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REPORT

For the Final Project Evaluation of the Joint
Project Healthier Kosovo 2

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Commissioned by: United Nations Development Program, Kosovo

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World Health Organization, Kosovo

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Sincerely,

Ilir Hoxha, On behalf of the Evaluation Team

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROJECT AND EVALUATION INFORMATION DETAILS	VII
LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	IX
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. INTERVENTION DESCRIPTION	5
3. EVALUATION SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES	7
3.1. Evaluation purpose and scope.....	7
3.2. Evaluation objective.....	7
3.3. Evaluation criteria and questions	8
4. EVALUATION APPROACH AND METHODS	11
4.1 Evaluation approach.....	11
4.2 Data collection methods.....	11
4.3 Design of data collection tools	12
4.4 Data analysis.....	12
4.5 Ethical considerations.....	12
5. FINDINGS	13
5.1 Project design & contextual relevance	13
5.2 Project's effectiveness	15
5.3 Project efficiency	21
5.4 Project sustainability.....	22
5.5 Stakeholders and partnership strategy.....	24
5.6 Theory of Change or results/outcome map	25
5.7 Human rights	26
5.8 Criteria: Gender	27
6. CONCLUSIONS	28
6.1 Project design & contextual relevance	28
6.2 Project's effectiveness	28
6.3 Project efficiency	28
6.4 Project sustainability.....	28
6.5 Stakeholders and partnership strategy.....	29
6.6 Theory of Change or results/outcome map	29
6.7 Human rights	29
6.8 Criteria: Gender	29
7. LESSONS LEARNED	30
8. RECOMMENDATIONS	33
8.1 Planning and implementation.....	33
8.2 Programmatic improvements	33
8.3 Ideas for new interventions/actions.....	33

APPENDIX 1. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EVALUATION.....	35
APPENDIX 2. EVALUATION MATRIX.....	1
APPENDIX 3. INTERVIEW GUIDE	1
APPENDIX 4. LIST OF INDIVIDUALS INTERVIEWED.....	1
APPENDIX 5. LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS REVIEWED.....	1
APPENDIX 6. CODE OF CONDUCT	2

PROJECT AND EVALUATION INFORMATION DETAILS

Project/outcome Information		
Project/outcome title	Healthier Kosovo 2	
Atlas ID	00124572	
Corporate outcome and output	Joint Project Outcome(s): By 2025, women and men in Kosovo, particularly youth and vulnerable groups, will have increased access to decent work and benefit from sustainable and inclusive economic development that is more resilient to impacts of climate change, disasters and emergencies.	
Country	Kosovo	
Region	Europe	
Date project document signed		
Project dates	Start	Planned end
	August 01, 2021	December 31.12. 2023
Project budget	970,000 EUR	
Project expenditure at the time of evaluation	970,000 EUR	
Funding source	The Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg	
Implementing party	United Nations Development Program, Kosovo World Health Organization, Kosovo United Nations Volunteers, Kosovo	

Evaluation information		
Evaluation type (project/ outcome/thematic/country programme, etc.)	Project evaluation	
Final/midterm review/ other	Final evaluation	
Period under evaluation	Start	End
	August 01, 2021	December 31, 2023
Evaluators	Ilir Hoxha	
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Evaluation dates	Start	Completion
	October 20, 2023	December 15, 2023

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DCO	Development Coordinator's Office
DIM	Direct Implementation Modality
E&H	Environment and Health
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ECEH	European Center for Environment and Health
EU	European Union
HK	Healthier Kosovo
HCWs	Health Care Workers
JP	Joint Project
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KCCCS	Kosovo's Climate Change Council Secretariat
KEN	Kosovo Environmental Network
KEPA	Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency
KHI	Kosovo Hydrometeorological Institute
MCC	Millenium Challenge Corporation
MEE	Ministry of Economy and Environment
MESPI	Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure
MFK	Millennium Foundation Kosovo
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
NIPHK	National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo of Kosovo
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development - Development Assistance Committee
PM	Particulate Matter
PSC	Project Steering Committee
UNDC	UN Development Coordinator
UNDG	UN Development Group
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
TOR	Terms of Reference
TOT	Training of Trainers
UHCSK	University Hospital and Clinical Service of Kosovo
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNEO	United Nations Ethics Office
UNKT	United Nations Kosovo Team
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Healthier Kosovo (HK) project, initiated in 2017 as a joint effort by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Volunteers (UNV), and World Health Organization (WHO), focused on addressing the impact of air pollution on human health in Kosovo. The project has successfully catalysed institutional coordination, built community engagement, and raised public awareness through various campaigns. The Healthier Kosovo 2 (HK2) aimed to reduce the burden of environment-related diseases further, aligning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and WHO principles for a Healthy Recovery from COVID-19. HK2 outlined specific outcomes and outputs, emphasising reducing exposure to air pollution and managing health threats from medical waste. The project's implementation followed a joint approach with pass-through funding and interconnected activities guided by a Project Steering Committee (PSC). Strategic assumptions, including continuity amid central elections and flexibility in response to COVID-19, underpinned the project's strategy. Kosovo's progress in climate change, legislative advancements, and international engagement reflect its commitment to global climate action. The project addressed cross-cutting issues, such as gender equality and human rights, ensuring inclusivity.

The evaluation of the HK2 project aims to provide a comprehensive assessment, offering evidence and insights to inform decision-making for various stakeholders, including policymakers, funders, and implementing partners. It encompasses an analysis of achievements, challenges, and lessons learned, contributing to the program unit's evaluation plan and enhancing overall strategy and effectiveness. Through a nuanced examination that covers specific regions and target groups, the evaluation involves collaboration with the program team, incorporating a thorough desk review, field visits, and interviews with key stakeholders. The final, gender-responsive evaluation of HK2 is intended to review relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, results, and overall impact, adhering to UN norms. It seeks to gather perceptions and data from partners, stakeholders, and beneficiaries, analysing factors influencing progress and identifying unintended outcomes. Criteria for evaluation include project design, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, stakeholders and partnership strategy, Theory of Change, human rights, and gender considerations. The insights derived from this evaluation will provide a valuable understanding of the project's strengths, weaknesses, and impact, guiding future strategies for environmental and health initiatives in Kosovo.

The evaluation of the HK2 project employed a comprehensive and ethical approach aligned with UNDP standards. The methodology followed recognised frameworks, including UNEG Evaluation Guidelines and OECD-DAC Criteria, ensuring credibility and integrity. Emphasising human rights, gender equality, and protection, the evaluation demonstrated a commitment to socially responsible research. Data collection methods involved document reviews and interviews, adopting a pragmatic mixed-method approach to triangulate findings. The extensive desk review provided essential context, and in-depth interviews with key stakeholders and existing quantitative data contributed to a nuanced understanding. While the planned focus group discussions were reconsidered, a gender-balanced set of 23 interviews was conducted. Thematic analysis guided data processing, and a triangulation approach enhanced reliability. Each respondent provided consent, ensuring ethical conduct and the credibility of the evaluation. The findings not only identified lessons learned but also proposed well-informed recommendations.

The HK2 project emerges from a comprehensive evaluation as a well-designed, contextually relevant initiative. Aligned with Kosovo's urgent health and environmental needs, particularly accentuated during the COVID-19 pandemic, the project's interconnected focus on environmental and public health underscores its ongoing importance. Its objectives harmonise with Kosovo's climate initiatives, legislative progress, and international commitments, positioning it as a relevant contributor to the nation's sustainable development amid climate challenges. The project has proven effective in addressing the needs of diverse target groups through collaborative efforts with gov-

ernment entities, donors, and municipalities. Its commitment to gender equality, proactive environmental engagement, and rigorous procedures ensured its effectiveness and adaptability, focusing on innovative waste management and establishing a solid foundation for future endeavours.

The evaluation further highlights the project's efficiency in implementation, demonstrating an adept approach to resource utilisation and a commitment to avoiding duplication of efforts. The project's sustainability efforts have laid the foundations for lasting benefits beyond immediate activities, fostering collaboration in capacity building and policy development. While concerns about the project's duration exist, it has showcased resilience within supportive legal frameworks and governance structures. Stakeholder engagement and partnership strategies have been robust, with the project effectively aligning with governmental policies, fostering valuable collaborations, and ensuring efficient cooperation arrangements. The evaluation validates the Theory of Change, emphasising its feasibility and realism, providing essential insights for future strategies. The project has proactively integrated gender considerations and human rights principles, showcasing a commitment to inclusivity, empowerment, and social justice. Overall, the HK2 project is a successful and impactful initiative, contributing significantly to environmental health and sustainability in Kosovo.

From a thorough evaluation, the recommendations offer practical guidance for the HK2 project and potential future initiatives, emphasising sustainability and project exit strategies. These recommendations address various aspects, systematically categorised into planning and implementation, programmatic improvements, and ideas for new interventions. In the planning and implementation, suggestions include enhancing early planning and engagement, adaptability through contingency planning, fostering multi-stakeholder engagement, and establishing robust communication channels. Programmatic improvements are proposed through capacity building, health impact assessments, innovative community engagement, sustainability via institutionalisation, and strategic resource allocation. This category also highlights the importance of continuous gender mainstreaming, periodic evaluation, and long-term advocacy. Ideas for new interventions span institutional capacity building, Heat Action Plans, broadening project scope, involving even more students and volunteers, promoting public space prototypes, adapting to changing circumstances, and fostering cultural change.

1. INTRODUCTION

This evaluation seeks to comprehensively assess all project aspects, covering its planning and implementation phases. The primary objective is to review and evaluate the project's relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, results, and overall impact. Based on these assessments, strategic recommendations will be formulated to guide future decision-making in environment and health for participating UN agencies and project stakeholders, aligning with the United Nations' Norms and Standards for Evaluation to ensure a rigorous and comprehensive approach. The evaluation process will thoroughly examine the project area, collecting perceptions, aspirations, feedback, and relevant data from partners, stakeholders, and beneficiaries. An objective analysis of this data will provide valuable insights into the project's implementation, aiming to identify key factors that either facilitated or hindered its progress. Furthermore, the evaluation will scrutinise the program's overall performance and impact, shedding light on both intended and unintended outcomes. The final evaluation's objectives include assessing the project results against the planned goals and objectives and evaluating their relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact, with special attention to identifying any unintended program results. The evaluation aims to extract valuable lessons from the project's implementation and formulate strategic, forward-looking recommendations to guide further support in Kosovo's environmental and health activities.

Several criteria are crucial for understanding the project's significance and impact. Firstly, the assessment of project design & contextual relevance addresses why the project is tailored to the specific needs and challenges of the Kosovo community, evaluating its appropriateness in addressing local environmental and health issues. Effectiveness becomes pivotal as it delves into whether the project achieved its objectives and delivered the intended outcomes. It offers insights into tangible results like air pollution reduction, public awareness enhancement, and improved institutional capacities. Project efficiency is essential for determining how efficiently resources, including time, budget, and team, were utilised to ensure cost-effective interventions and maximum impact. Sustainability is essential for evaluating the project's long-term positive outcomes and exploring whether initiatives can persist beyond project completion through community involvement or institutionalisation. Stakeholders and partnership strategy are vital for assessing the inclusivity of the project's approach, ensuring diverse perspectives are considered, and partnerships are leveraged effectively. Scrutinising the Theory of Change or results/outcome map provides a logical framework for understanding how interventions bring about positive environmental and health practice changes. Integrating Human rights and Gender considerations ensures the project respects human rights principles and promotes gender equality, addressing disparities and ensuring equal access to benefits. By comprehensively evaluating these criteria, the assessment provides valuable insights into the project's strengths, weaknesses, and overall impact, informing future strategies and decision-making processes in the realm of environment and health in Kosovo.

The evaluation caters to a diverse audience, including the Embassy of Luxembourg in Kosovo, implementing partners, institutional partners at national and local levels, and other project collaborators. The key objectives involve extracting lessons learned, understanding project effectiveness, sustainability, and efficiency, and identifying best practices and project relevance. The Embassy of Luxembourg seeks to align its investment with project goals and inform future funding decisions. Implementing partners aim to enhance their strategies for future project implementation. In contrast, institutional partners at national and local levels aim to assess the project's impact on the community and improve collaboration efficiency. Other partners seek insights into project effectiveness, sustainability, and relevance for future engagements. The anticipated use of the evaluation results is primarily to design new interventions. The lessons learned, effective strategies, sustainability assessments, efficiency insights, best practices, and project relevance collectively serve as a foundation for stakeholders to refine and tailor future interventions, ensuring informed decision-making, improved strategies, and more impactful, sustainable projects in

Kosovo.

The Healthier Kosovo 1 project, initiated in 2017 as a joint effort between the UNDP, UNV, and the WHO, represents a pioneering initiative in the intersection of environment and health in Kosovo. Focused on addressing air pollution and its impact on human health, the project has achieved notable success in catalysing institutional coordination, building an active community through initiatives like the Kosovo Environmental Network (KEN), and raising public awareness through campaigns like #ecokosovo2 and #ecokosovo3. Key institutional stakeholders have played crucial roles, including the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Economy and Environment (MEE). Responding to the COVID-19 crisis in 2020, the project redirected funds to procure essential medical equipment. As the first phase concluded, the Healthier Kosovo 2 aimed to further reduce the burden of environment-related diseases, focusing on addressing air pollution, COVID-19 waste management, and the impacts of climate change. Aligned with Sustainable Development Goals and the WHO Manifesto, HK2 sought to ensure healthy lives, promote sustainable cities, and combat climate change. The project also supported Kosovo's environmental protection laws by enhancing public access to information and fostering participation. HK2 provided technical assistance to institutions, accelerated legal and institutional frameworks, and collaborated with the public and Civil Society Organizations to raise awareness and develop capacities. Notably, the project recognises the disproportionate impact of environmental issues on women and underserved communities, emphasising the social and gender benefits of investing in environmental mitigation.

The report is structured to inform readers, beginning with a detailed intervention description. This is followed by an extensive elaboration of the evaluation scope, clarifying the parameters and objectives. The methods and data analysis are thoroughly outlined, ensuring transparency and replicability. Key findings are presented, offering a concise overview of the evaluation outcomes. The report then delves into conclusions drawn from the evaluation, highlighting the significance of the findings. Lessons learned from the intervention are articulated, providing valuable insights for future initiatives. Recommendations are presented to guide future decision-making and actions. Overall, this structured presentation addresses the diverse needs of the report's intended users, offering a comprehensive knowledge of the intervention, its evaluation scope, methodologies employed, key findings, conclusions, lessons learned, and actionable recommendations. The added appendixes serve as a valuable resource for those requiring more nuanced details, ensuring that the report meets the specific information needs of its audience.

2. INTERVENTION DESCRIPTION

The Healthier Kosovo 1 (HK1) project, initiated in 2017 as a joint effort by the UNDP, UNV, and WHO, focused on addressing the impact of air pollution on human health in Kosovo. The project has successfully catalysed institutional coordination, built community engagement, and raised public awareness through various campaigns. The key stakeholders include the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Economy and Environment (MEE).

HK2 aimed to reduce further the burden of environment-related diseases, including those stemming from air pollution, COVID-19-related waste, and the impacts of climate change on health. The project aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically targeting SDG 3, SDG 11, and SDG 13. It also adheres to the principles of the WHO Manifesto for a Healthy Recovery from COVID-19.

The proposed intervention sought to benefit from the support of the Embassy of Luxembourg and involved implementing partners UNDP, UNV, and WHO, along with institutional and other project partners. The overarching objective was to enhance the resilience of Kosovo's population to environmental health threats.

