

Country: Uzbekistan

Initiation Plan

Project Title: Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction Capacities in Uzbekistan

Expected UNDAF Outcome. UZB_Outcome_08: By 2020, rural population benefit from sustainable management of natural resources and resilience to disasters and climate change

Related Strategic Plan Outcome: DEV_Outcome_5: Countries are able to reduce the likelihood of conflict and lower the risk of natural disasters, including from climate change.

Expected CP Output 6. OUTPUT 6. Awareness and capacities of population/relevant stakeholders in gender sensitive preparedness /prevention / mitigation/response to natural/human-made disasters in Uzbekistan improved

Initiation Plan Start Date: 01 January 2017

Initiation Plan End Date: 30 June 2017

Implementing Partner: UNDP Direct Implementation / Ministry of Emergency Situations

Brief Description

The proposed initiation Plan is designed to support the Government of Uzbekistan in its endeavours to reduce vulnerabilities to disaster-related risks and build a strong culture of safety at all levels of society in compliance with the principles declared in the Sendai Framework for DRR. Specifically, the programme will pursue the commitment outlined in the UNDAF 2016-2020 to improve the national system of prevention and response to natural, human-induced and environmental disasters and support rural communities in disaster-prone areas to apply proactive disaster risk reduction activities.

This Initiation Plan serves to help UNDP and the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan in formulating a new framework of cooperation in support of national priorities in reducing disaster risks. Major expected outputs of the IP will thus be:

- i) formulation of a cooperation framework with potential donors, including the Government of Japan on mobilizing resources as per the Sendai 2015 agreements;
- ii) preparation of a project proposal with innovative solutions in the area of DRR for DIV (Development Innovations Ventures) funding (USAID);
- iii) formulation of a project proposal (a project document) in coordination with other DRR stakeholders on reduction of climate related disaster risks for submission for funding to Green Climate Fund.

Programme Period: 01.01.2017-30.06.2017

CPD Programme Component:

Atlas Project ID: 00101290

Atlas Output ID: 00103867

Management Arrangement: Direct Implementation (DIM)

Decision Making Date: 15 December, 2016

Total resources required USD50,000

Total allocated resources: _____

• Regular USD50,000

• Other: _____

○ Donor _____

○ Donor _____

○ Donor _____

○ Government _____

Unfunded budget: _____

In-kind Contributions _____

Agreed by UNDP:



28 DEC 2016

I. PURPOSE

a) Brief analysis of situation.

Uzbekistan is prone to a range of natural hazards, such as earthquakes, droughts, sand and dust storms, floods, landslides and mudflows and others. The country ranks high among countries that have a history of devastating earthquakes and have endured significant loss of life and property due to earthquakes.¹ It ranked 24th on the Hot-Spot Countries list of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery Programme in 2007. This list described Uzbekistan in the following manner: 93 % of total area is at risk; 65.6% of population is living in areas of risk; 65.5% of the nation's GDP is earned in areas of risk.

In addition to its seismic vulnerability, Uzbekistan is affected by hydro-meteorological hazards affecting the agricultural sector with seasonal floods and periods of drought (particularly in the Aral Sea region). With a climate determined by its continental location, Uzbekistan experiences hot summers and mild winters with a range of areas prone to atmospheric and soil-drought. During years of severe droughts due to decreasing precipitation, the water supply has often experienced a decrease in the range of 20%-30%. In addition to hydrological conditions, water availability also depends on regulation of domestic and regional water reservoirs. Exacerbated by climate change, droughts are becoming more frequent (3-4 year intervals) and areas experiencing water stress are expanding, especially in the lower Amudarya river delta. Global increases in temperature (1-3 °C by different estimates) are expected to cause accelerated glacier retreat causing a temporary increase in water supply in the region, followed by a sharp decline thereafter. Therefore, the impacts on Uzbekistan's agriculture (irrigated cropland), the national economy (nearly 1/4 of the GDP) and socio-economic well-being of the population could be tremendous.

Other threats from landslides, locust invasions and avalanches have been reported to affect the lives and livelihood of Uzbekistan's population. Floods, mudflows and landslides in mountainous and foothill areas caused generally by snowmelt run-off represent a valid risk. Flood in Shohimardon (1998) and a landslide in Angren (1991) are all events that entailed substantial human and economic losses.

b) Past collaboration between UNDP and the Government in the area of DRR.

Since 2010, UNDP jointly with the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Uzbekistan has been implementing the first comprehensive DRR assistance programme in Uzbekistan. The programme worked to strengthen the capacity of relevant DRR stakeholders to prepare and respond to natural and human-induced disasters as per Hyogo Framework for Action. Notable results include:

Earthquake simulator: with funding from the Government of Uzbekistan and the European Union, UNDP established an Earthquake Simulation Center (unique in Central Asia), which includes an earthquake museum, and which now serves as a training and awareness raising facility for rescuers, government officials and the general public.

