepreneurial ecosystem to be experimented and offered to the Government as a new business model to support youth's greener entrepreneurship in a sustainable way.

Therefore, the project applies a *development approach*, which UNDP CO hopes will bring about a long-term positive impact to both stabilize the green socio-economic and social cohesion situation in the Kyrgyz Republic considering the multifaceted urgent crises being faced. The integrated nature of this proposal makes it unique and paves a path for sustainability. The project will incentivize local government investments towards improved local infrastructure, which will continue bringing benefits to local youth beyond the project life cycle. The green and climate-smart activities for job creation, creative industry, circular economy that combats the environmental degradation, building the capacity of the most vulnerable youth for sustainable job retention in the variety of sectors will generate longer-term positive impact on the society's trust in the Government and social cohesion as a whole. The project pivots on and synergizes with prior structures and interventions, especially through leveraging Youth Centers, integrating efforts with previous RTFD funded projects, and utilizing existing partnerships. By ensuring that experiences and lessons learned are integrated within all interventions, the project targets rural and urban areas to ensure that the new vulnerable most impacted by COVID-19 are supported.

The project will promote a comprehensive and participatory approach so that no-one is left behind in project implementation and decision-making processes, hence strengthening ownership of the process. Through continuous consultations with communities, interventions will be demand-driven, to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are met for a sustainable and strong crisis recovery. Specifically, the project will engage with local stakeholders in the context of discussions on reviewing the National Youth Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic until 2030, in order to promote the youth's development and wellbeing and ensure that all project interventions synergize with national efforts and priorities. New and strategic partnerships will be leveraged for scaling up future investments that will emerge from this project.

XIII. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Cost Efficiency and Effectiveness

The Project will assist in creating the enabling conditions for implementation of all planned project activities through both regular technical level meetings and strategic meetings at the Project Board. The project will facilitate monitoring and reporting to ensure the delivery of agreed outcomes and will also play a coordinating role to maximize efficiency of UNDP-Russian Federation's interventions and avoid potential duplications, ensure the compliance with country's development priorities, global environment trends and UNDP's corporate policy.

The project will be implemented as part of UNDP's broader Social Cohesion Programme (portfolio management) and complemented with the interventions of UNDP's other projects, so to maximize the development results in further perspectives.

Project Management

Target locations and beneficiaries: As per the table below, UNDP will be working with the existing 10 target locations, where the Youth Centres and Youth Action Groups are functional in a mutually integrated way and will select additional 10 target locations by focusing on the municipalities prioritized as the "drivers of regional development" (точки роста) under the Concept of Regional Development. The existing youth infrastructure was built within a framework of the previous project "Strengthening community resilience and cross-border cooperation for preventing violent extremism in Central Asia" funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by UNDP.

The total population of 20 target locations (9 existing+11 new), without the population of Bishkek, Osh and Jalal-Abad cities, are about 483,356 people. One-third of the population of Kyrgyzstan is youth, which amounts to approximately 145 thousand young people in 21 target locations.

In each of 20 target locations, UNDP will engage at least by 20 direct project young beneficiaries (trainings, entrepreneurship activities, etc) who are/will become members of Youth Action Groups. Thus, the project will work with

400 direct youth beneficiaries. The Youth Centres, being located at the district or oblast administrative centres, will be serving the youth from the proximity areas, thus increasing the number of indirect beneficiaries.

Under activity 2.3, broader coverage of indirect beneficiaries is expected to achieve, because the project aims at the improvement of local infrastructure will bring benefits almost to the entire youth population - 145 thousand people. However, it is supposed that 70-80% of the rural youth population, mostly from southern regions migrated, which is roughly around 100 thousand people. Thus, approximately 45 thousand youth population will be indirectly benefited within the project life cycle. The improved local infrastructure will bring benefits beyond the project life cycle.

No	Oblast	District	Drivers of regional development (точки роста)	Existing 9 target locations	Proposed additional 11 new target locations
1.	Issyk-Kul	Ak-Suu	Karakol town		Karakol town Population: 66,294
2.		Issyk-kul	Balykchy town	Balykchy Population: 42,875	
3.	Naryn	Naryn	Naryn town		Naryn town Population: 30,000
4.		Kochkor	Kochkor village municipality	Kochkor Population: 9,863	
5.	Chui		Bishkek city		Bishkek Population: 1,1 M
6.		Jayil	Kara-Balta town	Kara-Balta Population: 45,300	
7.	Talas	Talas	Talas town		Talas town Population: 32,886
8.		Kara-Buura		Kara-Buura village municipality Population: 9,964	
9.	Osh	Kara-Suu	Osh city		Osh city Population: 256,763
10.			Kara-Suu town		
11.				Nariman village municipality Population: 45,354	
12.		Aravan		Check-Abad village municipality Population: 15,622	
13.		Uzgen	Uzgen town		Uzgen town Population: 54,800
14.					
15.		Alay	Sary-Tash village municipality		
16.	Nookat			Nookat Population: 16,100	
17.	Jalalabad	Suzak	Jalal-Abad city		Jalal-Abad city Population: 108,300
18.				Suzak village municipality Population: 34,499	
19.		Nookan	Tash-Komur town		

No	Oblast	District	<i>Drivers of regional development (точки роста)</i>	Existing 9 target locations	Proposed additional 11 new target locations
20.			Kochkor-Ata town		
21.			Kara-Kul town		
22.		Bazar-Korgon		Bazar-Korgon town Population: 38,618	
23.		Aksy	Kerben town		
24.	Batken	Kadamjay	Kadamjay town		Kadamjay town Population: 6,234
25.					Kyzyl-Kiya town Population: 14,247
26.		Batken	Batken town		Batken town Population: 10,382
27.		Leilek	Isfana town	Isfana Population: 10,338	
			Total without Bishkek, Osh and Jalal-Abad cities:	252,433 people	230,923 people

XIV. RESULTS FRAMEWORK¹²**Intended Outcome as stated in the UNDAF/Country [or Global/Regional] Programme Results and Resource Framework:**

Outcome 1: By 2022, inclusive and sustainable industrial, agricultural and rural development contribute to economic growth, decent work, improved livelihoods, food security and nutrition, especially among women and vulnerable groups

Outcome 2: By 2022, institutions at all levels are more accountable and inclusive, ensuring justice, human rights, gender equality and sustainable peace for all.

Indicative Output(s) with gender marker2: GEN2

Applicable Key Result Area (from 2022-2025 Strategic Plan): Eradicate poverty in all its forms; Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development; Build resilience to shocks and crisis

Project title and ID (ATLAS Award ID): “Economic empowerment of youth and developing sustainable solutions for youth’s entrepreneurship at the local level for fostering greater social cohesion and resilience” **Project ID: 00130578 Atlas Award: 00139973**

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS[1]	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	FINAL	
Output 1: Local mechanisms, tools and institutions that foster an integrated approach to development of youth entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystem formed and improved (Thematic priorities 4, 6)	Activity 1.1. Establishment and strengthening of existing local mechanisms, tools and institutions to foster an integrated approach to youth entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystem (including construction or renovation premises for establishing 11 Youth Centers), as well as strengthening legal framework to ensure sustainability of youth centers and information management capacity (website) for improved coordination	Joint media reports of UNDP and Youth Agency		2022						Project progress reports
	a) 11 new Youth Action Groups (YAGs) created in target locations and 11 new Youth Centres established with respective Youth Action Plans aimed at increasing youth’s wellbeing and development.		# of established Youth Groups, Plans and Centers	0	0	2	3	6	11	Major risk - political instability

¹² UNDP publishes its project information (indicators, baselines, targets and results) to meet the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards. Make sure that indicators are S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound), provide accurate baselines and targets underpinned by reliable evidence and data, and avoid acronyms so that external audience clearly understand the results of the project.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS[1]	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	FINAL	
	b) 20 Youth Entrepreneurship Coordination Platforms established; 20 youth-friendly Local Investment Programmes devised.		# of Platforms & Investment Programmes	0	0	2	8	10	20	
	c) 400 youth directly and 45,000 youth indirectly benefiting from the improved local mechanisms, tools and institutions.		# of beneficiaries	0	0	50	150	200	400	
	d) # of policy recommendations aimed at sustaining youth centers		One analytical report with policy recommendations aimed at sustaining youth centers	0	0	1	0	0	1	
	e) one website developed and operational		One website developed and operational	0	0	1	0	0	1	
	Activity 1.2. Capacity development for Youth Entrepreneurship Coordination Platforms, education and career guidance for youth through training programmes of academia and companies	Joint media reports of UNDP and Youth Agency		2022						Project progress reports
	a) Technical or vocational training provided for at least 100 youth, with at least 50% for young women.		# of youth trained	0	0	20	30	50	100	Major risk - political instability
	b) 50 students from Kyrgyzstan are prepared to participate in the international engineering championship.		# of students prepared	0	0		20	30	50	
	c) At least 2 Russian expertise engaged from highly qualified green business mentors and private sector through the EAEU Secretariat		# of Russian expertise engaged	0	0		2		2	
	d) At least 1 strategic partnership is established between the Federal Agency on Youth Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Culture and Youth of the Kyrgyz Republic based upon results on the official visit of the Russian Federation headed by the President of Russia in 2019		# of strategic partnership established	0	0		1		1	
Output 2: Job and income opportunities enhanced through education, business support and mentorship	Activity 2.1. Building and implementing Youth Business Acceleration Programmes to support the growth and development of regional (subnational) business and entrepreneurship ecosystems			2022						Project progress reports
	a) Business advisory support delivered to 400	Reports of	# of beneficiaries	0	0	100	200	100	400	Major risk -