The objective of Healthier Kosovo 2 aligns with the Kosovo United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025, focusing on priority area 3. This priority aims to enhance access to decent work, especially for youth and vulnerable groups, fostering sustainable and inclusive economic development resilient to climate change, disasters, and emergencies. The project also contributed directly to outcome 3 of the "Results and Resources Framework for Kosovo* 2021-2025," which focuses on building resilience to shocks and crises. Specific activities outlined in the Results Framework aimed to ensure the achievement of the project's outcomes and outputs.

The project aimed to achieve these through two main outputs: (1) reducing exposure to air pollution and climate-related health threats and (2) mitigating health threats from medical waste. The former involved building on the achievements of the first phase, addressing gaps in policy enforcement, local governance, and public awareness. Special attention was given to household air pollution, with interventions targeting institutional capacity building and community awareness.

The second output focuses on managing medical waste, particularly infectious waste generated during health emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic. The project aimed to establish effective waste management protocols, train healthcare workers, and improve overall waste management systems in health facilities. Through these activities, HK2 aimed to contribute to the overall well-being of the Kosovo population, aligning with national and international sustainable development priorities.

The project implementation followed a joint approach with pass-through funding and interconnected activities, emphasising the importance of a functional governance structure. At the strategic level, the PSC played a crucial role in providing overall guidance and strategic direction. Chaired by the Development Coordinator and high-level representatives from relevant ministries, UNDP, UNV, WHO, and the donor, the PSC ensured consensus-based decision-making. Regular meetings monitored progress, decided on strategic directions, and assessed project relevance and effectiveness. At the implementation level, UNDP, UNV, and WHO managed individual and joint activities within their frameworks, with UNDP serving as the convening agent. The PSC, as part of the Quality Assurance process, reviewed project progress, addressed vital questions, and performed three functions: Executive (UNDP with UNV and WHO), Senior Supplier (Government of Luxembourg/The Embassy of Luxembourg), and Beneficiary (national stakeholders). Ongoing communication among key representatives ensured the high-quality delivery of project outputs.

The project's strategy is underpinned by critical assumptions to mitigate potential risks. In the face of changes due to central elections, where priorities of environment and health institutions tend to shift, the project assumed continuity by collaborating with permanent staff, maintaining the focus on advancing the environmental and health agenda. The project took a flexible approach

to address the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, potential hindrances to physical gatherings, and disruptions to programmatic planning and implementation. It anticipated that central institutions would be open to adapting to alternative implementation methods, such as online teleconferencing tools, and that the COVID-19 epidemiological situation would remain stable based on past project experiences.

Kosovo's Climate Change Council Secretariat (KCCCS) has made significant strides since its establishment in 2022, as evidenced by the outcomes of the 6th meeting held in September 2023. Kosovo's progress in climate change aligns with national priorities, UNSDCF 2021-2025 priorities, corporate multi-year funding frameworks, and Strategic Plan goals. In its commitment to combat climate change, Kosovo has implemented legislative improvements, including the approval of crucial laws such as the Law on Climate Change and the Law on Building Energy Performance. The National Climate and Energy Plan, supported by GIZ and the German Economics Team, further underscores Kosovo's dedication. The engagement in international forums such as COP27 and participation in projects like the GEF regional initiative on the Drin Basin phase 2 demonstrate Kosovo's commitment to global climate action. Legislative advancements, adaptation measures, and international engagement collectively position Kosovo's climate agenda within broader frameworks, contributing to a sustainable and resilient future.

The HK2 project addressed several cross-cutting issues to ensure its inclusivity and effectiveness. It strongly emphasises gender equality, human rights, and the inclusion of marginalised groups, aligning with broader goals of leaving no one behind. The project sought to create a more equitable and sustainable impact by incorporating these considerations into its intervention strategies. The total resources allocated, amounting to 970,000 EUR, encompass financial and human resources, reflecting the commitment to robust implementation.

The project operated in a complex social, political, economic, and institutional landscape in Kosovo. The region faces environmental challenges intertwined with these factors, necessitating a nuanced approach to intervention. Kosovo's social and political context and economic factors present challenges and opportunities for the project's implementation. The geographic landscape further adds intricacies to the intervention, demanding a tailored response to local conditions.

Despite its noble goals, the project encounters design weaknesses, particularly the challenge of being a small project addressing substantial environmental objectives. This imbalance in scale poses implementation constraints, requiring strategic planning to maximise impact within resource limitations. Identifying and addressing these design weaknesses will be crucial for optimising the intervention's logic and overcoming challenges, ultimately ensuring the project's success in contributing to Kosovo's environmental goals.

3. EVALUATION SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

3.1. Evaluation purpose and scope

The evaluation aims to assess the program's effectiveness and impact, providing valuable evidence and insights to inform decision-making processes. Its scope encompasses a thorough analysis of the program's achievements, challenges, and lessons learned, with the results serving a diverse range of stakeholders, including program managers, policymakers, funders, and implementing partners. Policymakers will utilise the evaluation outcomes to shape policy decisions and allocate resources, while funders will gauge the program's impact to decide on continued funding. Additionally, the evaluation will significantly contribute to the program unit's evaluation plan, offering essential data and insights for ongoing monitoring and evaluation efforts. By aligning with the program unit's evaluation plan, this assessment will bolster the overall evaluation strategy, enhancing the program's effectiveness in achieving its objectives.

The evaluation comprehensively covers various aspects of the intervention, providing a nuanced assessment of its effectiveness and impact. This analysis spans the entire project duration, delving into different stages of implementation to understand progress, challenges, and outcomes at each phase. It focuses on specific regions or communities where the intervention operates and identifies the primary and secondary target groups, including particular demographics, beneficiaries, or stakeholders directly or indirectly influenced by the intervention. The assessment encompasses a wide array of activities to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the impact of individual components within the broader intervention.

The evaluation was performed in close collaboration with the Program team. This process involved a thorough desk review of project-related documents and UNDP evaluation policies, contributing to the inception report. The report outlines the chosen methodology, work plan, technical instruments, and evaluation questions. On-site field visits, meetings, discussions, and interviews with key stakeholders, including government ministries, educational institutions, CSOs, and beneficiaries, were conducted. The Evaluation Team also conducted interviews and meetings with UNDP senior management and the HK2 team.

The evaluation report was finalised based on feedback received from implementing partners. This comprehensive report includes sections detailing the evaluation's methodology, findings, conclusions, and strategic recommendations. The recommendations are addressed to specific project partners, ensuring targeted and actionable insights.

3.2. Evaluation objective

This evaluation is intended to comprehensively assess all aspects of the Project, including its planning and implementation phases. The **primary objective** of this final evaluation is to review and evaluate the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, results, and overall impact of the Project. Strategic recommendations would be formulated based on these assessments, guiding future decision-making in environment and health for participating UN agencies and project stakeholders. The evaluation process would adhere to the United Nations' Norms and Standards for Evaluation, ensuring a rigorous and comprehensive approach.

The evaluation comprehensively views the project area, gathering perceptions, aspirations, feedback, and relevant data from partners, stakeholders, and beneficiaries. This data was supposed to undergo objective analysis, providing valuable insights into the project's implementation. The evaluation aims to identify key factors that have either facilitated or hindered the project's progress. Furthermore, it scrutinises the overall performance and impact of the program, shedding light on both intended and unintended outcomes.

The **objectives** of this final evaluation encompass assessing the project results against the planned goals and objectives and evaluating their relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact. Additionally, the evaluation aims to extract valuable lessons from the project's

implementation and draw strategic, forward-looking recommendations. These recommendations will guide further support in Kosovo's environmental and health activities.

3.3. Evaluation criteria and questions

The evaluation of the project focuses on several key criteria to provide a comprehensive analysis of its impact and effectiveness. Firstly, Project design & contextual relevance to determine how well the project was tailored to the specific needs and challenges of the Kosovo community. This criterion evaluates the appropriateness of the project's design in addressing local environmental and health issues. Secondly, effectiveness examines how the project achieved its objectives and delivered the intended outcomes. This assessment delves into the project's tangible results, measuring its success in reducing air pollution, enhancing public awareness, and improving institutional capacities. Project efficiency is also a key criterion, evaluating how efficiently the project utilised its resources, including time, budget, and team. The assessment also focuses on the cost-effectiveness of the interventions, ensuring that resources are optimised to achieve maximum impact. Sustainability was another vital aspect, examining the project's ability to maintain its positive outcomes over the long term. This criterion assesses whether the project's initiatives and improvements can continue after completion through community involvement, institutionalisation, or other means, ensuring lasting benefits for the Kosovo community. Stakeholders and Partnership Strategy were evaluated to determine the effectiveness of the project's collaboration with various stakeholders, including government entities, civil society organisations, and local communities. The assessment focuses on the inclusivity of the project's approach, ensuring that diverse perspectives are considered and partnerships are leveraged effectively. Additionally, the evaluation scrutinises the Theory of Change or Results/Outcome Map to understand the logical framework guiding the project. It assesses the causal linkages between project activities, outputs, outcomes, and impacts. It provides insights into how the project's interventions were expected to bring about positive environmental and health practice changes. Human rights and Gender considerations were also integrated into the evaluation, examining whether the project respected human rights principles and promoted gender equality. This assessment ensures that the project addresses gender disparities, empowers women, and ensures equal access to benefits for all community members, irrespective of gender or background. By thoroughly evaluating these criteria, the assessment provides valuable insights into the project's strengths, weaknesses, and overall impact, informing future strategies and decision-making processes in the realm of environment and health in Kosovo.

Criteria: Project design & contextual relevance

The evaluation scrutinised the project's design and contextual relevance by considering various factors. It assessed the validity of the project's objectives, examining whether they were still relevant and aligned with the community's current needs. Cross-cutting issues such as environment, gender equality, women's empowerment, a human rights-based approach, and social standards were evaluated to determine their integration within the project's framework. The assessment explored whether the project effectively addressed the unique needs of job seekers and how gender equality was incorporated, including overcoming any obstacles encountered during implementation. Additionally, the evaluation examined if procedures and beneficiaries were respected and integrated into the program. The appropriateness of the project's design in achieving its intended results and outcomes was analysed, considering any modifications made during implementation and their impact on design improvements. Furthermore, the evaluation assessed the clarity and effectiveness of coordination, management, and financing arrangements, evaluating their contribution to institutional strengthening and local ownership within the program.

Criteria: Project's effectiveness

The evaluation assessed the project's effectiveness by evaluating the extent to which the project outputs were achieved and if they progressed as planned within the program timeline. It analysed the factors influencing the progress or delays in attaining products and results, identifying good practices, successful experiences, or transferable examples. The evaluation also examined the

quality of interventions and results obtained in collaboration with key project stakeholders. Additionally, it investigated whether any changes in the overall context in Kosovo impacted project implementation and overall results, providing insights into the project's adaptability and resilience in response to changing circumstances.

Criteria: Project efficiency

The evaluation assessed project efficiency by examining the effectiveness of support provided to project beneficiaries by implementing partners and evaluating the active involvement of the target population in program implementation, exploring the various modes of participation. It analysed the factors influencing progress or delays in achieving products and results, identifying good practices, successful experiences, or transferable examples. The evaluation also scrutinised the quality of interventions and results obtained with main project stakeholders, evaluating the timely implementation of activities within planned financial resources. Moreover, it investigated the presence of any duplication of efforts among stakeholders and implementing partners, assessing how coordination was managed between these bodies and partners to avoid redundancy.

Criteria: Project sustainability

The evaluation scrutinised the project's sustainability by assessing whether it had established conditions to ensure the benefits continued beyond the project activities. It analysed the institutionalisation of overall capacity development efforts, examining whether an approach or model had been developed that could be disseminated throughout Kosovo. The evaluation questioned the adequacy of the project's duration to ensure the sustainability of interventions and explored contemporary and innovative approaches introduced by the project to address unemployment issues. It investigated how the project provided the sustainability of its results and impacts, including strengthened capacities and improved practices. Additionally, the evaluation assessed potential risks posed by legal frameworks, policies, and governance structures that could jeopardise the sustainability of project benefits. It also evaluated the level of stakeholders' ownership, determining whether it was sufficient to sustain the project benefits in the long term, providing crucial insights into the project's sustainability efforts and potential recommendations for future strategies and programs.

Criteria: Stakeholders and partnership strategy

The evaluation assessed aligning the project's objectives and outcomes with governmental and sectoral policies, ensuring consistency and support. It examined the extent to which partnerships were actively sought and established, evaluating the synergies created in delivering assistance. Stakeholder support for the project's long-term objectives was gauged, considering the efficiency and satisfaction of cooperation arrangements between the Project Team, public institutions, and the private sector. The evaluation analysed the quality and timeliness of partners' inputs, determining whether partners had fulfilled their responsibilities effectively. It also explored the project's contribution to the UN Country Strategy and identified new partners that had emerged unexpectedly. Additionally, the evaluation scrutinised the project's adherence to commitments promoting local ownership, alignment, harmonisation, management for development results, and mutual accountability, providing valuable insights into the effectiveness of the project's partnership strategy.

Criteria: Theory of Change or results/outcome map

The evaluation thoroughly examined the project's Theory of Change or logic model in the past. It scrutinised its feasibility and realism by evaluating the underlying assumptions, factors, and risks considered during its formulation. This analysis aimed to uncover the strengths and potential weaknesses of the project's conceptual framework, providing critical insights into its design and approach. The evaluation assessed the assumptions' adequacy and how effectively risks and factors were integrated into the model.

Criteria: Human rights

The evaluation meticulously examined the extent to which the project upheld human rights principles, particularly focusing on vulnerable and marginalised populations such as poor communities, minority groups, individuals with physical disabilities, and women. This scrutiny aimed to assess the inclusivity and equity of the project's interventions, determining whether these disadvantaged groups genuinely benefited from the initiatives. By analysing the outcomes and impacts on these vulnerable communities, the evaluation shed light on the project's success in promoting social justice, equality, and the fulfilment of human rights. Furthermore, this assessment gauged the tangible benefits these groups received and delved into the project's approach to ensuring their active participation, inclusion, and representation throughout the implementation process. The evaluation explored the measures taken to address the unique challenges faced by these communities, examining whether the project's strategies had effectively empowered them and improved their overall well-being.

Criteria: Gender

The evaluation critically assessed the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment throughout the project's design, implementation, and monitoring phases. It examined the extent to which the project effectively addressed gender disparities and promoted women's empowerment, evaluating the accuracy and representativeness of the gender marker data assigned to the project. Additionally, the evaluation scrutinised the project's impact on positive changes in gender equality, considering both intended outcomes and unintended effects. By exploring these dimensions, the assessment provided a comprehensive analysis of the project's efforts in fostering gender equality and women's empowerment, highlighting successful strategies and identifying areas for improvement.

4. EVALUATION APPROACH AND METHODS

4.1 Evaluation approach

The proposed methodology was aligned closely with the UNDP approach to evaluations outlined in the UNDP Evaluation Guidelines 2021. This ensured that the evaluation adhered to well-established standards and guidelines, including the UNEG Evaluation Guidelines, OECD-DAC Criteria for Evaluating Development Assistance, UNEG Guidelines for Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations, and other pertinent United Nations Ethics Office (UNEO) guidelines. By following these recognised frameworks, the evaluation process guarantees a comprehensive and ethical assessment. This alignment with international standards ensured the credibility and integrity of the evaluation, providing valuable insights grounded in ethical practices and rigorous methodologies.

