**Country/Region/Global: Azerbaijan**

**Initiation Plan**

**Project Title:**  Early recovery support to vulnerable population affected by the Nagorno Karabakh crisis

**Expected UNDAF/CP Outcome(s):** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Expected CPD Output(s):** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Initiation Plan Start/End Dates:** 01.12.2020/15.01.2020

**Implementing Partner:** UNDP (DIM implementation)

**Brief Description**

Recent months have seen a sharp intensification of the decades-long conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. The ongoing escalation of hostilities in and around the region calls for swift action to provide urgent humanitarian aid and early recovery assistance. Such intervention is in accordance with the UN’s commitment to working at the nexus of humanitarian aid, development and peace action to save lives while laying the foundations for rapid recovery.

Through this Project Initiation Plan, UNDP wishes to establish the foundation for early recovery programming in support of conflict affected populations and in particular rapid restoration of livelihoods and community security through community- and area-based short- to medium term interventions.

The planned activities will support conflict-affected populations, including women, children, and people with disabilities with targeted livelihoods/economic recovery, psychosocial, and legal support, and through the re-establishment of key digital infrastructure for urgent public service provision. Areas targeted by the project are but no limited to: Tartar, Aghdam, Goranboy, Aghjabadi, Barda, Ganja as affected areas and host districts as relevant.

Total resources required USD 600,000

Total allocated resources: USD 600,000

* Regular USD 600,000
* Other:
  + Donor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Donor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Government \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Unfunded budget: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In-kind Contributions \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Programme Period: 01.12.20-31.05.21

Atlas Project Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Atlas Output ID: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Gender Marker: GEN2

Agreed by UNDP:

# Purpose and Expected Output

*As of 27 September 2020, the hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, have sharply intensified, marking the worst levels of violence and highest casualties in the area since the mid-1990s. While military action has substantially stopped as of 9 November 2020, significant damage has been inflicted during the active phase of the conflict on people’s livelihoods and civic infrastructure, and hundreds of lives have been lost or injured during the military operations.*

*The regions most affected by shelling are Tartar, Aghdam, Goranboy, Aghjabadi, Ganja and Barda. Humanitarian concerns are growing inside Nagorno-Karabakh and nearby districts: civilians killed and injured are 93 and 408 respectively as per latest update on 11 November 2020. Estimated destruction to civilian housing numbers in the thousands, with additional 504 civilian facilities also destroyed or severely damaged. According to estimates shared by the Government of Azerbaijan, 39,167 individuals are being temporarily displaced, mostly to Barda district, but figures are likely to be two or three times higher. Urgent humanitarian needs identified from mine action to provision of food/non-food items and psychosocial support. To compound this dire situation, there is high risk of a COVID 19 surge due to cramped temporary accommodation and large funeral services.*

*While an inter-Agency assessment mission to conflict affected areas is going to take place in or around mid-November 2020, a list of urgent needs officially circulated by national counterparts through the Resident Coordinator’s Office highlights urgency for an immediate needs assessment of the vulnerable population affected by the conflict (with a focus on families, women and children), health packages, establishment of WASH facilities and COVID-19 disinfection points, ICT infrastructure support, explosive ordnance risk awareness and community safety support, livelihoods and economic recovery. Based on the results of field assessments, it is likely that new needs may emerge in the area of debris/rubble removal and short-term employment opportunities.*

*Building on its comparative advantage, and leveraging existing long-standing partnerships, UNDP has identified the following areas for urgent early recovery action:*

* *Rebuilding livelihoods and supporting the recovery of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises*
* *Provision of community safety, psychosocial and legal support*
* *Risk awareness of unexploded ordnances and humanitarian UXO clearance*
* *Rehabilitation of digital infrastructure for service delivery*

*While addressing an early response to the population in need, this Project Initiation Plan (PIP) UNDP will implement a Rapid Integrated Early Recovery Assessment to quantified and validate existing needs, launch the implementation of project activities on pilot basis, through funding received from the Crisis Response Board; and in parallel design a comprehensive Early recovery programme, establish the project management team and project board team, identify the project management arrangements and implementing partners for medium-term recovery activities.*