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS[1]	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	FINAL	
programmes (Thematic priorities 1, 2)	direct youth beneficiaries	Business Acceleration Programmes								political instability
	b) At least 1 Russian expertise engaged from the municipalities of the Russian Federation that have vast experience in the development of youth green entrepreneurship		# of Russian expertise engaged	0	0	1		1		
	Activity 2.2. Support innovative youth-led start-ups and entrepreneurship and facilitate further commercialisation and scale up			2022						
	a) At least 2 fund revolving schemes operationalized for sustainable funding of youth green entrepreneurship	Joint media reports of UNDP, Business Accelerators	# of fund revolving schemes established	0	0		2		2	Major risk - political instability
	b) At least 100 new green businesses established and employment provided for at least 300 youth (50% for young women)		# of businesses benefiting youth	0	0		50	50	100	
	Activity 2.3. Increasing responsiveness of local government investments to catalyze higher impact on youth's well being and development			2022						Project progress reports
	a) 20 youth-friendly Local Investments Programmes supported with small grants by the project	Project progress reports and media reports	% of implemented projects jointly with LSGs				10	10	20	Major risk - political instability
	b) Local governments allocated at least 30% of funds for implementing youth-friendly Local Investment Programmes from local budgets to improve local infrastructure benefiting at least 40,000 youth		% of implementation, indicating co-share of LSGs				10	20	30	
c) Improved local infrastructure bring benefits for approximately 10,000 (50% young women) within the project lifespan	# of local improved local infrastructure benefiting residents					3 000	7 000	10 000		
Output 3: Youth empowered through digital skills training that fits the needs of employers in the creative economy (Thematic priority 5)	Activity 3.1. Identify the gaps in skills and knowledge within the local digital labor market of the creative economy			2022						Project progress reports
	a) An assessment report detailing the current state of the national creative sector produced with proposed policy recommendations to engage the most vulnerable groups in the creative economy.	Report with recommendations	One report with recommendations		0	1			1	Major risk - political instability
	b) Recommendation concept notes on disability inclusion strategies prepared.									

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS[1]	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	FINAL	
	Activity 3.2. Provide targeted online and offline practical courses in rural areas of Kyrgyzstan for youth, including those with disabilities, operating through Youth Centers.			2022						Project progress reports
	a) Training in the creative economy tailored to the COVID-19 context provided for 100 youth.	Project progress reports and media reports	# of youth trained		0	20	70		90	Major risk - political instability
	b) At least 1 free access courses with several sub-courses produced tailored to specific needs.		# of courses produced		0		1		1	
	c) Apprenticeship programs in creative sectors provided for 100 youth with at least 50% for young women.		# of apprenticeship programs provided		0		50	50	100	
	d) Online and blended webinars and career events provided for 100 youth		# of webinars provided		0	1	1		2	
	e) At least 1 Russian expertise engaged on creative industry		# of Russian expertise engaged		0		1		1	

XV. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the following monitoring and evaluation plans:

Within the annual cycle

- On a quarterly basis, a quality assessment shall record progress towards the completion of key results, based on quality criteria and methods
- An Issue Log shall be activated in Atlas and updated by the Project Manager to facilitate tracking and resolution of potential problems or requests for change.
- Based on the initial risk analysis, a risk log shall be activated in Atlas and regularly updated by reviewing the external environment that may affect the project implementation.
- Based on the above information recorded in Atlas, a Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR) shall be submitted by the Project Manager to the Project Board through Project Assurance, using the standard report format available in the Executive Snapshot.
- a project Lesson-learned log shall be activated and regularly updated to ensure on-going learning and adaptation within the organization, and to facilitate the preparation of the Lessons-learned Report at the end of the project
- a Monitoring Schedule Plan shall be activated in Atlas and updated to track key management actions/events

Annually

- **Annual Progress Report.** An Annual Progress Report shall be prepared by the Senior Adviser on Social Cohesion and shared with the Project Board. As a minimum requirement, the Annual Progress Report shall cover the whole year with updated information on the progress made against pre-defined annual targets at the output level.

Monitoring Plan

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (if joint)	Responsible
Track results progress	Progress data against the results indicators in the RRF will be collected and analysed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs.	Quarterly in the frequency required for each indicator	Progress will be addressed by the CO and project team.	UNDP; GovKG; UN agencies	CO (Outcome 2 Cluster); M&E; Project team
Monitor and Manage Risk	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log. This includes monitoring measures and plans that may have been required as per UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards.	Quarterly	The Project risks will be identified and entered in Atlas PM module for further tracking and actions taken.		CO (Outcome 2 Cluster); M&E
Learn	Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.	At least annually	Relevant lessons will be captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions.		CO (Outcome 2 Cluster)
Project Quality Assurance	The quality of the project will be assessed against UNDP's quality standards to identify project strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision making to improve the project.	Bi-Annually as per UNDP PPM rules and regulations	Areas of strength and weakness will be reviewed by project management and used to inform decisions to improve project performance.		CO (Outcome 2 Cluster)
Review and Make Course Corrections	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making.	At least annually	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed by the project board and used to make course corrections.		CO (Outcome 2 Cluster)
Project Report	A progress report will be presented to the Project Board and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk log with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.	Annually, and at the end of the project (final report)			CO (Outcome 2 Cluster)
Project Review (Project Board)	The project's governance mechanism (i.e., project board) will hold regular project reviews to assess the performance of the project and review the Multi-Year Work Plan to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the project. In the project's final year, the Project Board shall hold an end-of project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences.	At least annually	Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress will be discussed by the project board and management actions agreed to address the issues identified.		CO (Outcome 2 Cluster)
	At the end of the project by hiring an independent international consultancy	At the end of the project	Evaluate project as per UNDP M&E policies		CO (Outcome 2 Cluster)

Evaluation Plan¹³

Evaluation Title	Partners (if joint)	Related Strategic Plan Output	UNSDCF/CPD Outcome	Planned Completion Date	Key Evaluation Stakeholders	Cost and Source of Funding
Final Evaluation	N/A	Eradicate poverty in all its forms; Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development; Build resilience to shocks and crisis	<p>UNDAF: Outcome 1: By 2022, inclusive and sustainable industrial, agricultural and rural development contribute to economic growth, decent work, improved livelihoods, food security and nutrition, especially among women and vulnerable groups</p> <p>UNDAF: Outcome 2: By 2022, institutions at all levels are more accountable and inclusive, ensuring justice, human rights, gender equality and sustainable peace for all.</p> <p>CPD: Output 2.3. Women and youth are empowered to participate in decision-making at national and local levels.</p> <p>CPD: Output 1.2. Green/sustainable entrepreneurship and investment environment enhanced to increase economic productivity and trade, including labour productivity, especially for women and youth</p> <p>CPD: Output.1.3. Women, youth and people from regions with high poverty rates benefit from improved services and infrastructure, better skills, access to resources, sustainable jobs and livelihoods</p>	January 2025	<p>Ministry of culture, information, sports and youth policy</p> <p>Ministry of Economy and Commerce</p> <p>State Agency on the affairs of State Personnel Service and Local Self-Governance</p> <p>CSOs and private sector engaged</p> <p>Youth-led CSOs</p>	US\$14,852

¹³ Optional, if needed

XVI. MULTI-YEAR WORK PLAN 2022-2025 ¹⁴¹⁵

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		2022	2023	2024	2025		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount USD
Output 1: Local mechanisms, tools and institutions that foster an integrated approach to development of youth entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystem formed and improved (Thematic priorities 4, 6)	Activity 1.1. Establishment and strengthening of existing local mechanisms, tools and institutions to foster an integrated approach to youth entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystem (including construction or renovation premises for establishing 11 Youth Centers) as well as strengthening legal framework to ensure sustainability of youth centers and information management capacity (website) for improved coordination	30 000	200 000	110 000	10 000	UNDP, Youth Agency, Agency on Regional Development, private sector, CSOs, local authorities	RTFD	Supplies, Commodities, Materials; Contractual services; Staff and other personnel; LVGs (Low Value Grants)	350 000
	Activity 1.2. Capacity development for Youth Entrepreneurship Coordination Platforms, education and career guidance for youth through training programmes of academia and companies.	10 000	40 000	20 000	5 000		RTFD		75 000
	Delivery Enabling Services (Monitoring, Quality Assurance, Financial Oversight, Recruitment, Evaluation etc.) *	15 000	30 000	25 000	10 000		RTFD		80 000
	Component 1 sub-total:	55 000	270 000	155 000	25 000				
	Government parallel financing (if applicable)					LSGs	Local Budget	TBD	
Output 2: Job and income opportunities enhanced through education, business support and mentorship programmes (Thematic priorities 1, 2)	Activity 2.1. Building and implementing Youth Business Acceleration Programmes to support the growth and development of regional (subnational) business and entrepreneurship ecosystems	20 000	20 000			UNDP, Youth Agency, Agency for Regional Devel, MinEconom, Ministry Social Development, private sector, CSOs local authorities	RTFD	Supplies, Commodities, Materials; Contractual services; Staff and other personnel; LVGs	40 000
	Activity 2.2. Support innovative youth-led start-ups and entrepreneurship and facilitate further commercialisation and scale up		550 000	200 000			RTFD		750 000
	Activity 2.3. Increasing responsiveness of local government investments to catalyze higher impact on youth's well being and development		100 000	80 000			RTFD		180 000

¹⁴ Cost definitions and classifications for programme and development effectiveness costs to be charged to the project are defined in the Executive Board decision DP/2010/32