4.2 Data collection methods

The project has been effectively evaluated in alignment with the Terms of Reference (TOR). The consultant utilised suitable quantitative or qualitative methods, encompassing activities such as comprehensive document reviews and engaging with stakeholders, partners, and beneficiaries through interviews during field visits. Both primary and secondary data sources were integrated to enhance the depth of analysis. Given the time constraints of the evaluation, a pragmatic mixed-method approach was recommended and implemented. This approach involved a meticulous desk review, analysis of quantitative data, and conducting interviews. By adopting this mixed-method approach, using quantitative and qualitative data from primary and secondary sources, the evaluation findings were triangulated effectively, aligning with the research questions outlined in the TOR. The consultant remained flexible, revising the methodological approach in consultation with key stakeholders, especially the intended users and those directly impacted by the evaluation results. This ensured that the methods employed provided comprehensive and valuable insights.

Desk review

Secondary, qualitative and qualitative

The consultant conducted an exhaustive review of a wide array of pertinent documents associated with project implementation. This comprehensive document analysis encompassed policies, strategic frameworks, project proposals, detailed project reports, evaluations from previous project phases, and reports generated by various governmental, non-governmental, and inter-governmental stakeholders. By delving into this extensive pool of information, the consultant aimed to gather a nuanced understanding of the project's historical context, its alignment with overarching policies and strategies, and the diverse perspectives and insights shared by different agencies and stakeholders. This meticulous document review served as the foundational groundwork, providing essential context and knowledge necessary for the subsequent phases of the evaluation process.

In-depth Interviews

Primary, qualitative

The consultant conducted key informant interviews with all relevant project stakeholders, as suggested in the TOR. These stakeholders included the Embassy of Luxembourg in Kosovo, the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (MESPI), the National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo (NIPHK), the Kosovo Hydrometeorological Institute (KHMI), municipalities of Prishtina/Pristina, Fushe-Kosova/Kosovo Polje, Obiliq/Obilic, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Hani i Elezit/Elez Han, Graqanica/Graçanica educational institutions, Civil Society Organizations, UNDP senior management, WHO, UNV, HK2 team, and other beneficiaries. Attention was given to the gender balance of respondents. The final list of targeted stakeholders interviewed was composed and agreed upon with UNDP and the project team. The interviews were performed onsite in person. In cases where it was not possible, online tools were

used. In-depth interviews that examined all themes of interest were used, and 23 interviews were conducted.

Focus Groups Discussions

Primary, qualitative

Initially, it was planned that conducting focused and inclusive focus group discussions would be helpful in the evaluation methodology. However, it was deemed unnecessary to proceed with this approach upon further consideration and in close consultation with UNDP staff.

Existing quantitative data

Secondary, quantitative

The evaluation team considered various data sources, including the World Health Organization and the World Bank (WB) data repositories, that collect information on health indicators at the global level. Upon closer examination, it was determined that these data sources were not as helpful as initially anticipated for assessing project indicators. Instead, project partners and other sources provided more relevant and applicable data for evaluating the specific effect of the intervention. Therefore, the focus shifted towards utilising the data provided by project partners and other sources for a more accurate assessment of the project's impact.

4.3 Design of data collection tools

The design of data collection instruments, such as data extraction sheets for desk review, interview guides, and focus group guides, considered all relevant themes of the project evaluation. All relevant evaluation criteria highlighted in TOR (i.e., project design and contextual relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, stakeholders and partnership strategy, theory of change or results/outcome map, human rights, and gender) were used as themes for organising research instruments. The in-depth interview guide is listed in the appendixes section.

4.4 Data analysis

The qualitative data from primary and secondary sources were meticulously coded and analysed. This qualitative analysis aligned with all the relevant themes specified in the evaluation criteria outlined in the TOR and above. The evaluation delved deep into the rich qualitative data, extracting nuanced insights and patterns related to the project's intervention areas.

Thematic analysis was used for analytical purposes. Themes were the main evaluation criteria, while subthemes were formed based on evaluation questions. Thematic analysis systematically coded qualitative data, such as interview transcripts or textual sources, to uncover recurring concepts and ideas. These themes were carefully reviewed, defined, and named, capturing the essential concepts present in the data.

A triangulation approach was adopted to enhance the reliability and credibility of the evaluation. Triangulation involved comparing and contrasting the findings from both qualitative and quantitative primary and secondary data sources. Cross-verifying the results obtained through different methods made the analysis more robust and trustworthy. Through this comprehensive analysis, the evaluation not only identified valuable lessons learned but also proposed well-informed recommendations to improve the future efforts of HK2.

4.5 Ethical considerations

The evaluation process rigorously adhered to the ethical principles delineated in UNEG's Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation. The consultant undertaking the evaluation addressed critical issues during the design and implementation phases. Special attention was dedicated to upholding evaluation ethics, ensuring all ethical considerations were meticulously integrated into the evaluation procedures. Safeguarding the rights and confidentiality of information providers was paramount, with stringent measures in place to protect sensitive information and maintain the privacy of all involved stakeholders.

5. FINDINGS

The findings are structured around the evaluation questions, allowing report users to connect what was asked and what was found readily. Variances between planned and actual results and factors affecting the achievement of intended results have been explained.

5.1 Project design & contextual relevance

To what extent are the Project's objectives still valid?

To what extent are the cross-cutting issues (such as environment, gender equality, women empowerment, human rights-based approach, and social standards), principles and quality criteria?

Does the Project respond to the needs of the identified target groups and beneficiaries?

Were the unique needs of beneficiaries taken into consideration / to what extent was gender equality addressed?

Were there obstacles in responding to the programme?

Were all procedures and beneficiaries respected and mainstreamed within the programme implementation?

Was the design of the Project appropriate for reaching its results and outcomes?

Have any changes been made to the Project's design during the implementation? If yes, did they lead to significant design improvements?

Were coordination, management and financing arrangements clearly defined, and did they support institutional strengthening and local ownership?

The evaluation scrutinised the project's design and contextual relevance by considering various factors. It assessed the validity of the project's objectives, examining whether they were still relevant and aligned with the community's current needs. The assessment explored whether the project effectively addressed beneficiaries' unique needs and how gender equality was incorporated, including overcoming obstacles encountered during implementation. Additionally, the evaluation examined if procedures and beneficiaries were respected and integrated into the program. The appropriateness of the project's design in achieving its intended results and outcomes was analysed, considering any modifications made during implementation and their impact on design improvements.

The project objectives align well with the context and Kosovo's needs. Building on past achievements, the project is positioned to significantly contribute to enhanced waste management, environmental conservation, and public health resilience. The persisting environmental burden of disease, exacerbated by pollution and insufficient waste management systems, underscores the continued relevance of the project's objectives in safeguarding public health and the environment in Kosovo. Additionally, the broader environmental challenges in the region, such as air pollution and the impacts of climate change, further highlight the significance of the project's goals. The rapid assessment of medical waste during the COVID-19 pandemic in Kosovo has unveiled critical issues, including the absence of waste management protocols, inadequate training, and a lack of essential equipment. The pandemic underscores the urgency of addressing environmental health issues, particularly medical waste management. Healthcare facilities' substantial increase in infectious waste generation, especially since the COVID-19 outbreak, underscores the necessity for a robust and effective approach to medical waste management.

The project aims, and interventions are relevant primarily to Kosovo's overall direction in environmental issues. The Annual Progress Report of the Climate Change Agenda of Kosovo for 2022-2023 offers a comprehensive account of Kosovo's proactive measures to combat climate change. The report delves into various facets of Kosovo's climate initiatives, detailing legislative advancements, international engagements, and targeted adaptation measures. Notable legislative improvements, including the approval of pivotal laws such as the Law on Climate Change and the Law on Building Energy Performance, underscore Kosovo's commitment to integrating energy and climate goals. On the international stage, Kosovo's participation in COP27 and preparations for COP28 signifies its dedication to global climate action and its contribution to the international dialogue on climate change. Emphasising adaptation measures, such as mapping flood risks, the

FLAWS initiative, and developing a Flood Management Plan, illustrates Kosovo's efforts to enhance resilience and address climate-related challenges. In conclusion, the report vividly illustrates Kosovo's multifaceted journey toward sustainable development amidst climate change challenges, portraying its commitment to building a resilient and environmentally conscious future.

Table 5.1. Assessment of the relevance of the project objectives

Project objective	Relevance for country needs
Output 1.: Exposure to air pollution and climate-related health threats is reduced through improved institutional capacities and public awareness.	<p>Rating: Very high</p> <p>Analysis: Reducing exposure to air pollution and climate-related health threats is crucial for Kosovo's well-being. Improved institutional capacities ensure effective monitoring and mitigation, protecting public health from respiratory and cardiovascular risks. Climate change adaptation measures become more efficient, addressing rising temperatures and extreme weather events. Public awareness is equally vital, empowering individuals to adopt sustainable practices and fostering a collective commitment to environmental health.</p>
Output 2.: Health threats from medical waste are reduced through updated waste management protocols, safe waste collection and segregation and improved capacities of relevant institutions and Health Care Workers (HCW).	<p>Rating: Very high</p> <p>In Kosovo, mitigating health threats from medical waste is paramount. Updated waste management protocols and safe collection and segregation practices are essential for minimising infectious risks. Strengthening the capacities of relevant institutions and Health Care Workers (HCWs) ensures a systematic and secure disposal process. This proactive approach not only safeguards public health by reducing the spread of infections but also enhances the overall resilience of the healthcare system.</p>

The project has consistently demonstrated alignment with the cross-cutting issues, principles, and quality criteria outlined in the evaluation framework. From an environmental perspective, the project has adhered to sustainable practices, acknowledging the interconnectedness of environmental health with its interventions. It has actively promoted gender equality promoting women's empowerment through inclusive strategies. The project's commitment to a human rights-based approach is evident in its thorough consideration of the rights and well-being of all stakeholders. Additionally, social standards have been prioritised, ensuring that the project aligns with ethical practices and international quality criteria, thereby upholding integrity and credibility.

The Project consistently addresses the identified needs of the target groups and beneficiaries, ensuring relevance across various domains in Kosovo. It remains attentive to the pressing issue of air pollution, recognising the health risks associated with pollution and implementing specific interventions. The focus on households as key contributors to air pollution aligns with the project's strategy, evidenced by initiatives such as discouraging coal use through subsidies for more efficient heating methods. The collaboration with government entities, other donors (i.e. MCC, JICA) and Prishtina Municipality reflects a comprehensive and collaborative approach. Similarly, while the project has made commendable strides in waste management, there is recognition of the need for broader implementation across institutions to achieve lasting impact.

The project has demonstrated a commitment to addressing the needs of beneficiaries, with a particular focus on gender equality to the extent possible. One notable achievement is its proactive engagement in issues previously unaddressed by governmental actors and other donors. For instance, the National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo (NIPHK) lacked comprehensive knowledge of climate change, and the project played a crucial role in broadening their perspective beyond the impact of higher temperatures on health. The project's strategic placement within the environmental sector, alongside significant actors such as MCC, JICA, GIZ, and SDC, further reflects its effectiveness in responding to beneficiaries' unique needs and overcoming potential obstacles.

The program demonstrated a commitment to respecting all procedures and beneficiaries, ensuring their mainstreaming within the implementation process. Feedback from multiple key informants affirmed that despite occasional time delays. A notable example of procedural adherence was the competitive call for NGO proposals focused on the environment, aligning with UNDP

procedures. Fourteen NGOs participated, and the selection process resulted in the inclusion of three. Competitive procedures were also maintained in various instances, such as selecting UNV volunteers in collaboration with the University of Prishtina. The program upheld rigorous internal procedures, including those for grant awards and procurement, to ensure that the most vulnerable and in-need beneficiaries derive maximum benefit from the initiative.

The project's design was deemed appropriate for achieving its intended results and outcomes. Described as well-placed with various elements spread across different aspects, the design effectively translated the program's vision into achievable goals. The pilot initiatives, conducted with a few tools, served as successful tests, allowing for the assessment of ambitions and paving the way for further investment. Respondents expressed satisfaction with the design's functionality in attaining specific results. In the emerging field of work, especially concerning waste management, the project's approach was considered adequate and well-supported, with substantial collaboration with the Ministry of Health to ensure continuous updates and alignment within the working group to develop standard operating procedures. The project's methodology was perceived as the optimal way to initiate work in a novel domain, allowing for risk mitigation, experiential learning for all stakeholders involved, and a solid foundation for future endeavours.

The project implementation did not witness any significant revisions, underscoring the validity of the initial design. However, there were some minor adjustments, particularly regarding the strategy for CSO Grant Recipients. These changes aimed to enhance the project's impact. An innovative initiative was introduced, allowing environmental CSOs, data science, and technology students to delve into noise pollution and urban sensing. Additionally, the time extension of the project was necessitated by delays primarily attributable to the challenging COVID-19 situation. While the project did not proceed with the digitalisation of the inspectorate for the environment due to cost considerations, these adaptations did not compromise the overall integrity of the design.

The project's coordination, management, and financing arrangements were deemed highly effective and well-defined, according to feedback from key agencies involved in its implementation. The project's design supported institutional strengthening and local ownership, as demonstrated by the collaborative efforts of UNDP, UNV, and WHO, each overseeing specific outcomes and activities. Their competence and efficient communication contributed significantly to achieving deliverables. The joint project also cooperated closely with the donor, the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and engaged with international organisations such as GIZ, JICA, and the WB. Implementing agencies expressed satisfaction with the collaborative nature of the joint project, emphasising successful outcomes despite potential complexities.

5.2 Project's effectiveness

To what extent have the Project outputs been achieved? Are they on track to be completed as planned during the Programme?

What factors contributed to progress or delay in achieving products and results?

What good practices, successful experiences, or transferable examples have been identified?

What is the quality of interventions and results achieved with main Project stakeholders?

Have any changes in the overall context in Kosovo affected Project implementation and overall results?

The evaluation scrutinised the project's effectiveness by assessing the realisation and alignment of project outputs with the planned program timeline. An analysis has been conducted on the factors influencing progress or delays in achieving products and results, identifying noteworthy practices, successful experiences, and transferable examples. Furthermore, the evaluation delved into the quality of interventions and results obtained through collaboration with key project stakeholders.

The Project has successfully attained a significant portion of its outputs, and the remaining objectives are on course to be completed as planned initially within the timeline. A comprehensive breakdown of achievements, categorised by each project output and corresponding indicators, is presented in Table 5.2 below. This table furnishes a detailed account of each indicator's targets and includes a rating system alongside concise descriptions summarising the analytical findings. This meticulous assessment ensures a comprehensive understanding of the Project's progress, highlighting its achievements and providing insights into effectively realising planned outcomes.

