2020

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**SCCF Turkmenistan**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 5459 |
| GEF ID | 6960 |
| Title | Supporting climate resilient livelihoods in agricultural communities in drought-prone areas of Turkmenistan |
| Country(ies) | Turkmenistan, Turkmenistan |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Climate Change Adaptation |
| Project Implementing Partner | Government |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| Turkmenistan is a water stressed country and has one of the harshest climates in the Central Asian region. Climate change modeling indicates significant increases in temperature and reduction in rainfall. Temperatures are expected to increase by 20C by 2040, with precipitation declining across all agro-ecological zones by 8-17 percent between 2040 and 2100, which coupled with increase in temperature, will lead to a decrease in total volume of water availability that is likely to have a profound impact on agricultural production systems and local farmers. The long-term solution envisaged by the Government of Turkmenistan is to mainstream climate change adaptation at the community, district, provincial and national levels in order to secure climate resilient livelihoods in agricultural communities. To help the Government meet these outcomes, the project will support three inter-related components, namely (i) improving climate related socio-economic outcomes in targeted agricultural communities in Lebap and Dashoguz velayats through the implementation of community-based adaptation solutions; (ii) Mainstreaming climate adaptation measures in agricultural and water sector development strategy and policy; and (iii) Strengthening national capacity for iterative climate change adaptation planning, implementation and monitoring in the country.
The project will directly strengthen the adaptive capacity and reduce the vulnerability of around 40,000 to 50,000 persons (of which around 51.2% would be women) in the Lebap and Dashoguz velayets by helping them improve the productivity of farm operations, be better prepared for increasing water scarcity and by introducing alternative income sources. Improved water efficiency and crop production systems will bring approximately 20,000 ha of agricultural and 500,000 ha of pastoral lands under climate resilient technologies resulting in a real net household income increase of at least 15Â¬Â¬Â¬% for participating households (including at least 20% of women-headed households). The replication potential of successful efficient water management and climate resilient practices and of new climate-friendly sectoral planning, legislative and capacity development measures would indirectly benefit around 500,000 people in Turkmenistan, of which around 50% would be women). |

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| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

# Overall Ratings

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| Overall DO Rating | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | low |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** |
| **Objective** **Supporting climate resilient livelihoods in agricultural communities in Lehap and Dashoguz velayats in Turkmenistan** |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2019** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Number of hectares of agricultural land under more resilient management utilizing climate resilient technologies, efficient irrigation management and improved crop production systems
(CCA TT Indicator 2)
 | Some of the coping mechanisms employed by farmers and pastoralists in the pilot etraps are increasingly strained by mounting water deficits. A combination of innovative and traditional measures for climate adaptation has not been systematically utilized (beyond individual fragmented pilots) to improve water capture, optimize water demand and improve water efficiency, as well as improve soil fertility and soil moisture regimes and ensure less water consumptive agricultural practices | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 20,000 ha of agricultural lands and 500,000 ha of natural pasture lands receiving reliable irrigation water supply from climate-proof rehabilitated and properly maintained irrigation schemes and/or managed under improved soil fertility, soil moisture regimes or crop and pasture production systems | Progress to date is 12,000 ha (60% of end of project target) of the agricultural lands and app. 105,100 ha (21,02% of end of project target) of natural pasture lands over project lifetime.
The progress on resilient management of pasture lands has been achieved through restoration of underground water reservoirs (sardobs) and water collecting ground (kak) traditionally used by local pastoral communities and installation of solar pumps in “Esenaman” area which is the largest watering-place in Garagum Desert. Planned activities have strengthened the adaptive capacity of livestock farms, and at the same time allowed the introduction of a sustainable pasture turnover in the Garagum livestock farm; prevented the degradation of the environment on the territory of more than 105.000 hectares; increased the productivity of livestock farms (increased the number of cattle); enabled the sustainable use of energy resources through the use of solar energy; rationed use of water resources in the conditions of arid desert climate; and lessened the pressure on other watering places located nearby by restoration of surrounding vegetation. This activity is being carried out within common efforts of this SCRL project and Central Asia Nexus Dialogue project (further Nexus project) as well as an essential contribution of local pastoral communities.
An efficient irrigation management and improved crop production systems are ensured at four pilot sites through implementation of following adaptation measures:
i) installation of the water-regulating constructions (5 pieces) and Cipolletti water-measuring units (6 pieces);
ii) mechanical cleaning of 30 km of drainage collectors in Gorogly etrap, Dashogus velayat and irrigation channel of 5 km in Danew (former Galkynysh) etrap, Lebap velayat;
iii) land levelling with the help of 2 set of laser equipment.
As result, app. 10,000 ha of agricultural lands are properly managed.
Additional 2,000 ha has been maintained since summer 2018 thanks to the several project investments into efficient irrigation management, land reclamation etc. The project has demonstrated various adaptation measures with application of innovative, cost-effective and environment-friendly tools. The adaptation measures include the following:
1) Installation of powerful modern pumps with back-up options for energy saving purpose. These improve land reclamation in Parahat daykhan association and Garagum livestock farm by draining the return water from fields and balancing groundwater table.
2) Application of water-saving technologies such as flat irrigation hosepipe, siphons, water-measuring units improved the irrigation practices.
3) Continuation of land levelling with the help of the laser equipment (65 ha in 2017-18 and 115,5 ha in 2018-19 period) has created advantages with reduction in time and water for irrigation, uniform distribution of water, less water consumption in land preparation, precise level and smoother soil surface, uniform moisture environment for crops.
4) Installation of the drip irrigation system with fertigation at the territory of the study plot of Turkmen Agriculture Institute of Dashoguz city.
The SCRL project has initiated a grant allocation activity to support implementation of the Local Adaptation Plans elaborated for four selected farmers association. Implementation of all proposed grants that amount of 242,591 USD will improve additionally almost 3,000 ha of arable lands and 7,300 ha of natural pasture lands. Recently established the Grant commission will score 21 grant proposals received from local communities of four farmers associations. Expected date of grant allocation is September 2019.
Provision of remote agro-consulting services initiated in 2018 year in the Lebap region have shown moderate progress as the first attempt completed in terms of application of the climate smart agriculture. Awareness campaigns about these approaches and their possibilities were organized with participation of an international consultant of the Israel company. These have raised the interest of many project partners - especially those working in private sector. | Overall progress to target: 16,928 ha (85% of EOP target) of agricultural lands and 331,180 ha (66% of EOP target) of natural pasture lands
Previous achievements: More resilient and adaptive pasture management at livestock farms was achieved through restoring underground water reservoirs (sardobs) and water harvesting grounds (kak), the installation of solar pumps, and the introduction of a sustainable pasture rotation at the Garagum livestock farm. The activities achieved (i) reduced land degradation on more than 105.000 hectares; (ii) increased livestock farm productivity (increased number of cattle); (iii) sustainable energy use by means of solar energy; (iv) rationed use of water resources in an arid desert environment; (v) overall reduced pressures on watering places promoting vegetation restoration. Activities were implemented jointly with the Central Asia Nexus Dialogue project and local pastoral communities.

More efficient irrigation management and improved crop production systems were achieved on app. 12,000 ha of irrigated agricultural lands through project investments in innovative, cost-effective and environment-friendly adaptation measures, including (i) installing water-regulating constructions (5) and Cipolletti water-measuring units (6); (ii) mechanical cleaning of drainage canals (30 km) and irrigation canals (5 km); (iii) laser land leveling (65 ha in 2017-18; 116 ha in 2018-19) to ensure faster and more uniform distribution of water, and reduce water consumption; (iv) installing modern drainage pumps with back-up options to drain excess water from fields and balance groundwater levels; (v) water-saving technologies such as flat irrigation hosepipe, siphons, and water-measuring units for improving irrigation practices; (vi) installing a drip irrigation with fertigation at the research field of the Turkmen Agriculture Institute (Dashoguz city).

To support the implementation 4 Local Adaptation Plans adopted, a grant allocation procedure was designed. In 2019, 21 grant proposals received from members of 4 Daikhan Associations, valuing USD 242,591 towards improving an additional 3,000 ha of arable lands and 7,300 ha of natural pasture lands.

Remote agro-consulting services, initiated in 2018 in the Lebap veloyat, showed moderate progress in support of achieving climate smart agriculture. Targeted awareness campaigns organized with an international consultant (Israel) raised interests among many project partners, especially from the private sector.

Current-year achievements: Resilient management of an additional 4,928 ha of agricultural lands and 226,080 ha of natural pasture lands, achieved through implementation of Local Adaptation Plans (LAPs), including small grant allocations, and agro-consultations provided.
On agricultural lands, small grant activities targeted improving agricultural practices on 3,302 ha, through (i) Construction of water regulating units (38 pieces) and repairing of one existing aqueduct; (ii) Cleaning on-farm drainage networks (32.5 km); (iii) Laser levelling of irrigated fields (18 ha); (iv) Repairing of agricultural machines (2) and tractor maintenance boxes (4); (v) Construction of 1 vegetable warehouse and 2 greenhouses (in each pilot region) for boosting alternative income sources; (vi) Construction of a two-chamber bio fermenter and instrumentation for accelerated composting of organic waste; (vii) Purchase of new portable pumps (2) and repairs of the electric generator of an existing pump; (viii) Application of no-till technology using purchased disco harrows reducing soil erosion, improving water infiltration towards resource-saving farming. In addition, 6 Inter-farm Water Use Plans were developed and applied, for the Watan, Parahat, and Babadayhan farmers associations in Lebap region and the Yagtylyk, Abadanlyk, and B.Ovezov farmers associations in Dashoguz region (total: 1,210 ha). Further, remote agro-consultations on irrigation schemes, pest management, fertilizer application, composting and best practice farming techniques for individual crops were provided to agricultural communities of 3 farmers’ associations and one livestock farm (140 ha), supported by trainings and consultations on bio-humus, horticultural practices, legal advisory, weather forecasting, etc. (276 ha).
On pasture lands, grant financing achieved improved land management, including through (i) purchasing of new portable subsurface pumps (5) for the Kyrk Guyy watering point; (ii) repairing of two water reservoir (250 m3 each); and (iii) concrete casting of kak (1 ha) to improve water harvesting at the Begish sardob watering point in the Karakum Desert.
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| Number and percentage of targeted farmers/ households adopting improved on farm soil and water conditions through climate-resilient efficient irrigation technologies and improved crop production systems that enhance productivity and water efficiency
(CCA TT Indicator 4)

 | Agricultural and pastoral communities not effectively applying irrigation and agricultural technologies that enhance resilience to climate risks
Baseline value: 0  | *(not set or not applicable)* | Climate-resilient agriculture and livestock production practices are adopted by at least 3,000 (or at least 30%) targeted farmers/households of which at least 30% are women/women-headed households.  | Progress to date is 2,000 targeted farmers (66% of project target) and their family members - of which at least 25% are women-headed households.
This number has been achieved through above-mentioned adaptation measures implemented so far in the four targeted communities benefiting local farmers in improvement of irrigation technologies and crop production.
Additional number of targeted farmers in comparison with the last reporting period has been reached and supported with the help of access to enhanced technologies and sustainable water and land use practices. For instance, provision of remote agro-consulting services, installation of three iMETOS meteo-stations in different areas that ensured risk management tools in aspect of climate change and effective agro-management programs, covering diversity of soil and climatic characteristics of the region.
With the support of the project on installation of modern pumps in Garagum and Watan farmers associations a significant number of targeted farmers has improved their agricultural production and received good yields of wheat in spring 2019.
In 2018 it was observed that a share of women-headed households in each pilot region was not equal. In particular, women from Danew (former Galkynysh) etrap, Lebap velayat actively participate in velayat’s agriculture sector development as well as at all project activities in comparison with women from Dashoguz velayat.
To address this challenge a National Expert on Community Mobilization was involved for development and implementation of the Communication Strategy Framework and Training Program for different target groups including female-led households.
In 2019, the coverage of women/women-headed households is still a challenging issue in the Dashoguz region despite SCRL project efforts. Due to this reason, Gender empowerment training is planned for local authorities of Dashoguz region with participation of International Gender consultant.
Based on the estimates, around 13,200 households (of which at least 20% are women-headed households) will benefit from the Grant allocation activity initiated by the Project in the beginning of 2019 to support implementation of the Local Adaptation Plans of four selected farmers association. | Overall progress to target: 2,529 targeted farmers (84% of EOP target) and their family members - of which 25% are women-headed households, have adopted improved climate resilient on-farm soil and water management approaches.

