## UNDP-GEF MTR Management Response

**Management response to the Midterm Review of (**UNDP-supported GEF-financed “Green Urban project Lighting – Armenia” Project***)*[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Project Title: “Green Urban project Lighting – Armenia”

UNDP Project ID (PIMS) #:

GEF Project ID (PMIS) #: PIMS 4669

Midterm Review Mission Completion Date: 25 May, 2016

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**Context, background and findings**

1. The recommendations and evaluation are set proper to the context and status of the outputs of the project in its 3rd year of implementation and will guide the team in addressing the identified shortcomings.

**Recommendations and management response**

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| ***Midterm Review recommendation 1.*** **Legislation framework is improving, but focus is needed to achieve adoptions of new standards and rules for green public procurement to support the market penetration of EE lighting.*** The development of a national phase-out policy for incandescent and other inefficient lighting fixtures will be a key milestone to make a shift towards EE lighting on the Armenian market happen. Project shall therefore keep track and support the government in developing the strategy.
* The Russian Standard for Illumination from 2011, which is to be updated in 2016, is one of the tracks to be followed up and considered for possible adaptation/adoption in Armenia.
* Project shall further take into account the required quality control and affordability constraints, and elaborate measures and policies, such as adequate quality control and social support schemes, by building on the experiences and lessons learned from other countries.
* Regarding adoption of new rules for procurement of energy efficient lighting, experiences from similar work done in other countries shall be incorporated into the Armenian case.
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| **Management response: Identify institutional gaps and legislative drawback to ensure easy adoption of the new illumination code in Armenia and promote green procurement rules in the municipalities.** |
| **Key action(s)** | **Time frame [month, year to month, year]** | **Responsible unit(s)** | **Tracking[[2]](#footnote-2)** |
| **Comments** | **Status[[3]](#footnote-3)** |
| 1.1 Develop recommendations for phase-out of the incandescent lamps, including the supportive legal framework as well as social impacts, and experience of countries with comparable economic situation and submit it to the Government. | February, 2017 | Project team Project Board | The amendments to the Law on RE and EE of Armenia was adopted in May 2016, it can help in promoting the new decision on phase-out | Work in progress |
| 1.2 The construction norms on natural and artificial illumination updated | October, 2016 | UNDP Project TeamTechnical Advisory Board | The consultant hired | Work in progress |
| 1.3 Analyze the experience of other countries which was adopted procurement rules based on principles of energy efficiency and life-cycle cost  | November, 2016 | UNDP Project Team | Work in progress |  |
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| **Management response:** Enhance coordination with municipalities on building corresponding capacity within administration related to the lighting system energy efficiency for conducting: energy audits, retrofit strategy, procurement rules, negotiation with donors and financial institutions, ESCOs, and energy management in general. |
| **Key action(s)** | **Time frame [month, year to month, year]** | **Responsible unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Comments** | **Status** |
| 2.1 Develop and introduce procurement Guidelines for out-door and in-door lighting fixtures based on technical specifications which considers minimum energy efficiency requirements, quality safeguards, life-cycle costing. The experience of the Project gained during implementation of pilot projects will be used and consulted with partner municipalities. The Guidelines will be shared with Yerevan Municipality, partner 13 municipalities, as well as with Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development.  | February 2017 | UNDP Project team | Initial discussions with Yerevan Municipality conducted. | Work in progress |
| 2.2 Develop methodological guidance/manual on energy audit and organise training programme for municipality specialists. |  December 2016 | UNDP Project Team |  | Work in progress |
| 2.3 Develop the overview of the Municipal Energy Efficiency Revolving Funds and share with stakeholders  | Continuous | UNDP COUNDP Project Team | The overview developed and shared during the Donor Coordination meeting in UN on 28 of June 2016 | Continuous |
| 2.4 In consultation with Yerevan Municipality, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, donors involved in social support assistance programs select representative buildings for in-door light retrofitting projects. Analyze the project results and ensure appropriate dissemination of the outcomes  | 2016-2017 | UNDP Project TeamProject Board | The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, World Vision Armenia, and Yerevan Municipality has identified potential areas for demonstration of indoor lighting retrofit projects  | Work in progress |