¹⁵ Changes to a project budget affecting the scope (outputs), completion date, or total estimated project costs require a formal budget revision that must be signed by the project board. In other cases, the UNDP programme manager alone may sign the revision provided the other signatories have no objection. This procedure may be applied for example when the purpose of the revision is only to re-phase activities among years.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		2022	2023	2024	2025		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount USD
	Delivery Enabling Services (Monitoring, Quality Assurance, Financial Oversight, Recruitment, Evaluation, Comms Srvcs etc.) *	20 000	40 000	30 000	10 000		RTFD		100 000
	Component 2 sub-total:	40 000	710 000	310 000	10 000				1 070 000
	Government parallel financing (if applicable)					LSGs	Local Budget	TBD	
Output 3: Youth empowered through digital skills training that fits the needs of employers in the creative economy (Thematic priority 5)	Activity 3.1. Identify the gaps in skills and knowledge within the local digital labor market of the creative economy.	10 000	10 000			UNDP, Youth Agency, MinEconom, Ministry Social Development, private sector, CSOs local authorities	RTFD	Supplies, Commodities, Materials; Contractual services; Staff and other personnel; LVGs	20 000
	Activity 3.2. Provide targeted online and offline practical courses in rural areas of Kyrgyzstan for youth, including those with disabilities, operating through Youth Centers.	20 000	30 000	30 000	10 000		RTFD		90 000
	Delivery Enabling Services (Monitoring, Quality Assurance, Financial Oversight, Recruitment, Evaluation etc.)	5 000	20 000	10 000			RTFD		35 000
	Component 3 sub-total:	35 000	60 000	40 000	10 000				
Personnel and Management	Personnel costs**	12 000	24 000	23 000	11 000	UNDP	RTFD	Staff costs	70 000
	Project Management and Technical Support (Administrative & Finance Assistant, Procurement, Office Rent, Transportation)***	12 000	20 000	15 000		UNDP	RTFD	Administrative costs	47 000
	Management sub-total:	24 000	44 000	38 000	11 000				117 000
Evaluation				14 852					14 852
	PROJECT TOTAL:	154 000	1 084 000	543 000	70 852				1 851 852
General Management Support (8%)	GMS (8%)	12 320	86 720	43 440	5 668	UNDP			148 148
	PROJECT GRAND TOTAL:	166 320	1 170 720	586 440	76 520				2 000 000

* Delivery Enabling Services are aimed at designing, implementation, monitoring & evaluation of activities outlined under the respective Components. Project Support can include any costs from advice to administrative services and encompass for example contractual / professional services, quality assurance, special functions like communications, travel, monitoring and evaluation and etc.

** Personnel costs will be approx. 50% co-shared with the current TFD project on Socio-Economic Recovery from Covid19. The project will engage utilize existing infrastructure (staff) of the Social Cohesion Programme

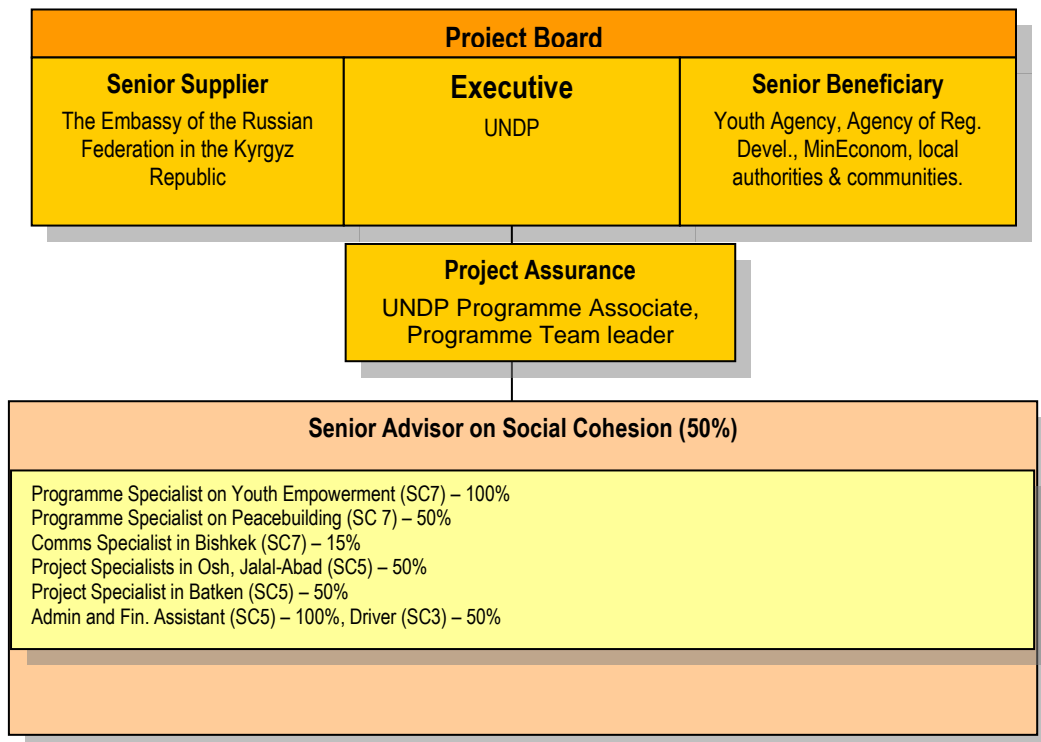
*** Project Management and Technical Support (Administrative Finance Assistant, Procurement, Office Rent, Transportation) - approx. 50% of co-share with the current TFD project on Soc-Economic Recovery from Covid19

XVII. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The project will be implemented through the DIM¹⁶ modality by the UNDP Country Office in the Kyrgyz Republic.

UNDP, as the responsible body for the management of the project, will oversee all technical aspects of planning and implementing activities, fostering quality assurance, managing operational activities including procurement, finance, and human resources dedicated to the project, while ensuring that operations adhere to UNDP ethics and accountability policies, principles and standards while enabling fast implementation within the given timeline within the range where UNDP can manage.

The Project Management Structure is as follows:



Given the urgency of the situation, UNDP in the Kyrgyz Republic will employ solutions for the accelerated and smooth start of the project inception activities. The existing staff capacity of the RFTFD funded COVID-19 Recovery Project (program and operations) will be utilized to the necessary extent until the end of the project (through 2024), the personnel of the project will be transferred to this project thereafter to ensure greater synergies. The national consultants will be hired as necessary and on time.

The project will be implemented by the UNDP Country Office in Kyrgyzstan under the “direct implementation” DIM modality, relying on integrated portfolio management of the Country Office project as part of the Peace, Justice and Accountable Institutions Cluster. The UNDP Country Office in Kyrgyzstan will have overall responsibility for ensuring project management quality control, coordination and reporting. The project is being implemented within the UN Development Assistance Framework for 2018-2022, and UNDP CPD for 2018-2022, approved by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. It is also compliant with the latest draft of the UN Socio-Economic Response Framework for Kyrgyzstan. These frameworks are congruent with the Government priorities outlined in the National Development Strategy for 2018-2040, which is currently under an official approval process, and the Governmental Programme for the Kyrgyz Republic Development for the period of 2018-2022 “Unity, Trust, Creation” approved by the Parliament of the country.

The Project strategy identified above is expected to deliver maximum results with available resources due to the profound UNDP experience in managing a portfolio of development projects in Osh, Jalalabad and Batken regions. The existing and former UNDP capacity in Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken will be mapped and deployed based on the project needs.

¹⁶ According to the DIM authorization for the UNDP CO in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2022 years.

This new project is also referring to evidence on similar approaches in this regional context and will be built on good practices and lessons learned so far, thus, benefiting from the already developed capacity building and project management tools. Besides that, UNDP's good knowledge of local context and stakeholders will also provide the new project with relevant links to local state administrations and local communities governments officials. Good practices of community mobilization for the UNDP project implementation will benefit this new project after the targeted communities are chosen, in terms of application of available mobilization tools and approaches.

As far as operational modalities are concerned, the project will benefit from the accumulated roster of the reliable local companies and consultants available in the region to use with local expertise but engage national level consultants and companies only where crucially needed. Certain activities could be outsourced to the relevant sub-contractor if meeting needed requirements and corresponding tenders, and services procurements will be organized as appropriate.

The Project Board will be established to provide guidance and supervision over the project implementation (see Annex A). Taking an adaptive and collaborative management approach to execution, the project will ensure that the key stakeholders are involved at an early stage in project implementation throughout its execution in their capacity as partners for development. This includes their participation in the Project Board, review of project outputs including recommendations for amendments to policies, plans, programmes and legislation, as well as participation in monitoring activities.

The proposed implementation strategy is based on the experience gained during long-term successful cooperation between UNDP and bilateral donors in the delivery of national projects. The implementation follows the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness¹⁷. The described modality is designed to guarantee:

- (a) Country (and local) ownership,
- (b) Participation of stakeholders,
- (c) Capacity building in beneficiary institutions.

In terms of roles and responsibilities, the Project Board, chaired by the representatives from Youth Agency, Agency on Regional Development and the Ministry of Economy and co-chaired by UNDP RR/DRR serving as the Project Executive, will direct the project. The Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Kyrgyz Republic will also be a part of the Project Board and the Project Board may decide to expand its membership as appropriate.

Project Board: The Project Board (PB) will be responsible for making management decisions for the project, in particular when guidance is required by the Project Coordinator. It will play a critical role in project monitoring and evaluations by assuring the quality of these processes and associated products, and by using evaluations for improving performance, accountability and learning. The PB will ensure that required resources are committed. It will also arbitrate on any conflicts within the project and negotiate solutions to any problems with external bodies. Based on the approved Annual Work Plan (AWP), the PB can also consider and approve the quarterly plans and approve any essential deviations from the original plans. The project will be subject to PB meetings at least twice every year. The first such meeting will be held within the first six months of the start of full implementation. At the initial stage of project implementation, the PB may, if deemed advantageous, wish to meet more frequently to build common understanding and to ensure that the project is initiated properly.

To ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability for project results, PB decisions will be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition. In case consensus cannot be reached within the PB, the final decision will rest with the UNDP.

Members of the PB will consist of key national government and non-government agencies, and appropriate local level representatives. UNDP will also be represented on the PB, which will have appropriate representation in terms of gender. Potential members of the PB will be reviewed and recommended for approval during the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) meeting. In addition, PB meetings will be open to observer organizations, including private sector representatives, which can comment and provide input on project activities, and potential decisions, although only PB members will have decision-making powers. The PB will contain three distinct roles:

Executive Role: The UNDP RR/DRR serving as the Project Executive and co-chair the Project Board.