Previous achievements: Adaptation measures adopted in 4 target communities benefitted local farmers through improved irrigation technologies, sustainable water and land use practices, and better crop production. Specific project activities included (i) remote agro-consulting services provided to targeted farmers (12) towards strengthened agricultural management practices effectively taking climate change risks as well as soil and landscape features into account; (ii) installation of iMETOS meteo-stations (3), allowing for more localized weather forecasts; (iii) installation of modern water pumps (2 pumps in each province) in Garagum and Parahat farmers associations, allowing farmers to improve agricultural production practices and good yields of wheat in spring 2019; (iv) Development and implementation of a Communication Strategy Framework and Training Program for different target groups, specifically including female-led households, to strengthen their active participate in agriculture sector development as well as all project activities in both pilot districts and regions. To further strengthen the engagement of women, a gender empowerment training was planned for local authorities of Dashoguz region. The planned allocation of small grants, supporting the implementation of the LAPs approved for the first 4 pilot farmers’ associations, is estimated to benefit around 13,200 households (of which at least 20% are female-headed households).
Current-year achievements: An additional 529 targeted farmers have received project support towards adopting improved soil and water management practices, achieved through (i) provided access to small grant financing resources; (ii) support to the implementation of inter-farm water distribution plans; and (ii) a variety of remote and on-site agro-consultations and trainings provided, on bio-humus preparation, improvement of pest management, legal issues (land ownership and leasing), etc. To date the implementation of approved small-grant activities continues in the first 4 pilot farmers’ associations. In response to MTR comments received, the project has engaged a national socio-economic expert to strengthen the evidence base for reporting against agreed indicators. For 3 newly selected farmers associations (Babadaykhan, Abadanlyk and B.Ovezov), and 1 livestock farm (Serdar), Local Adaptation Plans (LAPs) were approved in spring 2020, their implementation envisioned by appropriate financial support to targeted farmers under the small grants facility, towards achieving the EOP in full in 2021. |
| Number of direct beneficiaries (percentage of whom are female)
(CCA TT Indicator 1)  | Baseline value: 0
 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 40,000
(including 50% women) | 15,000 people out of 40,000 targeted have been reached (including 50% women), that is 37,5% out of the overall progress towards the project target.
Indicated number of direct beneficiaries have obtained different types of the project support including activities on climate change adaptation, services and consultations on sustainable agriculture on the basis of two Agro-Information Centers established by the project in pilot regions. These Agro-information Centers serve as “a platform” for partnership development in the field of agricultural extension services and enabled to outreach certain number of targeted farmers and project beneficiaries. Centers are the most direct way to teach farmers about adapting to a changing environment and adopting technologies and practices that can help them do so. Local project staff in each pilot region consisted of local project coordinators, field assistants and Community Mobilization expert regularly provide a support and agricultural consultations to local beneficiaries in the Agro-information Centres (AICs). A seris of trainings and field information days has been organized for farmers of both pilot regions to strengthen their adaptive capacity to climate change and increasing water scarcity in Amudarya River basin. The Project has demonstrated different innovative water-saving technologies such as flat irrigation hosepipe, siphons, drip irrigation, water-measuring units that enhance productivity and water efficiency.
Improving the efficiency of irrigated agriculture is possible only if science-based approaches are applied. Therefore, the project continues to actively involve teachers and students of State Agriculture Institute located in Dashoguz city into all project activities within common agreements established the last year. The priority role of partnership with Institute is to create a dialog between farmers and scientists in order to apply practically science-based approaches in farming system and to share the knowledge on base of Agro-Information Centres.
Since 2018 the project has intended to introduce AquaCrop tool together with Agriculture Institute for modelling the yield of cotton under typical conditions. A special training has been conducted in August 2018 at the national level and a joint work plan with Agriculture Institute have been agreed for assessment of the impact of irrigation on the planned yield under limited water distribution. It the future any farmers associations of the country may benefit from this model as it can be the main tool for planning water management. The findings of joint work will be considered with other project partners at the meeting planned by the end of 2019. | Overall progress to target: 20,488 people have been reached as direct beneficiaries of the project (51% of EOP target), including 50% women.
Previous achievements: In line with the Training Need Assessment conducted for the first 4 targeted communities, the national-level Institutional Capacity Need Assessment completed, and Local Adaptation Plans (LAPs) approved, project-supported demonstrations, training and consultation activities on climate change adaptation continued, streamlined through the Agro-information Centers (AICs) established, serving as “a platform” for partnership development in providing agricultural extension services and promotion of climate change adaptation capabilities of targeted farmers and project beneficiaries. The established project approach of conducting a series of trainings and field information days continued, led by project specialists and external consultants. The training program covered different target groups (local specialists of farmers associations, students, women), training modules and topics, on alternative sources of income, sustainable land and water resources, production of bio-humus, pest management, grant preparation, etc. In parallel, a variety of innovative water-saving technologies were demonstrated, such as flat irrigation hosepipe, siphons, drip irrigation, water-measuring units that enhance productivity and water efficiency. As a result, among local communities there is an increased awareness on the negative impacts from climate change and a better understanding on adaptation options available, among farmers and their households, civil servants with responsibilities for agriculture, land and water sector management, students and teachers alike. A study tour was organized for decision makers from Parliament of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection (MAEP). The project continued its collaboration with the State Agriculture Institute (Dashoguz city) within common agreements established, implementing joint activities with scientists and students, aiming at integrating the scientific approach for improving the efficiency of irrigated agriculture and achieving community adaptation to climate change.
Current-year achievements: During the reporting year, an additional 5,488 direct beneficiaries have been reached through a variety of interventions aimed at strengthening resilience to climate change streamlined through the project’s Agro-Information Centers. Specifically, the project supported (i) the implementation of LAPs, achieved through the development and implementation of 4 Inter-farm water distribution plans and the allocation of small grant financing for farmers of 3 farmers’ association and 1 livestock farm; in total 800 beneficiaries; (ii) regular provision of on-site and remote agro-consultations, including on weather forecasting, soil and water analysis, irrigation schemes, pest management, application of fertilizer, composting and farming techniques for different agricultural crops), etc., in total about 750 beneficiaries, and (iii) other consultations, meetings and trainings, on legal issues, bio-humus production, horticultural practices, water metering and water saving technologies, alternative income sources (cattle breading, cultivation of fodder crops, aquaculture, greenhouses, etc.), using proficient, skillful national experts and scientists; in total 3,700 beneficiaries. Close collaboration with the State Agriculture Institute continued, on application of the AquaCrop model, support to trainings, workshops and field demonstrations of climate-resilient adaptation options in agriculture, as well as on providing agro-consultations to farmers using the online portal and AICs established. Negotiations are ongoing with the State Agriculture Institute to become the recipient of the GIS platform with multi-cluster maps for further research and application of this tool after EOP.
Due to COVID-19 measures taken, globally and in Turkmenistan, progress in 2019-2020 towards EOP target was lower than anticipated. National and international travel suspensions caused delays and cancellation of project activities. Rapid inflation and uncertainties resulted in small grant activities not being carried out in full, while the number of grant recipients is lower than previously anticipated. Implementation support, including through small grant financing, to 4 newly adopted LAPs - 3 farmers’ associations and one livestock farm – was shifted to autumn 2020, from which an anticipated additional 10,000 rural citizens will benefit.  |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | **On track** |
| **Outcome 1****Climate related socio-economic outcomes improved in target agricultural communities in Lepab and Dashoguz velayats through the implementation of community based adaptation solutions** |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2019** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 1.1. Number of targeted communities adopting participatory gender sensitive adaptation plans Coping mechanisms currently not conceived within a common planning platform at the farmer association level and with a committed budget. Consequently most current efforts are individualistic, uncoordinated and not very effective
 | Baseline value: 0
 | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least eight farmer and/or livestock associations adaptation plans designed and budgeted through the project and linked to collective community based actions on water savings and efficiency improvements as well as soil fertility and moisture improvements as follows:
(i) four adaptation plans by MTR; and
(ii) eight adaptation plans by end of project
 | Work on preparation and approval of Four Local Adaptation Plans (LAPs) for the selected daykhan associations - Yagtylyk, Watan and Parahat farm associations and Garagum livestock farm - has been completed.
Several working meetings have been conducted in order to discuss all information contained in the LAPs. The final version of LAPs has been approved and stamped by the appropriate head of farmers associations in December 2018. For supporting a partial implementation of approved LAPs, the project has initiated a grant activity in 2019.
The Project has supported number of trainings, consultation workshops on preparation of the grant proposals. As result, 21 project proposals were elaborated and submitted to the Grant Commission established in June 2019. The allocation of grant funding to local communities (pilot farmer associations and livestock farm) is expected in autumn this year based on partial sharing of costs.
The Project has initiated certain activities on preparation of the remaining four Local Adaptation Plans for newly selected farmers associations: in Lebap region - Babadayhan farmers association and Serdar livestock farm and in Dashoguz region - Balysh Owezow and Abadanlyk farmers associations. These three farmers associations and one livestock farm were selected and appointed by the local administration of the Lebap and Dashoguz regions and have been approved by the SCRL Project Board in February 2019. The same methodology will be applied for preparation of the LAPs for new farmers associations considering the different features in local circumstances (climate, soil conditions, water availability etc.), institutional structure and capacities of these associations. | Overall progress to target: the EOP target was achieved – LAPs for farmer associations (6) and livestock farms (2) were designed and adopted.
Previous achievements: Based on participatory vulnerability and adaptation assessments (PVAA), multilevel cluster mapping (MLCM), working meetings and consultations, for 3 selected pilot farmers’ associations and 1 livestock farm the current farming systems, climate-induced impacts as well as goals, objectives and expected outcomes, source of finance and implementation arrangements for priority adaptation measures were clarified. Special attention was paid to the participation of female-headed households and vulnerable groups, promoting their engagement in decision-making processes. As a result, Local Adaptation Plans (LAPs) for the Yagtylyk, Watan and Parahat farmers’ associations and the Garagum livestock farm were approved by the Heads of the farmers’ associations in December 2018. To support LAP implementation, in 2019 trainings and consultation workshops were organized to prepare small grant proposals. In July 2019, 21 small grant project proposals were submitted to the Grant Commission established. In parallel, in close consultation with local authorities of the Lebap and Dashoguz regions, an additional three farmers’ associations (Babadayhan, B. Owezow and Abadanlyk) and one livestock farm (Serdar) were selected for the development of an additional 4 LAPs. Applying similar PVAA and MLCM approaches to analyze local physical-climatic circumstances as well as economic activities, institutional structure, etc. the capacities and adaptation needs of farmers’ associations will be formulated.
Current-year achievements: During the reporting year an additional 4 LAPs were finalized and adopted, for 3 newly selected farmers associations (Babadaykhan, Abadanlyk and B.Ovezov) and one livestock farm (Serdar), based on working meetings and consultations to discuss and clarify relevant climate change adaptation solutions, their aim and objectives. As previously, the participation of female-headed households and vulnerable groups in meetings was ensured, promoting their engagement in decision-making processes. Preparation trainings and consultations were organized to prepare small grant proposals to support the implementation of LAPs for these new pilot farmers’ associations. In addition, the implementation of small grant activities, initiated in 2019 for the first set of 4 LAPs, continued, being closely monitored by the project team and local experts. Due to COVID-19 measures taken, globally and in Turkmenistan, progress in 2019-2020 towards EOP target was lower than anticipated. National and international travel suspensions caused delays and cancellation of project activities. Rapid inflation and uncertainties resulted in small grant activities not being carried out in full, while the number of grant recipients is lower than previously anticipated.  |
| 1.2 Number and percentage of farmers (disaggregated by gender) reporting improved crop production systems and livelihoods Annual irrigation norms vary by soil type. For medium and heavy-loam soils, norms are 6,700 m3/ha for cotton; 4,500 m3/ha for winter wheat; and 29,000 m3/ha for rice.
 | Baseline value: 0  | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 3,000 (or 30%) of targeted agricultural farmers and pastoralists (30% of which are women) reporting improved production of major crops and natural pasture | Progress to date is 2,000 targeted farmers (66%) and their family members of which at least 25% are women-headed households.
This number was achieved through above-mentioned adaptation measures implemented so far in the four targeted communities benefiting local farmers in improvement of irrigation technologies and crop production.
A coverage of women/women-headed households is still challenging issues in Dashoguz region despite SCRL project efforts. Due to this reason, Gender empowerment training is planned for local authorities of Dashoguz region with participation of International consultant.