Table 5.2. Assessment of project effectiveness

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Rating and Evaluators' Analysis
1.1.a. # of digitalised systems that enable the Environmental Inspectorate to carry out inspection and control of cases in alignment with environmental laws and regulations in place	No digital system in place enables the Environmental Inspectorate to carry out inspection and control of cases in alignment with environmental laws and regulations in place	1 digitalised system established to enable the Environmental Inspectorate to carry out inspection and control of cases in alignment with environmental laws and regulations in place	Rating: Fully achieved Analysis: Opting against a digitalised system for the Environmental Inspectorate due to high costs, the project strategically diverted its efforts to support the Kosovo Hydrometeorological Institute (KHMI). The initiative aims to streamline KHMI's data and information management processes, encompassing content, records, and document retrieval, by developing a digital system. In addition, as part of alignment with climate adaptation goals, the project efficiently utilises vertical funds, facilitating the installation of new automatic monitoring stations for real-time data reporting. This initiative is vital for climate modelling and early flood warnings. To foster knowledge exchange, a study visit to Tirana benefited environmental inspectors from pilot municipalities.
1.1.b. # of local air pollution reduction plans	There are no local air pollution reduction plans	At least 2 local air pollution reduction plans were drafted	Rating: Surpassed Analysis: The project has notably exceeded its initial goal, fostering the development of air quality action plans in five municipalities: Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, Obiliq/Obilić, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Gračanica/Gračanica, and Hani i Elezit/Elez Han. It has also actively supported the air quality agenda in Prishtinë/Priština. These plans, crafted with guidance from international and national consultants, focus on reducing household and transport emissions while enhancing environmental awareness. Notably, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje and Obiliq/Obilić's plans have received official approval from municipal assemblies. Additionally, environmental inspectors in pilot municipalities have enhanced their skills. Gjilan/Gnjilane, Gračanica/Gračanica, and Hani i Elezit/Elez Han are on track to finalise their LAPAQs in 2023, aligning with legal requirements.
1.1.c. # of generated solutions to policy problems resulting from the behavioural insight study	No behavioural study has ever been used to generate solutions to policy problems.	At least 2 policy solutions to be generated from the behavioural insight study	Rating: Mostly achieved Analysis: The project supported a high-quality behavioural insights study with US-based NGO Ideas 42, aiming to generate at least two policy solutions. The creative policy solution enacted was "Shifting Transportation Behaviour in Prishtinë/Priština, Kosovo," utilising behavioural science to reduce car usage and curb air pollution. The intervention, a pilot policy solution, successfully shifted commuting behaviour, promoting alternatives like public transportation. The project collaborated with Ideas42 and the Municipality of Prishtinë/Priština, implementing an online system encouraging sustainable commuting. While the intervention successfully altered behaviours, it's acknowledged as a pilot policy, necessitating ongoing evaluation and collaboration for potential scalability and long-term impact on sustainable transportation in Prishtinë/Priština.
1.1.d. # of reports and Environmental Health Impact Assessments (EHIA) published by health institutions	There is no Environmental Health Impact Assessment (EHIA) published by health institutions.	At least 1 report on environmental impact on health and 1 Environmental Health Impact Assessment published by health institutions	Rating: Partly achieved Analysis: The activity was not implemented fully due to the unavailability of experts. Delays in securing experts to support the activity, specifically in training personnel at NIPHK and assisting them in the study's execution, were cited as the primary cause. However, preparatory work has been carried out, and experts are expected to visit in 2024, where the study is expected to be implemented. This study was supposed to be executed similarly to a study on air pollution (indicator 1.2.a), where experts played a crucial role.
1.2.a. # of indoor air pollution and related health impact assessments	No indoor air pollution health impact assessments	At least 1 assessment will be developed and published about indoor air pollution's impact on health pollution	Rating: Fully achieved Analysis: The project has made significant strides in tackling indoor air pollution from wood and coal for heating and cooking in Kosovo, a primary urban pollution source. Collaborating with WHO and the National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo (NIPHK), a pioneering household survey on indoor air pollution was conducted, assessing its health impacts. The study employed a WHO

			methodology, surveyed 2,000 randomly chosen households, and trained NIPHK staff for air quality measurements. Subsequently, a comprehensive report containing key findings and recommendations will be disseminated to stakeholders in 2023, marking a groundbreaking initiative addressing this pervasive issue.
1.2.b. % of the population in Kosovo that are aware of potential health threats from indoor air pollution	TBD once the project starts (data will be gathered through Public Pulse)	TBD once the baseline is set	Rating: No data, most likely achieved Analysis: The HK2 project effectively disseminated information to the Kosovo population by publishing air pollution reports and numerous events. However, specific data attributing the percentage of the population aware of potential health threats from indoor air pollution is unavailable. While social media reports and quantitative analysis suggest the indicator's likely achievement, the absence of data from Public Pulse, as intended by the project, or other substantive sources hinders the validation of this claim. Proximal data from social reports remains the primary basis for the conclusion that this indicator has been attained.
1.3.a. # of solutions implemented by Civil Society Organizations (grant recipients) in the area of environmental pollution	6 projects carried out by CSO in the first phase of the project	6 solutions Implemented by Environmental CSOs	Rating: Partly achieved Analysis: The project aimed to achieve a target of six solutions implemented by Environmental Civil Society Organizations (ECSOs) but only partially met this indicator, implementing three solutions. Nevertheless, the project's impact on Kosovo's environmental landscape and sustainable development is notable. Financial assistance was provided to three CSOs, facilitating projects addressing pollution reduction, scientific research, and environmental advocacy. The CSOs actively engaged in a consultation process emerged as influential players supporting the green transition. Noteworthy achievements include Eco Z's air quality workshops, EcoKos Women's empowerment of women farmers, and 7 Arte's commitment to sustainable river management in Mitrovica. The modified strategy for CSO Grant Recipients introduced a cutting-edge initiative involving environmental CSOs, students, and local experts addressing noise pollution through urban sensing.
1.3.b. # of policy analysis reports in the air quality management domain	No policy analysis reports on the area of environmental health have been published by institutions	1 policy analysis report drafted in the air quality	Rating: Mostly achieved Analysis: The project successfully met its target of publishing a substantial number of policy analysis reports on environmental health by various institutions. A thorough analysis of the air quality domain was conducted during the formulation of air quality plans for municipalities. Notably, these comprehensive analyses, initially absent from the plans, were seamlessly integrated. The integrated analyses are now published as part of action plans that include thorough situation analyses, providing a more comprehensive approach to addressing environmental health concerns.
1.3.c. # of innovative prototypes generated from the human-centred design cycle in selected municipalities	Human-centred design has never been used in the selected municipalities; no innovative prototypes have been generated	2 prototypes were generated from the human-centred design cycle in 2 municipality	Rating: Fully achieved Analysis: A co-design project involving 10 UNV volunteers, i.e. UP-recommended students, aimed to address air pollution through a nine-month engagement. The initiative included training for field research, encompassing desk research, qualitative interviews, and site visits to identify polluted neighbourhoods. Collaboration with NGO Space Sinteks led to greening prototypes aligned with the Urban Transformation Initiative—the methodology employed time sampling for pollution analysis, identifying hotspots like Velusha, Arberia, and Pejton. Field visit interviews informed solutions, emphasising central heating network extension and banning coal burning. Prototypes received full support from the Municipality of Prishtina, with translations of research into design and the launch of three user-friendly prototypes, including a vertical green prototype and green oasis, on December 6 th 2023.
1.3.d. # of revitalised parks as a result of the Parks Foundation platform	Parks Foundation is a pioneering intervention; no parks have been revitalised in the past using this methodology	1 park was revitalised as a result of the Parks Foundation platform	Rating: Fully achieved Analysis: The project, focused on co-designing parks through the Park Foundation, organised five workshops involving key stakeholders, including representatives from the Municipality of Prishtinë/Priština and local NGOs. The workshops aimed to identify critical needs for parks in the region. Through collaboration with the Assembly of Children, Save the Children, and the Directorate of Public Spaces and Parks, four additional workshops engaged over 50 children to address the urgent need for child-friendly spaces for ages 11 to 17. These workshops utilised an Urbanist AI tool, facilitating collaborative design processes. Municipal permits were secured to implement two approved designs in three locations, incorporating recycled materials and greenery to enhance child-friendly spaces near the main postal office, City Park, and the Park of Taukbahce.

1.3.e. # of UN Community Volunteers deployed to deliver awareness-raising activities on indoor/outdoor air pollution	No community volunteers have been deployed to carry out outreach activities regarding air pollution	10 UN Community volunteers were deployed to deliver awareness-raising activities on indoor/outdoor air pollution	Rating: Fully achieved Analysis: To enhance awareness of indoor/outdoor air pollution, a collaborative co-design initiative involved critical stakeholders like the Municipality of Prishtinë/Priština, Faculty of Architecture, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary, Xhemajl Mustafa School, and local NGO Fondacioni Jeshil. The initiative implemented a Green Wall Prototype at Xhemajl Mustafa Elementary School, encouraging student engagement with greenery, imparting permaculture skills, and promoting understanding of green spaces as an air pollution mitigation measure. The Healthier Kosovo Project successfully executed comprehensive awareness campaigns via social media, TV, radio, and billboards, reaching thousands online and engaging over 400 individuals in person. Specific campaigns included Kosovo Earth Days, The Crowdfunding Tree Initiative, and Eco Kosovo, contributing to public education on environmental threats.
1.4.a. Total # of people reached on social media through online campaigning on environment and health, measured via social media analytics (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter)	Facebook: 2.6 million people reached; Instagram: 1.6 million people reached; Twitter: 97,000 people reached (data gathered from social media analytics of #ecokosovo3)	No of people reached by the campaign on environment and health: Facebook: 3 million people reached; Instagram: 2 million people reached; Twitter: 140,000 people reached	Rating: Fully achieved Analysis: UNDP's initiative, "Engage the public for a sustainable lifestyle in Kosovo," employed innovative campaigns to address environmental concerns. The three-year Kosovo Earth Days campaign united prominent stakeholders, including the Ministry of Environment, MESPI, the Office of the President, and local CSOs, fostering collective environmental action. Key projects involved recycled plastic playgrounds, greenery planting, public tree planting, an awareness-raising hike at Mirusha Waterfalls, and an impactful online communication campaign. World Environment Day underscored Kosovo's circularity potential, while EcoKosovo#4 and Autostrada Biennale workshops empowered youth in environmental protection. This holistic approach aimed at instigating sustainable practices for a cleaner, greener future is corroborated by data from social media reports confirming the initiative's success.
1.5. # of trainings/workshops organised on climate change impact on health.	No specific trainings or workshops have been organised on this topic	At least 2 workshops on climate change and health were organised.	Rating: Surpassed Analysis: Three impactful events were successfully conducted. On March 29, 2023, a high-level kick-off meeting led by WHO Euro technical lead Dr Vladimir Kendrovski engaged key participants from MoH, KEPA, NIPHK, and international experts. This preceded a two-day climate change and health workshop, enhancing institutional capacities. Subsequently, a training session targeted over 30 environmental health professionals on the same day, emphasising effective monitoring approaches for climate change impacts. Further, a two-day training in April 2023, led by Mr James Creswick, concentrated on communicating health risks from climate change, contributing to increased knowledge and communication capacities among relevant stakeholders in Kosovo.
1.6. # of people reached on social media through online campaigning on climate change and health	No campaigns on climate change and health	No of people reached by the campaign on climate change: Facebook: 1.5 million people reached; Instagram: 1 million people reached; Twitter: 70,000 people reached	Rating: Mostly achieved Analysis: The UNDP Kosovo successfully launched an impactful Heat Wave Campaign to educate the public on the escalating risks of dangerously high temperatures due to climate change. The initiative reintroduced from the previous year, provided valuable awareness resources offering advice on identifying heat waves and appropriate responses. Amidst rising temperatures in Kosovo, a focused mini-campaign addressed health risks associated with intense heat waves, emphasising behavioural guidelines for the public. Additionally, the campaign leveraged International Self-care Day on July 24 to share health risk mitigation tips, particularly targeting vulnerable groups. The EcoKosovo4 photo contest, launched in November, furthered the cause by engaging influencers and creative content to raise awareness of environmental issues and inspire sustainable practices.
2.1. # of effective waste management protocols developed according to WHO recommendations and approved by the central institutions	No waste management protocols in place	At least 1 protocol will be developed and approved by central institutions on waste management protocol, according to WHO recommendation.	Rating: Surpassed Analysis: Within Output 2, the project played a crucial role in supporting health institutions, specifically the MoH and the University Hospital and Clinical Service of Kosovo (UHCSK), by aiding in the development and revision of waste management protocols. The initiative involved the creation of a comprehensive set of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for medical waste, with focused assistance to the working group responsible for finalising the SOP related to infectious waste management. Six SOPs were developed. Collaborating closely with the group and WHO consultants, the project incorporated international best practices and WHO guidance into the SOPs. Consequently, the Ministry of Health approved the SOPs, marking a proactive step in averting disease outbreaks within and beyond healthcare facilities.

2.2. # of HCWs that have received the educational material on waste management	No previous educational materials were provided to HCWs	At least 100 HCWs and patients received educational material on how to reduce health threats from medical waste	Rating: Surpassed Analysis: The project aimed to enhance awareness and knowledge regarding medical waste management, targeting healthcare professionals and patients. Approximately 180 professionals, including staff from secondary and tertiary hospitals, regional hospitals, and clinics within UCCK, received training on waste management practices. The initiative extended to private hospitals when relevant. Site visits were conducted to inform executive staff about waste management, emphasising their role as potential trainers. While the number of healthcare workers trained is surpassed, no information regarding patients receiving educational materials on medical waste is available. The project's focus on healthcare professionals signifies a significant step toward reducing health threats from medical waste, although patient education remains an area for potential expansion.
2.3. # of waste collection systems in place based on international standards	No effective waste management system in place based on international standards	1 waste management system in place based on international Standards	Rating: Mostly achieved Analysis: The project successfully aligned Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) with international standards for medical waste management. This involved an integrated assessment of the existing system and reallocating funds, initially designated for redundant efforts, to conduct training sessions and produce related materials. The procurement of waste collection equipment and supplies is underway, with expected completion by December, covering a significant portion of regional hospitals' and UCCK's needs. Delays were encountered due to SOP approval. The government has committed to covering the remaining needs, aligning with the health sector strategy. The project collaborated effectively with GIZ, complementing their focus on waste disposal and emphasising waste management within institutions.

Several factors contributed to delays in achieving products and results within the Healthier Kosovo 2 Project. The approval delay of Law No.08/L-025 on Air Protection impacted the finalisation and presentation of two draft LAPAQs to municipal assemblies in 2023. Delays in setting up the project under the pass-through funding modality and UNDP's international contractual reform affected hiring procedures globally. Despite a delayed start, rapid implementation occurred in 2022, with adequate planning during the less intensive April–June period. Procurement for hospital waste management equipment faced delays due to SOPs approval, with delivery expected by December. COVID-19-related challenges necessitated a no-cost extension. Changes in government posed challenges, emphasising the importance of partner feedback, while limitations in institutional staff and implementation issues also influenced project progress. The development of prototypes received positive ratings, though time constraints and external pressures affected the process.

Box 5.1. Factors influencing project implementation

Factors responsible for project delay	Factors responsible for project progress
<p>Delay in approval of the Law No.08/L-025 on Air Protection</p> <p>Delays in setting up the project under the pass-through funding modality</p> <p>Delays in procurement activities</p> <p>COVID-19-related challenges</p> <p>Time constraints and external pressures</p>	<p>Effective coordination among implementing partners</p> <p>Well-thought activities that matched the needs of national and local partners</p> <p>Strategical collaboration with national and local institutions, which is embedded in contextual policy and strategic developments</p> <p>Empowerment of communities and young people</p> <p>Multifaced realistic approach in project design and implementation</p>

Effective coordination among implementation partners has been pivotal in achieving the desired results and products within the Healthier Kosovo 2 Project. Well-thought and designed activities tailored to beneficiaries' needs have contributed significantly to successful outcomes. The project strategically collaborates with central and local institutions, focusing on policy formulation, law enforcement, and governance related to environmental issues. This involves supporting health impact assessments, developing medical waste protocols, and digitalising the Kosovo Hydrometeorological Institute data system at the central level. Locally, the project enhanced institutional

capabilities for environmental inspection and control, fostering effective monitoring and enforcement of air pollution regulations. Additionally, the project empowered communities and youth through grants and support, promoting a vibrant civil society dedicated to addressing environmental threats. Innovative environmental campaigns raise public awareness about climate change, heat waves, and associated health risks, encouraging individuals to reduce their carbon footprint and adopt protective measures during hot weather. The multifaceted approach of the Healthier Kosovo 2 Project engages various stakeholders, ensuring comprehensive progress toward environmental sustainability.

