REPORT OF THE INTERIM EVALUATION OF THE

ENHANCING MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM TO INCREASE RESILIENCE OF UZBEKISTAN COMMUNITIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE INDUCED HAZARDS PROJECT

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TITLE PAGE

TITLE OF UNDP-SUPPORTED GCF-FINANCED PROJECT:

Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning System to increase resilience of Uzbekistan communities to climate change induced hazards

UNDP PIMS# AND GCF PROJECT ID#

UNDP PIMS ID number: 6218

GCF ID number: SAP022

INTERIM EVALUATION TIME FRAME AND DATE OF REPORT

Time frame: July – October 2024
Date of Report: August 15 2024

REGION AND COUNTRIES INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT

Implementing Partner: Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Other Project Partner: UzHydromet

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I. TABLE OF CONTENTS

III. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AF	Adaptation Fund
AMA	Accreditation Master Agreement
APR	Annual Performance Report
AWS	Automatic Weather Stations
CACILM	Central Asia Countries Initiative for Land Management
CAHM Project	Central Asian Hydro-Meteorological Project
CAMP4ASB	Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for Aral Sea Basin
CBMHRM	Community-based Multi-hazard Risk Management
CIMO	Commission for Instruments and Methods of Observation
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
COP 25	The 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference
CPD	Country Programme Document
CQS	Consultants Qualifications Selection
CRM	Climate Risk Management
DEWS	Drought Early Warning System
DJF	December January February
DOA	Delegation of Authority
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ENSO	El Niño–Southern Oscillation
ERC	Evaluation Resource Centre
EWS	Early Warning Systems
EU	European Union
FAA	Funded Activity Agreement
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FBF	Forecast-based Financing
FBS	Fixed Budget Selection
FOCRAII	Forum on Regional Climate Monitoring-Assessment-Prediction for Asia
FS	Feasibility Study
GBON	Global Basic Observing Network
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GCOS	Global Climate Observing System
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFCS	Global Framework for Climate Services
GIZ	German Corporation for International Cooperation
GoU	Government of Uzbekistan
GTS	Global Telecommunication System
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
IMS	Information Management System
IT	Information Technology
ITB	Invitation to Bid

JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
LCS	Least Cost Selection
LOA	Letter of Agreement
LPAC	Local Project Appraisal Committee
MAM	March April May
MAWR	Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan
MES	Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan
MHEWS	Multi-hazard Early Warning System
MHSSE	Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan
MIFT	Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan
MoEI	Ministry of Economy and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan
MOF	Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan
MoH	Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan
MPE	Ministry of Public Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan
NAO	North Atlantic Oscillation
NCE-VF	Nature, Climate, Environment – Vertical Funds
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NEACOF	North Eurasia Climate Outlook Forum
NFCS	National Framework for Climate Services
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
NIM	National Implementation Modality
PB	Project Board
PIMS	Project Information Management System
PMU	Project Management Unit
POPP	Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures
PPP	Public-Private-Partnership
QA	Quality Assurance
QBS	Quality Based Selection
QC	Quality Control
QCBS	Quality Cost Based Selection
RCMCs	Regional Crisis Management Centres
RFQ	Request for Quotation
SAP	Simplified Application Procedure
SCEEP	State Committee for Ecology and Environment Protection
SEPRS	State Emergency Prevention and Response System
SMS	Short Message Service
SNC	Second National Communication
SON	September October November
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SPEI	Evapotranspiration Index
SPI	Standardized Precipitation Index
SSMHGP	State Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Monitoring of Hazard Geologic Processes
SSTrC	South-South and Triangular Cooperation
TE	Terminal Evaluation
TNC	Third National Communication
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WMO RSMC	WMO Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre

WMO/TD	WMO/Technical Document
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP SP	UNDP Strategic Plan
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
Uzhydromet	Centre of Hydrometeorological Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan

FIGURE 1: PROJECT INFORMATION TABLE

Project Title	Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning System to increase resilience of Uzbekistan communities to climate change-induced hazards		
UNDP PIMS ID Number	6218	FAA Approval Date:	26 March 2021
GCF ID number	SAP022		
Atlas Award ID:	00120487	Atlas Project/Output ID:	00116677
Date when project became effective			19 July 2021
Country:	Uzbekistan	Date project manager hired:	March 2022
		Inception Workshop date:	03 August 2022
Intermediate Evaluation completion date:			
Planned completion date:	19 July 2027		
Execution Modality	National Implementation Modality (NIM)		
Other execution partners:			
Financing Plan at Design[1]			
GCF Grant - Total Budget administered by UNDP			USD 9,999,455
Confirmed Parallel co-financing (*all other co-financing that is not cash co – financing administered by UNDP)*			
UZHydromet (grant)			*1,215,789 USD*
UZHydromet (in-kind)			*2,979,716 USD*
MES (grant)			*25,126,875 USD*
MES (in-kind)			*1,317,500 USD*
Total confirmed co-financing			*30,639,880 USD*
Grand-Total Project Financing			*USD 40,639,335*

[1] This is the financing plan as set within the planning/design phase. Actual financing and co – financing are presented in the relevant sections of this report.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUMMARY PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. As the planning documents indicate, the *Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning System To Increase Resilience of Uzbekistan Communities To Climate Change-Induced Hazards* project was designed with the objective to "enhance the efficiency and coverage of an MHEWS for climate change-induced hazards in Uzbekistan given the projected climate change impacts."

2. Climate change has been leading to more frequent and more intense hydrometeorological disasters resulting in greater exposure and impact. For instance, the economic effect of flooding in Uzbekistan associated to climate change is estimated at US$ 236 million. Uzbekistan sets climate change adaptation as a priority in its first Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement highlighting the need to establish a Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS). Accordingly, this project is intended to respond to the critical need for modernization of the country's early warning system into an impact-based MHEWS (initially focused on floods, mudflows, landslides, avalanches and hydrological drought in the more populous and economically important eastern mountainous regions of Ferghana Valley), an essential element of the country's climate risk management framework. In the face of increasing climate risks, this system will serve to enhance the climate resilience of the people of Uzbekistan (indirect beneficiaries), including the most vulnerable and poor rural communities living in mountainous areas currently at risk from climate-induced hazards.

3. The objective, therefore, falls within an approach that combines principles articulated in the Global Framework for Climate Services with a "value-chain" tactic to target specific weaknesses in the delivery of early warning services, given the specific modes of operation, current infrastructure, technical capacities and institutional arrangements. It is intended that the project will introduce the impact-based MHEWS based on the socio-economic risk modelling and will explore and facilitate elements of forecast-based financing as an innovative paradigm-shifting approach to the use of climate data in decision-making.

4. Expected Output 1 addresses the first element by investing in the automatic hydro-meteorological monitoring infrastructure required for the generation of hazard-specific forecasting and risk models. Output 2 and Output 3 focus on building the systems and modelling capacity to generate impact-based forecasts creating dissemination channels to first responders and communities through updated communication technologies to enable real-time risk analysis and evaluation, as well as working with communities at risk to be able to interpret, understand and react to those warnings.

5. As indicated in project planning documents, the intervention intends to directly benefit over 11 million people living in high-risk areas of Uzbekistan (34% of the population), whereas the project investment in EWS in Uzbekistan will lead to at least a 3% reduction in damages due to the hazard (3% effectiveness). The project investment will lead to avoided damage from mudslide (60% lives saved) and drought (3% loss saved) owing to improved methods and capacities for monitoring, modelling and forecasting climate hazards and risks supported with satellite-based remote sensing[2]. As a result, the project will significantly enhance the quality and timeliness of climate and disaster-related information available to decision-makers and the dissemination of such information to the population of 32.39

[2] Source: Project Document.

million people (approx. 50% increase in the warning lead time and 50% reduction in the warnings delivery time), thus contribute to avoided household income loss (1% avoided damage due to climate information) and increased resilience and enhanced livelihoods of the most vulnerable people, communities in these regions, and to the increased resilience of health and well-being, food and water security in Uzbekistan.

PROJECT PROGRESS SUMMARY

6. Project progress responds to the overarching aim of the intervention which is to create resilience in climate – change induced hazards using an upgraded, modernized and automated multi-hazard early warning system in targeted areas in Uzbekistan. The project has carried out and deliver products and activities to begin to achieve its objectives, notwithstanding the challenges it has faced, particularly at start up. For Output 1 (*Upgraded hydro-meteorological observation network, modelling and forecasting capacities*) meteorological stations covering all seven targeted regions were installed and are operational; installation accompanied by training for end users and equipment conditions checked. Landslide risk maps for 19 sub regions (out of 24 planned) have been delivered. For Output 2 (*A functional Multi-Hazard Early Warning System is established based on innovative impact modelling, risk analyses, effective regional communication and community awareness)* six TOMCS equipped and functional; baseline work being carried out for achieving platform for hydrological risks, irrigation, flood and avalanche risks. For Output 3 (*Strengthened climate services and disaster communication to end-users*) community vulnerability assessment has been completed in all seven targeted regions, outdoor information boards either installed or being installed, training of communities on climate risks and disasters taking place.