Senior Supplier Role: This requires the representation of the interests of the funding parties for specific cost sharing projects and/or technical expertise to the project. The Senior Supplier's primary function within the

¹⁷ http://www.oecd.org/document/18/0,2340,en_2649_3236398_35401554_1_1_1_1,00.html

PB will be to provide guidance regarding the technical feasibility of the project. This role will rest with UNDP in the Kyrgyz Republic represented by the UNDP Resident Representative and the Embassy of the Russian Federation.

Senior Beneficiary Role: This role requires representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project. The Senior Beneficiary's primary function within the PB will be to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. This role will rest with the other institutions (key national governmental and non-governmental agencies, and appropriate local level representatives) represented on the PB, who are stakeholders in the project.

Project Assurance: The Project Assurance role supports the PB Executive role by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. The Project Quality Assurance role will rest with Programme and Policy Analyst of UNDP in the Kyrgyz Republic. The Project quality assurance and Social Environmental Screening is in progress and will be completed by the UNDP CO after project document endorsement. Proper consultation with national and local partners, including specialized institutions and local communities, on potential environmental impact and standards will be conducted and appropriate capacity development delivered, if needed.

The Senior Social Cohesion Adviser of SDG16 Cluster (SC-10, 50%) will be in charge of the overall project implementation and coordination with national partners. The PC will have the authority to run the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the Implementing Partner within the constraints laid down by the PB. The PC's primary responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost. The SSCA will be responsible for overall project coordination and implementation, consolidation of work plans and project papers, preparation of quarterly progress reports, reporting to the project supervisory bodies, and supervising the work of the project experts and other project staff.

Administrative Finance Assistant (SC-5) and Programme Specialists (SC5 & SC-7) will provide programmatic, administrative, financial, procurement and communications support with sharing their salaries from the project budget.

Project specialists Bishkek, Osh, Batken (50%) under the direct supervision and guidance of project coordinator will be responsible for implementation of relevant activities under respective components and will provide support on developing and implementing the Programme/Project activities as per approved plans etc. Strong monitoring and evaluation expertise will be available within existing competencies of the project specialists.

Communication specialist (15%) Under the guidance and direct supervision of the Project coordinator will supports the formulation and implementation of the communications/PR and advocacy strategies to increase the standing and awareness of project activities with partners, the media and the public.

Project Support: administrative, human resources, procurement, and financial support to the project will be provided by the Operation Unit of the UNDP National Programme Management Unit (PMU).

The Project will assist to the national counterparts in performing their roles as Responsible Partners. In this role the latter will (i) directly responsible for creating the enabling conditions for implementation of all planned project activities, (ii) facilitating monitoring and reporting to ensure the delivery of agreed outcomes and (iii) will also play a coordinating role to maximize efficiency of UNDP-Russian Federation's interventions and avoid potential duplications, ensure the compliance with country's development priorities, global environment trends and UNDP's corporate policy.

To increase the level of awareness among government counterparts, development partners' community, private sector, NGOs, media, and public at large, a communication strategy will be developed. UNDP will use various conventional and non-conventional communications channels, such as UNDP websites, social media, broadcast, print and online media outlets, blog to disseminate project successes. Communications content will be drawn from events, project reports, modernization of the public facilities, database of photos, audio-visuals, etc.

Communications Unit of UNDP will ensure the visibility standards of the donor and UNDP will be adhered in all publications and outreach materials and will be agreed between the parties during the preparation process. Logos and other branding and visibility requirements of the project donor and the implementing agency will be applied based on communications policies of both parties.

XVIII. LEGAL CONTEXT

Option a. Where the country has signed the [Standard Basic Assistance Agreement \(SBAA\)](#)

This project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNDP, signed on (date). All references in the SBAA to “Executing Agency” shall be deemed to refer to “Implementing Partner.”

This project will be implemented by [UNDP, “Implementing Partner” in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures only to the extent that they do not contravene the principles of the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP. Where the financial governance of an Implementing Partner does not provide the required guidance to ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition, the financial governance of UNDP shall apply.

XIX. RISK MANAGEMENT

1. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will comply with the policies, procedures and practices of the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS.)
2. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the [project funds]¹⁸ [UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document]¹⁹ are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq_sanctions_list.shtml. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.
3. Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (<http://www.undp.org/ses>) and related Accountability Mechanism (<http://www.undp.org/secu-srm>).
4. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.
5. In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, UNDP as the Implementing Partner will handle any sexual exploitation and abuse (“SEA”) and sexual harassment (“SH”) allegations in accordance with its regulations, rules, policies and procedures.
6. All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.
7. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will ensure that the following obligations are binding on each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient:
 - a. Consistent with the Article III of the SBAA [*or the Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document*], the responsibility for the safety and security of each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient and its personnel and property, and of UNDP’s property in such responsible party’s, subcontractor’s and sub-recipient’s custody, rests with such responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient. To this end, each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient shall:
 - i. put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried
 - ii. assume all risks and liabilities related to such responsible party’s, subcontractor’s and sub-recipient’s security, and the full implementation of the security plan.
 - b. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate

¹⁸ To be used where UNDP is the Implementing Partner.

¹⁹ To be used where the UN, a UN fund/programme or a specialized agency is the Implementing Partner.

security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's obligations under this Project Document.

- c. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient (each a "sub-party" and together "sub-parties") acknowledges and agrees that UNDP will not tolerate sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse of anyone by the sub-parties, and other entities involved in Project implementation, either as contractors or subcontractors and their personnel, and any individuals performing services for them under the Project Document.
- (a) In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, each sub-party shall comply with the standards of conduct set forth in the Secretary General's Bulletin ST/SGB/2003/13 of 9 October 2003, concerning "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse" ("SEA").
- (b) Moreover, and without limitation to the application of other regulations, rules, policies and procedures bearing upon the performance of the activities under this Project Document, in the implementation of activities, each sub-party, shall not engage in any form of sexual harassment ("SH"). SH is defined as any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation, when such conduct interferes with work, is made a condition of employment or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment. SH may occur in the workplace or in connection with work. While typically involving a pattern of conduct, SH may take the form of a single incident. In assessing the reasonableness of expectations or perceptions, the perspective of the person who is the target of the conduct shall be considered.
- d. In the performance of the activities under this Project Document, each sub-party shall (with respect to its own activities), and shall require from its sub-parties (with respect to their activities) that they, have minimum standards and procedures in place, or a plan to develop and/or improve such standards and procedures in order to be able to take effective preventive and investigative action. These should include: policies on sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse; policies on whistleblowing/protection against retaliation; and complaints, disciplinary and investigative mechanisms. In line with this, sub-parties will and will require that their respective sub-parties will take all appropriate measures to:
- (i) Prevent its employees, agents or any other persons engaged to perform any services under this Project Document, from engaging in SH or SEA;
- (ii) Offer employees and associated personnel training on prevention and response to SH and SEA, where sub-parties have not put in place its own training regarding the prevention of SH and SEA, sub-parties may use the training material available at UNDP;
- (iii) Report and monitor allegations of SH and SEA of which any of the sub-parties have been informed or have otherwise become aware, and status thereof;
- (iv) Refer victims/survivors of SH and SEA to safe and confidential victim assistance; and
- (v) Promptly and confidentially record and investigate any allegations credible enough to warrant an investigation of SH or SEA. Each sub-party shall advise UNDP of any such allegations received and investigations being conducted by itself or any of its sub-parties with respect to their activities under the Project Document, and shall keep UNDP informed during the investigation by it or any of such sub-parties, to the extent that such notification (i) does not jeopardize the conduct of the investigation, including but not limited to the safety or security of persons, and/or (ii) is not in contravention of any laws applicable to it. Following the investigation, the relevant sub-party shall advise UNDP of any actions taken by it or any of the other entities further to the investigation.
- e. Each sub-party shall establish that it has complied with the foregoing, to the satisfaction of UNDP, when requested by UNDP or any party acting on its behalf to provide such confirmation. Failure of the relevant sub-party to comply of the foregoing, as determined by UNDP, shall be considered grounds for suspension or termination of the Project.
- f. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will ensure that any project activities undertaken by them will be implemented in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards and shall ensure that any incidents or issues of non-compliance shall be reported to UNDP in accordance with UNDP Social and Environmental Standards.
- g. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will take appropriate steps to prevent misuse of funds, fraud, corruption or other financial irregularities, by its officials, consultants, subcontractors and sub-recipients in implementing the project or programme or using the UNDP funds. It will ensure that its financial management, anti-corruption, anti-fraud and anti money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism policies are in place and enforced for all funding received from or through UNDP.

- h. The requirements of the following documents, then in force at the time of signature of the Project Document, apply to each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient: (a) UNDP Policy on Fraud and other Corrupt Practices (b) UNDP Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Policy; and (c) UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations Investigation Guidelines. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient agrees to the requirements of the above documents, which are an integral part of this Project Document and are available online at www.undp.org.
- i. In the event that an investigation is required, UNDP will conduct investigations relating to any aspect of UNDP programmes and projects. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will provide its full cooperation, including making available personnel, relevant documentation, and granting access to its (and its consultants', subcontractors' and sub-recipients') premises, for such purposes at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions as may be required for the purpose of an investigation. Should there be a limitation in meeting this obligation, UNDP shall consult with it to find a solution.
- j. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will promptly inform UNDP as the Implementing Partner in case of any incidence of inappropriate use of funds, or credible allegation of fraud, corruption other financial irregularities with due confidentiality.