Table 5.2. Good practices, successful experiences, or transferable examples

Good practices, successful experiences, or transferable examples
Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement: The Healthier Kosovo 2 Project demonstrates the importance of engaging all stakeholders during project planning, involving central and local institutions, and fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration. The co-design process, involving various partners, proved beneficial in developing solutions and strategies to address environmental challenges effectively.
Capacity Building and Policy Development: The project emphasises the significance of capacity building and policy development, particularly at both central and local levels. This involves strengthening institutions through training, policy formulation, law enforcement, and governance initiatives, creating a foundation for informed decision-making.
Successful Transition from Phase 1: Based on lessons learned from Healthier Kosovo 1, the project successfully transitioned into Healthier Kosovo 2, addressing identified gaps and incorporating external evaluation recommendations. This underscores the adaptability and continuous improvement approach adopted by the project.
Innovative Approaches in Co-Design and Community Engagement: The co-design approach, involving youth and communities in finding solutions, has been pivotal. The project focuses on small-scale projects, grants, and community dialogues, including innovative interventions and participatory methods for addressing environmental issues.
Effective Collaboration with Partners: The project demonstrates successful collaboration with partners, such as UNV, universities, and civil society organisations. Partner roles are clearly defined based on competencies and strategic orientations, fostering a synergistic approach to addressing diverse environmental challenges.
Data-Driven Decision-Making: The project emphasises data quality improvement and diversified topics, shifting from local to central levels. This reflects a commitment to evidence-based decision-making, ensuring interventions align with Kosovo's real needs and challenges.
Adaptation to Changing Contexts: The project shows resilience and adaptability, addressing delays caused by external factors such as changes in government, contractual reforms, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite challenges, the implementation picked up speed, showcasing effective project management.
Focus on Community Sustainability: The project promotes sustainable community development by empowering communities and youth. Initiatives include grants, support for civil society organisations, and innovative interventions, fostering a vibrant civil society dedicated to addressing environmental threats.
Innovative Environmental Campaigns: The project employs innovative environmental campaigns, utilising various channels like social media, television, radio, and billboards. The #ecokosovo campaign effectively educates the public about risks associated with environmental threats, encouraging individual action and lifestyle changes for a cleaner environment.
Addressing Medical Waste Challenges: The project recognises the increased challenges in medical waste management during health emergencies, notably the COVID-19 pandemic. It focuses on clear protocols, training, and educational materials to guide proper waste management and protect healthcare workers and the public.
Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals: Healthier Kosovo 2 aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and Luxembourg's Development Cooperation, explicitly contributing to outcomes related to decent work, economic development, climate change resilience, and health priorities.
Holistic Approach to Air Pollution: The project adopts a comprehensive approach to address air pollution, encompassing outdoor and household sources. Initiatives include supporting policy implementation, developing local reduction plans, and engaging in behavioural insights-based interventions to combat air pollution effectively.

In conclusion, the Healthier Kosovo 2 Project has consistently demonstrated a commitment to excellence in its interventions, yielding high-quality results in collaboration with key stakeholders. The emphasis on meticulous planning, as seen in activities within municipalities and co-design initiatives, showcases the project's dedication to understanding real needs and utilising diverse data sources. Notably, the project's success in maintaining the quality of waste protocols, even amid challenges such as changes in government and the impact of COVID, underscores its resilience and adaptability. The ability to navigate these external factors without compromising implementation or overall outcomes speaks to the project's robust management and strategic foresight. Despite a dynamic environment, Healthier Kosovo 2 has proven that its impact remains steadfast, contributing to the sustainability and resilience of environmental initiatives in Kosovo.

5.3 Project efficiency

To what extent has the implementing partners' support to the project beneficiaries been an efficient implementation modality?

To what extent have the target population and participants actively implemented the Programme? What modes of participation have taken place?

What factors contributed to progress or delay in achieving products and results?

What good practices, successful experiences, or transferable examples have been identified?

What is the quality of interventions and results achieved with main Project stakeholders?

To what extent were activities implemented as scheduled and with the planned financial resources?

Is there any duplication of efforts, including stakeholders and implementing partners? If not, was the programme so unique in content? If yes, how was this coordinated between coordination bodies/stakeholders or implementing partners as a tested product or ownership? What was the effectiveness or difference of each approach/case?

What factors contributed to effectiveness or ineffectiveness?

The evaluation has been completed, thoroughly assessing the project's efficiency. It examined the effectiveness of support provided to project beneficiaries by implementing partners and evaluated the active involvement of the target population in program implementation, exploring various modes of participation. It scrutinised the quality of interventions and results obtained with main project stakeholders, evaluating the timely implementation of activities within planned financial resources. Additionally, the evaluation investigated the presence of any duplication of efforts among stakeholders and implementing partners, assessing how coordination was managed to avoid redundancy. Table 5.3 presents the rating of the efficiency of each project activity.

Table 5.3. Assessment of project efficiency

Project activity	a	b	c	d	e
1.1.a. Support the Environmental inspectorate from MEE with tools and capacity-building	Mostly	Yes	Mostly	Yes	Yes
1.1.b. Support the municipality's local air pollution reduction plans, strategies and tools	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
1.1.c. Conduct a behavioural insight study	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
1.1.d. Support institutional capacities to assess environmental health impacts	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I
1.2.a. Support institutions to assess indoor air pollution and related health impacts through tools, methodologies, workshops, training	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
1.2.b. Increase awareness among the general public on exposure to threats from indoor air pollution	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
1.3.a. Support financially Environmental Civil Society Organizations to develop and pilot their projects on addressing environmental pollution, research, and advocacy	Yes	Yes	Mostly	Mostly	Yes
1.3.b. Catalyse policy dialogue events/workshops to engage stakeholders in research-based discussions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
1.3.d. Co-design parks through the Park Foundation and bring together stakeholders in a shared platform to create green public spaces	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
1.3.e. Increase awareness and knowledge about indoor/outdoor air pollution in local communities through the deployment of UN Community Volunteers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
1.4.a. Engage the public to lead a sustainable lifestyle for a cleaner environment and air through innovative public outreach campaigning - #ecokosovo4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
1.5.a. Support central and local institutions to address health threats from climate change through tools and strategies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Mostly	Yes
1.6.a. Raise awareness among the general public to reduce exposure to health threats from climate change	Yes	Yes	Mostly	Mostly	Yes
2.1.a. Support to the University Hospital and Clinical Service of Kosovo (HUCSK) in developing/updating waste management protocols	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.1.b. Raise the capacities of HCWs and other relevant parties on best practices in managing medical waste	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.2.a. Design and distribute educational materials in health facilities to inform HCWs and patients on steps they can take to reduce health threats from medical waste	Yes	Yes	Mostly	Mostly	Yes
2.3.a. Establish a safe waste collection and segregation in the UCCK	Yes	Yes	Mostly	Mostly	Yes

a=The implementing partners' support to the project beneficiaries has been an efficient implementation modality
b=The target population and participants actively implemented the activity
c=The quality of intervention and results achieved were satisfactory
d=Activity was implemented as scheduled with the planned financial resources
e=There was no duplication of efforts, including stakeholders and implementing partner

N/I=Not implemented

The project implementation has witnessed an efficient modality through the support provided to project beneficiaries by implementing partners. Numerous examples highlight the effectiveness of this approach. Despite limited tools, significant achievements have been realised, showcasing the project's ability to maximise impact with the available resources. The efficient utilisation of human resources and project staff is evident, with only one and a half individuals overseeing this program. This streamlined approach reflects the dedication and effectiveness of the team, demonstrating how well they have navigated challenges and successfully advanced the project's objectives.

The project demonstrated a commendable commitment to avoiding duplication of efforts and fostering collaboration among stakeholders and implementing partners. All necessary project actions were meticulously developed in close collaboration with critical stakeholders, emphasising an effective strategy that promoted cooperation and yielded positive outcomes. The JP project extended its coordination efforts beyond its immediate scope by engaging with other donors and stakeholders active in the environmental domain. Several meetings were conducted with GIZ, WB, and key project partners to combine forces for a more impactful approach to environmental threats and their repercussions on human health, thus avoiding duplicative actions. Donor coordination meetings further facilitated the presentation of all donors' work and exploration of cooperation opportunities while minimising duplication of efforts.

5.4 Project sustainability

Has the Project created conditions to ensure that benefits continue beyond the Project activities?

How has the Project institutionalised overall capacity development efforts so far?

Has an approach/model been developed that can be further disseminated throughout Kosovo?

Is the duration of the current Project sufficient to ensure the sustainability of the interventions?

Which recommendations can be made to inform future strategies and programs?

Has the project introduced contemporary/innovative approaches to solving environmental issues?

How is the project ensuring the sustainability of its results and impacts (i.e., strengthened capacities, continuity of use of knowledge, improved practices, etc.)?

Do the legal frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes within which the project operates pose risks that may jeopardise the sustainability of project benefits?

What is the risk that the level of stakeholders' ownership will be sufficient to allow for the project benefits to be sustained?

The evaluation has thoroughly assessed the project's sustainability, examining whether it has effectively established conditions to ensure lasting benefits beyond the concluded project activities. It has analysed the institutionalisation of capacity development efforts, evaluating the development of an approach or model for dissemination throughout Kosovo. The evaluation has already addressed the adequacy of the project's duration to secure the sustainability of interventions and explored contemporary, innovative approaches to address unemployment issues. The investigation has delved into how the project ensures the sustainability of its results and impacts, encompassing strengthened capacities and improved practices. Furthermore, the evaluation has assessed potential risks from legal frameworks, policies, and governance structures that could compromise the sustainability of project benefits. It has also evaluated the level of stakeholders' ownership, providing crucial insights into the project's sustainability efforts and offering potential recommendations for future strategies and programs. Table 5.4. summarises the sustainability assessment of each project activity.

Table 5.4. Assessment of project sustainability

Project activity	a	b	c	d	e	f	G
1.1a. Support the Environmental inspectorate from MEE with tools and capacity-building	Yes	Yes	Yes	Likely	Yes	Likely	Likely
1.1.b. Support the municipality's local air pollution reduction plans, strategies and tools	Yes	Yes	Yes	Likely	Yes	Yes	Yes

1.1.c. Conduct a behavioural insight study	Likely	Yes	Yes	Some-what	Yes	Likely	Some-what
1.1.d. Support institutional capacities to assess environmental health impacts	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I
1.2.a. Support institutions to assess indoor air pollution and related health impacts through tools, methodologies, workshops, training	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some-what	Yes	Likely	Yes
1.2.b. Increase awareness among the general public on exposure to threats from indoor air pollution	Some-what	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Likely
1.3.a. Support financially Environmental Civil Society Organizations to develop and pilot their projects on addressing environmental pollution, research, and advocacy	Some-what	Some-what	Yes	Some-what	Yes	Likely	Likely
1.3.b. Catalyse policy dialogue events/workshops to engage stakeholders in research-based discussions	Some-what	Yes	Yes	Some-what	Some-what	Likely	Some-what
1.3.d. Co-design parks through the Park Foundation and bring together stakeholders in a shared platform to create green public spaces	Some-what	Some-what	Yes	Likely	Yes	Likely	Likely
1.3.e. Increase awareness and knowledge about indoor/outdoor air pollution in local communities through the deployment of UN Community Volunteers	Some-what	Yes	Yes	Some-what	Yes	Likely	Likely
1.4.a. Engage the public to lead a sustainable lifestyle for a cleaner environment and air through innovative public outreach campaigning - #ecokosovo4	Some-what	Yes	Yes	Some-what	Yes	Likely	Likely
1.5.a. Support central and local institutions to address health threats from climate change through tools and strategies	Some-what	Yes	Yes	Some-what	Yes	Likely	Likely
1.6.a. Raise awareness among the general public to reduce exposure to health threats from climate change	Some-what	Yes	Yes	Some-what	Yes	Likely	Some-what
2.1.a. Support to the University Hospital and Clinical Service of Kosovo (HUČSK) in developing/updating waste management protocols	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.1.b. Raise the capacities of HCWs and other relevant parties on best practices in managing medical waste	Likely	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Likely
2.2.a. Design and distribute educational materials in health facilities to inform HCWs and patients on steps they can take to reduce health threats from medical waste	Some-what	Yes	Yes	Some-what	Yes	Yes	Some-what
2.3.a. Establish a safe waste collection and segregation in the UCCK	Likely	Yes	Yes	Some-what	Yes	Yes	Likely
a=The Project created conditions to ensure that benefits continue beyond the Project activity b=The Project has institutionalised capacity development efforts c=The approach/model has been developed and can be further disseminated throughout Kosovo d=The duration of the current Project is sufficient to ensure the sustainability of the intervention e=The project has introduced contemporary/innovative approaches to solving environmental issues f=The legal frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes within which the activity operates do not pose risks that may jeopardise the sustainability of activity benefits g=The level of the stakeholders' ownership is sufficient to allow for the activity benefits to be sustained N/I=Not implemented							

The Healthier Kosovo 2 (HK2) project has diligently laid the foundations for sustained benefits beyond its immediate activities. Adopting a participatory planning approach, HK2 engaged stakeholders at both the central and local levels, fostering collaboration in capacity building and policy development. The project's commitment to multi-stakeholder engagement facilitated effective communication and yielded positive outcomes throughout its implementation.

HK2's impact is evident in its multifaceted strategies. From community engagement initiatives targeting environmental health threats to collaborations with the government and organisations like GIZ, the project has efficiently addressed waste management commitments. Notably, the focus on central-level institutions, such as the Hydrometeorological Institute, showcased successful initiatives like digitalisation, underscoring the project's capacity to mobilise external funds for impactful endeavours. The emphasis on institutionalising capacity development efforts has further strengthened HK2's legacy, with initiatives like action plans, SOPs, and TOT programs proving effective and sustainable.

Despite these accomplishments, concerns about the project's duration are considered insufficient for ensuring long-term sustainability. The need for advocacy efforts to improve regulatory environments at both central and local levels, guided by field data and practices, has been identified. Nevertheless, HK2 has demonstrated its resilience by operating within supportive legal frame-

works and governance structures, minimising risks to sustainability. The pivotal role of stakeholder ownership in sustaining project benefits underscores the lasting impact of HK2's endeavours on environmental health in Kosovo. In contrast, it remains unclear how full sustainability will be achieved for environmental campaigns, work in prototypes and with CSOs.

5.5 Stakeholders and partnership strategy

Are the Project's objectives and outcomes consistent and supportive of governmental and sectoral policies (where relevant)?

To what extent have partnerships been sought and established and synergies created in the delivery of assistance?

To what extent do stakeholders support the project's long-term objectives?

Were efficient and mutually satisfactory cooperation arrangements established between the Project Team and public institutions? Private sector?

Were partners' inputs of quality provided promptly?

Have partners fully and effectively discharged their responsibilities? Does the Project contribute to the overall UN Country Strategy? Have any new partners emerged that were not initially identified?

How has the project implemented the commitments to promote local ownership, alignment, harmonisation, management for development results and mutual accountability?

