### Closure Stage Quality Assurance Report

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Strategic

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

- 3: *The project team identified relevant changes in the external environment that may present new opportunities or threats to the project’s ability to achieve its objectives, assumptions were tested to determine if the project’s strategy was valid. There is some evidence that the project board considered the implications, and documented the changes needed to the project in response. (all must be true)*

- 2: *The project team identified relevant changes in the external environment that may present new opportunities or threats to the project’s ability to achieve its objectives. There is some evidence that the project board discussed this, but relevant changes did not fully integrate in the project. (both must be true)*

- 1: *The project team considered relevant changes in the external environment since implementation began, but there is no evidence that the project team considered these changes to the project as a result.*

Evidence:

Following the approval of specific project activities (where different from those initially proposed in the Annex A2 to the Contract) in accordance with Article 1, Paragraph 3 of the PA Grant Agreement General Conditions, the Project partners submitted to the attention of the EU Delegation the Notification Letter No. 1 (on 14 November 2017) related to the budget modifications. The modifications positively impacted the implementation of the Action and ensured timely results in all project components and an efficient response to the most pressing service providers’ needs. On 18 December 2017, the No-Objection Letter was issued by the EU Delegation to the modification reflecting the changes which emerged during the first five months of the Project implementation (final report)

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2. Was the project aligned with the thematic focus of the Strategic Plan?
3: The project responded to at least one of the development settings as specified in the Strategic Plan (SP) and adopted at least one Signature Solution. The project’s RRF included all the relevant SP output indicators. (all must be true)

2: The project responded to at least one of the development settings as specified in the Strategic Plan. The project’s RRF included at least one SP output indicator, if relevant. (both must be true)

1: While the project may have responded to a partner’s identified need, this need falls outside of the UNDP Strategic Plan. Also select this option if none of the relevant SP indicators are included in the RRF.

**Evidence:**

The project responds to resilience signature solution and is linked to indicator 1.3.1. National capacities and evidence-based assessment and planning tools enable gender-responsive and risk-informed development investments, including for response to and recovery from crisis.

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**Relevant**

**Quality Rating: Satisfactory**

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

- 3: Systematic and structured feedback was collected over the project duration from a representative sample of beneficiaries, with a priority focus on the discriminated and marginalized, as part of the project’s monitoring system. Representatives from the targeted groups were active members of the project’s governance mechanism (i.e., the project board or equivalent) and there is credible evidence that their feedback informs project decision making. (all must be true)

- 2: Targeted groups were engaged in implementation and monitoring, with a priority focus on the discriminated and marginalized. Beneficiary feedback, which may be anecdotal, was collected regularly to ensure the project addressed local priorities. This information was used to inform project decision making. (all must be true to select this option)

- 1: Some beneficiary feedback may have been collected, but this information did not inform project decision making. This option should also be selected if no beneficiary feedback was collected

- Not Applicable
Evidence:

Due attention was paid to phrasing short, powerful, easy-to-understand, motivational messages, taking into account the mind-sets of the target groups, using online and offline communication channels for transferring the messages. Social media-based health awareness-raising campaign was developed and carried out with the overall reach of 313,506. Both migrants and local population were the target groups of these activities. Generally speaking, the quality, scope and time perspective of the results and activities were continually observed and reported through the weekly written and verbal reporting mechanism and on-the-spot monitoring and evaluation requirements. Special attention was paid to the assessment of the impact on the target groups (final report).

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

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

UNDP conducted a technical screening exercise with verification of infrastructure upgrade requests in 16 towns and municipalities to determine the readiness of the project tasks and response urgency. For each local self-government expressing interest in the project implementation, thorough evaluation criteria were applied, with a focus on the expected impact, local strategy plans, feasibility, environmental cause, number of beneficiaries, gender equality and sustainability.

All the infrastructure and equipment-based upgrades were individually assessed and tested. Intensive monitoring and knowledge transfer, which were part of the approach towards the local-level counterparts, contributed to raising awareness and responsible management of the acquired assets (final report).

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

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

In total, 18 group discussions with migrants/refugees in 17 different target locations were organised with 290 participants (32% women). In parallel, 6 focus group discussions with a service provider – representatives of the local institutions/organisations at three locations were organised including a total of 103 participants (48% women). The information gathered from the discussions on the needs and interests of migrants/refugees provided guidance in the subsequent planning/adapting of the envisaged project activities for the beneficiaries (e.g. socio-cultural cohesion events, workshop curriculum, communication campaign etc.). (final report)

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Principled

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

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

With strong involvement of CSOs, independently from the local administrations, UNDP organised a series of round table discussions aiming at assessing the societal, environmental and gender impact of the most tangible initiatives. Round tables attended by more than 50 CSOs confirmed a tangible societal, environmental and gender impact of the project activities and no adverse environmental impact.