Where it becomes aware that a UNDP project or activity, in whole or in part, is the focus of investigation for alleged fraud/corruption, each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will inform the UNDP Resident Representative/Head of Office, who will promptly inform UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI). It will provide regular updates to the head of UNDP in the country and OAI of the status of, and actions relating to, such investigation.
- k. UNDP will be entitled to a refund from the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient of any funds provided that have been used inappropriately, including through fraud corruption, other financial irregularities or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Project Document. Such amount may be deducted by UNDP from any payment due to the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient under this or any other agreement. Recovery of such amount by UNDP shall not diminish or curtail any responsible party's, subcontractor's or sub-recipient's obligations under this Project Document.
- l. Each contract issued by the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient in connection with this Project Document shall include a provision representing that no fees, gratuities, rebates, gifts, commissions or other payments, other than those shown in the proposal, have been given, received, or promised in connection with the selection process or in contract execution, and that the recipient of funds from it shall cooperate with any and all investigations and post-payment audits.
- m. Should UNDP refer to the relevant national authorities for appropriate legal action any alleged wrongdoing relating to the project or programme, the Government will ensure that the relevant national authorities shall actively investigate the same and take appropriate legal action against all individuals found to have participated in the wrongdoing, recover and return any recovered funds to UNDP.
- n. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient shall ensure that all of its obligations set forth under this section entitled "Risk Management" are passed on to its subcontractors and sub-recipients and that all the clauses under this section entitled "Risk Management Standard Clauses" are adequately reflected, mutatis mutandis, in all its sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into further to this Project Document.

XX. ANNEXES**1. Project Quality Assurance Report**

PROJECT QA ASSESSMENT: DESIGN AND APPRAISAL				
OVERALL PROJECT				
EXEMPLARY (5) ●●●●●	HIGHLY SATISFACTORY (4) ●●●●○	SATISFACTORY (3) ●●●○○	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT (2) ●●○○○	INADEQUATE (1) ●○○○○
At least four criteria are rated Exemplary, and all criteria are rated High or Exemplary.	All criteria are rated Satisfactory or higher, and at least four criteria are rated High or Exemplary.	At least six criteria are rated Satisfactory or higher, and only one may be rated Needs Improvement. The Principled criterion must be rated Satisfactory or above.	At least three criteria are rated Satisfactory or higher, and only four criteria may be rated Needs Improvement.	One or more criteria are rated Inadequate, or five or more criteria are rated Needs Improvement.
DECISION				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APPROVE – the project is of sufficient quality to be approved in its current form. Any management actions must be addressed in a timely manner. APPROVE WITH QUALIFICATIONS – the project has issues that must be addressed before the project document can be approved. Any management actions must be addressed in a timely manner. DISAPPROVE – the project has significant issues that should prevent the project from being approved as drafted. 				
RATING CRITERIA				
For all questions, select the option that best reflects the project				
STRATEGIC				
1. Does the project specify how it will contribute to higher level change through linkage to the programme's Theory of Change? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3: The project is clearly linked to the programme's theory of change. It has an explicit change pathway that explains how the project will contribute to outcome level change and why the project's strategy will likely lead to this change. This analysis is backed by credible evidence of what works effectively in this context and includes assumptions and risks. 2: The project is clearly linked to the programme's theory of change. It has a change pathway that explains how the project will contribute to outcome-level change and why the project strategy will likely lead to this change. 1: The project document may describe in generic terms how the project will contribute to development results, without an explicit link to the programme's theory of change. <p><i>*Note: Projects not contributing to a programme must have a project-specific Theory of Change. See alternative question under the lightbulb for these cases.</i></p>			3	2
			1	
2. Is the project aligned with the UNDP Strategic Plan? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3: The project responds to at least one of the development settings as specified in the Strategic Plan²⁰ and adapts at least one Signature Solution²¹. The project's RRF includes all the relevant SP output indicators. <i>(all must be true)</i> 2: The project responds to at least one of the development settings as specified in the Strategic Plan⁴. The project's RRF includes at least one SP output indicator, if relevant. <i>(both must be true)</i> 1: The project responds to a partner's identified need, but 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. 			3	2
			1	
3. Is the project linked to the programme outputs? (i.e., UNDAF Results Group Workplan/CPD, RPD or Strategic Plan IRRF for global projects/strategic interventions not part of a programme) CP/UNDAF Outcome(s): Outcome 1. By 2022, inclusive and sustainable economic growth is increased through agricultural, industrial and rural development, decent work, improved livelihoods, food security and nutrition. Outcome 2. By 2022, institutions at all levels are more accountable and inclusive ensuring justice, human rights, gender equality and sustainable peace for all.			<u>Yes</u>	
RELEVANT				
4. Does the project target groups left furthest behind?			3	2
			1	

²⁰ The three development settings in UNDP's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan are: a) Eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions; b) Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development; and c) Build resilience to shocks and crises

²¹ The six Signature Solutions of UNDP's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan are: a) Keeping people out of poverty; b) Strengthen effective, inclusive and accountable governance; c) Enhance national prevention and recovery capacities for resilient societies; d) Promote nature based solutions for a sustainable planet; e) Close the energy gap; and f) Strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: The target groups are clearly specified, prioritising discriminated and marginalized groups left furthest behind, identified through a rigorous process based on evidence. • 2: The target groups are clearly specified, prioritizing groups left furthest behind. • 1: The target groups are not clearly specified. <p>*Note: Management Action must be taken for a score of 1. <i>Projects that build institutional capacity should still identify targeted groups to justify support</i></p>	3 See project document						
<p>5. Have knowledge, good practices, and past lessons learned of UNDP and others informed the project design?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: Knowledge and lessons learned backed by credible evidence from sources such as evaluation, corporate policies/strategies, and/or monitoring have been explicitly used, with appropriate referencing, to justify the approach used by the project. • 2: The project design mentions knowledge and lessons learned backed by evidence/sources, but have not been used to justify the approach selected. • 1: There is little or no mention of knowledge and lessons learned informing the project design. Any references made are anecdotal and not backed by evidence. <p>*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 50px;">3</td> <td style="width: 50px;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> </table> See project document	3	2	1		2	
3	2						
1							
2							
<p>6. Does UNDP have a clear advantage to engage in the role envisioned by the project vis-à-vis national/regional/global partners and other actors?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: An analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners in the area where the project intends to work, and credible evidence supports the proposed engagement of UNDP and partners through the project, including identification of potential funding partners. It is clear how results achieved by partners will complement the project's intended results and a communication strategy is in place to communicate results and raise visibility vis-à-vis key partners. Options for south-south and triangular cooperation have been considered, as appropriate. <i>(all must be true)</i> • 2: Some analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners in the area where the project intends to work, and relatively limited evidence supports the proposed engagement of and division of labour between UNDP and partners through the project, with unclear funding and communications strategies or plans. • 1: No clear analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners in the area that the project intends to work. There is risk that the project overlaps and/or does not coordinate with partners' interventions in this area. Options for south-south and triangular cooperation have not been considered, despite its potential relevance. <p>*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 50px;">3</td> <td style="width: 50px;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> </table> See project document	3	2	1		3	
3	2						
1							
3							
PRINCIPLED							
<p>7. Does the project apply a human rights-based approach?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: The project is guided by human rights and incorporates the principles of accountability, meaningful participation, and non-discrimination in the project's strategy. The project upholds the relevant international and national laws and standards. Any potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were rigorously identified and assessed as relevant, with appropriate mitigation and management measures incorporated into project design and budget. <i>(all must be true)</i> • 2: The project is guided by human rights by prioritizing accountability, meaningful participation and non-discrimination. Potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were identified and assessed as relevant, and appropriate mitigation and management measures incorporated into the project design and budget. <i>(both must be true)</i> • 1: No evidence that the project is guided by human rights. Limited or no evidence that potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were considered. <p>*Note: Management action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 50px;">3</td> <td style="width: 50px;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> </table> See project document, SESP	3	2	1		3	
3	2						
1							
3							
<p>8. Does the project use gender analysis in the project design?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: A participatory gender analysis has been conducted and results from this gender analysis inform the development challenge, strategy and expected results sections of the project document. Outputs and indicators of the results framework include explicit references to gender equality, and specific indicators measure and monitor results to ensure women are fully benefitting from the project. <i>(all must be true)</i> • 2: A basic gender analysis has been carried out and results from this analysis are scattered (i.e., fragmented and not consistent) across the development challenge and strategy sections of the project document. The results framework may include some gender sensitive outputs and/or activities but gender inequalities are not consistently integrated across each output. <i>(all must be true)</i> • 1: The project design may or may not mention information and/or data on the differential impact of the project's development situation on gender relations, women and men, but the gender inequalities have not been clearly identified and reflected in the project document. <p>*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 50px;">3</td> <td style="width: 50px;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> </table> See project document, SESP	3	2	1		2	
3	2						
1							
2							
<p>9. Did the project support the resilience and sustainability of societies and/or ecosystems?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: Credible evidence that the project addresses sustainability and resilience dimensions of development challenges, which are integrated in the project strategy and design. The project reflects the interconnections between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Relevant shocks, hazards and adverse social and environmental impacts have been identified and rigorously assessed with appropriate management and mitigation measures incorporated into project design and budget. <i>(all must be true)</i>. • 2: The project design integrates sustainability and resilience dimensions of development challenges. Relevant shocks, hazards and adverse social and environmental impacts have been identified and assessed, and relevant management and mitigation measures incorporated into project design and 	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 50px;">3</td> <td style="width: 50px;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> </table> See project document, SESP	3	2	1		2	
3	2						
1							
2							