The evaluation has completed an assessment of the project's alignment with governmental and sectoral policies, ensuring coherence and support for its objectives and outcomes. Active efforts were scrutinised regarding establishing partnerships and evaluating the synergies created to deliver practical assistance. Stakeholder support for the project's long-term goals has been thoroughly gauged, emphasising the efficiency and satisfaction of cooperation arrangements among the Project Team and public institutions. The evaluation has delved into the quality and timeliness of partners' contributions, determining the effectiveness of their fulfilment of responsibilities. It has also explored the project's contribution to the UN Country Strategy, identifying any unexpected emergence of new partners. The evaluation has meticulously examined the project's adherence to commitments promoting local ownership, alignment, harmonisation, management for development results, and mutual accountability. This comprehensive analysis provides valuable insights into the efficacy of the project's partnership strategy.

The Project has effectively aligned its objectives and outcomes with governmental and sectoral policies. For instance, the development of municipal action plans for air pollution is entirely consistent with the new Law No.08/L-025 on Air Protection from Pollution, which mandates all local authorities to assess air quality and prepare Local Air Pollution Action Plans (LAPAQs). Furthermore, most other activities the Project undertake are directly aligned with sectoral strategies focusing on environmental conservation and air pollution reduction. Specifically, the waste management initiatives within the hospital sector demonstrate adherence to the strategic goals outlined in the health sectorial strategy. This meticulous alignment ensures that the Project complies with legal frameworks and contributes effectively to broader sectoral objectives, reinforcing its impact on environmental and health-related issues.

The project has successfully pursued and established valuable partnerships, fostering synergies that enhance the delivery of assistance. Notably, UNDP leveraged its vertical funds to bolster support for the Kosovo Hydrometeorological Institute (KHMI) in climate adaptation and anticipatory governance. This collaboration resulted in the implementing of new automatic monitoring stations for precipitation and air temperature measurements. Reporting real-time data, these stations contribute significantly to flood modelling and an early warning system. The participatory planning approach of HK2 further underscores the commitment to project sustainability, engaging stakeholders at both central and local levels. Through a multi-stakeholder strategy, the project prioritised capacity building, policy development, and close collaboration with key stakeholders, ensuring effective communication and coordination. The continuous strengthening of partnerships

with Kosovo institutions, including the Ministry of Health (MoH), MESPI, NIPHK, KHMI, and partner municipalities, exemplifies the project's dedication to efficient output delivery. Additionally, the project extended its collaboration to civil society organisations through activities and small grants, fostering a participatory process that ensures achievements transition seamlessly into institutional ownership.

The stakeholders have consistently supported the project's long-term objectives, recognising their alignment with overarching priorities. This affirmation is evident in the sustained and strengthened partnerships between the project and Kosovo institutions, including significant entities such as the Ministry of Health (MoH), MESPI, NIPHK, KHMI, and partner municipalities like Obiliq/Obilic and Fushë Kosove/Kosovo Polje, Prishtina/Pristina. Additionally, the project has maintained collaborative ties with civil society organisations through active engagement in project activities and the provision of small grants. This close collaboration, marked by a participatory process, has played a pivotal role in ensuring the efficient delivery of project outputs. Furthermore, it has facilitated a seamless transition of project achievements into the ownership of the involved institutions. All key partners' ongoing commitment and collaborative efforts underscore the project's success in garnering sustained support and engagement from stakeholders aligned with its long-term objectives.

The project has successfully fostered efficient and mutually satisfactory cooperation arrangements between the Project Team and public institutions. The active involvement of critical counterparts in both the design and implementation phases has demonstrated effectiveness in addressing the specific needs of institutions and expanding opportunities for successful execution. The project operates on fundamental principles of complexity, interdisciplinarity, and inter-departmental interaction. However, it is noted that the complete application of these principles is contingent upon the presence of an appropriate central and local regulatory environment. Additionally, the realisation of these principles necessitates political will, a change of attitude, and a shift in working culture at the local level. Recognising these factors as essential contributors to the project's success and establishing fruitful cooperation arrangements underscores the importance of collaborative efforts between the project team and public institutions to sustain the project's objectives effectively.

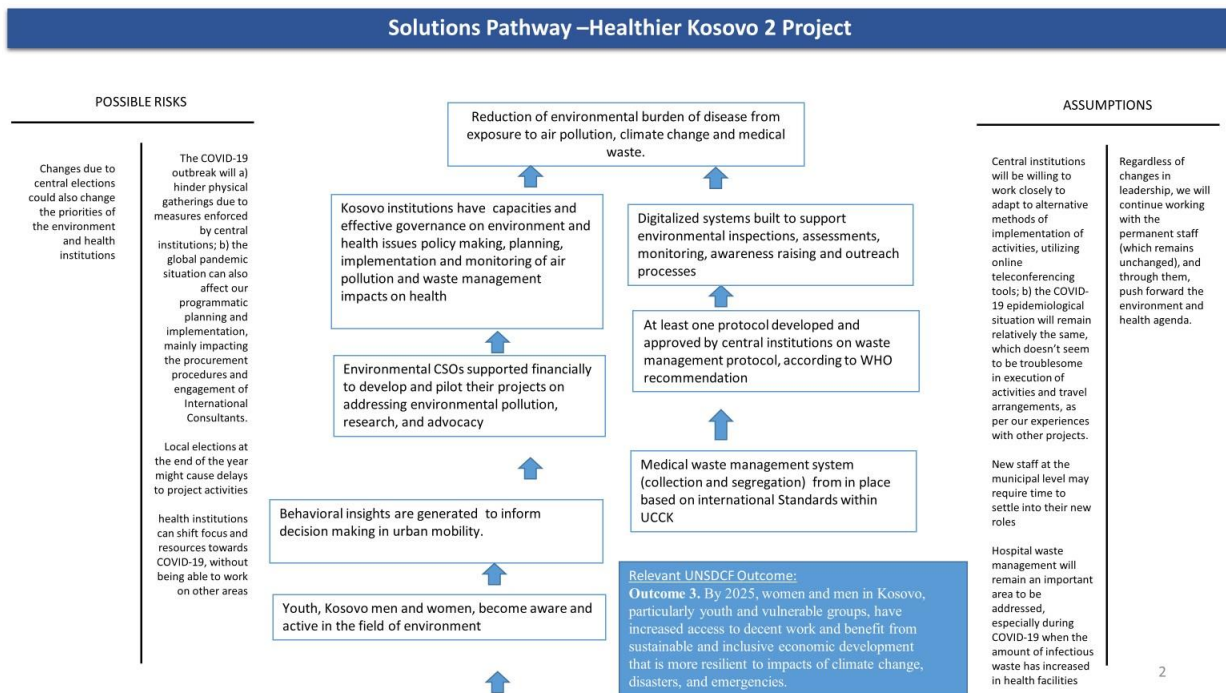
All partners have demonstrated high commitment and responsibility throughout the project, thoroughly and effectively discharging their respective roles. Their dedication has played a pivotal role in the project's success, ensuring the seamless execution of tasks and attaining objectives. The project, aligning with the UN Country Strategy, has significantly enhanced environmental health and sustainability. Notably, UNDP has successfully mobilised vertical funds, showcasing a proactive approach to securing resources. However, it is acknowledged that the donor had anticipated the project, specifically HK1 and HK2, to act as seed money, stimulating additional funds from diverse sources. Regrettably, this envisioned financial leverage has not materialised as expected. Despite this challenge, the project's positive impact remains evident, emphasising the need for continued collaboration and strategic planning to address funding expectations and secure sustained support for future endeavours.

5.6 Theory of Change or results/outcome map

*Was the Theory of Change or project logic feasible and realistic?
Were assumptions, factors and risks sufficiently taken into consideration?*

The evaluation has extensively examined the project's Theory of Change or logic model (Figure 5.1.), thoroughly scrutinising its feasibility and realism by meticulously evaluating the underlying assumptions, factors, and risks considered during its formulation. Through this comprehensive examination, the evaluation ensures that the project's overarching plan aligns with the realities on the ground, fostering a thorough understanding of the project's theoretical underpinnings.

Figure 5.1. Theory of change for HK2



The comprehensive evaluation has confirmed that the Theory of Change or project logic was feasible and realistic. The meticulous scrutiny of the project's conceptual framework revealed that the assumptions, factors, and risks were sufficiently considered during its formulation. The examination delved deeply into the underlying assumptions, assessing their adequacy, and thoroughly analysed the integration of factors and risks into the model. The evaluation process has provided critical insights into the strengths and potential weaknesses of the project's theoretical underpinnings, ensuring a nuanced understanding of its design and approach. By affirming the feasibility and realism of the Theory of Change, the evaluation serves as a valuable guide for future decisions and strategies, contributing significantly to the overall effectiveness and long-term impact of the project. The findings of this thorough evaluation underscore the project's commitment to aligning its overarching plan with the realities on the ground, fostering a comprehensive and grounded approach to achieving its objectives.

5.7 Human rights

To what extent have poor, minority groups, physically challenged women, and other disadvantaged and marginalised groups benefited from the project?

The evaluation has rigorously examined the extent to which the project upheld human rights principles, with a particular focus on vulnerable and marginalised populations, including poor communities, minority groups, individuals with physical disabilities, and women. The evaluation has delved into the project's approach to ensuring these communities' active participation, inclusion, and representation throughout the implementation process.

The findings of the evaluation have revealed that the project has positively upheld human rights principles, especially concerning vulnerable and marginalised populations such as poor communities, minority groups, individuals with physical disabilities, and women. The thorough examination of outcomes and impacts on these communities demonstrated tangible benefits, indicating the project's success in promoting social justice, equality, and the fulfilment of human rights. The evaluation highlighted the project's effective strategies in ensuring these communities' active participation, inclusion, and representation throughout the implementation process. The measures

taken to address unique challenges were found to be empowering, contributing to an improvement in the overall well-being of these groups.

5.8 Criteria: Gender

To what extent have gender equality and women's empowerment been addressed in the project's design, implementation and monitoring?

Is the gender marker data assigned to this project representative of reality?

To what extent has the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and women's empowerment?

Were there any unintended effects?

The evaluation has rigorously assessed the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment throughout the project's design, implementation, and monitoring phases. It thoroughly examined how the project effectively addressed gender disparities and promoted women's empowerment, including evaluating the accuracy and representativeness of the gender marker data assigned to the project. The assessment also scrutinised the project's impact on positive changes in gender equality, considering both intended outcomes and unintended effects.

The project has proactively addressed gender equality and women's empowerment throughout its design, implementation, and monitoring phases. An exemplary initiative undertaken by HK2 in this regard was the organisation of a roundtable discussion on gender perspectives and climate change, which attracted diverse stakeholders, including representatives from local organisations, international development and financial institutions, experts, civil society and academic representatives, environmental activists, and UNDP colleagues from North Macedonia. This event served as a platform for sharing best practices and exchanging ideas on integrating gender perspectives into climate change programs and policies.

The project's inter-sectoral approach has successfully tackled various cross-cutting issues, including gender, emphasising intersectional themes such as gender and power analysis. The design and implementation of gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation processes have demonstrated the project's commitment to measuring impact and sharing learning across results, teams, and partners.

Throughout 2022, HK2 continued its focus on cross-cutting issues, organising the roundtable discussion that facilitated input and best practice sharing among diverse stakeholders. The project has strived to incorporate principles and quality criteria related to cross-cutting issues, such as environment, gender equality, women's empowerment, human rights-based approaches, and social standards. While facing challenges in quantification and achieving specific targets, the project has committed to inclusivity and equal opportunities for all, paying attention to vulnerable groups, gender considerations, and specific training programs.

The local project appraisal committee and UNDP Office in Kosovo have acknowledged the project's efforts, with notable achievements such as receiving a silver medal for gender aspects. The project has exceeded targets related to women's participation and has maintained a focus on ensuring equal access and opportunities for vulnerable groups, including ethnic minorities. Despite challenges in design, the project's implementation consistently prioritised gender considerations and the inclusion of minority groups, resulting in no observed unintended effects.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Project design & contextual relevance

Relevance and Urgency: The project's goals align with Kosovo's needs, addressing persistent health and environmental issues, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The interconnect-edness of environmental and public health issues underscores the need for ongoing support and targeted approaches.

Alignment with Country's Environmental Direction: The project's objectives align with Kosovo's climate initiatives, legislative advancements, and international engagements, showcasing its relevance in the nation's journey toward sustainable development amidst climate challenges.

Effective Coordination and Management: The project demonstrates effective coordination, management, and financing arrangements. Collaborative efforts with UNDP, UNV, WHO, donors, and international organisations contribute to successful outcomes, highlighting its adaptability to potential complexities.

6.2 Project's effectiveness

Effective Achievement of Outputs: The Healthier Kosovo 2 Project has achieved a significant portion of its outputs, and the remaining objectives are on track for completion within the planned timeline. A comprehensive breakdown, including a rating system, provides insights into the project's progress, showcasing the practical realisation of intended outcomes.

Factors Influencing Progress: Delays were attributed to law approval, funding modalities, and external challenges like COVID-19. Despite hurdles, the project demonstrated resilience and adaptability, showcasing effective project management and an ability to navigate external complexities.

Coordination and Stakeholder Engagement: Effective coordination among partners and a comprehensive stakeholder engagement approach have been pivotal in achieving desired results. The project strategically collaborates with central and local institutions, fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration and emphasising the importance of capacity building and policy development.

Good Practices and Innovation: The project exhibits good practices and innovation in co-design, community engagement, data-driven decision-making, and addressing medical waste challenges. Its focus on sustainable community development, innovative environmental campaigns, and a holistic approach to air pollution align with the Sustainable Development Goals, contributing to Kosovo's environmental sustainability and resilience.

6.3 Project efficiency

Efficient Implementation Modality: The project has demonstrated an efficient implementation modality, mainly through the effective support provided to project beneficiaries by implementing partners. Despite resource limitations, the project achieved significant milestones, emphasising its ability to maximise impact with available resources and streamlined human resources. The project exhibited a commendable commitment to avoiding duplication of efforts, emphasising collaboration among stakeholders and implementing partners.

6.4 Project sustainability

Foundations for Sustained Benefits: The Healthier Kosovo 2 (HK2) project has laid the foundations for sustained benefits beyond its immediate activities. Through a participatory planning approach and engagement with stakeholders at various levels, HK2 has fostered collaboration in capacity building and policy development. The project's commitment to multi-stakeholder engagement has resulted in positive outcomes and effective communication throughout its implementation.

Duration and Advocacy Challenges: Despite accomplishments, concerns about the project's duration are deemed insufficient for ensuring long-term sustainability. Advocacy efforts are identified as necessary to improve regulatory environments at both central and local levels, guided by field data and practices. However, HK2 has demonstrated resilience by operating within supportive legal frameworks and governance structures, minimising risks to sustainability.

Stakeholder Ownership for Lasting Impact: The pivotal role of stakeholder ownership in sustaining project benefits underscores the lasting impact of HK2's endeavours on environmental health in Kosovo. The engagement of stakeholders at different levels has contributed to the project's success and lays the groundwork for continued positive outcomes in the future.

6.5 Stakeholders and partnership strategy

Strategic Alignment with Policies: The project has effectively aligned its objectives and outcomes with governmental and sectoral policies. This meticulous alignment ensures compliance with legal frameworks and contributes significantly to broader sectoral objectives, reinforcing the project's impact on environmental and health-related issues.

Robust Partnerships and Stakeholder Support: The project has successfully pursued valuable partnerships, fostering synergies to enhance assistance delivery. Sustained and strengthened collaborations with Kosovo institutions, including governmental bodies, municipalities, and civil society organisations, consistently support the project's long-term objectives. The commitment of key partners underscores the project's success in garnering sustained support and engagement.