 | Overall progress to target: 2,529 targeted farmers (84% of EOP target) and their family members, of which 25% are female-headed households.
Previous achievements: Supported by a variety of project activities expanding across the pilot farmers’ associations, an annually increasing number of farmers report improved livelihood from more efficient irrigation management and improved crop production systems. Specifically the project invested in innovative, cost-effective and environment-friendly adaptation measures, including water regulation and measuring structures, cleaning of irrigation and drainage canals, land levelling, installation of drainage pumps, introduction of water-saving irrigation technologies, etc., supported by training, field demonstrations and on-site and remote agro-consultations through Agro-information Centers (AICs). Also farmers engaged in livestock farming confirm more resilient and adaptive pasture management, from project investment in reducing land degradation, increased livestock productivity and improved water availability in a desert environment.
Current-year achievements: During the reporting year, an additional 529 targeted farmers received project support towards improving crop production and livelihoods. Specifically, farmers (i) gained access to small grant financing; (ii) were provided with better irrigation water supply through the implementation of inter-farm water distribution plans; (iii) received relevant on-site and remote agro-consultations, on bio-humus production, horticultural practices, legal issues, etc.; and (iv) were participants in training and other project activities. In response to MTR comments received, which considered the progress towards EOP significantly lower than reported by the PMU, the project has engaged a national socio-economic expert to strengthen the evidence base for reporting against agreed indicators, based on independent data collection.  |
| 1.3. Percentage additional income earned by participating households from alternative climate-resilient livelihoods Farmer associations and farmers constrained by lack of opportunities (beyond the growing of state mandated crops that have high demands) to broaden their livelihood base to cope with climate risks
 | Baseline value: 0
 | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 50% of the households supported through alternative climate-resilient livelihood opportunities reporting an increase of >15% of real net household farm income, of which at least 20% are women-headed households
 | Progress to date makes up 50% of the households that increased their incomes from 5 to 10% (a further 5% increase over 2018), of which 20% are women-headed households.
This increase in income has been achieved by implementation of set of adaptation measures by the Project for farmers associations along with provided remote agro-consultations that have improved water efficiency and crop production systems. The result has been a real net household income increase.
For instance, in past project years the mechanical cleaning of 30 km drainage collectors significantly improved the overall meliorative situation of arable lands of Yagtylyk farm and Garagum livestock associations in Gorogly etrap by solving problems with soil salinization, erosion, land degradation. This increased a crop productivity at private plots of 2,000 households.
Further, mechanical cleaning of 5,2 km irrigation channel in Parahat farm association in Danew (former Galkynysh) etrap improved the carrying efficiency of the channel and contributed to a crop productivity at private plots of 500 households.
In 2018-19, land reclamation that ensured through installation of the pumps has improved the soil quality and crop productivity in participating households living in Parahat farm association and Garagum livestock farm and consequently increasing the income of locals by 10%.
An inventory of project households was completed. Findings of the households’ inventory has shown that main source of income to the local population in pilot sites come from cattle breading, gardening, cultivation of fodder crops, fishery, greenhouse. These sources of the additional income make the largest share of farmer’s revenue against the income they receive from production of state mandated crops.
Therefore, the project plans to organize hands on trainings on application of different innovative technologies in agriculture sectors for creating new income and livelihood opportunities. A knowledge accumulated by national scientists of Turkmen Academia, local and national experts will be used and shared during planned training. It will focus on cultivation of oyster mushrooms, production of dried fruits, desalination of saline water and energy production using solar technologies, production of fodder using biotechnology and others. In addition, the Project will support grant proposals initiated this year including those aimed to the development of alternative income. | Overall progress to target: 59% of participating households from 3 farmers’ associations and 1 livestock farm report 10-15% additional income earned from alternative climate-resilient livelihood activities, of which 20% are female-headed households.
Previous achievements: Project support to 3 pilot farmers’ associations and 1 livestock farm (total households: 5,720) has improved water efficiency and crop production systems. Household inventories confirmed that for the local population in pilot communities the key income sources from agricultural activities beyond growing state mandated crops include cattle breading, horticulture, fodder crops, aquaculture, and vegetable greenhouse production. Accordingly, the project conducted hands-on trainings and field demonstrations on using innovative technologies in relevant alternative agricultural livelihood and income generating activities. National experts, including of the Turkmen Academia of Sciences, demonstrated the cultivation of oyster mushrooms, production of dried fruits, desalination of saline water, energy generation using solar technologies, production of fodder using biotechnology, and others. Additional income from crop production was also generated through a set of adaptation measures implemented by the project, including mechanical cleaning of irrigation canals (5 km; Parahat farmers’ association) and drainage canals (30 km; Yagtylyk farmers’ associations and Garagum livestock farm), the installation of drainage pumps (Parahat farmers’ association, Garagum livestock farm), contributing to improved crop productivity at plots of 2,800 households. As a result, about 50% of the households in the pilot farms report 5 to 10% additional income earned (a further 5% increase over 2018), of which 20% are women-headed households. In addition, the project initiated the development of small grant proposals, envisioning to include activities focusing on the development of alternative farmer incomes.
Current-year achievements: During the reporting year, 59% participating households from 3 farmers’ associations (Watan, Parahat and Yagtylyk) and 1 livestock farm (Garagum) reported 10-15% additional income earned through engagement in project activities, on track to EOP target. The percentage of female-headed households remained as in previous years (20%), on track to EOP target. Specifically, a majority of participating households (86%) in the Dashoguz pilot region increased their incomes by 15 % from the mechanical clearing of 31 km of drainage canals (Yagtylyk farmers’ association, Garagum livestock farm). In the Lebap pilot region, 17% of participating households increased their income following the clearing of 5 km of irrigation canal and the installation water regulation infrastructure. In both pilot regions, the installation of pumps and laser land leveling led to improved physical soil conditions and a more efficient use of water and fertilizers, resulting in a 20% increase in income for 4% of households and a 15% increase for almost 15% of households. Households also increased their incomes as recipients of on-site and remote consultations, on legal aspects of land ownership and lease, pest management, bio-humus production, etc., through various field days, on-hand trainings, and remote agro-consulting services streamlined through the Agro-information Centers (AICs). In response to the MTR comment, the project has engaged a national socio-economic expert to strengthen the evidence base for reporting against agreed indicators, based on independent data collection. In the newly selected pilot farmers associations (Abadanlyk, B.Owezov, Babadayhan) and livestock farm (Serdar) (total households: 5,166), the project engaged in preparing Local Adaptation Plans (LAPs) and Inter-farm water distribution plans, in support of which a number of workshops, trainings, field day and consultations were organized. The preparation of proposals for small grant financing supporting the implementation of the LAPs is ongoing. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | **On track** |
| **Outcome 2****Adaptation mainstreamed in agricultural and water sector development strategy and policy** |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2019** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 2.1 Number of staff (national, velayat and etrap levels) and farmers reporting good knowledge of climate change risk reduction measures in irrigated agriculture and soil and water management
(CCA TT Indicator 9)
 | Crop production and water use at farmer level not using climate risk management approaches
Baseline value: 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 3,000 (30% women) of agricultural and pastoral farmers and 100 government staff (20 % women) are trained in on-the-ground application of climate adaptation-related technologies as follows:
(i) 1,000 farmers (30% women) and 50 government staff (20% women) by MTR; and
(ii) 3,000 farmers (30% women) and 100 government staff (20% women) by end of project | Overall progress is 1175 local people (27% of whom are women) and almost 224 government staff (21% women), which make up 39.17% and 224% respectively towards the overall target.
To enhance the institutional capacity, the project has recommended several activities aimed at training specialists according to the elaborated Training Program, improving national legislation in the field of land and water management, organizations of trainings and consultations to farmers and the establishment of Agro-information centers.
The project has set up linkages with suitable national institutions such as the Agricultural Institute of Dashoguz, Agricultural University of Ashgabat, National Research Institute “Turkmensuwylymtaslama” and the Land Management Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection to ensure continuity and sustainability of the capacity building and training effort.
Implementation of the Training program increases knowledge and adaptive capacity of government staff and farmers. Dozens of trainings, workshops, webinars, fields days organized by the Project so far have been dedicated to the climate change risk reduction measures in irrigated agriculture and soil and water management. A rational use of water is vital issue for livelihood of Lebap and Dashoguz pilot regions as both locate on middle stream area of Amu Darya river whose runoff significantly decreases due to climate change. Not efficient use of water resources induces many problems such as soil degradation, waterlogging, loss of applied fertilizer and consequently leading to the low crop productivity and income (by 15%).Therefore, trainings and workshops conducted during 2018-19 period has covered mainly issues on monitoring and assessment of the soil degradation, development of inter-farm water use plan, the water planning process with consideration of climate-soil conditions through application of AquaCrop modelling tool produced by UN Food and Agriculture Organization.
Within established collaboration with Dashoguz Agriculture State Institute a specialized hand-on training has been conducted for the students of Turkmen Agriculture Institute upon the completion of installation of drip irrigation and fertigation system on the territory of study plot on issues related to operation, maintenance and servicing. Field days organized in pilot sites have been also devoted to innovative water-saving technologies, measurement and accounting of the water inflow in the irrigated channels with application of simplified approach with a special water-metering device.
In addition to these, informative meetings and site visits have been organized to discuss opportunities and requirements of the remote agro-consultation services to be provided by the project for economically adaptation planning in agriculture. According to training needs assessments a number of webinars were organized by Israel agronomists on base of Argo-Information Centers. Apart from these consultations, 60 local people (30% of them are women) in Lebap and 30 local people (10%of them are women) in Dashoguz has obtained a legal advises on land ownership and leasing issues provided by legal experts of the project.
The project has organized the Study Tour on sustainable agriculture and water management to Israel in March 2017. This was held by the Galilee International Management Institute in March 2017. Overall 7 participants from the Parliament of Turkmenistan (1), the Ministry of Agriculture (1), the State Committee on Environment Protection and LR (2) and project (3) participated at this Study Tour.
The project has partly financed participation of Project Specialist on Land Resources and Local Coordinator in Dashoguz velayat at the Workshop “Sustainable agriculture and land/water resource management - familiarization with Israel and Kazakhstan irrigation technologies” organized in Almaty, Kazakhstan in April, 2017.
The project staff has attended at different conferences, trainings, forums and exhibitions organized at national, international and reginal levels. This enabled to share information on project activities with other interested parties such as CAREC, GIZ, FAO, IAMO, USAID etc. and became a starting point for some common activities. | Overall progress to target: 1,553 local people (52% of EOP target), of which 27% are females, and 362 government staff (362% of EOP target), of which 24% are females.
Previous achievements: Following an institutional capacity review to identify specific gaps in addressing climate risks as well as the identification of specific training needs, the implementation of the correspondingly designed Training Program continued increasing the knowledge and adaptive capacity of government staff and farmers. A large variety of trainings, workshops, webinars, fields days and other capacity development activities were organized dedicated to the climate change risk reduction measures in irrigated agriculture and soil and water management, linked to improvements of national legislation in the field of land and water management, the establishment of 2 Agro-information Centers (AICs) and on-site and remote agro-consultations provided to farmers. Using established linkages with national institutions, including the Turkmen Agriculture Institute (Dashoguz), Agricultural University (Ashgabat), National Research Institute “Turkmensuwylymtaslama”, and the Land Management Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection (MAEP), the continuity and sustainability of capacity building and training activities was ensured. Specifically, key activities included (i) monitoring and assessment of the soil degradation; (ii) development of inter-farm water use plans; (iii) water use planning with consideration of climate-soil conditions using AquaCrop; (iv) establishing a demonstration plot on drip irrigation and fertigation system at the Turkmen Agriculture Institute; (v) workshops providing legal advises on land ownership and leasing issues; (vi) Study Tour on sustainable agriculture and water management to Israel; (vi) trainings on alternative livelihoods, including cultivation of oyster mushrooms, production of dried fruits, desalination of saline water, energy production using solar technologies, production of fodder using biotechnology, and others; (vii) field demonstrations on innovative water-saving technologies. Also project staff participated in a variety of conferences, trainings, forums and exhibitions organized at national, international and regional level, including the Workshop “Sustainable agriculture and land/water resource management - familiarization with Israel and Kazakhstan irrigation technologies” (Astana, April 2017) and the Summer School organized of the CAWa project under the German Water Initiative for Central Asia (Kazakhstan, June 2018). Information on project activities was actively shared with interested parties (CAREC, GIZ, FAO, IAMO, USAID etc.) and a number of joint activities were initiated.