<p>budget. <i>(both must be true)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1: Sustainability and resilience dimensions and impacts were not adequately considered. <p>*Note: Management action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1</p>		
<p>10. Has the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) been conducted to identify potential social and environmental impacts and risks? The SESP is not required for projects in which UNDP is Administrative Agent only and/or projects comprised solely of reports, coordination of events, trainings, workshops, meetings, conferences and/or communication materials and information dissemination. [if yes, upload the completed checklist. If SESP is not required, provide the reason for the exemption in the evidence section.]</p>	Yes	No
	<p>Yes See SESP</p>	
MANAGEMENT & MONITORING		
<p>11. Does the project have a strong results framework?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: The project's selection of outputs and activities are at an appropriate level. Outputs are accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators that measure the key expected development changes, each with credible data sources and populated baselines and targets, including gender sensitive, target group focused, sex-disaggregated indicators where appropriate. <i>(all must be true)</i> • 2: The project's selection of outputs and activities are at an appropriate level. Outputs are accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators, but baselines, targets and data sources may not yet be fully specified. Some use of target group focused, sex-disaggregated indicators, as appropriate. <i>(all must be true)</i> • 1: The project's selection of outputs and activities are not at an appropriate level; outputs are not accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators that measure the expected change and have not been populated with baselines and targets; data sources are not specified, and/or no gender sensitive, sex-disaggregation of indicators. <i>(if any is true)</i> <p>*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1</p>	3	2
	1	
	<p>3 See project document</p>	
<p>12. Is the project's governance mechanism clearly defined in the project document, including composition of the project board?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: The project's governance mechanism is fully defined. Individuals have been specified for each position in the governance mechanism (especially all members of the project board.) Project Board members have agreed on their roles and responsibilities as specified in the terms of reference. The ToR of the project board has been attached to the project document. <i>(all must be true)</i>. • 2: The project's governance mechanism is defined; specific institutions are noted as holding key governance roles, but individuals may not have been specified yet. The project document lists the most important responsibilities of the project board, project director/manager and quality assurance roles. <i>(all must be true)</i> • 1: The project's governance mechanism is loosely defined in the project document, only mentioning key roles that will need to be filled at a later date. No information on the responsibilities of key positions in the governance mechanism is provided. <p>*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1</p>	3	2
	1	
	<p>3 See project document</p>	
<p>13. Have the project risks been identified with clear plans stated to manage and mitigate each risk?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: Project risks related to the achievement of results are fully described in the project risk log, based on comprehensive analysis drawing on the programme's theory of change, Social and Environmental Standards and screening, situation analysis, capacity assessments and other analysis such as funding potential and reputational risk. Risks have been identified through a consultative process with key internal and external stakeholders. Clear and complete plan in place to manage and mitigate each risk, reflected in project budgeting and monitoring plans. <i>(both must be true)</i> • 2: Project risks related to the achievement of results are identified in the initial project risk log based on a minimum level of analysis and consultation, with mitigation measures identified for each risk. • 1: Some risks may be identified in the initial project risk log, but no evidence of consultation or analysis and no clear risk mitigation measures identified. This option is also selected if risks are not clearly identified and/or no initial risk log is included with the project document. <p>*Note: Management Action must be taken for a score of 1</p>	3	2
	1	
	<p>3 See project document</p>	
EFFICIENT		
<p>14. Have specific measures for ensuring cost-efficient use of resources been explicitly mentioned as part of the project design? This can include, for example: i) using the theory of change analysis to explore different options of achieving the maximum results with the resources available; ii) using a portfolio management approach to improve cost effectiveness through synergies with other interventions; iii) through joint operations (e.g., monitoring or procurement) with other partners; iv) sharing resources or coordinating delivery with other projects, v) using innovative approaches and technologies to reduce the cost of service delivery or other types of interventions.</p> <p><i>(Note: Evidence of at least one measure must be provided to answer yes for this question)</i></p> <p>See project document GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS section</p>	<p>Yes (3)</p>	<p>No (1)</p>
<p>15. Is the budget justified and supported with valid estimates?</p>	3	2
1		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: The project's budget is at the activity level with funding sources, and is specified for the duration of the project period in a multi-year budget. Realistic resource mobilisation plans are in place to fill unfunded components. Costs are supported with valid estimates using benchmarks from similar projects or activities. Cost implications from inflation and foreign exchange exposure have been estimated and incorporated in the budget. Adequate costs for monitoring, evaluation, communications and security have been incorporated. • 2: The project's budget is at the activity level with funding sources, when possible, and is specified for the duration of the project in a multi-year budget, but no funding plan is in place. Costs are supported with valid estimates based on prevailing rates. • 1: The project's budget is not specified at the activity level, and/or may not be captured in a multi-year budget. 	3 See project document	
<p>16. Is the Country Office/Regional Hub/Global Project fully recovering the costs involved with project implementation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: The budget fully covers all project costs that are attributable to the project, including programme management and development effectiveness services related to strategic country programme planning, quality assurance, pipeline development, policy advocacy services, finance, procurement, human resources, administration, issuance of contracts, security, travel, assets, general services, information and communications based on full costing in accordance with prevailing UNDP policies (i.e., UPL, LPL.) • 2: The budget covers significant project costs that are attributable to the project based on prevailing UNDP policies (i.e., UPL, LPL) as relevant. • 1: The budget does not adequately cover project costs that are attributable to the project, and UNDP is cross-subsidizing the project. <p>*Note: Management Action must be given for a score of 1. The budget must be revised to fully reflect the costs of implementation before the project commences.</p>	3	2
EFFECTIVE		
<p>17. Have targeted groups been engaged in the design of the project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: Credible evidence that all targeted groups, prioritising discriminated and marginalized populations that will be involved in or affected by the project, have been actively engaged in the design of the project. The project has an explicit strategy to identify, engage and ensure the meaningful participation of target groups as stakeholders throughout the project, including through monitoring and decision-making (e.g., representation on the project board, inclusion in samples for evaluations, etc.) • 2: Some evidence that key targeted groups have been consulted in the design of the project. • 1: No evidence of engagement with targeted groups during project design. 	3	2
<p>18. Does the project plan for adaptation and course correction if regular monitoring activities, evaluation, and lesson learned demonstrate there are better approaches to achieve the intended results and/or circumstances change during implementation?</p>	Yes (3)	No (1)
<p>19. The gender marker for all project outputs are scored at GEN2 or GEN3, indicating that gender has been fully mainstreamed into all project outputs at a minimum.</p> <p>*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of "no"</p>	Yes (3)	No (1)
SUSTAINABILITY & NATIONAL OWNERSHIP		
<p>20. Have national/regional/global partners led, or proactively engaged in, the design of the project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: National partners (or regional/global partners for regional and global projects) have full ownership of the project and led the process of the development of the project jointly with UNDP. • 2: The project has been developed by UNDP in close consultation with national/regional/global partners. • 1: The project has been developed by UNDP with limited or no engagement with national partners. 	3	2
<p>21. Are key institutions and systems identified, and is there a strategy for strengthening specific/comprehensive capacities based on capacity assessments conducted?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: The project has a strategy for strengthening specific capacities of national institutions and/or actors based on a completed capacity assessment. This strategy includes an approach to regularly monitor national capacities using clear indicators and rigorous methods of data collection, and adjust the strategy to strengthen national capacities accordingly. • 2: A capacity assessment has been completed. There are plans to develop a strategy to strengthen specific capacities of national institutions and/or actors based on the results of the capacity assessment. • 1: Capacity assessments have not been carried out. 	3	2
<p>22. Is there is a clear strategy embedded in the project specifying how the project will use national systems (i.e., procurement, monitoring, evaluations, etc.,) to the extent possible?</p>	Yes (3)	No (1)
<p>23. Is there a clear transition arrangement/ phase-out plan developed with key stakeholders in order to sustain or scale up results (including resource mobilisation and communications strategy)?</p>	Yes (3)	No (1)

2. Risk Analysis

Offline Risk Log

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
1	Frequent changes in the Government structure may bring to low commitment of the national partners to achieving the Project results	Project Design (Initiation) phase	Political	Probability on a scale from 1 (low) to 5 (high) P = 5 Impact on a scale from 1 (low) to 5 (high) I = 4	Building a short-term partnership with the highest level of the national partners – Office of the Government and Office of the Acting President. Upcoming Presidential and Parliamentary elections will result in outcomes, which allow us to rely on mid- and long-term commitments and partnerships.	Project Team Leader; Project Manager	Project Developer	October 2020	Ongoing
2	Political instability may lead to conflict and potential violence which will affect overall implementation of project	Project Design (Initiation) phase	Political	Probability on a scale from 1 (low) to 5 (high) P = 5 Impact on a scale from 1 (low) to 5 (high) I = 4	Close monitoring and contingency planning.	Project Team Leader; Project Manager	Project Developer	October 2020	Temporarily resolved
3	Low capacity of the national partners may bring to delays in the project implementation and weaken the project achievements.	Project Design (Initiation) phase	Organizational	P = 4 I = 4	Engagement of the stakeholders at all stages of project implementation and delegation of activity-level implementation, taking into account risks resulting from the capacity assessments.	Project Team Leader; Project Manager	Project Developer	October 2020	Ongoing
4	COVID-19 related crisis situation in the country and overall lockdown	Project Design (Initiation) phase	Operational	P = 5 I = 4	Regularly track and monitor the situation, apply WHO-recommended measures to prevent the transmission at the project's unavoidable off-line interventions.	Project Team Leader; Project Manager	Project Developer	October 2020	Ongoing

3. Project Board Terms of Reference and TORs of key management positions.

Terms of References for Project Board

The project's governance mechanism (the Project Board) is a group responsible for making by consensus management decision for a project and will hold regular project reviews at least once a year (it can convene as and when necessary on an ad hoc basis including virtually as urgent need arises and in crisis settings) to assess the performance of the project and review the Multi-Year Work Plan to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the project. In the project's final year, the Project Board shall hold an end-of project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences. The Board will ensure the project remains on track with its goals and work plans. In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project Board decision should be made in accordance to standards that shall ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.

Specific responsibilities of the Project Board include:

- Provide general, high-level, strategic oversight to the project activities including financial oversight
- Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints
- Provide project and policy implementation oversight
- Address project issues as raised by the project manager
- Provide guidance on new project risks, and agree on possible countermeasures and management actions to address specific risks
- Agree on project manager's tolerances as required
- Review the project progress, and provide direction and recommendations to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans
- Appraise the annual project implementation report, including the quality assessment rating report; make recommendations for the workplan
- Provide ad hoc direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager's tolerances are exceeded; and
- Assess and decide to proceed on project changes through appropriate revisions.