INTERIM EVALUATION RATINGS & ACHIEVEMENT SUMMARY TABLE

Measure	Interim Evaluation Rating[3]	Achievement Description
Project Strategy	Not Applicable	
Progress Towards Results	Objective: To is to enhance the efficiency and coverage of an MHEWS for climate change-induced hazards in Uzbekistan given the projected climate change impacts. Achievement Rating: HS	Project designed to generate enhance, upgrade, automatize and modernize the tools needed in Uzbekistan to increase resilience to climate change induced hazards, while promoting the conditions to technically informed decision-making processes. Objective is highly satisfactory in and of itself since it is a highly relevant aim due to the country's vulnerabilities; and, because it fits within country – driven strategies. At the objective level, project has met expectations. Project has driven and delivered several products aligned to ultimate aims of increasing resilience and reduce climate change related vulnerabilities.
	Output 1: Upgraded hydro-meteorological observation network, modelling and forecasting capacities Achievement Rating: S	Although delivery is delayed to some degree, several key products have been achieved contributing to upgrading monitoring network for weather equipment. Trainings also carried out for proper operation and for sustaining and maintaining the systems, of particular interest for appropriation of the technology for the operators and for continuing use after project ends. Information is fed into platforms, data bases, systems, not only to induce improvements in forecasting, but also to eventually develop accurate models, feed research and – very importantly - to feed and coordinate with decision making processes to increase resiliency/reduce CC related vulnerabilities.
	Output 2: A functional Multi-Hazard Early Warning System is established based on innovative impact modelling, risk analyses, effective regional communication and community awareness. Achievement Rating: S	Set up delays and budgeting problems have slowed down implementation of some activities within this expected output. Yet, achievements are materialising in the different stages. Baseline studies need to be developed fully to inform other activities. Yet, the expectations are present that these will be realised before project end.
	Output 3: Strengthened climate services and disaster communication to end-users. Achievement Rating: S	This is the output that must accelerate its delivery and include further factors which are not being fully addressed. Although some activities have been carried out, key stakeholders and that it should be done fully to strengthen end-user's climate services. Gender sensitive inputs and outputs are not fully accomplished. This is an area to speed up delivery also to make up for lost time that was lost during set up for issues internal and external to the project itself
Project Implementation & Adaptive Management	HS	Although there are some delays in project implementations due to belated set up of the project, financial planning shortcomings, delayed delivery of funds by the donor, and other such issues, implementation has taken place at a positive level and with coordination of the relevant national partners. Adaptive management has been applied to a high degree, from the macro to the micro level, adapting purchasing and delivery to make up for financial planning shortcomings, for example, and in seeking advancement of co – financing for elements which were not properly budgeted. There has been adaptive management in anticipating and adapting to conditions or matters unforeseen in planning (energy provision, language of trainings and capacity building materials, etc.).
Sustainability	L	Sustainability likely. Particularly if some planning takes place to assure adjust issues in the next and final stage of implementation that could to some degree jeopardise full sustainability. Other processes that should be developed to enhance sustainability probabilities is an exit strategy attending to the development of protocols for institutional coordination, uptake of information for decision making, as well as financial sustainability with the identification of the resources required to achieve continuity. The later to be aided and underpinned by a business model to be developed in the next stage of implementation and expectantly to even begin to be implemented before project concludes.

[3] Ratings for Objective/Outcome Achievement and Project Implementation & Adaptive Management relevant to the rankings presented here: 5 = Satisfactory (S): meets expectations and/or no or minor shortcomings; 4 = Likely (L): negligible risks to sustainability.