Current-year achievements: During the reporting period, an additional 378 local people and 100 government staff were engaged in a variety of project events to strengthen their knowledge on climate change risk reduction measures in irrigated agriculture and soil and water management – theoretical and hands-on trainings, workshops, information and field days, webinars and working meetings. Despite the situation with the outbreak of COVID-19 and travel constraints, the project managed to conduct events in pilot regions announced in the 2020 AWP. Specifically, trainings and field days engaged representatives of the newly selected 3 farmers’ associations (Babadayhan, Abadanlyk and B.Ovezov) and 1 livestock farm (Serdar), to increase their adaptive capacity and elaborate Local Adaptation Plans (LAPs), including on (i) Development and implementation of the inter-farm water use plan – 2 meetings; (ii) Participatory land use planning – 2 trainings; (iii) Preparation of grant proposals – 2 trainings; (iv) Application of biotechnologies in climate smart agriculture – 2 trainings; (v) Gender training; (vi) Field information days on LAPs, horticulture, elaborated guidelines, bio-humus etc.; (vi) Regulatory legal acts in the field of land and water use – 3 meetings; (vii) Integrating LAPs into national adaptation planning and budgeting (with USAID-C5+1). In addition, a workshop on “Introduction of Integrated Water Resource Management into the curricula of the TSAI” was conducted. Also in October 2019 a study tour to Uzbekistan was organized for 13 participants representing the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection, State Agriculture Institute (Dashoguz city), Hyakimliks of Lebap and Dashoguz regions as well as Gorogly district, the Vatan and Parahat farmers’ associations, AIC employees and project staff. The participants were acquainted with the organization of Farmer Councils, AICs, and sustainable agricultural production in the context of climate change. Knowledge gained will benefit the further development of a Concept Paper on “Agricultural extension services”, recommended by the MTR. Uzbekistan was chosen as destination because climate conditions and agricultural practices have close resemblance to Turkmenistan.
Progress towards EOP target was less than anticipated. Due to COVID-19 measures taken globally and in Turkmenistan a number of planned activities were cancelled, and national and international travel restrictions necessitated the cancelling of missions of international consultants to Turkmenistan and national experts to the project regions.  |
| 2.2 Number of articles included in the Water Code and Laws “On daikhan farm” and Environmental Code supporting non-structural climate change adaptation practices and their implementation  | National water code and daikhan laws adopted, but no regulations or other sub-legislative acts for IWRM,
roles and capacities of farmer and water use associations  | *(not set or not applicable)* | A package of amendments to the legislation with economic instruments and support for water delivery and local level decision making under increased communal control (refer Output 2.4 for details of proposed legislative measures)
 | One Law of Turkmenistan on the Land Cadaster has been drafted with support of the project, and in November 2017 the Law was adopted by the Parliament of Turkmenistan.
A work on revision of the existing Land Code (adopted in 2004) has started on 2017 as per request of the national partners. With aim to support this process a special Working Group has been established that comprises a team leader and four members. A revision process took almost two years as required involvement of many interested parties.
National Land Code has been revised taking into account recent reforms in agriculture sectors in term of land privatization and long-term leasing. The Land Code was discussed at regularly conducted meetings with national partners and on November 2018 it was submitted to the Parliament of Turkmenistan and other governmental institutions for further consideration. A five-days indoor roundtable has been held in May 2019 with support of the project in order to intensively discuss and finalize 120 articles of the Land Code with representatives of Parliament of Turkmenistan, Ministries of Agriculture and Environment Protection, Committee on Water Economy, Union of Entrepreneurs and Industrialists and members of the Working Group. It is expected that the Land Code will be adopted by the Parliament of Turkmenistan this year (2019).Building on the preparatory measures and progress made during the first years of the project, during the 2018-2019 reporting period, the project supported the preparation of the following legislative documents:
1) A package of amendments to the Laws on Farmers (daikhan) associations and Farmers (daikhan) unions
2) Regulation on procedures of the State Land Cadaster
3) Methodological guidance on land evaluation and economic assessment of arable lands.
In addition to the work on the Land Code and related policies, in 2017-18 a working group assisted to improve water legislation and other regulations. In the past year, two Model agreements for irrigation water supply and land leasing have been revised from juridical expertise point of view and adaptation to climate change. The revision proposed to the Model agreements includes important articles on responsibilities and duties of both parties in the course of their functions. Drafts of all prepared documents were submitted on May 2019 to the newly established Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection for further consideration and approval.
Relevant changes in legislation on land and water and institutional structures of relevant ministries and departments have been investigated to address in close cooperation with another UNDP project.
 | Overall progress to target: A package of amendments to the legislation was prepared. Specifically, the Law of Turkmenistan on the Land Cadaster has been drafted, and in November 2017 the Law was adopted by the Parliament of Turkmenistan. An addition 10 amendments to Laws, regulations, guidance documents, model agreements, legal acts and procedures are being drafted and continue to being discussed for adoption.
Previous achievements: Supported by a special 5-member Working Group, the project supported the drafting of the Law of Turkmenistan on the Land Cadaster, adopted by the Parliament of Turkmenistan in November 2017. The National Land Code was revised in draft taking into account decisions by the Popular Assembly and the Decree of Turkmenistan President of 25 September 2018 on reforms in agriculture sectors in term of land privatization and long-term leasing. The revised draft Land Code was regularly discussed with national partners, including during a five-days indoor roundtable organized in May 2019, to discuss and finalize the 120 articles considered for revision. In addition, the project supported the drafting of a number of other legislative documents, including (i) the Regulation on the procedures of the State Land Cadaster, approved by the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan and forwarded to the Parliament of the Turkmenistan for adoption; (ii) a package of amendments to the Laws on Farmers (daikhan) associations and Farmers (daikhan) unions, submitted for review to the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection; (iii) the Methodological guidance on soil evaluation and economic assessment of arable lands”, as well as two Model agreements for irrigation water supply and land leasing, all submitted for review to the MAEP. The methodological guidance on soil evaluation and economic assessment of arable lands was formally approved as Ministerial Decree №269-IŞ, dated 28 October 2018
Current-year achievements: Finalization of the new version of Land Code continued, with ongoing discussions focusing on a number of individual articles. The revised Land Code is envisioned to be adopted by the Parliament during autumn 2020. Meanwhile the package of amendments to the Laws on Farmers (daikhan) associations and Farmers (daikhan) unions was not accepted yet. The project will organize a meeting with national partners to discuss the obstacles. In response to requests of national partners - Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection and State Water Committee - during the reporting period the project supported the preparation of legal acts strengthening the implementation of the Turkmenistan Water and Land Codes, specifically focusing on (i) regulations on the use of inter-farm drainage systems; (ii) normative legal act on the legal regime of lands of the water fund; (iii) regulation on the use of on-farm drainage networks; and (iv) procedures for the provision of land in ownership, use and rental arrangements. In addition, the project’s legal working group conducted a legal examination (expertise) of a number of regulatory legal acts in the field of water use, including (i) Regulation on water-protective zone and coastal water protective strips of water bodies; (ii) Regulations on territorial water management organizations; and (iii) Building norms on designing anti-filtration measures for artificial ponds. Also the project initiated the preparation of a review of the current legislation of Turkmenistan and the formulation of recommendations on establishing Agriculture Extension Services (AES) in the country, including a study on international legislative arrangements and best practices.  |
| 2.3 The number of approved sector strategies and plans in the water and agriculture domain that include climate change adaptation considerations and budgetary allocations
(CCA TT Indicator 12)  | Water and agriculture policies remain outdated as well as poorly enforced due to underdeveloped regulations and subsidiary legislation. Tools and methods are missing to identify the most cost- effective adaptation options in the water and agriculture policies.
Baseline value: 0  | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least two sector plans (agriculture and water) integrate climate adaptation considerations and budgetary allocations
 | Three guidelines have been discussed and approved by the Scientific Councils of the Turkmen Agriculture Institute and the Scientific and Technical Council of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection and are recommended for publication. This approval was built on consultations started in 2017-18 reporting period. These guidelines are:
1) Development of the Inter-farm water use plan;
2) Improvement of the quality of arable lands;
3) Optimization of the mineral fertilizers of the cotton.
For inclusion of gender considerations into the guidelines the International consultant has been involved and several meetings with partners have been organized in November 2018. The target group of these meetings were representative of the farmers associations and project staff. A special attention was given to gender mainstreaming in the course of the development of the Local Adaptation Plans and guidelines. The key action in order to ensure the gender mainstreaming of the project was the application of the “human-oriented” approach which was not taken into consideration in the past.
Published guidelines will be disseminated among students agrarian high-schools, local specialists of farm associations and interested farmer of both pilot regions.
As the next step, the project has initiated work on elaboration of the following manuals:
1) Manual on use of low-mineralized return water for irrigation of fodder crops;
2) Manual on alternative source of income;
3) Manual on production and application of bio-humus in Turkmenistan. | As noted by the MTR, the indicator from the ProDoc was revised in the IR and approved by the PB, to # Number of guidelines elaborated that include climate change adaptation considerations and budgetary allocations.
Overall progress to target: Three guidelines approved by the Scientific Councils of the Turkmen Agriculture Institute and the Scientific and Technical Council of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection.
Previous achievements: during the project implementation period, the project conducted extensive consultations in support of drafting the guidelines, including on (i) the development of inter-farm water use plans; (ii) improving the quality of arable lands; and (iii) optimization of mineral fertilizers use in cotton production. The project ensured the mainstreaming of gender considerations into the guidelines, through consultations and working meetings with partners, including representatives of farmers’ associations. Special attention was given to gender mainstreaming during the development of the LAPs, introducing a “human-centered” approach previously not being taken into consideration. Further, the project initiated the drafting of a number of manuals, including (i) Manual on use of low-mineralized return water for irrigation of fodder crops; (ii) Manual on alternative source of income; and (iii) Manual on production and application of bio-humus in Turkmenistan.
Current-year achievements: During the reporting period, the project finalized and published a number of guidelines, including (i) Development of Inter-farm water use plans; (ii) Improvement of the quality of arable lands; (iii) Optimization of the mineral fertilizers use in cotton. The guidelines were disseminated among specialists of local authorities (hyakimliks) at district and province level during targeted Field Days organized. Also copies of the guidelines were handed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection and its regional departments in all 5 regions of the country, as well as to teachers and students of Turkmen State Agriculture Institute. Preparatory work on other manuals continued, including on (i) Manual on use of low-mineralized return water for irrigation of fodder crops; (ii) Manual on development of horticulture as alternative source of income; and (iii) Manual on production and application of bio-humus in Turkmenistan). Meetings with authors were organized to discuss the practical application and other features. Using an International Gender consultant, the project ensured mainstreaming gender consideration in a variety of project products – LAPS, criteria for grants proposals, methodologies. The project initiated developing a Guideline on the use of sex-disaggregated data towards strengthening women's needs in state sectoral planning and budgeting in water and agriculture, taking adaptation issues into account.
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| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | **On track** |
| **Outcome 3** **National Capacity for iterative national adaptation planning established** |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2019** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 3.1 Functional iterative national monitoring, reporting and verification system for adaptation planning and management operational  | Absence of a coordination structure for inter-sectoral approach to climate change that balances respective priorities of different government agencies  | *(not set or not applicable)* | National monitoring, reporting and verification system to measure changes in vulnerabilities from adaptation actions with functional procedures and rules in place | After discussions with relevant project partners in 2017-2018 reporting year, this target was replaced with the following tasks:
1) To update of current National Climate Change Strategy of Turkmenistan and
2)To draft the National Action Plan on implementation of the Paris Agreement (in place of INDC)
During 2018-2019 reporting year, the revision process of National Climate Change Strategy of Turkmenistan started. It was initiated by the Government of Turkmenistan with support of the UNDP and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ).
Different stakeholders were engaged into this process for setting out key objectives to address the causes and consequences of climate change. The revision process involved not only national partners but also international ones.
The first draft of the strategy has been presented to the national partners on June 11, 2019. Completion of revision process is expected by end of 2019.
 | As noted by the MTR, the indicator from the ProDoc was revised in the IR and approved by the PB, to # Number of recommendations will be provided for functional iterative national monitoring, reporting and verification system for adaptation planning and management operational”
Overall progress to target: Recommendations on a MRV mechanisms are being developed; project support to the NDC drafting process was initiated.
Previous achievements: Shortly after the start of the project, component 3 was redesigned, following the decision of the Government of Turkmenistan not to adopt the NEPAAM formally. Instead, it was agreed that the project will support revising the 2012 National Climate Change Strategy and the National Action Plan on implementation of the Paris Agreement. Under a cost-sharing agreement with GIZ and other partners (CAREC, UNIFEC, WHO, OSCE and others), during 2018 and 2019 the project was engaged in drafting the key objectives to address the causes and consequences of climate change. And ensured compliance with the requirements of the UNFCCC.
Current-year achievements: During the reporting period, the revised NCCS was adopted on 23 September 2019. The new NCCS defines a monitoring mechanism to track progress in implementing and financing mitigation and adaptation measures at the national level. To promote the sharing of global best practices and lessons learned on national monitoring, reporting and verification systems (MRV), in support of further discussions in Turkmenistan on establishing a MRV mechanism with clear indicators and timeframes, the project is appointing an International Consultant. The project also contributes to the development of the adaptation component of the NDC update. National and remote meetings were organized to discuss which activities could be pursued in the current context and which may need to be postponed or cancelled. The project has initiated the recruitment process to engage a National Consultant to revise the adaptation section of the NDC, to be implemented with financial support under the Climate Promise activity launched by the UNDP Global Team. |
| 3.2 Number of agro-ecological zones with established climate change models of potential impacts, economic costs and benefits of adaptation actions
Baseline value: 0
 | Planning of regional development investments with little consideration of adaptation costs and benefits | *(not set or not applicable)* | Five agro-ecological zones in the country models developed that integrate impacts, costs and adaptation actions | In 2017-2018 reporting year the indicated target was achieved. The modeling work for five agro-ecological zones progressed well through the application of the multilevel cluster mapping (MLCM) for agricultural areas with international (Israeli) expertise. The mapping includes soil, water, topography, terrain, crops, infrastructure, civil components and plants of two northern regions, Dashoguz and Lebap of area of 168,000 square km.
The MLCM platform enabled adding dynamic climate conditions and providing a full picture of real conditions for specific points on the map for decision makers to get solid and sustainable decisions regarding planning, budgeting, investing. As a result of the MLCM process, more than 20 agro-ecological zones were identified in 2017-18 with similar clusters with the intent that each of them would be described with specific adaptation solutions proposed.
Based on clusterization and climate monitoring, the specific agricultural technologies, have been developed for different crops.
The first draft of multilevel cluster maps from Lebap and Dashoguz regions have been demonstrated and discussed with national project partners. The Land Management department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment protection, velayat municipalities and Parliament have expressed their interest in receiving the hard and digital versions of maps for research and possible application. However, for getting accurate and precise mapping more soil and water data from ground is required for different seasons. The Project will seek opportunities to involve appropriate scientific bodies for further research and application of this tool.  | As noted by the MTR, the indicator from the ProDoc was revised in the IR and approved by the PB, to # Number of agro-ecological zones developed for 2 velayats.
Overall progress to target: AEZs (preliminary 20) were developed for 2 veloyats
Previous achievements: To strengthen the evidence base for the assessment of climate vulnerability and risk, as well as support decision making on adaptation solutions for farmers and the agricultural sector at large, the project embarked on modeling AEZs in 2 veloyats, to inform long-term government investment policy in the agriculture and water sector. Multilevel cluster mapping (MLCM) was developed, combining agrophysical data (soil, water, topography, terrain, crops, infrastructure, vegetation, etc.) with up-to-date information on climate (change) parameters. As a result, preliminary 20 AEZs were identified in 2017-18, which will be further modeled towards specific adaptation solutions proposed. Under the remote agro-consulting services, based on clusterization and climate monitoring, specific agricultural technologies were recommended for different crops – wheat, cotton and corn.
Current-year achievements: During the reporting period, the project continued strengthening the development of MLCM and a GIS system, and as such, the project accelerated its efforts towards achieving the EOP target of “agro-ecological zones in the country models developed that integrate impacts, costs and adaptation actions”. Several meetings were organized with appropriate scientific bodies to discuss further research and application of this tool. A special webinar was organized to acquaint stakeholders with the use of MLCM (MRT rec. #7). The project engaged in strengthening Agro-Information Centres (AICs) as well as the involvement of Dashoguz Agricultural State University to ensure uptake and sustainable use of GIS-based spatial data for decision making on appropriate agricultural adaptation measures in response to climate change after EOP. The project also plans further strengthening of AICs operations and business planning. The MLCM continue to be used as input to remote agro-consulting. Discussions were also initiated among project partners on obtaining more soil and water data from ground-based sources as well as from freely available satellite sources, including for different seasons. For this, additional equipment and devices were procured for the AICs to monitor soil and water parameters of the pilot regions, while the project partnership entered negotiations with an international company on remote sensing image processing, planning the production of relevant spatial maps (e.g. on soil type, vegetation and crops, groundwater, salinity, etc.). As per MTR recommendation, the project initiated an evaluation of the MLCM approach and definition of AEZ towards achieving planned modelling for climate change adaptation in agriculture. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | **On track** |