*Expected outputs of the project are:*

1. *Rapid Integrated Early recovery assessment completed in conflict affected areas and needs validated by local stakeholders;*
2. *Livelihoods stabilization in conflict affected districts supported through cash transfer or in-kind emergency livelihoods support;*
3. *Establishment of rapid psychological, social and legal aid service provision through existing Family Support Centers and Mobile Clinics;*
4. *Key digital infrastructure re-established for essential service provision;*
5. *UNDP Early recovery/recovery programme designed and approved for fundraising.*

*The use of digital tools and innovative approaches to implementation will be mainstreamed throughout the PIP activities. A digital dashboard will be created to collect and visualize data (including live tracking of data collection progress), for UNDP’s internal use and for sharing with stakeholders as appropriate. The dashboard will be an opportunity to test and showcase to Government counterparts the feasibility and usability of digital tools and encourage further use of this approach across UNDP’s programming in Azerbaijan.*

*In parallel, a user-friendly mobile application will be created to support activities implemented under Output 4 of the PIP, including a live chat feature to connect beneficiaries with the specialists (psychologists, legal advisors, etc.) contracted by UNDP for service provision, while meeting all privacy and confidentiality requirements. From a sustainability perspective, the mobile app will also allow beneficiaries to retain access to the information and the human resources when implementation under the PIP is over. The mobile app may also feature tips, top recommendations, short video tutorials based on the materials delivered by the specialists and information on hotlines activated, contacts and addresses for referral purposes.*

# Management Arrangements and governance

*The project will be implemented through a Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) and will be administered and managed in accordance with the rules and regulations of the UNDP. The responsibility for the execution of the DIM project will rest with UNDP in collaboration with the key government partners, such as the the State Committee for Women, Family and Children’s Affairs (SCWFCA), the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies. The project will work closely and through Family Support Centers of SCFWCA and the Women Resource Centers established with UNDP’s Support.*

*While early recovery activity implementation will proceed to the extent possible through existing projects, new activities have been incorporated under this project initiation plan, including the design of an Early recovery/Recovery programme to coordinate short- and medium-term activities in response to the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis.*

*To oversee the coherence and consistency of UNDP’s response to the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis, an early recovery programme board will be appointed. The board will be tasked with providing guidance and quality assurance, and identifying opportunities for scaling up and expansion, in line with changes in the operational context. The Board will be led by the UNDP Resident Representative in Azerbaijan, with representation from key stakeholders as relevant.*

*Programme/project design and establishment will be conducted under the leadership of the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in collaboration with the relevant Programme Analysts, with support as needed from the Peace and Development Advisor.*

# Monitoring

*An Initiation Phase Report will be provided by 28 February 2021 to report on the design and formulation of an Early recovery/Recovery programme, on the set up of the programme board, on the approval of relevant project document(s), on the formation of the project(s) team, identification of implementing partners and launch of the pilot activities in key districts.*

*By the end of May 2021, final report will be provided with results of pilot activities in target districts in line with the attached work plan. Monitoring tools will be project reports, field visits, and interviews with beneficiaries.*