The composition of the Project Board must include the following roles:

- **Executive:** The Executive is an individual who represents ownership of the project who will chair the Project Board. Under the DIM modality the Project Board can be chaired by UNDP Resident Representative and co-chaired by the respective government authorities. The Executive is ultimately responsible for the project, supported by the Senior Beneficiary and Senior Supplier. The Executive's role is to ensure that the project is focused throughout its life cycle on achieving its objectives and delivering outputs that will contribute to higher level outcomes. The executive has to ensure that the project gives value for money, ensuring cost-conscious approach to the project, balancing the demands of beneficiary and supplier.
- **Senior Supplier:** individual or group representing the interests of the parties concerned which provide funding and/or technical expertise to the project. The Senior Supplier's primary function within the Board is to provide guidance regarding the technical feasibility of the project.
- **Senior Beneficiary:** individual or group of individuals representing the interest of those who will ultimately benefit from the project. The Senior Beneficiary's primary function within the Board is to ensure the realization of the project results from perspective of project beneficiaries.

Specific Responsibilities: (as part of the above responsibilities for the Project Board)

- Ensure that there is a coherent project organization structure and logical set of plans;
- Set tolerances in the AWP and other plans as required for the Project Manager;
- Monitor and control the progress of the project at a strategic level;
- Ensure that risks are being tracked and mitigated as effectively as possible;
- Brief relevant stakeholders about project progress;
- Organize and chair Project Board meetings.

Observers: The Project Board may decide to invite key stakeholders to participate in the meetings as observers.

Terms of References for Senior Adviser on Social Cohesion

Brief description of the role (fulfilling Project Manager's role)

Under the supervision of the Team Leader 'Accountable Institutions, Justice and Peace' Cluster and in close cooperation with SDG16 cluster team the Senior Advisor will provide technical and strategic advice to the UNDP senior management, SDG 16 Cluster, other UNDP programmatic areas, national counterparts and implementing partners, on interventions related to strengthening social cohesion in the country through mainstreaming and strengthening the principles of effective governance.

S/he will oversee and be responsible for the day-to-day coordination and management of the respective projects, including providing high quality technical, operational, administrative and financial support in line with UNDP financial rules and programme and operations policies and procedures.

S/he will ensure proper formulation, execution and monitoring of project's agreements and work-plans, supervise consultants and national staff as required by project' organogram, as well as be accountable to the Project Steering Committee for progress and the achievement of project results. The Senior Advisor is expected to provide strategic guidance to UNDP programmatic components which are interlinked with strengthening social cohesion and effective governance in order to maximize partnership and impact of the relevant portfolio and enhance synergies and coordination between other projects within the SDG16 cluster and UNDP programmatic areas.

The emphasis of the assignment will be also on building strategic relationships and capacity of national counterparts with regards to social cohesion and effective governance. The Senior Advisor will work with staff in the UNDP CO and at the project level, to promote effective achievement of results, ensure information sharing, promote knowledge, as well as develop viable working relationships with colleagues across the organization and counterparts, ensuring responsive client orientation and problem-solving attitude.

Social and Environmental Screening

The completed template, which constitutes the Social and Environmental Screening Report, must be included as an annex to the Project Document. Please refer to the [Social and Environmental Screening Procedure](#) and [Toolkit](#) for guidance on how to answer the 6 questions.

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	“Economic empowerment of youth and developing sustainable solutions for youth’s entrepreneurship at the local level for fostering greater social cohesion and resilience”
2. Projects Number	1. PID: 00, Atlas Award: 00 BU: KGZ 10
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Kyrgyzstan

Part A. Integrating Overarching Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Overarching Principles in order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?

Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams the human-rights based approach

The interventions focus on economic, social and cultural rights of youth and it is based on strong HRBA framework, building on the UN’s Youth, Peace and Security framework contained in UN Security Council Resolution 2250, which recognizes the importance of youth for the sustainability of all peacebuilding efforts and promotes their participation, leadership and empowerment in UN responses, as well as on national development strategies related to youth empowerment. The project is expected to promote a comprehensive and participatory approach so that no-one is left behind in project implementation and decision-making processes, hence strengthening ownership of the process. Through continuous consultations with communities, interventions will be demand-driven, to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are met for a sustainable and strong crisis recovery. Overall, UNDP will contribute towards increasing socio-economic inclusion of youth by targeting youth to develop and implement start-up and business ideas with focus on green growth, enter the labour market and gain sustainable livelihoods, through transparent and community-inclusive green job creation, capacity building programs and civic participation mechanisms, considering the risks of multiple crises in conjunction with fostering greater social cohesion and resilience. The proposed project interventions in particular will focus on important strategic actions aimed at strengthening the rights of target group, including promoting *Engagement, Participation and Advocacy* – Amplify youth voices for the promotion of a peaceful, just and sustainable world; *Informed and Healthy Foundations* – Support young people’s greater access to quality services aimed at increasing human capital; *Economic Empowerment through Decent Work* – Support young people’s greater access to decent work and productive employment; as well as *Peace and Resilience Building* – Supporting young people as a catalyst for Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action.

Briefly describe in the space below how the Project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment

The project addresses the creation of experimental pathways towards youth-oriented sustainable and integrated development of entrepreneurial ecosystem supporting green growth in rural context and it includes three components. It aims to reach direct targeted beneficiaries at a minimum of 400 vulnerable youth in rural and peri-urban areas, with at least 50% girls and young women. Indirectly, project plans to have a positive effect on at least 40,000 people throughout society. Through support provision to target groups an increase of awareness and attainment of necessary knowledge, skills and capacities will be performed and promotion of further interaction in a collaborative environment will lead to development of gender balanced youth entrepreneurship. Supported youth in innovative youth-led start-ups and entrepreneurship, in commercialization and scale-up will be gender balanced with 50% % share for each gender to get benefited. The project will be informed by the SDGs at all stages of intervention, including improvement of women's access to education and training (4.3). In conclusion, project will contribute towards increasing socio-economic inclusion of youth including boys, young men and young women and girls by targeting youth to develop and implement start-up and business ideas with focus on green growth, enter the labour market and gain sustainable livelihoods, through transparent and community-inclusive green job creation, capacity building programs and civic participation mechanisms, considering the risks of multiple crises in conjunction with fostering greater social cohesion and resilience.

Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams environmental sustainability

COVID-19 and the climate crisis present compound threats that must be confronted in an integrated manner to recover back better. The burning of coal, tyres and trash being the energy sources of choice in Kyrgyzstan for heating homes, demonstrates the linkage between underlying socio-economic issues and resorting to cheap but dirty energy to survive. The lack of capacity and human capital in green activities are major constraints on ensuring a sustainable green recovery. However, by reconsidering growth and development in terms of a circular economy that views economic growth and environmental protection as inextricably interlinked, the project aims to empower youth through interventions that improve capacities in environmental activities.

Young people are therefore being viewed as key agents for inducing social cohesion, and fostering social change, economic growth, environmental protection and technological innovation. It is therefore necessary to empower youth in civic and economic life and provide them with a seat at the table to harness the innovative ideas of youth and specifically young women, migrants and people with disabilities, at the forefront of all systemic change as the next generation of leaders. In addition, the recent Presidential Decree "On measures to ensure environmental safety and climate sustainability" raises the necessity to reduce air pollution, construct more green spaces in settlements, improve waste management processes, support sustainable businesses, and enhance investments in preserving the environment.

UNDP will therefore aim to kick-start this ambition and ensure the sustained integration of efforts for creating the greatest impact on reducing youth unemployment, enhancing environmental protection, supporting EAEU integration, and consequently strengthening social cohesion. Considering structural barriers, the project will be exploring financially and environmentally sustainable business models such as the **fund revolving scheme** rather than applying one-way grant-dependant activities.

The project will incentivize local government investments towards improved local infrastructure, which will continue bringing benefits to local youth beyond the project life cycle. The green and climate-smart activities for job creation, creative industry, circular economy that combats the environmental degradation, building the capacity of the most vulnerable youth for sustainable job retention in the variety of sectors will generate longer-term positive impact on the society's trust in the Government and social cohesion as a whole.