# Implementation Progress



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| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 75% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 75% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 2,284,646 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** |
| PPG Amount | 150,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 3,046,347 |
| Co-financing | 20,830,000 |

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| **Key Project Dates** |
| PIF Approval Date | Oct 30, 2014 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Apr 7, 2016 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Sep 17, 2016 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | May 20, 2016 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Oct 14, 2019 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Nov 13, 2019 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Jul 31, 2021 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Sep 17, 2021 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2019 to 1 July 2020)** |
| 2019-09-17 |
| 2020-01-24 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| --- | --- |
| Current Types of Critical Risks  | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |
| Safety and Security | Progress on the number of staff and farmers reporting good knowledge of climate change risk reduction measures towards EOP target was less than anticipated. Due to measures taken globally and in Turkmenistan to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of planned activities were cancelled, while national and international travel restrictions forced the project to cancel missions of international consultants to Turkmenistan and national experts to the project regions.
In response, to alleviate impacts, as feasible, the project reorganized planned project events (trainings, workshops and meetings) to be conducted through online webinars, conference calls and bilateral phone conversations; individual meetings were only conducted if not feasible other solutions were available, ensuring social distancing, following WHO and government guidelines. However, due to poor internet access in the project regions and the nature of some events planned (i.e. on-site agro-consultations, field demonstrations, etc.), knowledge development lagged behind as target communities could not be engaged as intensively as planned.  |
| Safety and Security | Progress of small grant activities is less than anticipated; implementation was delayed due to unexpected barriers met, requiring significant additional management support from project staff. This included planned laser leveling, of which only 18 ha (5% of targeted 340 ha) could be achieved due to necessary agricultural support machinery being non-operational. Proactively, the project procured the necessary tractor spare parts and tires towards renewing operations in autumn 2020. Also, COVID-19 quarantine measures put constraints on the import of construction materials for demonstration greenhouses and water regulation installations, while a related increase in inflation led to price increases. In response, the project team actively supports farmers and local communities in finding solutions and developing alternative grant implementation strategies. |
| Organizational | While a GIS system based on multilevel cluster mapping was designed, the project lagged in achieving the target of modelling AEZs towards assessing the impacts from climate change on agro-ecological conditions and facilitation for farmers adopting to climate change. Key limitations are the availability of ground-based spatial data and the focus towards direct interactions with individual farmers on on-site and remote agro-consultations on developing specific agricultural adaptation technologies for selected crops. As a result, the MTR observed a limited interest, poor uptake in the mapping and AEZ approach in support of adaptive planning at the local, regional and national level.
Proactively, the project engaged in strengthening Agro-Information Centers (AICs) as well as the involvement of Dashoguz Agricultural State University to ensure uptake and sustainable use of GIS-based spatial data for decision making on appropriate agricultural adaptation measures in response to climate change after EOP. The project also plans further strengthening of AICs operations and business planning. The project initiated an evaluation of the MLCM approach and definition of AEZ towards achieving planned modelling for climate change adaptation in agriculture.
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# Adjustments

**Risk Management**

The Country Office is responsible for completing the Risk Management section of the PIR in consultation with the RTA.  Before updating the PIR, the Country Office must update project-level risks in the Atlas Risk Register line with UNDP’s enterprise risk management policy and have a detailed discussion with the RTA on risk management.  Next, the Country Office must select below the ‘high’ risks identified in the Atlas Risk Register as well as any other ‘substantial’ risks from the Atlas Risk Register identified by the RTA as needing to be addressed in the PIR.  Moderate and Low risks do not need to be entered in the PIR Risk Management section. After selecting the risk, a text field will appear where the Country Office should describe the risk and explain actions undertaken this reporting period to address the risk selected.

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| **Select the risk(s) from the options that match the 'high' risks in the project's UNDP Risk Register as well as any 'significant' risks from the register, as agreed with the RTA. Please describe the risk identified and explain the management approach agreed between the RTA and Country Office on managing/mitigating the risk.** |
| Safety and Security |
| Safety and Security |
| Organizational |

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

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| **Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| The MTR of the project was conducted on schedule during July-October 2019 and the final MTR report was submitted on 13 November 2019. Among others, the MTR advised to extend the project for six (6) months, given the sheer ambition of the current project design, a recommendation having become more urgent in consideration of delays in project implementation due to COVID-19 restrictions. If approved, the implication is that the Terminal Evaluation, currently planned for early 2021, needs to shift to a later date (Autumn 2021). |

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| **Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| Not Applicable.
Project inception workshop and mid-term review have been conducted as scheduled. This reporting period there were no delays related to achieving the listed key project milestones |

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| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| Not applicable.
The project inception workshop and mid-term review have been conducted as planned. The Terminal Evaluation is due in the next reporting period.  |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| **Role** | **2020 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2020 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Moderately Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -*  |
| Overall Assessment | Overall, progress towards achieving the development objective is considered to be Moderately Satisfactory. The project demonstrated some good progress against the Objective and Outcome indicators, while a few areas of work require further enhancement. More detailed updates on the progress against the objective and outcome targets is provided below.
For Outcome 1, “Climate related socio-economic outcomes improved in target agricultural communities in Lebap and Dashoguz velayats through the implementation of community-based adaptation solutions” the progress has been satisfactory.
In support of approved Local Adaptation Plans (LAPs), the project started issuing small grant funding. Following training and consultation workshops for local communities (pilot farmers’ associations and livestock farm), the Grant Commission approved 20 small grants(of 21 received), and small grant funding started in November 2019 based on cost sharing. Grants benefitted four farmers’ associations, and funded cleaning of 32,5 km of drainage canals and 4 km irrigation canals, the construction of 38 water regulation structures, the construction of the 2 greenhouses, and the laser leveling of 339 ha. More details are provided in the DO progress table above.
Small grants that specifically aimed on creation of alternative sources of income (e.g. bio-compost production, greenhouses and vegetable warehouse) were well perceived by local communities, and therefore were implemented very fast and with high enthusiasm. As lesson learned, in the future allocation of small grants the project will give more preference to proposals promoting alternative livelihood activities, as such are key to improving the income of rural citizens.
In total, approved small grant activities targeted improving agricultural practices on 3,302 ha of irrigated arable land and 226,080 ha of natural pasture lands.
For three newly selected farmers’ associations (Babadaykhan, Abadanlyk and B.Ovezov) and one livestock farm (Serdar), LAPs were finalized, based on working meetings and consultations on relevant climate change adaptation solutions, their aim and objectives. Subsequently, trainings and consultations were organized to prepare small grant proposals to support the implementation of LAPs for pilot farmers’ associations.
For the 6 pilot farmers’ associations engaged in irrigation farming, 6 Inter-farm Water Use Plans were developed, and their implementation was initiated. Also the agricultural communities in 3 farmers’ associations and in one livestock farm were provided with on-site and remote agro-consultations, on irrigation schemes, pest management, fertilizer application, composting and farming techniques for different agricultural crops, supported by trainings and consultations on bio-humus, horticultural practices, legal advisory on land ownership and leasing, weather forecasting, etc.
Two Agro-information centers (AICs) established by the Project continue to provide information on aspects of farming, land and water legislation, food safety, soil and water quality, climate change adaptation solutions and rural information. Additional equipment and devices were procured to monitor soil and water parameters of the pilot regions. In response to MTR recommendations (#2 a), operational processes and visibility of AICs were improved. Under a cooperation agreement with the USAID project “Competitiveness, Trade, and Jobs Activity in Central Asia” (i) an additional local agronomist was recruited; (ii) a series of trainings and consultations to be organized; (iii) the costs for two international consultants to be covered; and (iv) a smart greenhouse to be procured for the AIC in Dashoguz region.
Also close collaboration with the State Agriculture Institute continued. The agreed Joint Action Plan (JAP) for 2020 envisions support to trainings, workshops and field demonstrations of climate-resilient adaptation options in agriculture, the application of the AquaCrop model, as well as providing agro-consultations to farmers using the AICs established. Negotiations are ongoing with the State Agriculture Institute to become the recipient of the GIS platform with multilevel cluster maps for further research and application of this tool after EOP. This will help to address the rec.#2d of the MTR.
The project published a variety of informative materials such as booklets, brochures, calendars, etc. to raise awareness on project activities, climate resilient technologies etc. Specifically, the project supported the “Climate Box” initiative under the Regional UNDP project. Also the project contributed to the publication “A Guide to Hydrometeorological Services in the Region: weather, climate and water resources in Central Asia” (https://www.gfdrr.org/en/weather-climate-and-water-central-asia-guide-hydrometeorological-services-region), sharing information on the experiences of farmers and other users using hydrometeorological information, and supporting the Turkmen hydrometeorology Service on data acquisition required. An awareness raising campaign is being designed for educational institutions within and beyond the project pilot region (MTR rec.#14a), for implementation in Autumn 2020.
Missions to both pilot regions were conducted throughout the reporting year, as part of project activities (e.g. workshops, trainings, Field Information Days, field visits on planning and implementation of adaptation measures, etc.) as well as targeted monitoring missions, by project staff on implementation performance and progress, the MTR team, and of international consultants (UN agencies performance evaluation).
The project’s successful demonstration of laser levelling in the two pilot regions induced the Turkmenistan Government to purchase an additional 40 pieces of this equipment. In cooperation with the SCRL project, the project organized a special workshop for scaling up knowledge on the application of innovative resource-saving technologies among specialists from 5 provinces in Turkmenistan.
Overall, under component 1 during the reporting year on an additional 4,928 ha of agricultural lands and 226,080 ha of pasture lands more climate resilient management improved the livelihood of 5,488 targeted people (including farmers and their family members) through access to enhanced technologies and practices. An additional 10,000 rural citizens are estimated to benefit from implementation of the newly adopted LAPs.
However, progress on the number of staff and farmers reporting good knowledge of climate change risk reduction measures towards EOP target was less than anticipated. Especially implementation progress of small grant activities was less than anticipated, mainly due to the COVID-19 measures taken globally and in Turkmenistan. National and international travel restrictions caused delays and cancellation of project activities. Rapid inflation and uncertainties resulted in small grant activities not being carried out in full, while the number of grant recipients is lower than previously anticipated. The project team continues to closely monitor implementation progress of small grant activities, and corrective measures will be adopted, as needed.
To improve the evidence base for the reporting of the project progress against agreed indicators (Rec. MTR 1.a), the project has engaged a national socio-economic expert to strengthen the evidence base for reporting against agreed indicators, based on independent data collection.
For Outcome 2 “Adaptation mainstreamed in agricultural and water sector development strategy and policy” the progress has been satisfactory.
During the reporting period, several events have been organized with different project partners on a cost-sharing basis. Specifically, with the USAID Regional Adaptation Project C5+1, the Project organized a training to improve the awareness of etrap and velayat staff in the pilot areas on the linkages between climate change and its impacts on local level agricultural productivity, livelihoods and the economy, as the first step towards mainstreaming climate adaptation into their planning and budgetary processes. The knowledge gained will support developing national sectoral adaptation plans for the water and agriculture sectors to be piloted by the Government in the nearest future.
In October 2019, the project organized a study tour to Uzbekistan for 13 participants of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection, State Agriculture Institute (Dashoguz city), Hyakimliks of Lebap and Dashoguz regions as well as Gorogly district, the Vatan and Parahat farmers’ associations, AIC employees and project staff. Participants were acquainted with the organization of Farmer Councils, AICs, and sustainable agricultural production in the context of climate change. Knowledge gained will benefit the further development of a Concept Paper on “Agricultural Extension Services”, recommended by the MTR (rec. #8). Uzbekistan was chosen as destination because climate conditions and agricultural practices have close resemblance to Turkmenistan.
The project continued its support to finalization of the new Land Code, with ongoing discussions focusing on a number of individual articles. The revised Land Code is envisioned to be adopted by the Parliament during autumn 2020. Meanwhile the package of amendments to the Laws on Farmers (daikhan) associations and Farmers (daikhan) unions was not accepted yet. The project will organize a meeting with national partners to discuss the obstacles. In response to requests of national partners - Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection and State Water Committee - during the reporting period the project supported the preparation of legal acts strengthening the implementation of the Turkmenistan Water and Land Codes. Overall, an addition 10 amendments to Laws, regulations, guidance documents, model agreements, legal acts and procedures are being drafted and discussed for adoption. Also the project initiated the preparation of a review of the current legislation of Turkmenistan and the formulation of recommendations on establishing Agriculture Extension Services (AES) in the country, including a study on international legislative arrangements and best practices.

In line with (MTR recommendation #1a, the project adjusted the indicator of component 2.3 to reflect local adaptation plans and the technical guidelines. The project initiated preparatory work on manuals, including on (i) Manual on use of low-mineralized return water for irrigation of fodder crops; (ii) Manual on development of horticulture as alternative source of income; and (iii) Manual on production and application of bio-humus in Turkmenistan.
Overall, during the reporting period, the project strengthened the knowledge on climate change risk reduction measures in irrigated agriculture and soil and water management of an additional 378 local people and 100 government staff, through their participation in theoretical and hands-on trainings, workshops, information and field days, webinars and working meetings. Despite situation with outbreak COVID-19 and travel restrictions imposed, the project managed to conduct several events in the pilot regions as announced in the 2020 AWP, including trainings and field days for representatives of the newly selected 3 farmers’ associations (Babadayhan, Abadanlyk and B.Ovezov) and 1 livestock farm (Serdar), to increase their adaptive capacity and elaborate LAPs.