# AUDIT

*The project may be audited as a part of the UNDP office audit.*

# WORK PLAN

**Period[[1]](#footnote-2): 01 December 2020-31 May 2021**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **EXPECTED OUTPUTS**  *And baseline, indicators including annual targets* | **PLANNED ACTIVITIES**  *List activity results and associated actions* | **TIMEFRAME** | | | **RESPONSIBLE PARTY** | **PLANNED BUDGET** | | |
| Q4 | Q1 | Q2 |  | Funding Source | Budget Description | Amount |
| Output 1: Early recovery needs in conflict affected communities assessed and entry point for action identified  ***Baseline****: N/A*  ***Indicator 1.1*** *Rapid Integrated Needs Assessment completed, and findings integrated in the Early recovery support project document*  ***Target 1.1****: By mid- December 2020 Report of the Rapid Integrated Needs Assessment for Early Recovery completed and validated* | 1. Rapid Integrated Assessment on Early Recovery completed, and information integrated in the work plan of the Early Recovery support project   * TORs of Rapid Assessment prepared * Data collection tools prepared and approved * Digital dashboard created for data collection, analysis and visualization * Data collection completed through field mission or remote data collection tools; * Final report and recommendations prepared validated and circulated. | x |  |  | UNDP | UNDP | Contractual services -companies  Contractual services - individuals  Workshops | USD 100,000 |
| Output 2: UNDP (early) recovery offer is ready for implementation.  ***Baseline****: N/A*  ***Indicator 2.1****: Programme/ project document approved and funded*  ***Target 2.1****: By the end of Fabruary 2021 programme / project document for early recovery activities is approved for implementation* | 1. Early recovery support programme document is validated and approved for fundraising and implementation   * Establishment of project team, * Establishment of the project board, and * Identification of the implementing partners * Preparation and approval of the project document | x |  |  | UNDP | UNDP | Contractual services – individuals  Travel and DSA | USD 20,000 |
| Output 3. Livelihoods stabilization in conflict affected districts supported through cash or in-kind emergency livelihoods support  ***Baseline****: 0*  ***Indicator 3.1****: # of beneficiaries provided with livelihoods stabilization packages*  ***Targets 3.1****: 150 beneficiaries provided with livelihoods stabilization packages* | 1. Conflict affected individuals and MSMEs are supported with immediate livelihoods stabilization support packages.   * Analysis of the damage caused by the conflict to livelihoods of conflict affected populations and to M/SMES infrastructure with a focus on women, youth, and people with disability led businesses; * Identification of potential beneficiaries; * Establishment of cash transfer mechanism; * Procurement of assets for livelihoods packages; | x | x | x | UNDP | UNDP | Contractual services – individuals  Procurement – assets  Grants | USD 200,000 |
| Output 4. Rapid psychological, social and legal aid service provision through existing Family Support Centres and Mobile Clinics  ***Baseline****: 0*  ***Indicator 4.1****: # of beneficiaries provided with rapid psychosocial, legal and social support and referral services*  ***Target 4.1****: 3000 beneficiaries provided with rapid psychosocial, legal and social support and referral services* | 1. Community affected by the conflict receive urgent psychosocial, social and legal assistance   * Hiring of psychologists, social workers and legal advisors; * Supply basic items required for experts in their therapies with families; * Provision of immediate psychosocial support to families; * Provide advisory services/consultations/referrals to families on legal and financial matters connected to the crisis; | x | x | x | UNDP | UNDP | Contractual services – individuals  Contractual services – companies  Grants  Procurement  Workshop/conferences  Travel costs for mobile team | USD 70,000 |
| Output 5. Key digital infrastructure re-established for essential service provision.  ***Baseline****: 0*  ***Indicator 5.1****: number of users in conflict affected communities have renewed access to digital infrastructure.*  ***Target 5.1****: By the end of the project 962 users in Fizuli region and 7,746 users in Tartar region have restored access to digital infrastructure.* | 1. Selected digital infrastructure is rehabilitated in conflict affected areas.   * Conduct detailed assessment in affected regions; * Procurement of equipment; * Installation and testing of the equipment. |  | x | x | UNDP | UNDP | Procurement-ICT equipment | USD 180,000 |
| Output 6. Implementation, communication, monitoring and reporting on activities under the PIP takes place timely and in line with UNDP policies and procedures  ***Baseline****: no PIP staff and activities*  ***Indicator 6.1:*** *# staff recruited for the management of the PIP*  ***Target 6.1:*** *2 staff recruited and onboarded*  ***Indicator 6.2:*** *# reports timely produced and submitted for review*  ***Target 6.2:*** *Initiation Phase Report and final report prepared and submitted*  ***Indicator 6.3****: # of communications activities (videos, posts/materials for social media, etc.) implemented to document and raise awareness among conflict affected communities of UNDP early recovery efforts, and to advocate for further resource mobilization*  ***Target 6.3:*** *10 communication activities* | 1. Implementation, communication, monitoring and reporting on activities under the PIP takes place timely and in line with UNDP policies and procedures   * Recruitment of staff to implement PIP activities * Preparation and submission of Initiation Phase Report * Implementation of communication/advocacy activities * Preparation and submission of final PIP report | x | x | x | UNDP | UNDP | Contractual services -  individuals  Salary and Post  Adjustment Costs – NP Staff  Rental & Maintenance  and other equipment  IT and communications  Supplies | USD 30,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **600,000** |

1. Maximum 18 months [↑](#footnote-ref-2)