- Search and rescue: UNDP equipped and trained rescue teams under the Ministry of Emergency Situations with modern rescue and first aid equipment, created a prototype of a rescue vehicle which is expected to be supplied to all rescue units across the country through Government resources.
- Seismic micro-zoning: Seismic maps of major cities of Uzbekistan were produced by the Institute of Seismology under the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan which benefited from sophisticated seismic micro-zoning equipment supplied by the Programme.

Andijan (1902), Karatag (1907), Pskem (1937), Birchmulla (1959), Tashkent (1966), Gazli (1976), Tavaskay (1977), Pap (1984), Kamashi (1999) and (2001).

- Seismic assessment: Tashkent State Architecture and Construction Institute were supplied with technology for assessment of seismic safety of buildings.
- Awareness raising: the programme held large-scale awareness raising campaigns among population through tailor-made cartoons and films on behavior before, during and after natural disasters. Publications on seismic safe rural construction were produced and disseminated among population, construction workers and foremen.
- Establishment of an advanced system for monitoring of natural hazards on the “Kamchik” mountain bypass. Also, an iOS and Android based mobile phone application has been developed as an awareness raising tool on behaviour tips during various natural disasters (earthquakes, mudflows, etc.), and which was upgraded into an emergency (SOS functionality) tool.

c) Focus area of the Initiation Pan

Based on experiences of UN agencies, it is evident that local capacities of MES to raise awareness and address (prevent, mitigate or respond) natural and man-made disasters are low. UNDP will continue to raise awareness of local population and DRR stakeholders on disaster risks, as well as mitigation, prevention, preparedness and response strategies. Therefore, UNDP seeks to continue to work with national partners on disaster risk reduction issues and build capacities for effective disaster response. In this regard, enhancing community level disaster risk reduction and strengthening the capacities of the crisis management centre (CMC) at national and local levels are seen as priority in line with the Sendai priority of enhancing preparedness for effective response and in terms of preventing human and material losses from disasters. Implementation of such large scale activities require expanded scope of partnerships and funding as the issues under concern require more holistic approach. In light of this, the current IP seeks to map main actors in the field of DRR and formulate a project proposal for mobilization of resources to a comprehensive DRR assistance programme in Uzbekistan in line with national priorities and international frameworks.

II. EXPECTED OUTPUT

Given the above context, as well as the strong interest of the Ministry of Emergency Situations to continue collaboration with UNDP in the area of disaster risk reduction, UNDP plans to implement the current Initiation Plan as part of preparation for a larger scale cooperation and to facilitate resource mobilization efforts for such a programme.. In this regard, the following set of outputs will be implemented under the current IP:

1. Formulation of a cooperation framework in the area of DRR with potential donors, including the Government of Japan on mobilizing resources as per the Sendai 2015 agreements

In a speech to the U.N. World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai in 2015, Prime Minister of Japan stated that Japan was ready to offer \$4 billion in aid for global efforts to improve disaster management over the four years through 2018, including support for building infrastructure in developing countries.

As per the initial discussions with the Embassy of Japan in Uzbekistan, the Government of Japan is funding the recently launched World Bank project in the area of DRR and results of the project are to be evaluated before larger scale funding cooperation in the area of DRR in Uzbekistan. Hence, under the current IP UNDP will establish close coordination and collaboration with the World Bank in order to formulate a well-designed cooperation proposal potential donors in the area of DRR, including the

Government of Japan. Such cooperation framework would prioritize avoiding any duplications and enhancing synergies.

For this, a donor coordination meeting in the area of DRR will be initiated with support from the Government of Uzbekistan to enhance resource mobilization opportunities. For initiatives in DRR, especially in establishment of Crisis Management Centre of MES.

2. Preparation of a project proposal on applying innovative solutions in the area of DRR for DIV (Development Innovations Ventures) funding (USAID)

In November 2016, UNDP Uzbekistan submitted an Expression of Interest for the project proposal on "Improved disaster risk monitoring and analysis for strengthened community resilience in Uzbekistan" for the amount of USD 1,500,000 with proposed cost sharing of USD 500,000. DIV in return recommended identifying more innovative solutions to address the challenges in the area of DRR and resubmitting the proposal thereafter. Therefore, during the IP realization, all DIV recommendations will be carefully reviewed and an updated project proposal will be prepared focusing on more advanced innovative solutions..