For Outcome 3 “National Capacity for iterative national adaptation planning established“ the progress has been moderately satisfactory.
During the reporting period, the project continued its support to the revision of the NCCS in cooperation with the UNDP SCRL project and GIZ. The revised NCCS was adopted on 23 September 2019. The project also embarked on the development of the NDC, in cooperation with the UNDP “Sustainable Cities” project on a cost shared basis. National and online meetings were organized and the project initiated recruiting a National Consultant to revise the adaptation section of the NDC, to be implemented with financial support under the Climate Promise activity launched by the UNDP Global Team (MTR rec. #6).
Strengthening the development of multilevel cluster maps and a GIS system, the project accelerated its efforts towards achieving the end line target of “Five agro-ecological zones in the country models developed that integrate impacts, costs and adaptation actions”. Several meetings were organized with appropriate scientific bodies to discuss further research and application of this tool. A special webinar was organized to acquaint stakeholders with the use of these multilevel cluster maps (MRT rec. #7). The project engaged in strengthening AICs as well as the involvement of Dashoguz Agricultural State University to ensure uptake and sustainable use of GIS-based spatial data for decision making on appropriate agricultural adaptation measures in response to climate change after EOP. The project also plans further strengthening of AICs operations and business planning. The project initiated an evaluation of the MLCM approach and definition of AEZ towards achieving planned modelling for climate change adaptation in agriculture.
In all project activities implemented, due attention was paid to the integration of gender related issues. Specifically, the project encouraged grant proposals submitted by female-headed communities or aimed at strengthening women empowerment. Also a gender training on gender-disaggregated data collection for climate change adaptation planning was conducted for representatives of both pilot regions, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection and the State Committee on water management. Also the project ensured mainstreaming gender considerations in a variety of project products – LAPS, criteria for grants proposals, methodologies. The project initiated developing a Guideline on the use of sex-disaggregated data towards strengthening women's needs in state sectoral planning and budgeting in water and agriculture, taking adaptation issues into account. A special training is envisioned to discuss the draft Guideline in autumn 2020, if feasible (MTR recommendation #15).
The project has been successful in synergizing with other projects (including UNDP) and agencies (USAID and GIZ in particular), a practice which will be continued, in particular in relation to cooperation on developing agricultural extension services, legal aspects and revision of NDC.
During the reporting period, two Project Board meetings took place - in September 2019 and January 2020. As in years past, all national and local partners actively participated in the Project Board meetings, discussing project implementation, key issues and potential solutions. During the PB meeting on 24 January 2020, in addition to pending activities under the AWP 2019 and planned activities for AWP 2020, also the MTR recommendations were discussed.
The MTR of the project was conducted during July-October 2019, and the final MTR report was submitted on 13 November 2019. The MTR provided a number of recommendations to improve the effectiveness of project activities, in particular on operations of AICs, the training component, remote agricultural services, multilevel cluster maps, internal and external communication as well as planning and reporting. To address the recommendations, meetings with national partners were conducted to discuss ways and means of implementation, timeframe, and responsibilities of parties. Agreed actions have been reflected in the AWP 2020.
Among others, the MTR advised to extend the project for six (6) months, given the sheer ambition of the current project design, a recommendation having become more urgent in consideration of delays in project implementation due to COVID-19 restrictions. If approved, the implication is that the Terminal Evaluation, currently planned for early 2021, needs to shift to a later date (Autumn 2021).
Project Management Component: To address MTR recommendation #10 on staffing and consultants, the project hired a part-time CTA and revised the TORs of the staff members, transferring the Pasture to the Water specialist.

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| **Role** | **2020 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2020 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Moderately Satisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The main objective of this project is to increase resilience of agricultural and rural communities in drought-prone areas of the country by enhancing the local adaptive capacity via targeted and localized adaptation solutions. Project works in selected communities of Northern province of Dashoguz and North-Eastern Province of Lebap since 2016 and has made moderately satisfactory progress towards achieving its development objectives with one year remaining before planned completion in May 2021. However, Project has only managed to achieve about 60% of delivery of its $3,876 million USD of total budget as of current PIR timing. In view of this, the project might need to consider 6 to 12 months no-cost extension in order to achieve some of its key objectives and to offset COVID-19 related delays in completing its planned activities that contributes to Project outcomes, which is also recommended in the concluding part of my assessment.

The following is Outcome and targets based assessment:
Outcome 1 includes the improvement of socio-economic results related to climate in target agricultural communities by implementation of adaptation solutions. This outcome is based on the development and implementation of local adaptation plans, improvement of agricultural production practices, income sources and ultimately, improvement of livelihoods of population in pilot regions that increases their resilience to occurring effects of climate change in the region. Project has initiated small grants programme to support the aforementioned objectives at the end of 2019 and plans to disburse more grants in the second half of 2020. Overall, the grant scheme has had a mixed success, lack innovative adaptation solutions and its implementation has been impacted by COVID-19 induced economic setbacks, resulted from restrictions in movement of goods, lack of imports and soaring prices for all construction materials and other goods. In addition, in the Lebap region, the project activities were further impacted by hurricane hit at the end of April 2020, which has led to material damages in the communities of pilot region and cut of the communication, including internet for a couple of months.

However, it should be noted that grant projects such as greenhouse projects, vegetable cool storage and which create alternative income sources for households are more popular and effective in terms of both implementation and impact. Project continues to support the grant schemes, developed adaptation plans and improvement of community based agricultural practices by providing regular advices, mentoring and recommendation via the established Agricultural Information Centres, remote consultations, variety of project developed information materials and publications.

With regards to Outcome targets, the first target of the development of 8 Local Adaptation Plans has been achieved one year prior to the project end, however, the extent to which these plans are effective in terms of building the adaptation capacity of the target communities remains to be seen. On the second target, Project has achieved 84% with 2,529 farmers (of 3,000 planned) reporting improved production of crops and 25% of which are women (target – 30%). As part of the third target, Project has recorded 59% of participating households 20% of which are women-led, reporting increase of incomes of up to 15% as a result of project supported activities. Although, project is on track to achieve the second and third targets of this Outcome, the team would need to step up its efforts to achieve these targets in full in the remaining time and difficult circumstances resulted from COVID situation in the country.

Outcome 2 focuses on mainstreaming adaptation in development strategies and policies related to agriculture and water sectors. Project has joined its efforts with other donor aid projects (USAID, GIZ) to organise targeted trainings on climate change and its impact on productivity and economic impacts on livelihoods. Project organised study tour to Uzbekistan has introduced participating government agencies’ representatives with the work of Agricultural Information Centres, Farmers’ Councils and sustainable agricultural practices in neighbouring country. Project also supports relevant amendments to the current legislation in order to include adaptation solutions and inclusive decision making that reflect the needs of local communities. Based on assessment and recommendation of the MTR and with the endorsement of the Project Board, the Project has revised the indicator (2.3) related to the development of the agriculture and water sector plans to technical guidelines that include climate change adaptation considerations and budgetary allocations.

Overall, Project is partially on-track in relation to targets of this Outcome, namely with regards to the first target on application of climate adaptation related trainings Project has achieved 52% (1,553 people) on planned number of 3,000 farmers trained, of which 27% are women (20% target). However, in relation to government staff, 362 specialists were trained as opposed to 100 targeted. On the second target, Project has supported the amendments to the Law on the Land Cadastre and it was adopted by the Parliament in November 2017. Since then an additional 10 amendments to various laws, regulations, legal acts and procedures have been prepared, but none has been accepted yet. In order to improve this indicator, Project needs to consider and probably improve the quality of proposed amendments and level of engagement with relevant authorities in charge.

With respect to the revised third indicator, Project has developed and published guidelines on Development of inter-farm water use plans, Improvement of the quality of arable lands and Mineral fertiliser use in cotton production, all of which were disseminated amongst relevant stakeholders. Currently, Project specialists and consultants work on the development of another 3 guidelines related to sustainable production. Some of the delays and none-achievement of planned targets, in particular, related to the training target can be attributable to COVID situation in 2020. However, Project needs to improve performance towards this Outcome and consider alternative ways of providing training and advisory, including more efficient use of AICs and online opportunities.

Outcome 3 aims to establish and strengthen National capacity for iterative climate change national adaptation planning, implementation and monitoring. As defined in the Strategic Result Framework of the Project, the achievement of targets within this outcome was more than others dependent on assumptions and risks related to Government and its appropriate institutions. Considering limited project influence on this and potential lack of progress, the MTR has recommended and the Project Board has endorsed the revision of relevant targets within this Outcome.

As part of revised first target, Project, in collaboration with another UNDP/GEF-funded project “Sustainable Cities in Turkmenistan”, has contributed to the development and supported the adoption of National Strategy of Turkmenistan on Climate Change (NSTCC) in September 2019. The NSTCC mentions some elements in implementation and financing mitigation and adaptation measures at the national level. However, the concrete actions and operational system for iterative national monitoring, reporting and verification related to adaptation planning and management will likely be included in the National Plan of Action on the implementation of the NSTCC to be developed. Project also cooperates with the aforementioned UNDP/GEF project in supporting the development of NDCs.

The second target revised as per MTR recommendation focuses on the development of Agro-ecological zones in project pilot regions of Dashoguz and Lebap. To achieve this, project has made an emphasis on creation and use of GIS based multi-level cluster maps (MLCP) and plans to develop several AEZs in pilot regions. The full use of MLCPs and produced data to the benefit of local communities as well as to make sure the sustainability of such an initiative beyond the project lifetime would require professional and dedicated team of specialists and agronomists as well as demand driven by the producers. Project has started cooperation with the Agricultural Institute in Dashoguz city as potential such entity to host and operate the MLCP. Project is also trying to build capacities of existing AIC’s to use the maps in improved agricultural practices. One year prior to scheduled completion of the project it is still not known if the Agricultural Institute will accept the ownerships and operation of the MLCP, I believe it is unlikely and at the moment, Project doesn't have an alternative capable recipient of this highly technical tool. Furthermore, counting on the AICs, which lack technical and financial capacities, to run such a complicated system is not feasible. AICs themselves will likely cease to exist without project support, unless other donor projects or initiatives fund them. Although, with revised targets Project, I believe, could still be on track to achieve this outcome, however, the team needs to work on finding some solutions on scaled up practical application of the MLCPs in agricultural production to make sure its sustainability beyond the project. The same concern applies to the AIC’s, where project needs to enhance its technical capacity and promotion so that AICs will build a solid client base and increate its technical capacity attractiveness for the community to ensure the life beyond the project.

Based on my above review and assessment of the level of Project Outcomes and relevant targets achievements, I rate the project moderately satisfactory both on DO and IP ratings. To my opinion, 6 to 12 months no-cost extension (also recommended by the MTR) would enable to offset the delays and negative impact of COVID-19 imposed restrictions in 2020 and provide opportunity for the project team to enhance its work and efforts in achieving the planned outcome targets and complete the project in Satisfactory rate. Project team would need the expertise of experienced international expert to review the quality and effectiveness of its current approach and activities and improve them in order to achieve the project targets and outcomes up to expected levels. The UNDP Office will continue to facilitate its relationship with authorities and provide full support for the project to achieve its objectives and targeted outcomes. |
| **Role** | **2020 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2020 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -*  |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **Role** | **2020 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2020 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -*  |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **Role** | **2020 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2020 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Other Partners** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -*  |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **Role** | **2020 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2020 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser** | Moderately Satisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | As reconfirmed through the Mid-Term Review (MTR) conducted during the reporting period, the project has made significant cumulative progress towards achieving its planned results. The suggested rating for the progress towards the development objective is “moderately satisfactory”. This assessment is shared by the Project Team, the UNDP Country Office and by the MTR mission. Detailed updates on the progress against the objective and outcome targets is provided below.

At the objective level, the project has three indicators. The first indicator is related to the area of agricultural land under more resilient management and some very good progress has been achieved against this indicator. Some of the indicator targets have been surpassed, the other end-of-project (EOP) targets are well on track. The project work related to the enhanced resilient management of arable land has been progressing very well: total of 16,928 ha (or 85% of EOP target) of agricultural lands were put under more resilient management since the start of the project through the project investments into efficient irrigation management, cleaning of drainage systems, improvement of irrigation channels, laser leveling. The project work on targeted pasturelands accelerated significantly since the previous reporting period with 66% of EOP target achieved (331,180 ha of natural pasture lands under more resilient management). The second indicator is related to the number of targeted farmers and households adopting improved on-farm soil and water management technologies and improved crop production systems. Under this indicator 2,529 targeted farmers (84% of EOP target) and their family members (including 25% women-headed households) have been outreached and supported with the access to enhanced technologies and practices. The third indicator is the number of direct beneficiaries. The project has outreached over 51% of the targeted number of beneficiaries (20,488 people, including 50% women) in the targeted communities through demonstration and awareness activities. This is a very good progress given the force majeure situation with COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. It is expected that these objective-level indicators will be fully met by the end of the project.

Under the Outcome 1 the project is well on track. The activities under this Outcome benefit from the experiences, lessons and feasibility studies/economic assessment on water saving technologies which have been generated by the earlier UNDP projects. The MTR especially highlighted as successes the development and implementation of the gender mainstreamed Local Adaptation Plans (LAPs) and a set of adaptation measures implemented with the farming communities. These included mechanical cleaning of irrigation canals, improving their carrying efficiency; land reclamation through installation of powerful water pumps; introduction of water-saving technologies, such as flat irrigation hosepipes, siphons, water-measuring units; and land levelling with laser equipment.

Four Local Adaptation Plans prepared earlier have been implemented through a community grant programme. Four more Local Adaptation Plans (for 2 farmer associations and 2 livestock farms) have been prepared during the reporting period. As a result of investments in the efficient water and soil management technologies, 2,529 targeted farmers (84% of EOP target, 25% female-headed households) have adopted improved production practices and report improved production of major crops. Around 59% of the targeted households reported additional 10-15% in income, of whom around 20 % women-headed households.

The MTR noticed somewhat insufficient evidence base/technical rigor in measuring the project results against the indicators and have recommended to enhance project data collection and reporting. The Project Team has followed up on this recommendation by commissioning an updated M&E data collection methodology from a local socio-economic expert.

Under the Outcome 2 the project contributed to enhanced knowledge, institutional capacity and regulatory framework. Establishment and building capacities of two Agro-Information Centers in pilot regions is an important achievement of the project. 1,553 community members (52% of end-target) and 362 government representatives (triple over the end-target) have been trained on resilient water and land management, adaptation planning and adaptation technologies application.

The national Law on the Land Cadaster prepared with the GEF project support has been adopted by the Government during previous reporting periods. During the current reporting period, amendments to the Land Code were developed and regularly discussed with national partners, including during a five-day roundtable in May 2019, to discuss and finalize the 120 articles considered for revision. The revised Land Code is envisioned to be adopted by the Parliament in autumn 2020. Additionally, the project supported the drafting of a number of other legislative documents related to the enforcement of the Land and Water Codes.