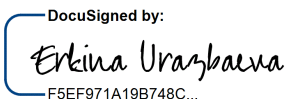
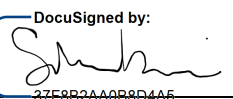
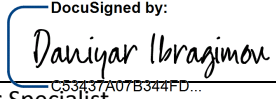
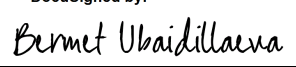
Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks? <i>Note: Describe briefly potential social and environmental risks identified in Attachment 1 – Risk Screening Checklist (based on any “Yes” responses). If no risks have been identified in Attachment 1 then note “No Risks Identified” and skip to Question 4 and Select “Low Risk”. Questions 5 and 6 not required for Low Risk Projects.</i>		QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks? <i>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 6</i>		QUESTION 6: What social and environmental assessment and management measures have been conducted and/or are required to address potential risks (for Risks with Moderate and High Significance)?
Risk Description	Impact and Probability (1-5)	Significance (Low, Moderate, High)	Comments	Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.
Risk 1: Human rights	I = 4 P = 3	High	Political risk	Ongoing multiple crises context (Covid19, political instability and associated reforms, economic recession, Batken crises) makes the overall socio-political situation volatile, fluid and rapidly unfolding. The current context is highly dependent on the political dynamics impacting the sustainability of the Government, causing frequent changes of governmental and local government officials. The political risk factors are the highest risky ones for the project, since they cause impacts in many ways such as low commitment and consistency of the national partners to achieving the project results, losing of an institutional memory due to frequent re-shuffling of officials in beneficiary institutions and others.
Risk 2 Environmental	I = 2 P = 2	Low	Environmental	UNDP will implement activities based on the following approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Addressing the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the income and livelihoods of youth through activities that contribute to an environmentally sustainable and climate-proof recovery – UNDP CO will conduct a Social and Environmental Screening of the project by engaging UNDP CO’s Gender and Environment teams for assigning an appropriate Gender Marker. It is expected to get GEN2 level.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - While implementing project interventions, UNDP CO will make a great focus on the principles of green growth, which is an overall strategy of UNDP CO discouraging 'brown economy'. This means that youth's projects should be environmentally friendly for preservation of the local natural ecosystems. By applying 'green growth' principles, the project's interventions will help to discourage any types of businesses that might potentially increase greenhouse gas emissions causing global weather temperature warming as well as deteriorate the natural ecosystem. - Overall, the proposed project's interventions will leverage the development gains achieved under UNDP's SDG16, Socio-Economic Growth and Environmental Protection portfolios to ensure greater sustainability, scalability and impact.
<p>Risk 3: Gender equality</p>	<p>I = 3 P =3</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Social and political risks</p>	<p>Kyrgyzstan has experienced multiple crises for recent years starting from political turmoil after Parliament elections in 2020 and worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to the rapid increase in poverty due to job loss, rising food prices and inflation; breakdown in health service delivery; leading to thousands of returning Kyrgyz labour migrants; and disruptions in education (primary, secondary, TVET, higher) of youth including young women and young men. Project should check and monitor political situation, engage actively national partners, state gender machinery and Women entrepreneurship networks. With new political power the state partners are prevailing with traditional (=patriarchal) mindset individuals, who are not always gender sensitive or aware of GEWE agenda.</p> <p>Regular consultations need to be considered with UN GTG group and state's gender machinery experts.</p>
<p>QUESTION 4: What is the overall Project risk categorization?</p>				
<p>Select one (see SESP for guidance)</p>		<p>Comments</p>		
<p><i>Low Risk</i></p>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
<p><i>Moderate Risk</i></p>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<p><i>High Risk</i></p>		<input type="checkbox"/>		

QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are relevant?		
Check all that apply		Comments
Principle 1: Human Rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1. Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Cultural Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Displacement and Resettlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Indigenous Peoples	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Final Sign Off

Signature	Date	Description
QA Assessor Erkina Urazbaeva, SDG 16 Team Leader DocuSigned by:  F5EF971A19B748C...	24-Feb-2022	UNDP staff member responsible for the Project, typically a UNDP Programme Officer. Final signature confirms they have "checked" to ensure that the SESP is adequately conducted.
Simone Boneschi, Chief Technical Advisor on Rule of Law DocuSigned by:  37F8B2AA0B8D4A6...	24-Feb-2022	
Daniyar Ibragimov, Team Leader Environment and Disaster Risk Management DocuSigned by:  C53437A07B344FD...	26-Feb-2022	
Bermet Ubaidillaeva, Gender Specialist DocuSigned by:  E2BEC2E9E56E4ED...	26-Feb-2022	

<p>QA Approver Monica Rijal, Deputy Resident Representative</p> <p>DocuSigned by: <i>Monica Rijal</i> D4D56321CA3A4D5...</p>	28-Feb-2022	UNDP senior manager, typically the UNDP Deputy Country Director (DCD), Country Director (CD), Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), or Resident Representative (RR). The QA Approver cannot also be the QA Assessor. Final signature confirms they have “cleared” the SESP prior to submittal to the PAC.
PAC Chair		UNDP chair of the PAC. In some cases, PAC Chair may also be the QA Approver. Final signature confirms that the SESP was considered as part of the project appraisal and considered in recommendations of the PAC.

Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks		
Principles 1: Human Rights		Answer (Yes/No)
1.	Could the Project lead to adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	No
2.	Is there a likelihood that the Project would have inequitable or discriminatory adverse impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups? ²²	No
3.	Could the Project potentially restrict availability, quality of and access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups?	No
4.	Is there a likelihood that the Project would exclude any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups, from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	No
5.	Is there a risk that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project?	Yes
6.	Is there a risk that rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	Yes
7.	Have local communities or individuals, given the opportunity, raised human rights concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process?	Yes
8.	Is there a risk that the Project would exacerbate conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	No
Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		
1.	Is there a likelihood that the proposed Project would have adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	No
2.	Would the Project potentially reproduce discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	No
3.	Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process and has this been included in the overall Project proposal and in the risk assessment?	Yes
4.	Would the Project potentially limit women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services? <i>For example, activities that could lead to natural resources degradation or depletion in communities who depend on these resources for their livelihoods and well being</i>	No
Principle 3: Environmental Sustainability: Screening questions regarding environmental risks are encompassed by the specific Standard-related questions below		
Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management		
1.1	Would the Project potentially cause adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services? <i>For example, through habitat loss, conversion or degradation, fragmentation, hydrological changes</i>	No
1.2	Are any Project activities proposed within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?	No
1.3	Does the Project involve changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods? (Note: if restrictions and/or limitations of access to lands would apply, refer to Standard 5)	No
1.4	Would Project activities pose risks to endangered species?	No
1.5	Would the Project pose a risk of introducing invasive alien species?	No
1.6	Does the Project involve harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	No

²² Prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, gender, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, religion, political or other opinion, national or social or geographical origin, property, birth or other status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority. References to "women and men" or similar is understood to include women and men, boys and girls, and other groups discriminated against based on their gender identities, such as transgender people and transsexuals.

1.7	Does the Project involve the production and/or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	No
1.8	Does the Project involve significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? <i>For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction</i>	No
1.9	Does the Project involve utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development)	No
1.10	Would the Project generate potential adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	No
1.11	Would the Project result in secondary or consequential development activities which could lead to adverse social and environmental effects, or would it generate cumulative impacts with other known existing or planned activities in the area? <i>For example, a new road through forested lands will generate direct environmental and social impacts (e.g. felling of trees, earthworks, potential relocation of inhabitants). The new road may also facilitate encroachment on lands by illegal settlers or generate unplanned commercial development along the route, potentially in sensitive areas. These are indirect, secondary, or induced impacts that need to be considered. Also, if similar developments in the same forested area are planned, then cumulative impacts of multiple activities (even if not part of the same Project) need to be considered.</i>	No
Standard 2: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation		
2.1	Will the proposed Project result in significant ²³ greenhouse gas emissions or may exacerbate climate change?	No
2.2	Would the potential outcomes of the Project be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change?	No
2.3	Is the proposed Project likely to directly or indirectly increase social and environmental vulnerability to climate change now or in the future (also known as maladaptive practices)? <i>For example, changes to land use planning may encourage further development of floodplains, potentially increasing the population's vulnerability to climate change, specifically flooding</i>	No
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions		
3.1	Would elements of Project construction, operation, or decommissioning pose potential safety risks to local communities?	No
3.2	Would the Project pose potential risks to community health and safety due to the transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	No
3.3	Does the Project involve large-scale infrastructure development (e.g. dams, roads, buildings)?	No
3.4	Would failure of structural elements of the Project pose risks to communities? (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)	No
3.5	Would the proposed Project be susceptible to or lead to increased vulnerability to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme climatic conditions?	No
3.6	Would the Project result in potential increased health risks (e.g. from water-borne or other vector-borne diseases or communicable infections such as HIV/AIDS)?	No
3.7	Does the Project pose potential risks and vulnerabilities related to occupational health and safety due to physical, chemical, biological, and radiological hazards during Project construction, operation, or decommissioning?	No
3.8	Does the Project involve support for employment or livelihoods that may fail to comply with national and international labor standards (i.e. principles and standards of ILO fundamental conventions)?	No
3.9	Does the Project engage security personnel that may pose a potential risk to health and safety of communities and/or individuals (e.g. due to a lack of adequate training or accountability)?	No
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage		
4.1	Will the proposed Project result in interventions that would potentially adversely impact sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: Projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	No
4.2	Does the Project propose utilizing tangible and/or intangible forms of cultural heritage for commercial or other	No

²³ In regards to CO₂, 'significant emissions' corresponds generally to more than 25,000 tons per year (from both direct and indirect sources). [The Guidance Note on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation provides additional information on GHG emissions.]

	purposes?	
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement		
5.1	Would the Project potentially involve temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement?	No
5.2	Would the Project possibly result in economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions – even in the absence of physical relocation)?	No
5.3	Is there a risk that the Project would lead to forced evictions? ²⁴	No
5.4	Would the proposed Project possibly affect land tenure arrangements and/or community-based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	No
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples		
6.1	Are indigenous peoples present in the Project area (including Project area of influence)?	No
6.2	Is it likely that the Project or portions of the Project will be located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.3	Would the proposed Project potentially affect the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, whether the Project is located within or outside of the lands and territories inhabited by the affected peoples, or whether the indigenous peoples are recognized as indigenous peoples by the country in question)? <i>If the answer to the screening question 6.3 is “yes” the potential risk impacts are considered potentially severe and/or critical and the Project would be categorized as either Moderate or High Risk.</i>	No
6.4	Has there been an absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of achieving FPIC on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned?	No
6.5	Does the proposed Project involve the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.6	Is there a potential for forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources?	No
6.7	Would the Project adversely affect the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	No
6.8	Would the Project potentially affect the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No
6.9	Would the Project potentially affect the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?	No
Standard 7: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		
7.1	Would the Project potentially result in the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	No
7.2	Would the proposed Project potentially result in the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	No
7.3	Will the proposed Project potentially involve the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous chemicals and/or materials? Does the Project propose use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs? <i>For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Stockholm Conventions on Persistent Organic Pollutants or the Montreal Protocol</i>	No
7.4	Will the proposed Project involve the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	No
7.5	Does the Project include activities that require significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	No

²⁴ Forced evictions include acts and/or omissions involving the coerced or involuntary displacement of individuals, groups, or communities from homes and/or lands and common property resources that were occupied or depended upon, thus eliminating the ability of an individual, group, or community to reside or work in a particular dwelling, residence, or location without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protections.