3. Development of a project proposal for Green Climate Fund (GCF)

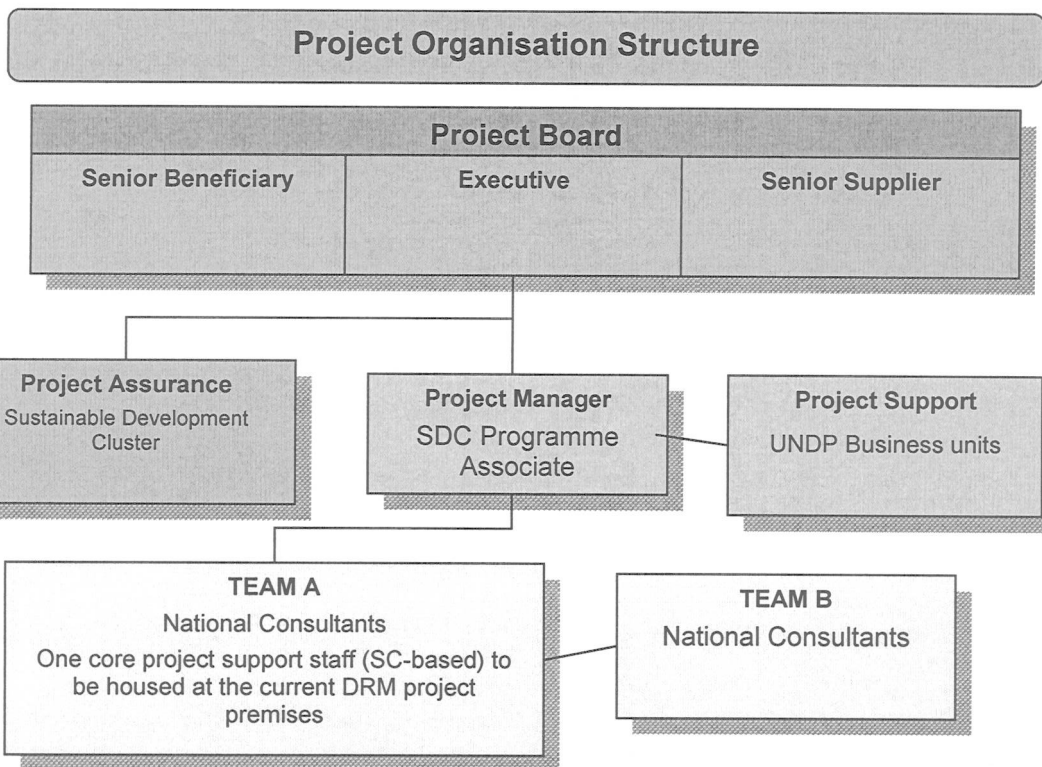
Climate change is the defining challenge of our time. The human impact on our planet is unprecedented. Long-term changes in the earth's climate system are significant. The Green Climate Fund was established with a mission to advance the goal of keeping the temperature increase on our home planet below 2 degrees Celsius.

Under the current IP, UNDP will seek coordinated cooperation with Uzhydromet, MES, Institute of Seismology and other relevant DRR stakeholders to facilitate the formulation of a joint project proposal for GCF funding. The project proposal is expected to address climate-induced risks by focusing on hydro meteorological threats, establishment of early warning systems and strengthening risk monitoring & analysis of DRR stakeholders through mainstreaming innovative solutions (including CMC establishment).

III. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

A short description of the individuals, organisations, and/or team structure required to conduct the activities of the Initiation Plan.

The project activities under this Initiation Plan will be implemented according to the UNDP procedures for direct implementation (DIM), with the Ministry of emergency Situations being the direct beneficiary and key government partner.



Efforts shall be made to the extent possible to ensure gender balance among the members of the Project Board.

Use the diagram below for the composition of the Project Board, if there is a need to establish such a board depending on the size and scope of the Initiation Plan. Please refer to the section "Programme & Project Management Organization Structure".

IV. MONITORING

A description of the monitoring requirements for the Initiation Plan.

Please refer to the Section 2.3 Monitoring Framework and Reporting under the process Initiating a Project, to determine how the output and associated activity results shall be monitored, reviewed and assessed, depending on the scope and duration of the Initiation Plan (i.e. an Initiation Plan with a 9 months duration to start-up pilot activities shall require the combination of various monitoring tools and mechanisms, as opposed to a short Initiation Plan established to hire a consultant for the finalization of the Project Document).

As minimum requirement, a Progress Report should be prepared at the end of the Initiation Plan, using the standard format available in the Executive Snapshot. (see Running a Project).

Mainstreaming gender issues into project also implies developing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that will enable to track progress on gender equality goals (if these are included in the project) or to assess the extent to which the project has addressed gender issues and needs and has made an impact on women's and men's lives and gender issues in the country (if gender equality does not figure specifically as a project goal). This should involve developing indicators that provide sex-disaggregated data (data for women and men separately) and information on the positive and negative impact of the project on women and men.