CONCISE SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

7. In the Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning System To Increase Resilience Of Uzbekistan Communities To Climate Change-Induced Hazard Project the key linkages between a MHEWS and increasing resilience is in the title, the systems need to be set not only as a data gathering exercise but with an outlook to uptake by decision – makers for preparedness and alerting population on disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction. That is, early warning systems that allow for the monitoring of real-time atmospheric conditions as a way of informing conditions and predicting upcoming weather events are much more than that –if utilised properly that is. Information generated by these sorts of systems allow for planning, infrastructure upgrading to mitigate negative impacts, and overall prepare for ever increasing the multiple hazards faced and exacerbated by climate change. The design of this project was very well aligned with national relevance, and fully aligned with national priorities and strengthening already functioning principles and programmes and governmental activities in Uzbekistan. The resulted design is very well grounded on GCF principles for potential funding. It provides a basis for upgrading, updating and automating a strong climate rationale to give a scientific foundation for evidence-based decision making. This is perhaps the core of the project. It is not an intellectual exercise or a technological upgrading only type of intervention. That is, the generation of data is not an end in and of itself, it should be conceived to make proper decisions regarding climate change and build resilience at all levels (national and communities). There should be clear understanding and coordination, therefore, for the uptake of data to create adaptation and resiliency. The project has generated thus far a set of achievements such as updating an outdated hydrometeorological system, developed baseline studies, began hazard risks mapping, carried out training/awareness raising and capacity building activities at different levels (not only at the technical level but also at the community level). There is a common understanding that this a technological upgrading project, and it is understood by this evaluation that technological upgrading needed to take place as to move on to other aspects. Yet, the interim review can be taken as an inflexion point to speed up these processes now that the ground has been laid for this. Although it might be considered too early by some, this is the time to consider sustainability and develop proper tools (such as an exit strategy) to implement in the next few years and evidently after project closure to fully uphold the achievements that the project has made and that with no doubt will continue to accomplish until finalisation.

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

8. Following are summarised recommendations. Full recommendations set is found in the text in the chapter 5 (CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND LESSONS LEARNED).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROJECT, IMMEDIATE TIMEFRAME
1 *Speed – up work planning and delivery:* to make up for lost time and bottle necks withstood by the project, and engender expected results within the expected timeframe, delivery should be planned to be sped up and fast tracked based on different tools. Some specific sub recommendations in this aspect are as follows: Budget reviews should continue to take place to realistically do costing exercises in terms of current costs and prices. Generate a clear schedule for the time-bound action (roadmap) regarding the activities that the project intends to implement in relation to objectives and results-based management to speed up delivery and make up for delays. Improve efficiency, procurement of tasks and processes should be grouped to have implementation to be more efficient and time binding, as well help reduce transaction costs. Taking into consideration that some processes and activities do not pivot around each other and not sequenced, develop work plans that are more resourceful.
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROJECT, SHORT-TERM TIMEFRAME
2 *Strategic approach to capacity building and training:* it should be strengthened considering several aspects strategizing for training and capacity building such as engaging further on practical trainings as well as theoretical ones, increase coverage of technical specialists to guarantee sustainable operations (while the project is ongoing and after completion, fully work on technical support and troubleshooting including itinerant support for maintenance and for spare parts, train the trainers modalities, and so on). Training and capacity should consider regional differences and resistance to innovation and engender sustainable approaches for after the project ends, including KM products, tool boxes or tool kits, depositories of information and of KM products, etc., be developed to share this capacity with other actors after project ends. Increase different measurements of other weather-related factors that are being impacted negatively and consider their ultimate impact on the population (including productive sectors).
3 *Increase work with communities to deliver products*. Increase work with communities to deliver products that can be used for climate adaptation, including hands on practical trainings, KM products that take into consideration the leave no one behind framework and gender issues, and improve information services of all segments of the population to increase their readiness to take responsive measures to mitigate and or adapt to the negative consequences of hazardous events. Given the limited allocated budget for these activities, the project should seek the most effective and efficient ways to implement these and sustain those results in this context.