6.6 Theory of Change or results/outcome map

Validation of Feasibility and Realism: The comprehensive evaluation unequivocally confirms the Theory of Change and project logic as feasible and realistic. The meticulous scrutiny of the conceptual framework, including assumptions, factors, and risks, affirms that these elements were adequately considered during the project's formulation.

6.7 Human rights

Positive Adherence to Human Rights Principles: The evaluation findings unequivocally indicate that the project has successfully upheld human rights principles, benefiting vulnerable and marginalised populations, including poor communities, minority groups, individuals with disabilities, and women. The evaluation also recognises the project's effective strategies in ensuring active participation, inclusion, and representation of these communities, contributing to their empowerment and overall well-being.

6.8 Criteria: Gender

Proactive Gender Mainstreaming: The project has proactively integrated gender equality and women's empowerment across all phases, notably exemplified by the successful organisation of a roundtable discussion on gender perspectives and climate change. The diverse stakeholder participation reflects the project's commitment to fostering dialogue and sharing best practices in integrating gender perspectives into climate change programs.

7. LESSONS LEARNED

The lessons are presented briefly and are grounded in specific evidence detailed in the report. These lessons encompass knowledge acquired from unique circumstances, including interventions, contextual outcomes, and insights about evaluation methods applicable to similar contexts.

Project Design & Contextual Relevance:

- ✓ The HK2 project has showcased meticulous alignment with Kosovo's needs, particularly addressing the amplified health and environmental challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. Its goals are well-entrenched in the interconnectedness of environmental and public health issues, emphasising the necessity for continual support and targeted approaches. The project's objectives align seamlessly with Kosovo's climate initiatives, legislative advancements, and international engagements, positioning it as a crucial player in the nation's sustainable development amid climate challenges.
- ✓ Effectiveness in addressing target group needs is a hallmark of the project, as it collaborates with government entities, donors, and municipalities. The commitment to gender equality, proactive environmental engagement, and adherence to rigorous procedures underscore its effectiveness. The appropriateness of design is evident, with minor adjustments enhancing impact without compromising integrity. The innovative waste management approach establishes a robust foundation for future initiatives.
- ✓ Demonstrating effective coordination, management, and financing arrangements, the HK2 project has fostered collaborative efforts with UNDP, UNV, WHO, donors, and international organisations. This collaborative approach has been instrumental in overcoming potential complexities, highlighting the project's adaptability to challenges.

Project's Effectiveness:

- ✓ The Healthier Kosovo 2 Project has achieved a substantial portion of its outputs, and the remaining objectives are progressing within the planned timeline. A comprehensive breakdown, including a rating system, provides insights into the project's progress, showcasing the effective realisation of intended outcomes. Factors influencing progress, such as law approval, funding modalities, and external challenges like COVID-19, have been managed with resilience and adaptability. Coordination among partners and a comprehensive stakeholder engagement approach have been pivotal in achieving desired results.
- ✓ Good practices and innovation in co-design, community engagement, data-driven decision-making, and addressing medical waste challenges are evident. The focus on sustainable community development, innovative environmental campaigns, and a holistic approach to air pollution align with the Sustainable Development Goals, contributing significantly to Kosovo's environmental sustainability and resilience.

Project Efficiency:

- ✓ Efficiency in the implementation modality is a notable strength of the project. Significant milestones have been achieved despite resource limitations, emphasising the project's ability to maximise impact with available resources and streamlined human resources. The commitment to avoiding duplication and proactive engagement with stakeholders and implementing partners showcases a strategic approach that fosters collaboration. The dedication to minimising redundancy and enhancing efficiency, exemplified by the cancellation of assessments and proactive engagement with multiple stakeholders, reflects the project's commitment to optimising its 1-million-dollar, 3-year budget effectively.

Project Sustainability:

- ✓ The Healthier Kosovo 2 project has laid the foundations for sustained benefits beyond immediate activities. Through a participatory planning approach and engagement with stakeholders at various levels, HK2 has fostered collaboration in capacity building and policy development. The commitment to multi-stakeholder engagement has resulted in positive outcomes and effective communication throughout its implementation.

- ✓ The multifaceted impact and legacy of HK2 are evident in its strategies addressing environmental health threats through community engagement and collaborations with government and organisations like GIZ. The successful initiatives, such as digitalisation at the central level, demonstrate the project's capacity to mobilise external funds for impactful endeavours. Despite achievements, concerns about the project's duration and advocacy challenges highlight the need for continuous efforts to improve regulatory environments at both central and local levels. The engagement of stakeholders at different levels underscores the lasting impact of HK2's endeavours on environmental health in Kosovo.

Stakeholders and Partnership Strategy:

- ✓ The project's strategic alignment with governmental and sectoral policies has been effective, ensuring compliance with legal frameworks and contributing significantly to broader sectoral objectives. Robust partnerships and stakeholder support, especially with Kosovo institutions, governmental bodies, municipalities, and civil society organisations, demonstrate consistent support for the project's long-term objectives.
- ✓ The consistent commitment from partners throughout the project underscored the positive impact on environmental health and sustainability. It emphasised the necessity for ongoing collaboration and strategic planning to secure sustained support in future initiatives.
- ✓ UNDP's adept mobilisation of vertical funds showcased a proactive stance in securing additional resources. However, the donor's initial vision of these projects (HK1 and HK2) was that these were seed projects expected to catalyse additional funds from various sources. This experience underscores the importance of recognising and adapting to the dynamic nature of funding landscapes. It highlights the need for continuous collaboration and strategic planning, aligning funding expectations with the unpredictable reality of resource mobilisation.

Theory of Change or Results/Outcome Map:

- ✓ The comprehensive evaluation has unequivocally confirmed the Theory of Change and project logic as feasible and realistic. The detailed scrutiny of the conceptual framework, including assumptions, factors, and risks, affirms that these elements were adequately considered during the project's formulation. The evaluation process has provided critical insights into the project's theoretical underpinnings, offering a nuanced understanding of its design and approach.
- ✓ This valuable information guides future decisions and strategies, contributing significantly to the project's overall effectiveness and long-term impact. The findings underscore the project's commitment to aligning its plan with on-the-ground realities, ensuring a comprehensive and grounded approach to achieving objectives.

Human Rights:

- ✓ The evaluation findings unequivocally indicate that the project has successfully upheld human rights principles, benefiting vulnerable and marginalised populations, including poor communities, minority groups, individuals with disabilities, and women. Examining outcomes underscores the project's success in promoting social justice, equality, and the fulfilment of human rights.
- ✓ Effective strategies for inclusivity and empowerment have contributed to the project's success. The evaluation recognises the project's effective strategy in ensuring active participation, inclusion, and representation of these communities, contributing to their empowerment and overall well-being.

Gender:

- ✓ Proactive gender mainstreaming is a notable strength of the project, with gender equality and women's empowerment integrated across all phases. The successful organisation of a roundtable discussion on gender perspectives and climate change exemplifies the commitment to fostering dialogue and sharing best practices in integrating gender perspectives into climate change programs.
- ✓ The project's inter-sectoral strategy has effectively addressed cross-cutting issues, particularly emphasising gender and power analysis. Incorporating gender-sensitive monitoring

and evaluation processes showcases a commitment to measuring impact and sharing knowledge. Recognition and achievements in gender aspects highlight the project's commitment to inclusivity and equal opportunities for vulnerable groups and gender considerations.

Delays in Implementation, Challenges, and Best Practices:

- ✓ The Healthier Kosovo 2 Project encountered initial delays in its implementation due to the pass-through funding modality and UNDP's global contractual reform. The team, however, used this period for effective planning and engagement, resulting in a swift pick-up of implementation speed and strong results in 2022. Lessons from this experience include effective planning during less intensive periods, stakeholder engagement at various levels, and adaptability to unexpected challenges.
- ✓ The critical lesson from the extension period underscores the importance of engaging the target audience, specifically children aged 11 to 17, in the decision-making process for urban development projects. This collaborative approach ensures a comprehensive understanding of the unique needs and preferences of the intended users and fosters a sense of community ownership and empowerment.

In summary, the Healthier Kosovo 2 Project has demonstrated effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and positive social impact, with valuable lessons learned across various dimensions of project implementation. The detailed and comprehensive approach to project design, stakeholder engagement, gender mainstreaming, and adaptability to challenges has contributed to its success. It lays a strong foundation for future endeavours in Kosovo's environmental and public health landscape.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The section puts forth practical recommendations for both current and potential future projects. These suggestions were meticulously developed, aligning seamlessly with pivotal findings and conclusions extracted from the core questions of the evaluation and substantiated by compelling evidence. Emphasis was placed on addressing the initiative's sustainability and, where applicable, evaluating the adequacy of the project exit strategy. Furthermore, the recommendations transcended the immediate context, providing tailored guidance for upcoming initiatives or similar projects and programming.

The comprehensive set of evaluation recommendations is meticulously presented below. Each recommendation undergoes a thorough assessment, strategically tagged based on the order of priority to indicate the urgency of implementation, and is closely linked to the preliminary conclusions. Each recommendation meticulously identifies the relevant stakeholders accountable for taking the recommended actions. Furthermore, these recommendations have been thoughtfully categorised into three categories: planning and implementation, programmatic improvements and ideas for project extension.

8.1 Planning and implementation

Relevant to stakeholders: Implementing partners

Enhance Early Planning and Engagement: Initiate project planning and stakeholder engagement activities during periods of lower intensity or delays, using this time effectively for strategic planning, stakeholder mapping, and preparation of necessary documentation.

Adaptive Funding Approach: Considering UNDP's effective vertical fund mobilisation, it's crucial to adapt the project's financial strategy to the dynamic funding landscape. The experience with HK1 and HK2 as seed projects highlights the unpredictability of resource mobilisation, which is often affected by political issues, and Kosovo UN membership, which limits access to many founding sources in the UN system. Embracing flexibility and exploring innovative funding models will enhance financial resilience and project scale-up.

8.2 Programmatic improvements

Relevant to stakeholders: Implementing partners, donors, and institutional partners

Capacity Building and Policy Advocacy: Prioritize capacity building at local levels and advocate for improved regulatory environments supported by field data and best practices. Engage in effective advocacy efforts to influence positive policy changes, guided by lessons learned from the project.

Innovative Approaches to Community Engagement: Continue and expand innovative approaches to community engagement, particularly involving the target audience in decision-making processes for urban development projects. Prioritise inclusive and community-driven methodologies to ensure the unique needs and preferences of diverse communities are considered.

Sustainability through Institutionalization: Strengthen efforts to institutionalise capacity development initiatives, action plans, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and Training of Trainers (TOT) programs. Focus on embedding project outcomes into local governance structures and practices to ensure sustained benefits beyond the project's immediate activities.

8.3 Ideas for new interventions/actions

Relevant to stakeholders: Implementing partners, donors, and institutional partners

Institutional Capacity Building: Training for Hygiene Staff and Waste Officers: Future projects should consider ongoing training programs for hygiene staff and waste officers within institutions. This can include capacity building for existing staff to ensure sustainability. Assigning specific individuals the responsibility of Waste Management (WM) oversight, training new personnel, and

ensuring proper WM practices can be crucial. Exploring partnerships with educational institutions or specialised agencies for targeted training sessions could enhance expertise.

Heat Action Plans: Initiating Heat Action Plans: Recognizing the growing impact of climate change, particularly in terms of rising temperatures, future projects should explore the initiation of Heat Action Plans. Collaboration with national institutions can help design and implement specific interventions to minimise the health risks associated with heat waves. Guiding the information to be disseminated and creating awareness campaigns can contribute to lowering the effects and exposures of vulnerable populations.

Broadening Project Scope and Stakeholder Engagement: Expanding Activities and Stakeholder Engagement: Building on the successes of HK2, future projects could expand their scope by engaging more stakeholders. This involves collaborating with municipalities that may not have benefited previously and ensuring a more inclusive approach. Engaging committed and interested municipalities, universities, and volunteer groups can lead to deeper community involvement and increased commitment. Consideration should be given to expanding to areas that may be more adversely affected but less involved due to limited resources.

Student and Volunteer Engagement: Increasing Involvement of Students and Volunteers: Recognizing the enthusiasm of young people for environmental issues, future projects could further involve students and volunteers. Establishing partnerships with universities and creating platforms for interaction, such as competitions or collaborative projects, can enhance community engagement. Leveraging international volunteers through mechanisms like Erasmus or Horizon 2020 can bring diverse perspectives and expertise to the projects.

Prototyping for Public Spaces: Encouraging Public Engagement through Prototyping: The concept of prototypes for public spaces can be expanded to engage young people and address community disinterest. Future projects can focus on creative industries, involving universities and international volunteers to develop and implement prototypes in public spaces. This can be coupled with awareness campaigns to change cultural perceptions and increase interest in public interventions.

APPENDIX 1. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EVALUATION

APPENDIX 2. EVALUATION MATRIX

This section specifies the key evaluation questions and how they will be answered via the methods selected. We also identified key stakeholders from which data will be sourced or collected.