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| ***Midterm Review recommendation 3.*** **Maintain high level of public outreach and institutionalize public awareness measures in the long term** * + The Project shall maintain the high level of dissemination and public awareness creation activities throughout the remaining project period. Public outreach expert, preferably with international background and relevant expertise shall be nominated to implement dedicated awareness activities.
	+ Establishment of a testing laboratory for lighting equipment and educational laboratory in a university is already underway. However, it shall be assessed whether any complementary outreach is required e.g. for universities to encourage the effective use of the laboratory for research and educational purposes by a variety of stakeholders.
	+ Lighting campaigns and awareness programs shall be widened up and addressing the potential for EE in lighting for different end-user groups (users of public and residential buildings). Reinventing the wheel is not necessary, since there is a vast experience to learn from other countries’ program experiences[[4]](#footnote-4). Project shall further start measuring impact of campaigns allowing to measure the contribution of EE lighting retrofits towards the change of energy demand in the country, and towards the project finalisation introduce specific monitoring indicators into its M&E strategy.
	+ In terms of more effective and visible awareness and campaigning, a dedicated website (separate web domain) shall be introduced in Armenia. This website – eventually combined with social media functionality – shall provide the major information hub on energy efficient lighting in Armenia.
	+ Experiences and lessons learnt from Armenian GUL project shall be referred to in the UNEP’s en.light programme website (<http://www.enlighten-initiative.org/>), thus becoming part of the international cooperation network and exchange platform. Further exchange with other countries implementing similar activities (e.g Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus) shall be maintained.
	+ It is recommended that the project team invest to compile “lessons learnt” from the project to contribute to the project’s knowledge management, learning and information dissemination strategy. An analytical, thorough and, as required, also critical report summarizing experience and findings of this project would highly benefit the country activities and UNDP in general. As a part of that, an analysis of the pilot project tender results and their evolution over the time in line with the capacity built shall be considered in such review.
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| **Management response**: The Project outreach strategy implementation will be continued and upgraded to the current project stage needs  |
| **Key action(s)** | **Time frame [month, year to month, year]** | **Responsible unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Comments** | **Status** |
| 3.1 Enhance project results dissemination and public awareness activities throughout the remaining project period | Continuous | UNDP COUNDP Project TeamProject Board |  | Work in progress |
| 3.2 Assist in effective use of the lighting testing laboratory for research and educational purposes by a variety of stakeholders | 2016-2017 | Project BoardYerevan Municipality |  | Work in progress |
| 3.3 Work-out approaches for measuring awareness campaigns impact assessment. | December 2016 | UNDP-GEF RTAUNDP Project Team |  | Continuous |
| 3.4 Create the dedicated web-page for sharing the lighting energy efficiency information and establish the link with UNEP’s en.light programme web-site | December 2016 | UNDP-GEF RTAUNDP Project Team |  | Continuous |

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| ***Midterm Review recommendation 4.*** **Monitoring & evaluation of GHG mitigation levels and project impacts to be reviewed*** Monitoring of GHG emission reductions and correlating energy savings is to be refined and beneficiaries supported in building own M&E capacities.
	+ - While direct emission reductions are likely to be achieved, indirect targets require additional action for their achievement; complementary efforts to be made during the second half of the project to address areas with large replication potential are indoor lighting in public and private residential buildings.
		- The targeted GHG reduction impact of the project was reassessed and slightly amended at the project inception phase, but neither the project document nor the inception report was calculating the direct project impact over the entire lifetime of the investment, which would make the assessment consistent with the recommended GEF methodology and other GEF funded climate change mitigation projects. Calculation methodology shall be thus reviewed and updated within the MTR and changes adopted within the *GEF CC Mitigation Tracking Tool*.
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| **Management response**: The monitoring and evaluation of the project impact on GHG mitigation will be reviewed to make it consistent with the recommended GEF methodology.  |
| **Key action(s)** | **Time frame [month, year to month, year]** | **Responsible unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Comments** | **Status** |
| 3.1 The indoor lighting energy efficiency retrofit projects results evaluated, as well as their replication potential assessed | 2017 | UNDP Project team |  | Continuous |
| 3.2 The project GEF CC Mitigation Tracking Tool revised | 2016 August | UNDP Project team |  | Work in process. |

1. This template is in alignment with the [Management Response Template](http://web.undp.org/evaluation/handbook/documents/templates/Independent-Evaluation-Management-response.doc) for UNDP project-level evaluations in the Evaluation Resource Centre. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. If the MTR is uploaded to the ERC, the status of implementation is tracked electronically in the Evaluation Resource Centre database (ERC). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Status of Implementation: Completed, Partially Completed, Pending. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Just to mention a few initiatives: the European Green Light Programme (<http://iet.jrc.ec.europa.eu/energyefficiency/sites/energyefficiency/files/greenlightfolder_final_2013.pdf>), European LED Quality Charter (<http://iet.jrc.ec.europa.eu/energyefficiency/sites/energyefficiency/files/files/documents/eu_led_quality_charter.pdf>) or Australian Energy Efficiency Lighting Program (<http://www.energyrating.gov.au/products/lighting>) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)