4	*Improve protocols for interagency cooperation*. Protocols that specify clearly interagency cooperation in early warning systems should be improved further and partners should be supported in their application.
5	*Further integration of gender mainstreaming:* gender integration should take place by mainstreaming the concept that MHEWS need to recognise that women and men are impacted differently or have different needs regarding hazards and that gender sensitive MHEWS should ensure that structural and contingency planning, use of information, disaster preparedness, and –therefore-- response should proactively consider gender.
6	*Generate an exit strategy:* begin to develop a full exit strategy as soon as possible, to be developed with sufficient time to be able to review and accept by all relevant parties and eventually begin to implement within project execution. All further activities and processes need to incorporate at some level awareness of how products, activities, and results will or should be sustained in the medium or long term. Integrated exit strategy should contain the following aspects: financial sustainability; institutional and policy framework that include inter – ministerial and inter-agency mechanisms; plans for ongoing operation of investments attending to integral maintenance; mechanisms for making trainings and community outreach programmes with communities permanent and systematic.
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GCF, SHORT TERM	
7	*Improve GCF communication and feedback, while streamlining programmatic procedures and meeting with commitments:* communication and feedback from GCF must be agile, not delayed; commitments to approve APRs and transfer funds should follow the donor's assurance in time and in form. Donor should recognize that this is not just a funding issue, it should be cognisant that delays of this sort jeopardise continuity and risk proper implementation. Make disbursements available as planned, avoiding inordinate delays, establishing clear guidance, and abiding by it.
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNDP FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMING, MEDIUM TERM TO LONGER TERM	
8	*Upscaling and outreach and assure that products are and will be programmatic*. Based on the achievements of this project and its lessons learned, plan and seek support for upscaling and reaching other target areas in Uzbekistan with the same approach and similar activities to have a country-wide updated MHEWS.
9	*Imbed flexibility*. Projects, particularly complex ones, should have embedded certain flexibility aspects to be able to face eventualities, to account for inception period and learning curve, and to be able to adapt to changing circumstances that necessarily do arise when translating design theory to implementation praxis.
10	*Improve indicator systems*. A robust indicator system with accurate metrics needs to be set at design. Indicators need to be SMART. That is, indicators should undergo a critical SMART analysis before planning documents are finalised.

2. INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERIM EVALUATION

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERIM EVALUATION

9. The interim evaluation (IE) of the project titled *Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning System To Increase Resilience Of Uzbekistan Communities To Climate Change-Induced Hazards* has focused primarily on assessing the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and potential sustainability of the Project considering the accomplished outcomes, objectives as well as effects. It is intended that this interim assessment will also serve as an accountability tool for and to the different partners involved in the Project. This external independent interim assessment evaluates the implementation and progress towards achievement thus far against what is specified as expected outputs and outcomes in the planning documents. By identifying the signs of successes, failures or bottlenecks in implementation, the evaluation establishes several lessons learned as well as several recommendations to be implemented to channel adjustments as needed to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results.

10. Besides the above-mentioned criteria, the IE was also assigned to assess the following:

- Implementation and adaptive management
- Risks to sustainability
- Coherence in climate finance delivery with other multilateral entities
- Gender equity
- Country ownership
- Innovativeness
- Replication and scalability
- Unexpected results, both positive and negative.

11. The IE is in line with the arrangements for monitoring, reporting and evaluation as stated in the Project's Funded Activity Agreement[4] (FAA) between UNDP and GCF. It is stated in that document that an independent mid-term evaluation would be undertaken within the fourth quarter of the third year of project implementation. It is also set in that document that findings and responses should recommend either corrective measures or measures to enhance the project results during planning and implementing activities for the upcoming three-year period after this assessment. This IE is also aligned with the evaluation criteria from the GCF IEU TOR (GCF/B.06/06) and GCF Evaluation Policy, along with guidance provided by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and UNDP guidance for these sorts of assessments.

[4] The Funded Activity Agreement (FAA) is an agreement signed by GCF and the Accredited Entity that establishes how a project will be implemented. The FAA becomes effective once an AE meets certain conditions negotiated and agreed with GCF. Once the FAA is effective, the project it is considered to be under implementation by GCF. The Accredited Entity can then request disbursal of funds from GCF to carry out the project activities. Source: www.gcf.org . Yet, for UNDP a project is considered to be under implementation when Project Document is signed and all national partners are onboard.

12. Two independent consultants conducted the interim evaluation in a participatory and consultative approach ensuring close engagement with government counterparts, UNDP, project team, and key civil society stakeholders. The national consultant oversaw providing the team leader with national level contextual understanding and insights that contribute to effective review of the project progress and challenges, practical translation and critical analysis of documents which are not in English as well as providing logistical and organizational support particularly during the field mission as well as interpretation in Russian and Uzbek. The international evaluator led the evaluation process being overall in charge of the assessment and in charge of producing the various deliverables (including inception report, evaluation report, audit trail). See **ANNEX 1: INTERMEDIATE EVALUATION TOR - NATIONAL CONSULTANT (EXCLUDING ANNEXES)** and **ANNEX 2: INTERMEDIATE EVALUATION TOR-INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT (EXCLUDING ANNEXES)**.