Gender balance was emphasized and respected in the recruitment processes.

The development of the technical documentation was performed in a gender- and disability-friendly manner, taking into account the highest standards in the areas of concern (final report).

In order to provide a satisfactory level of openness and a productive discussion, the focus groups with refugees/migrants were based on a gender criterion (men-only and women-only groups). Ethical standards of informed consent and confidentiality were applied in the various contents.

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

- 3: Social and environmental risks were tracked in the risk log. Appropriate assessments conducted where required (i.e., Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for Substantial and High risk projects and some level of social and environmental assessment for Moderate risk projects as identified through SESP). Relevant management plan(s) developed for identified risks through consultative process and implemented, resourced, and monitored. Risks effectively managed or mitigated. If there is a substantive change to the project or change in context that affects risk levels, the SESP was updated to reflect these changes. (all must be true)

- 2: Social and environmental risks were tracked in the risk log. Appropriate assessments conducted where required (i.e., Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for Substantial and High risk projects and some level of social and environmental assessment for Moderate risk projects as identified through SESP). Relevant management plan(s) developed, implemented and monitored for identified risks. OR project was categorized as Low risk through the SESP.

- 1: Social and environmental risks were tracked in the risk log. For projects categorized as High, Substantial, or Moderate Risk, there was no evidence that social and environmental assessments completed and/or management plans or measures development, implemented or monitored. There are substantive changes to the project or changes in the context but SESP was not updated. (any may be true)
Evidence:

Project team assessed and managed social and environmental risks during the project implementation e.g. Social Impact: Replacement of the roof cover improved the functionality of the building of the CSW in Subotica and provided an adequate environment for both employees and social service beneficiaries (domicile and refugees/migrants).

Better social protection has been provided to 6,995 male and 7,631 female beneficiaries of social services, including unaccompanied refugee/migrant children in need of such assistance.

Environmental Impact: Upon replacing the 50-year old asbestos roof (60 tonnes), which used to be a health risk for the environment and human health, a new metal sheet roof cover was installed to withstand the impacts of climate changes in both winter and summer conditions.

With strong involvement of CSOs, independently from the local administrations, UNDP organised a series of round table discussions aiming at assessing the societal, environmental and gender impact of the most tangible initiatives.

Round tables attended by more than 50 CSOs confirmed a tangible societal, environmental and gender impact of the project activities and no adverse environmental impact.

UNDP also conducted three surveys on the communities' perception

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

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

**Evidence:**

- SES screening categorized interventions as low risk. (see section 7)

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

- 3: The project had a comprehensive and costed M&E plan. Baselines, targets and milestones were fully populated. Progress data against indicators in the project's RRF was reported regularly using credible data sources and collected according to the frequency stated in the Plan, including sex disaggregated data as relevant. Any evaluations conducted, if relevant, fully meet decentralized evaluation standards, including gender UNEG standards. Lessons learned, included during evaluations and/or After-Action Reviews, were used to take corrective actions when necessary. (all must be true)

- 2: The project costed M&E Plan, and most baselines and targets were populated. Progress data against indicators in the project's RRF was collected on a regular basis, although there was may be some slippage in following the frequency stated in the Plan and data sources was not always reliable. Any evaluations conducted, if relevant, met most decentralized evaluation standards. Lessons learned were captured but were used to take corrective actions. (all must be true)

- 1: The project had M&E Plan, but costs were not clearly planned and budgeted for, or were unrealistic. Progress data was not regularly collected against the indicators in the project's RRF. Evaluations did not meet decentralized evaluation standards. Lessons learned were rarely captured and used. Select this option also if the project did not have an M&E plan.

Evidence:
The project had a robust M&E plan and systems for tracking and reporting in place. However, donor did not ask for evaluation although the project qualified as per the evaluation policy.

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

Project was guided by the Steering Committee who met regularity to discuss and approve the modifications and the changes in the plans.

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

- 3: The project monitored risks every quarter and consulted with the key stakeholders, security advisors, to identify continuing and emerging risks to assess if the main assumptions remained valid. There is clear evidence that relevant management plans and mitigating measures were fully implemented to address each key project risk and were updated to reflect the latest risk assessment. (all must be true)

- 2: The project monitored risks every year, as evidenced by an updated risk log. Some updates were made to management plans and mitigation measures.

- 1: The risk log was not updated as required. There was may be some evidence that the project monitored risks that may affected the project’s achievement of results, but there is no explicit evidence that management actions were taken to mitigate risks.
Evidence:
The project monitored initially and risk and issues were entered into Atlas logs. Updates were made to management plans and mitigation measures but not all of them were captured online.