Relevant evaluation criteria	Key questions	Method	Stakeholders	Data sources	Indicators/Success Standards
Project design & contextual relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To what extent are the Project's objectives still valid? ✓ To what extent are the cross-cutting issues (such as environment, gender equality, women empowerment, human rights-based approach, and social standards), principles and quality criteria? ✓ Does the Project respond to the needs of the identified target groups and beneficiaries? ✓ Were the unique needs of jobseekers taken into consideration / to what extent was gender equality addressed? Were there obstacles in responding to the programme? ✓ Were all procedures and beneficiaries respected and mainstreamed within the programme implementation? ✓ Was the design of the Project appropriate for reaching its results and outcomes? ✓ Have any changes been made to the Project's design during the implementation? If yes, did they lead to significant design improvements? ✓ Were coordination, management and financing arrangements clearly defined, and did they support institutional strengthening and local ownership? 	Desk review, In-Depth Interviews, Focus Group Discussions	Government representatives, National agencies representatives, implementation agencies representatives, CSO representatives	Project reports, data from specific agencies (KAS, NIPH, WB, WHO)	Completion of interviews, data acquisition, and data analysis.
Project effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To what extent have the Project outputs been achieved? Are they on track to be completed as planned during the Programme? ✓ What factors contributed to progress or delay in achieving products and results? ✓ What good practices, successful experiences, or transferable examples have been identified? ✓ What is the quality of interventions and results achieved with main Project stakeholders? ✓ Have any changes in the overall context in Kosovo affected Project implementation and overall results? 	Desk review, In-Depth Interviews, Focus Group Discussions	Government representatives, National agencies representatives, implementation agencies representatives, CSO representatives	Project reports, data from specific agencies (KAS, NIPH, WB, WHO)	Completion of interviews, data acquisition, and data analysis.
Project efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To what extent has the implementing partners' support to the project beneficiaries been an efficient implementation modality? ✓ To what extent have the target population and participants actively implemented the Programme? What modes of participation have taken place? 	Desk review, In-Depth Interviews, Focus Group Discussions	Government representatives, National agencies representatives	Project reports, data from specific agencies (KAS, NIPH, WB, WHO)	Completion of interviews, data acquisition, and data analysis.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What factors contributed to progress or delay in achieving products and results? ✓ What good practices, successful experiences, or transferable examples have been identified? ✓ What is the quality of interventions and results achieved with main Project stakeholders? ✓ To what extent were activities implemented as scheduled and with the planned financial resources? ✓ Is there any duplication of efforts, including stakeholders and implementing partners? If not, was the programme so unique in content? If yes, how was this coordinated between coordination bodies/stakeholders or implementing partners as a tested product or ownership? What was the effectiveness or difference of each approach/case? ✓ What factors contributed to effectiveness or ineffectiveness? 		<p>representatives, implementation agencies representatives, CSO representatives</p>		
Project sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Has the Project created conditions to ensure that benefits continue beyond the Project activities? ✓ How has the Project institutionalised overall capacity development efforts so far? ✓ Has an approach/model been developed that can be further disseminated throughout Kosovo? ✓ Is the duration of the current Project sufficient to ensure the sustainability of the interventions? ✓ Which recommendations can be made to inform future strategies and programs? ✓ Has the project introduced contemporary/innovative approaches to solving unemployment issues? ✓ How is the project ensuring the sustainability of its results and impacts (i.e., strengthened capacities, continuity of use of knowledge, improved practices, etc.)? ✓ Do the legal frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes within which the project operates pose risks that may jeopardise the sustainability of project benefits? ✓ What is the risk that the level of stakeholders' ownership will be sufficient to allow for the project benefits to be sustained? 	<p>Desk review, In-Depth Interviews, Focus Group Discussions</p>	<p>Government representatives, National agencies representatives, implementation agencies representatives, CSO representatives</p>	<p>Project reports, data from specific agencies (KAS, NIPH, WB, WHO)</p>	<p>Completion of interviews, data acquisition, and data analysis.</p>
Stakeholders and partnership strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Are the Project's objectives and outcomes consistent and supportive of governmental and sectoral policies (where relevant)? ✓ To what extent have partnerships been sought and established and synergies created in the delivery of assistance? ✓ To what extent do stakeholders support the project's long-term objectives? ✓ Were efficient and mutually satisfactory cooperation arrangements established between the Project Team and public institutions? Private sector? ✓ Were partners' inputs of quality provided promptly? 	<p>Desk review, In-Depth Interviews, Focus Group Discussions</p>	<p>Government representatives, National agencies representatives, implementation agencies representatives, CSO representatives</p>	<p>Project reports, data from specific agencies (KAS, NIPH, WB, WHO)</p>	<p>Completion of interviews, data acquisition, and data analysis.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Have partners fully and effectively discharged their responsibilities? Does the Project contribute to the overall UN Country Strategy? Have any new partners emerged that were not initially identified? ✓ How has the project implemented the commitments to promote local ownership, alignment, harmonisation, management for development results and mutual accountability? 				
Theory of Change or results/outcome map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Was the Theory of Change or project logic feasible and realistic? ✓ Were assumptions, factors and risks sufficiently taken into consideration 	Desk review, In-Depth Interviews, Focus Group Discussions	Government representatives, National agencies representatives, implementation agencies representatives, CSO representatives	Project reports, data from specific agencies (KAS, NIPH, WB, WHO)	Completion of interviews, data acquisition, and data analysis.
Human rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To what extent have poor, minority groups, physically challenged women and other disadvantaged and marginalised groups benefited from the project? 	Desk review, In-Depth Interviews, Focus Group Discussions	Government representatives, National agencies representatives, implementation agencies representatives, CSO representatives	Project reports, data from specific agencies (KAS, NIPH, WB, WHO)	Completion of interviews, data acquisition, and data analysis.
Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To what extent have gender equality and women's empowerment been addressed in the project's design, implementation and monitoring? ✓ Is the gender marker data assigned to this project representative of reality? ✓ To what extent has the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and women's empowerment? ✓ Were there any unintended effects? 	Desk review, In-Depth Interviews, Focus Group Discussions	Government representatives, National agencies representatives, implementation agencies representatives, CSO representatives	Project reports, data from specific agencies (KAS, NIPH, WB, WHO)	Completion of interviews, data acquisition, and data analysis.

APPENDIX 3. INTERVIEW GUIDE

Inform consent

Hello. My name is _____, and I am working with/for the UNDP programme in Kosovo. On behalf of UNDP, WHO, and UNV, we are conducting an end evaluation of the Healthier Kosovo 2 Project (hereafter referred to as HK2). The information collected during this evaluation will inform the key evaluation findings and recommendations that will help UNDP, the Government, and other relevant donors and stakeholders learn from the experience with the implementation of HK2.

Today, we want to interview you and ask questions about the HK2. As one of the key donors/stakeholders with direct knowledge of the Project, your input is important to us. We would very much appreciate your uninterrupted availability for this interview. The interview will be recorded on tape to avoid missing your feedback or comments. With your permission, we will record the interview only for such purposes.

Please be assured that your information will be confidential and not shared with anyone other than the evaluation team members. Your responses will also be kept anonymous and not tied back to you. The interview should take about 2 hours (120 minutes) to complete. Your participation in this interview is voluntary, and if we ask you any questions you don't want to answer, let us know, and we will go on to the next question. You can also stop the interview at any time without giving any reason.

Do you have any questions about the evaluation or the Interview process now?

Do you agree to participate in this interview? Yes [] No []

May I begin the interview now? Yes [] No []

Interview Guiding Questions

1. Warming up

Q1. Could you describe your position and role within the Organization? PROBE: How long have you been involved with HK2 (with your organisation)? How (in what roles) were you involved with the HK2? Which project activities, deliverables, and components?

Q2. Please share your understanding of the HK2 Project. PROBE: Can you please elaborate particularly on HK2 interventions in your domain/s of work?

2. Main questions

Q3. What can you tell us about your experience with HK2 project design & contextual relevance? PROBE: To what extent are the project's objectives still valid? To what extent are the cross-cutting issues (such as environment, gender equality, women empowerment, human rights-based approach, and social standards), principles and quality criteria? Does the Project respond to the needs of the identified target groups and beneficiaries? Were the unique needs of jobseekers taken into consideration / to what extent was gender equality addressed? Were there obstacles in responding to the programme? Were all procedures and beneficiaries respected and mainstreamed within the programme implementation? Was the design of the Project appropriate for reaching its results and outcomes? Have any changes been made to the Project's design during the implementation? If yes, did they lead to significant design improvements? Were coordination, management and financing arrangements clearly defined, and did they support institutional strengthening and local ownership?

Q4. What can you tell us about the effectiveness of the HK2 project? PROBE: To what extent have the Project outputs been achieved? Are they on track to be achieved as planned during the Programme? What factors contributed to progress or delay in achieving products and results?

What good practices, successful experiences, or transferable examples have been identified? What is the quality of interventions and results achieved with main Project stakeholders? Have any changes in the overall context in Kosovo affected Project implementation and overall results?

Q5. What can you tell us about the efficiency of the HK2 Project? PROBE: To what extent has the implementing partners' support to the project beneficiaries been an efficient implementation modality? To what extent have the target population and participants' jobseekers actively implemented the Programme? What modes of participation have taken place? What factors contributed to progress or delay in achieving products and results? What good practices, successful experiences, or transferable examples have been identified? What is the quality of interventions and results achieved with main Project stakeholders? To what extent were activities implemented as scheduled and with the planned financial resources? Is there any duplication of efforts, including stakeholders and implementing partners? If not, was the programme so unique in content? If yes, how was this coordinated between coordination bodies/stakeholders or implementing partners as a tested product or ownership? What was the effectiveness or difference of each approach/case? What factors contributed to effectiveness or ineffectiveness?

Q6. What are your impressions about the prospects for HK2 project efforts being sustainable? PROBE: Has the Project created conditions to ensure that benefits continue beyond the Project activities? How has the Project institutionalised overall capacity development efforts so far? Has an approach/model been developed that can be further disseminated throughout Kosovo? Is the duration of the current Project sufficient to ensure the sustainability of the interventions? Which recommendations can be made to inform future strategies and programs? Has the project introduced contemporary/innovative approaches to solving unemployment issues? How is the project ensuring the sustainability of its results and impacts (i.e., strengthened capacities, continuity of use of knowledge, improved practices, etc.)? Do the legal frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes within which the project operates pose risks that may jeopardise the sustainability of project benefits? What is the risk that the level of stakeholders' ownership will be sufficient to allow for the project benefits to be sustained?

Q7. What do you think about stakeholders in the HK2 project and partnership strategy? PROBE: Are the Project's objectives and outcomes consistent and supportive of governmental policies and sectoral policies (where relevant)? To what extent have partnerships been sought and established and synergies created in the delivery of assistance? To what extent do stakeholders support the project's long-term objectives? Were efficient and mutually satisfactory cooperation arrangements established between the Project Team and public institutions? Private sector? Were partners' inputs of quality provided promptly? Have partners fully and effectively discharged their responsibilities? Does the Project contribute to the overall UN Country Strategy? Have any new partners emerged that were not initially identified? How has the project implemented the commitments to promote local ownership, alignment, harmonisation, management for development results and mutual accountability?

Q8. What are your thoughts about the HK2 project Theory of Change or results/outcome map? PROBE: Was the Theory of Change or project logic feasible and realistic? Were assumptions, factors and risks sufficiently taken into consideration?

Q9. To what extent were human rights aspects an integral part of the design and implementation of the HK2 project? PROBE: To what extent have poor, minority groups, physically challenged women and other disadvantaged and marginalised groups benefited from the project?

Q10. To what extent were gender aspects an integral part of the design and implementation of the HK2 project? PROBE: To what extent have gender equality and women's empowerment been addressed in the project's design, implementation and monitoring? Is the gender marker data assigned to this project representative of reality? To what extent has the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and women's empowerment? Were there any unintended effects?

3. Closing Questions

Q11. Is there anything that we did not ask but, in your view, is significant? Please do share.
Thank the respondent for their time and emphasise that the interview has been helpful.
Do you have any questions for us?

APPENDIX 4. LIST OF INDIVIDUALS INTERVIEWED

	Name	Organisation	Title	Email	Phone	Completed
1	Eric Dietz	Embassy of Luxembourg	Charge d'affairs a.i.	pristina.amb@mae.etat.lu ; Eric.Dietz@mae.etat.lu	+383 (0) 38 22 67 87	
2	Valbona Bogujevci	UNDP	Assistant Resident Representative and Programme Coordinator	valbona.bogujevci@undp.org	049785916	17-Nov-23
3	Enisa Serhati	UNDP	IGCR Portfolio Manager	enisa.serhati@undp.org	049117575	17-Nov-23
4	Anton Selitaj	UNDP	Programme Associate	anton.selitaj@undp.org	049788447	23-Nov-23
5	Zana Shabani Isenaj	UNDP	HK2 Project Coordinator	zana.shabani.isenaj@undp.org	044186753	17-Nov-23
6	Rina Spahiu	UNDP	HK2 Project Innovation Officer	rina.spahiu.curi@undp.org	044162097	17-Nov-23
7	Oleksandr Martynenko	WHO	Liaison Officer	martynenkoo@who.int		27-Nov-23
8	Bujar Rexhepi	WHO	Environmental Health Officer	rexhepib@who.int	049 317 213	22-Nov-23
9	Blerim Azizi	UNV	Country Coordinator	blerim.azizi@unv.org	049785903	27-Nov-23
10	Dora Musa	Office of President	Adviser for sustainability affairs	-	49500801	13-Dec-23
11	Nezakete Hakaj	Local consultant UNDP LAPAQs	IC	nezakete.hakaj@gmail.com	044 213 963	5-Dec-23
12	Adnan Bullatovci	Municipality of Fushe Kosoves	Official for Environmental Protection	Adnan.bullatovci@rks-gov.net	044 684 626	5-Dec-23
13	Lulzim Mjekiqi	Municipality of Obiliqi	Official for Environmental Protection	Lulzim.Mjekiqi@rks-gov.net	049 831 067	29-Nov-23
14	Dejan Mitic	Municipality of Gracanices	Official for Environmental Protection	dejan7mitic@yahoo.com	049 210 847	29-Nov-23
15	Arsim Qavderbasha	Ministry of Health	Head of Department for Health Services	Arsim.Qavdarbasha@rks-gov.net		30-Nov-23
16	Antigona Ukëhaxhaj	Kosovo National Institute of Public Health	Dr. Spec. of Public Health	Antigona.dervishaj@yahoo.com ; antigona.dervishaj@uni-gjk.org	044 741 471	4-Dec-23
17	Besmir Kokollari	MESPI	Officer for environmental awareness	besmir.kokollari@rks-gov.net	049 659 662	No
18	Izedin Bytzqi	MESPI	Permanent Secretary	izedin.bytyqi@rks-gov.net	+ 381 (0) 38 200 32 307	4-Dec-23
19	Agron Shala	Kosovo Hydrometeorological Institute	Head of Institute	agron.Shala@rks-gov.net	044 242 211	4-Dec-23
20	Rinor Kurshuliu	CSO 7 Arte	Program Manager	rkurshuliu@gmail.com		5-Dec-23
21	Nasaer Ramadani	NIPHK	Executive Director	naser.ramadani@rks-gov.net , naseri0000@yahoo.co.uk		4-Dec-23
22	Pranvera Kameri	Municipality of Prishtines	Assistant to Deputy Mayor	Pranvera.Kameri@rks-gov.net		30-Nov-23
23	Agim Mazreku	UNDP	Advisor to Ministry of Environment	agimmaz@gmail.com		11-Dec-23
24	Gresa Neziri	SpaceSyntaKS	Executive Director	gresaneziri@spacesyntaks.org		11-Dec-23

APPENDIX 5. LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

Name of document	Publisher/Agency/Source
2022 Annual Work Plan – Healthier Kosovo 2	UNDP
2023 Annual Work Plan – Healthier Kosovo 2	UNDP
Summary Report of the Project Board Meeting, January 2023	UNDP
Local Air Pollution Reduction Action Plan – Fushe Kosove	Municipality of Fushe Kosove
Local Air Pollution Reduction Action Plan – Gjilan	Municipality of Gjilan
Local Air Pollution Reduction Action Plan – Gracanica	Municipality of Gracanica
Local Air Pollution Reduction Action Plan – Hani i Elezit	Municipality of Hani i Elezit
Local Air Pollution Reduction Action Plan – Obiliq	Municipality of Obiliq
JP Healthier Kosovo 2 Project Document	UNDP
JP Healthier Kosovo 2 Project Budget	UNDP
JP Healthier Kosovo 2 Narrative Report 2022	UNDP
JP Healthier Kosovo 2 Financial Report 2022	UNDP
JP Healthier Kosovo 2 Narrative Report 2023	UNDP
Co-design for Reducing Exposure to Air Pollution with the UN Community Volunteers Report 2022	UNKT
Social Media Platforms Report. Achievements And Insight 2023	UNDP
Behavioural Science for Transportation Behaviour in Kosovo	Ideas 42
Theory of change and results framework	UNDP
SOP 05-4789	MoH
SOP 05-4790	MoH
SOP 05-4791	MoH
SOP 05-4792	MoH
SOP 05-4793	MoH
SOP 05-4794	MoH
SOP_05-4795	MoH
Assessment Of Household Air Pollution In Kosovo	WHO, NIPHK
Raporti i Vlerësimit Menaxhimi i Mbeturinave të Kujdesit Shëndetësor në Kosovë	GIZ
The Annual Progress Report of The Climate Change Agenda of Kosovo 2022 - 2023	KCCCS
Gjendja e Ujërave në Kosovë - Analizë e situatës së ujërave në Mitrovicë	7Arte
EVALUATION REPORT Healthier Kosovo Final Project Evaluation	UNKT
JP Healthier Kosovo 1 Project Document	UNDP
Partnership agreement with CSO 7Arte	UNDP
Partnership agreement with CSO EcoKos Women	UNDP
Partnership agreement with CSO EcoZ	UNDP

APPENDIX 6. CODE OF CONDUCT