A large number of technical manuals/guidelines have been developed as noted in the MTR, including (a) on Development of an Inter-farm water use plan; (b) on Improvement of the quality of arable lands; (c) on Optimization of the mineral fertilizers of the cotton, and others. According to the MTR, their implementation, after training, has a potential to improve the operation of the daikhan associations with regards to water use management. A Model agreement for land leasing was also developed and is under review. In addition to this important technical work, the project could also explore more strategic inputs to the water and agriculture sectoral planning and budgetting with regard to the adaptation elements.

Outcome 3 of the project was originally meant to support operationalization of the National Economic Plan of Action on Adaptation and Mitigation of CC (NEPAAM). However, the NEPAAM has not been adopted and there is a decision by the government to develop a Climate Change strategy/plan for the implementation of the Paris Agreement instead (adopted in September 2019). Following recommendations in the previous year PIR, the project initiated support to the Government of Turkmenistan with the development of the NDC update (Adaptation Section in the 2d NDC due by 2020). The project also conducted consultations and initiated the development of MRV framework for the National Climate Change Strategy/NDC (adaptation sections) in order to contribute to enhanced reporting under the NDC/Paris Agreement.

The project promoted the notion of precision agriculture, with the steps towards the use of FAO AQUACROP in close cooperation with the higher educational and scientific institutions, and in particular the Dashoguz State Agricultural Institute (DASI).

With regard to gender mainstreaming, the project with USAID cost sharing organized training and the revision of one of the three technical guidelines developed to mainstream gender considerations; importantly, recommendations were produced on the necessary steps to address gender issues in climate change adaptation. Women represent 50% of the overall project beneficiaries and account for 20-30% of farmers actively engaged in climate resilient practices. The project faces challenges in meeting its targets on involving women in one of the velayats (Dashoguz) and, separately from the above, additional targeted measures are planned to address this (MTR).

The MTR also noticed a few areas where the progress has been constrained. Specifically, the Multilevel cluster maps (MLCM) were developed for agricultural areas including soil, water, topography, terrain, crops, infrastructure, civil components and plants of Dashoguz and Lebap areas. The MLCM platform enables adding dynamic climate conditions and providing a fuller picture of real conditions for specific points on the map for decision makers to get to solid decisions regarding planning, budgeting and investing. The first draft of multilevel cluster maps from Lebap and Dashoguz regions have been discussed with national project partners, but there is as yet no clear demand by the Government (central and velayat level) to use them. Currently they are used only as part of remote agro-consulting, which has a limited scope itself being a pilot.

Implementation of the monitoring and evaluation plan is on track. MTR has been completed in time and resulted in very useful findings and recommendations. The MTR management response have been prepared duly. By now most of the MTR recommendations have been addressed or under implementation. UNDP Regional Technical Advisor (RTA) visited the project and met the project team in December 2020. Following recommendations of the MTR and RTA the project recruited an international Chief Technical Advisor to support the project team in implementing MTR recommendations, to enhance quality assurance and evidence-based reporting.

The project team has been monitoring and managing emerging risks and implementation issues, including COVID-19 impacts. The project team conducted a rapid analysis of the impacts from COVID-19 pandemic during the reporting period, and a series of follow up consultations with RTA on associated project impacts and risks have been held. So far, the impacts of pandemic have not been crucial, and resulted mainly in the implementation delays that call for a no-cost extension. However, it is understood that the pandemic continues (and by the end of the reporting period it was aggravating in Turkmenistan), thus it is impossible to assess the overall COVID-19 impacts on the project as yet. The project has been adapting to the risks, e.g. by shifting to virtual events and consultations.

In terms of the operational effectiveness, the project has been performing generally satisfactory, as outlined by the MTR as well. The project delivery has been on track: 75% cumulative delivery against total budget by project mid-term, and 75% cumulative delivery against annual budget by mid-year. The project reporting has been timely. The project Steering Committee meetings were conducted on schedule and with good stakeholder participation. MTR noted that, the financial management was satisfactory. The project is considered to be cost-effective in terms of procuring the best available services and goods, by balancing the quality of submitted offers/proposals and financial offers. MTR had some concerns associated with the remote consulting services, which need to be monitored, but cost effectiveness here should be assessed not in terms of the number of farmers assisted directly but whether this will be having a replication effect with others following the “leaders”. The Government co-financing at midterm was around US$3.0mln and it falls short of the midterm target (US$10.0 million). MTR recommended improvements in various project management aspects (reporting, work planning; monitoring the risks adequately and being ready to adapt; documenting and sharing lessons learnt, external and internal communication). In the part of the reporting, in particular, the project could have performed better in terms of ensuring (a) evidence-based reporting against the indicators of the Results and Resources Framework and (b) setting up participatory mechanisms for monitoring, linking the two together and with the socioeconomic assessment of the impact of the adaptation measures.

MTR also noted that the project has been successful in synergizing with other (including UNDP) projects and agencies (USAID, GIZ, CAREC) and had some success in cooperating with the private sector.

In view of the above, the project’s progress towards its development objective and the project implementation progress are rated “moderately satisfactory”. It is likely that the project will achieve its end-of-the-project targets and will strengthen climate resilience of Turkmenistan rural communities.
 |

# Gender

**Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning.  The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

|  |
| --- |
| **Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** [ENG\_Gender\_action Plan\_breif analyses\_Aug\_2019.rtf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5459/214167/1728542/1743181/ENG_Gender_action%20Plan_breif%20analyses_Aug_2019.rtf)**Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** [SCRL\_Gender Concept.rtf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5459/214167/1728542/1743181/SCRL_Gender%20Concept.rtf)**Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** [ENG\_Gender\_action Plan\_2020\_Final.rtf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5459/214167/1738876/1763313/ENG_Gender_action%20Plan_2020_Final.rtf) |
| **Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.** |
| [ENG\_Gender\_action Plan\_2020\_Final.rtf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5459/214167/1738876/1763313/ENG_Gender_action%20Plan_2020_Final.rtf) |

|  |
| --- |
| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN1:** some contribution to gender equality |

|  |
| --- |
| **Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):** |
| Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: No |
| Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes |
| Not applicable: No |

|  |
| --- |
| **Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.****Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.**  |
| During the reporting period, a variety of project initiatives an additional 529 targeted farmers, of which about 25% are women-headed households, and their family members have adopted climate-resilient agriculture and livestock production practices.
Specifically, the project supported:
(i) the implementation of LAPs achieved through the development and implementation of 6 Interfarm water distribution plans and the allocation of small grant financing for farmers of 3 farmers’ associations and 1 livestock farm; 5 grants were allocated to women-beneficiaries.
(ii) regular provision of on-site and remote agro-consultations, including on weather forecasting, soil and water analysis, irrigation schemes, pest management, application of fertilizer, composting and farming techniques for different agricultural crops; including consultations to 35 women-beneficiaries.
(iii) other consultations, meetings and trainings, on legal issues, bio-humus production, horticultural practices, water metering and water saving technologies, alternative income sources (cattle breeding, cultivation of fodder crops, aquaculture, greenhouses, etc.), using proficient, skillful national experts and scientists; including consultations to more than 90 women-beneficiaries.
Below is a gender story about Gulbahar, a women-beneficiary from Lebap province, who benefitted from the project activities.
Often, the main burden of earning and finding alternative sources of income for the family falls on women - heads of households, who are the group of the rural population most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. A joint project of UNDP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection of Turkmenistan, funded by the Global Environment Facility, provides advisory support to rural women in pilot regions towards strengthening their financial stability and empowering them by enhancing their potential, introducing successful practices and demonstrating ways to generate alternative sources of income.
For several women in the targeted farmers’ associations of the Lebap (15) and Dashoguz (82) provinces, the production of vermicompost (bio-humus) has become the main activity that ensures the family's income and its well-being. One of the examples is Gulbakhar who was born and raised in the village of Zergomen of the Lebap province. She has two daughters and one son. All her life, Gulbakhar worked on the collective farm in various positions related to agriculture. However, after retiring, Gulbahar had to look for a new occupation in order to provide her household with income. Gulbahar began to grow flowers, lemons, potatoes and tomatoes in her garden. Two years ago, she built a small greenhouse measuring 8x6 meters, harvesting enough for her family and some for sale. However, the soil became less fertile, and she had to use decayed manure, attracting insects and causing weeds to appear. In response, she had to use, and pay for, chemicals and fertilizers, and which to her seemed to change the taste of vegetables. Therefore, she started looking for some means to make her production more cost-efficient and environmentally friendly.
In 2019, Gulbahar together with other women of the districts participated in a series of UNDP trainings on finding alternative sources of income and supporting climate-resilient economic activities of local communities. She was included in the initiative group of women receiving regular free agro-consultations from the AIC established by the project on the organization of production of vermicompost. She also received a bag of California worms from the project, and today she has established her own production in her home garden, successfully replacing the expensive, imported vermicompost she used to buy. Thanks to the project support, she filled in this knowledge gap and now produce vermicompost herself. Gulbahar is the elder of the Vatan farmers’ association and, by her example, she shows young girls and all residents what green production is, what advantages it has and how to realize its potential in finding sources of income.
She continues to be very satisfied with the results. She produces enough vermicompost for her farm, which allows her to increase productivity and save money on mineral fertilizers. She has already sold some tomatoes, because received some surplus of the harvest. She also managed to sell several packages of vermicompost to neighbors at 4 manat per kg (valueing around 1USD) and distributed some among her relatives. In the future she wants to increase her greenhouse by 30 square meters and expand the production of vermicompost, because it will help her produce more vegetables and flowers for sale.
Gulbahar has also received an offer from the chairman of the Vatan farmers’ association to develop a lemonarium in a demonstration greenhouse, which is currently being built as part of the grant activities of the UNDP/GEF project. She also plans to breed worms and sell them to those who wish to produce biohumus. |

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| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| The UNDP/GEF project is working with local farmers since 2017. The project has created Agro-Information Centers as support platform providing extension services to local farmers, explaining the locally most suitable adaptation responses to the emerging climate change related challenges. In parallel, the project supported the local communities with identifying high-impact local infrastructure restoration initiatives. Following the careful assessment of the needs of the local population, the project focuses on providing consultation services to ensure adaptation to the climate change and finding alternative financing sources for the family livelihoods.
Work on gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes through the following approaches applied throughout the project period:
• Involvement into planning and budgetary processes with gender considerations as part of an effort for developing an effective and sustainable gender-sensitive adaptation planning process;
• Participation women in grant program for prevention of conflicts (in family, at the work etc.) and/or instability that impact land rights; Legal support provided by the SCRL project to the local communities has enhanced legal rights in terms of long-term land leasing issues. This in turn, helped local women to do uninterrupted business and benefit from alternative sources of income.
 |

# Social and Environmental Standards

**Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)**

The Project Manager and/or the project’s Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

|  |
| --- |
| **SESP:** [5459\_SCCF\_Turkmenistan\_SESP.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5459/214167/1729196/1744231/5459_SCCF_Turkmenistan_SESP.docx) |
| **For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.**  |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| --- |
| **1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?** |
| No |

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| --- |
| **If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.**  |
| N/A |

|  |
| --- |
| **2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.**  |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.**  |
| N/A |

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| --- |
| **3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.**  |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| N/A |

|  |
| --- |
| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?**  |
| No |

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| --- |
| **If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.**  |
| N/A |

# Communicating Impact

|  |
| --- |
| **Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s lives.****(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)** |
| The project has established Agro-Information Centers in the Lebap and Dashoguz pilot regions, sources with technical and human capital to provide agricultural extension services to local farmers, explaining the most suitable local adaptation responses to the challenges emerging due to the climate change.
During the reporting year, an additional 529 targeted farmers received project support towards improving crop production and livelihoods. Specifically, farmers (i) gained access to small grant financing; (ii) were provided with better irrigation water supply through the implementation of inter-farm water distribution plans; (iii) received relevant on-site and remote agro-consultations, on bio-humus production, horticultural practices, legal issues on land ownership and lease, etc.; and (iv) were participants in training and other project activities.
Implementation of relevant measures helped reducing groundwater and salinity levels. The project also ensured efficient and fair distribution of the water resources and sustainable land management. As a result, rural residents can now pursue adaptation-based traditional farming in combination of best-practice innovative agricultural technologies suitable for the local environmental conditions, supporting opportunities to receiving alternative income for households.
Overall, the project supported the preparation of eight Local Adaptation Plans that include relevant climate adaptation actions agreed. To initiate the implementation of the LAPs, the project supports agreed actions by farmers through the small grant program initiated by the project during the reporting period.  |

**Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media**

|  |
| --- |
| **Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.****Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file lirbary' button in the top right of the PIR.** |
| 2018-2019
http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/projects.html
http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/?id=14371
http://turkmenistan.gov.tm/?id=12509.
http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/?id=15569
http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/ru/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2016/12/23/undp-gef-launch-new-project-on-climate-change-and-economic-activity/).
https://azerbaijan.tmembassy.gov.tm/en/news/24240
http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2018/undp-gef-irrigation-of-crops-2018.html
http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2018/undp-national-strategy-climate-change.html
http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2018/undp-gef-gender-issue-agriculture.html
http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2018/undp-gef-monitoring-asessing-of-irrigated-2018.html
http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/ru/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/field-days-i-dashoguz-march-2019.html
http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/natia-visits-dashoguz.html
http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/stories/dashoguz-progress-2019.html
http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/stories/community-leader-karyahan-apa-from-lebap.html
http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/revised-climate-change-strategy-dialogue.html
National media:
http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/?id=17065
http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/?id=16901
http://metbugat.gov.tm/blog?id=319
http://www.metbugat.gov.tm/blog?id=535
http://www.metbugat.gov.tm/blog?id=562
http://metbugat.gov.tm/blog?id=336
https://turkmenportal.com/blog/19705/v-ashhabade-prohodit-rabochaya-vstrecha-po-obnovleniyu-nacionalnoi-strategii-turkmenistana-ob-izmenenii-klimata
https://turkmenportal.com/blog/19203/studenty-turkmenskogo-selhozinstituta-osvaivayut-vodosberegayushchie-metody-poliva