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Efficient

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

- Yes
- No

Evidence:
Project was efficient delivering the expected results with available resources.

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13. Were project inputs procured and delivered on time to efficiently contribute to results?
14. Was there regular monitoring and recording of cost efficiencies, taking into account the expected quality of results?

- 3: There is evidence that the project regularly reviewed costs against relevant comparators (e.g., other projects or country offices) or industry benchmarks to ensure the project maximized results delivered with given resources. The project actively coordinated with other relevant ongoing projects and initiatives (UNDP or other) to ensure complementarity and sought efficiencies wherever possible (e.g., joint activities.) (both must be true)

- 2: The project monitored its own costs and gave anecdotal examples of cost efficiencies (e.g., spending less to get the same result,) but there was no systematic analysis of costs and no link to the expected quality of results delivered. The project coordinated activities with other projects to achieve cost efficiency gains.

- 1: There is little or no evidence that the project monitored its own costs and considered ways to save money beyond following standard procurement rules.
Evidence:
The project monitored and adjusted its own costs. The EU Delegation approved all proposed cost modifications to achieve savings e.g. completion of the Final Technical Control of the Building Permit Design of the Belgrade Emergency Medicine Institute was approved on 2 September 2019 by issuing the Side Letter No. 02.

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

- Yes
- No

Evidence:
Project delivered expected results (see final report)

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16. Were there regular reviews of the work plan to ensure that the project was on track to achieve the desired results, and to inform course corrections if needed?
17. Were the targeted groups systematically identified and engaged, prioritizing the marginalized and excluded, to ensure results were achieved as expected?

- **3:** Quarterly progress data informed regular reviews of the project work plan to ensure that the activities implemented were most likely to achieve the desired results. There is evidence that data and lessons learned (including from evaluations/or After-Action Reviews) were used to inform course corrections, as needed. Any necessary budget revisions were made. (both must be true)

- **2:** There was at least one review of the work plan per year with a view to assessing if project activities were on track to achieving the desired development results (i.e., outputs.) There may or may not be evidence that data or lessons learned were used to inform the review(s). Any necessary budget revisions have been made.

- **1:** While the project team may have reviewed the work plan at least once over the past year to ensure outputs were delivered on time, no link was made to the delivery of desired development results. Select this option also if no review of the work plan by management took place.

**Evidence:**

Weekly and bi-weekly reports were submitted to EU D Programme Manager, joint operation team meetings and SC meetings were held on regular basis

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**Not Applicable**
Evidence:
The project targeted groups were migration affected municipalities and respective administrations, providers of public services and refugees and migrants, as end beneficiaries. Their needs were assessed through consultation process. Regular contact were maintained through the work of the working group on the local community support and project field visits and communication.

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Sustainability & National Ownership

Quality Rating: Satisfactory

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

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

Evidence:
National partners were fully engaged in the decision-making e.g. they have been endorsing and approving each project activity. However, procurement was done in line with UNDP procedures, as per donor requirements.
19. Were there regular monitoring of changes in capacities and performance of institutions and systems relevant to the project, as needed, and were the implementation arrangements adjusted according to changes in partner capacities?

- **Option 3**: Changes in capacities and performance of national institutions and systems were assessed/monitored using clear indicators, rigorous methods of data collection and credible data sources including relevant HACT assurance activities. Implementation arrangements were formally reviewed and adjusted, if needed, in agreement with partners according to changes in partner capacities. (all must be true)

- **Option 2**: Aspects of changes in capacities and performance of relevant national institutions and systems were monitored by the project using indicators and reasonably credible data sources including relevant HACT assurance activities. Some adjustment was made to implementation arrangements if needed to reflect changes in partner capacities. (all must be true)

- **Option 1**: Some aspects of changes in capacities and performance of relevant national institutions and systems may have been monitored by the project, however changes to implementation arrangements have not been considered. Also select this option if changes in capacities and performance of relevant national institutions and systems have not been monitored by the project.

**Evidence:**

Monitoring of KPIs for the engaged staff and local service provides was regularity conducted. Programme Analyst performing the assurance function was advising Project Manager on the required adjustments, if needed.

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

The project primarily addressed migrant crises related effects on local development. Thus, the sustainability interventions were dependent on available funding for crisis-based responses. The state is currently managing the last donor tranche dedicated to migration crisis.

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QA Summary/Final Project Board Comments

The project was praised by the EU Delegation as a good practice both on terms of its design and implementation. The project has finalized financial and narrative report to the donor, due on March 4th 2020. The last donor tranche, however, has not been received yet, subject to endorsement of the final report. Since the project formally ended, it should be operationally closed. The funding that will be received in April 2020 will be used to cover UNDP pre-financed expenses.