July - December 2019
UNDP articles:
Self-grown community leaders champion alternative financing http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/stories/community-leader-karyahan-apa-from-lebap.html
Empowering local action against the climate change
http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/stories/dashoguz-progress-2019.html
http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/crl-training-C5-1.html
Alternative sources of income of the villagers as a tool to enhance their adaptive capacity http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/Alternative-sources-of-income-of-the-villagers.html
Improving energy efficiency in the water sector of Turkmenistan http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/improving-energy-efficiency-in-water-sector.html
http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/Alternative-sources-of-income-of-the-villagers.html
http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/blog/interview-with-gozel-atamyradowoy.html
https://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/grants-for-sustainable-farming.html
https://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/UNDP-promotes-gender-equality-in-agriculture.html
12 17.12.2020 https://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/ru/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/National-Seminar-on-Climate-Financing-in-Ashgabat.html

National articles:
1 06.07.2019 Field day in LB\_NT newspaper
2 12.07.2019 http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/?id=19152
3 18.07.2019 Alternative incomes\_NT newspaper
4 20.07.2019 http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/?id=19176
5 10.09.2019 Training on laser equipment\_NT newspaper
6 05.09.2019 http://metbugat.gov.tm/blog?id=766
7 10.09.2019 http://metbugat.gov.tm/blog?id=774
8 20.09.2019 http://tdh.gov.tm/news/articles.aspx&article19660&cat11
9 21.09.2019 https://business.com.tm/post/4427/turkmenistan-prepared-new-national-strategy-on-climate-change
10 23.09.2019 http://tdh.gov.tm/news/articles.aspx&article19702&cat11
11 24.09.2019 Climate impact\_TDH
12 24.09.2019 http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/?id=19543
13 25.09.2019 https://orient.tm/turkmenistan-obnovil-nacionalnuju-strategiju-po-izmeneniju-klimata/
14 26.09.2019 http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/?id=19570
15 01.10.2019 http://turkmenistan.gov.tm/?id=19600
16 02.11.2019 https://turkmenportal.com/blog/22772/turkmenskie-specialistyagrarii-obmenyalis-opytom-s-kollegami-iz-uzbekistana
17 20.12.2019 http://metbugat.gov.tm/blog?id=1023
18 21.11.2019 http://metbugat.gov.tm/blog?id=863
19 21.11.2019 Study tour to Uzbekistan\_Dashoguz habarlary newspaper
20 11.12.2019 http://ashgabat.in/interesnoye/v-ashhabade-obsuzhdalsya-gendernyj-vopros/
21 18.12.2019 http://ashgabat.in/novosti/ekonomika/obsuzhdeny-vozmozhnosti-i-usloviya-klimaticheskogo-finansirovaniya/
22 26.12.2019 https://jeyhun.news/kalifornijskij-opyt-na-lebapskoj-zem/

International articles:
1 22.07.2019 Story about Dashoguz\_Turkmenistan News Bulletin prepared by NCA (Tariq Saeedi)
2 23.09.2019 Approval of CC Strategy\_Turkmenistan News Bulletin prepared by NCA (Tariq Saeedi)
3 25.09.2019 Adoption of CC Strategy\_Turkmenistan News Bulletin prepared by NCA (Tariq Saeedi)
4 29.10.2019 Grants allocation\_Turkmenistan News Bulletin prepared by NCA (Tariq Saeedi)
5 29.10.2019 https://tiiame.uz/ru/page/pdf/17-10-19-1
6 29.10.2019 Article on study tour of delegation from Turkmenistan in Uzbekistan’s magazine

January - June 2020

UNDP articles:
1 16.01.2020 https://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/ru/home/stories/Innovation-and-adaptation-to-climate-change-in-the-heart-of-the-desert.html
2 28.01.2020 https://turkmenistan.un.org/ru/32594-innovacii-i-adaptaciya-k-izmeneniyu-klimata-v-serdce-pustyni
3 24.02.2020 https://turkmenistan.un.org/ru/35851-voda-sobrannaya-pri-pomoschi-solnechnoy-energii-vozrozhdaet-zhizn-v-pustyne-turkmenistana
4 05.03.2020 https://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/ru/home/stories/Vermicomposting-A-Source-of-Alternative-Income-for-Women-in-Agriculture.html

National articles:
1 24.01.2020 http://metbugat.gov.tm/blog?id=1116
2 30.01.2020 Article on PBM in NT newspaper
3 31.01.2020 Article on grant recipient Urayev\_NT newspaper
4 10.02.2020 https://orient.tm/izmenenie-klimata-v-pustyne-kak-adaptiruetsya-zhivotnovodstvo/
5 15.02.2020 Article on Water-use plans \_NT newspaper
6 15.02.2020 https://turkmenportal.com/blog/25220/voprosy-vodopolzovaniya-obsudili-agrarii-dashoguzskogo-i-lebapskogo-velayatov
7 10.03.2020 https://arzuw.news/zhenshhiny-lebapskogo-velajata-vnedrjajut-novye-sposoby-obogashhenija-grunta
8 01.04.2020 Article on Dashoguz field days with Kerimova\_NT
9 02.04.2020 Article on grant-recepient Urayev\_Dashoguz habarlary newspapaer
10 04.04.2020 Article on Dashoguz field days with Kerimova\_Dashoguz habarlary newspaper
11 05.06.2020 Article on UNDP projects\_NT newspaper
12 06.04.2020 Article on field day on cutting fruit trees\_Bereketli Toprak newspaper
13 15.04.2020 Article about signing of AWP\_NT newspaper
14 03.06.2020 Article on IWRM training\_NT newspaper
15 05.06.2020 https://orient.tm/vsemirnyj-den-okruzhajushhej-sredy-proekty-realizuemye-v-turkmenistane/
16 05.06.2020 Article about UNDP projects\_NT newspaper
17 05.06.2020 http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/?id=21125
18 05.06.2020 https://arzuw.news/proon-podvodit-itogi-prirodoohrannoj-dejatelnosti-v-turkmenistane

International articles:
1 09.01.2020 California worns\_Turkmenistan News Bulletin prepared by NCA (Tariq Saeedi)
2 10.01.2020 Laser leveling and Esenaman\_Turkmenistan News Bulletin prepared by NCA (Tariq Saeedi)
3 11.02.2020 Esenaman pilot site\_Turkmenistan News Bulletin prepared by NCA (Tariq Saeedi)
4 06.03.2020 Gender story\_Turkmenistan News Bulletin prepared by NCA (Tariq Saeedi)
5 15.04.2020 Approval of AWP\_Turkmenistan News Bulletin prepared by NCA (Tariq Saeedi)

 |

**Project Location Data**

Provide the coordinates for the project’s geo-location sites.  Provide the coordinates in decimal degrees (Longitude and Latitude).  If you are not able to provide the coordinates in decimal degrees, you can alternatively provide them in the Degrees, Minutes, Seconds format.  If you have this information stored in a GIS file, upload it below (e.g. shapefile, kmz/kml, or csv).  If the project has multiple sites, please attach an Excel file with the coordinates for each site in either decimal degrees or in degrees, minutes, seconds format.

|  |
| --- |
| **Please attach the GIS data. Any of the following formats are acceptable: shapefile (.shp)\*, .kmz, .kml. If helpful, see here a quick note on how to gather geo-reference info. \*Note that a shapefile is composed of several files: a .shp file should be zipped in a folder accompanied by the file extensions: .shx, .sbn, .prj, .dbf, .cpg, .sbx, .xml.****If the project has multiple sites, please attach an Excel file with the coordinates for each site in either decimal degrees or in degrees, minutes, seconds format.** |
| [Deynau district.kmz](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5459/214167/1737691/1761023/Deynau%20district.kmz)[Gorogly district.kmz](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5459/214167/1737691/1761023/Gorogly%20district.kmz) |

|  |
| --- |
| **Provide geo-location in longitude, latitude, format.****If you have this information stored in a GIS file, please upload it below (e.g. shapefile, kmz/kml, or csv).** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

|  |
| --- |
| **Longitude** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

|  |
| --- |
| **Alternatively, provide geo-location in degrees, minutes, seconds format. Please also provide information on what the coordinates point to in the space provided.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

|  |
| --- |
| **Minutes** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

|  |
| --- |
| **Seconds** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

|  |
| --- |
| **Coordinates description** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

# Partnerships

**Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment**

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important!  All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?** |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| No |

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| --- |
| **Does the project work with the Private Sector?** |
| Yes |

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| --- |
| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| Yes |

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| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [5459\_SCCF\_ Turkmenistan\_CEO ER revised.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5459/214167/1692008/1692289/5459_SCCF_%20Turkmenistan_CEO%20ER%20revised.doc) |
| **Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.** |
| Partnership with Civil Society Organization: the project has established a close collaboration with the Youth Center “Bosphor” and the Public organization “Tebigy Kuwwat”, both located in Ashgabat, as well as the Turkmen Nature Protection Societies located in the Lebap and Dashoguz pilot regions. Collaborations focus on aspects of awareness raising on climate change adaptation, the provision of legal and agro-consultations, as well on revision of the National Climate Change Strategy.
In addition, the project continues to cooperate with the Nexus project implemented by Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), on the monitoring and evaluation of activities implemented in 2019 for improvement the water availability in the remote desert areas “Esenaman” of the Garagum livestock farm, Georogly district, Dashoguz province of Turkmenistan. The partnership between the SCRL and Nexus projects focuses on mobilizing the resources (human, finance and knowledge) of both projects towards addressing climate-induced problems in the Aral Sea basin, as both projects work along similar pillars. The first phase of the Nexus project is completed, and the final conference was held in Ashgabat in November 2019. During the conference, the results of small-scale pilot projects were presented, including on the Esenaman pilot site. Meanwhile, monitoring is still ongoing to track the progress of indicators against the baseline. The UNDP and Nexus projects plan to conduct monitoring visits to the Esnaman site in autumn 2020, engaging high-level officers and mass-media.

Partnership with Private sector: The project has established partnerships with a number of private entrepreneurs and individual farmers in the field of remote agro-consulting. Specifically, in the Lebap province remote agro-consultations have been provided to two private farmers’ associations (дайханское хозяйство), covering topics of agro business planning, horticultural best practices, irrigation planning and bio-humus application. In addition, the resources of the Agro-information Centers were strengthened with a roster of supplier of agriculture services (state-owned and private), for sharing among project beneficiaries.
Partnership with International organizations: The project continues to engage a variety of different international organizations such as FAO, GIZ, USAID, UNDP etc. in its activities. Collaboration agreements were established to mobilize additional resources and coordinate efforts, as well as exchange knowledge in the field of sustainable land and water management.
1) FAO CACILM project
The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is the implementing agency of the GEF-funded project “Integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey (CACILM-2)”. In Turkmenistan, this Regional Programme was officially launched only in January 2020. It has plans to implement similar activities as the UNDP project in the Dashoguz pilot region. To avoid duplication, at a meeting held in June 2020, the planned activities of both projects were discussed and agreed prior to implementation. The cooperation with the FAO Regional Programme focuses on developing Agricultural Extension Services, the introduction of Aquacrop (FAO product) for the identification of irrigation water norms for specific crops under different climate-soil conditions, and sharing of information and knowledge on sustainable water and land management issues.
In addition to this, FAO’s Regional Programme intended to sponsor the participation of a UNDP/GEF Project Water Specialist in the regional training “Global Soil Salinity Map Training”, 02-07 March 2020, to be held at the International Agricultural Research and Training Center Menemen/Izmir- Turkey. However, due to the COVID-19 measures taken the planned mission was cancelled.
2) USAID – GSP
The USAID funded Governance Support Program expressed interest in cooperation in different fields, including on alternative sources of income. To date jointly implemented activities promote biotechnologies in water purification and the production of fodder crops, initiated and demonstrated at selected private households of the Lebap and Dashoguz pilot regions. In addition, project activities under Component 2 on improvement of the Land and Water related legislation are supported, too.
3) USAID – CTJ project
The USAID-funded project “Competitiveness, Trade, and Jobs Activity in Central Asia” project has expressed an interest in joint cooperation, and a Joint Action Plan was signed. Under a cooperation agreement (i) an additional local agronomist was recruited; (ii) a series of trainings and consultations to be organized; (iii) the costs for two international consultants were to be covered; and (iv) a smart greenhouse to be procured for the AIC in Dashoguz region.
4) UNDP Global Support Programme
UNDP and its UNDP/UNEP Global Support Program (GSP) for National Communications and Biennial Update Reports organized a Regional Workshop on Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and the enhanced transparency framework for Central Asia, which was held on November 12-13, 2019 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The objective of the workshop was to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experiences and good practices on MRV, on the enhanced transparency framework and on NDC tracking, including supporting sound institutional arrangements, capacity development activities and creating awareness, while also strengthening technical skills within national institutions involved in the enhanced transparency process. From the project, the Project Manager together with representatives of the MAEP and State Statistics Agency participated in the workshop.
In addition to this, the GSP continuous organizing different webinars, and will hire an International Consultant to provide technical support in terms of MRV on mitigation for the UNDP Sustainable cities project. The general approach provided on the MRV system will also be useful for the SCRL project, to work out the recommendation under 3.1 Output.

South-south cooperation was strengthened through the Study Tour to Uzbekistan that took place in October 2019. During the study tour, 13 participants representing the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection, State Agriculture Institute (Dashoguz city), Hyakimliks of Lebap and Dashoguz regions as well as Gorogly district, the Vatan and Parahat farmers’ associations, AIC employees and project staff were acquainted with the organization of Farmer Councils, agro-information centers, and sustainable agricultural production in the context of climate change. Knowledge gained will benefit the further development of a Concept Paper on “Agricultural extension services”, recommended by the MTR. Uzbekistan was chosen as destination because climate conditions and agricultural practices have close resemblance to Turkmenistan.
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# Annex - Ratings Definitions

**Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

**Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.