13. The consultants maintained their independence in the evaluation processes as well as in the analysis. The evaluation team followed steps to protect the rights and confidentiality of consulted persons, and conducted interviews and field visits solely with the participation of the stakeholders with whom the evaluators were engaged in site visits and in interviews. The consultants did not participate in project preparation, formulation, and/or implementation (including the writing of the Project Document) and had no conflict of interest with project's related activities. And although different stakeholders provided feedback to the evaluators, the author of the report maintained her independence in the incorporation of said feedback or not in the report as relevant.

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY: PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN AND EXECUTION, APPROACH AND DATA COLLECTION METHODS, AND LIMITATIONS TO THE IE

14. The intermediate evaluation scope is the whole project up to the time of the interim evaluation. Design as well as implementation is analysed within this scope. The different categories of project progress were examined using the evaluation criteria, issues, and questions presented in the Terms of Reference (ToR) for this process and follows relevant guidance.

15. The approach for the Project's evaluation was contained in the ToR for this assignment and – therefore—this IE followed methods and approach as stated in these and other relevant guidance materials. The analysis entailed reviewing different stages and aspects of the Project, including design and formulation; implementation; results; and the involvement of stakeholders in the Project's processes and activities. It has been carried out following a participatory and consultative approach ensuring close engagement with government counterparts, UNDP, GCF, project team, other donors, and other key civil society stakeholders.

16. To carry out this review exercise, several data collection tools for analysing information from the principles of results-based evaluations were used (see **ANNEX 4: INTERIM EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE** and **ANNEX 5: FIELD OBSERVATION GUIDE**). Following guidelines, the relevant areas of the Project were evaluated according to performance criteria and prospects of sustainability with ratings as summarized in the tables found in annexes (see **ANNEX 6: RATINGS SCALES**). The interim evaluation followed methods as stated within OECD, GCF, and UNDP guidance.

17. The timing of the evaluation ran from June 2024 to October 2024, which included the different stages of inception, data collection, mission, analysis, and the different report writing and report reviewing stages. The tools employed were relevant quantitative, qualitative and combined methods

to conduct the Interim Evaluation. Regarding specific methodologies to gather information, the following tools and methods were used.

18. *Document analysis:* The following types of documents were analysed: (a) those prepared during the planning phase (such as FAA funding proposal, UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP), the Project Document); (b) those prepared during the implementation phase such as project reports, project budget revisions, national strategic and legal documents; (c) the relevant tracking and monitoring tools prepared to oversee implementation (e.g. annual work plans --, etc.); (d) other relevant documents and materials, if available, such as technical documents, publications, social media. National consultant carried out critical document analysis for those products which were in Russian or in Uzbek.

19. *Key informant interviews and other engagement with key informants/stakeholders*: Interviews and other similar engagements (group discussions, etc.) were conducted through a series of open and semi-open questions raised to stakeholders directly and indirectly involved with the Project. At the local site visits there were interviews (individual and group), focus group discussions, as well as direct observation. Based on an institutional typology of relevant stakeholders to engage with and a list of these persons (both provided by the Project), key stakeholders to interview were selected. Interviewees were selected in a way to make the interview and personal engagement process feasible to implement within the time and resource limitations that this evaluation may have had and to have a representative sample of actors involved in the interviews/dialogues processes. This selection was drawn considering that stakeholder engagement is key for a successful IE and to create ownership of this process. This selection was done attending to a set of criteria, such as: (a) interviewees are key stakeholders, i.e. people who have participated fully and who --potentially-- have the possibility of giving inputs to the evaluation; and (b) there was an assortment in the typology of stakeholders' institutions (for example, international – national -local institutions), in relation to their overall participation. To engage with the greatest number of stakeholder's possible, yet within the time and resource limitations of this IE, interviews were at times clustered in groups again following criteria, such as belonging to the same institution and/or working in the same project component(s). When stakeholders were not available for interviews, an online questionnaire was applied. The consultants held interviews/discussions and interacted with 57 stakeholders in Tashkent and in four different regions; the list with their names and institutional affiliation is found in annexes (**ANNEX 8: LIST OF CONSULTED PERSONS**).

20. The methodologies and tools applied fed into each other. Data validation was ensured through using diverse research methods and tools and collecting data of different types. These aggregation methods also triangulated the information, and thus ensured the validity of the data that give rise to the evaluation process. Strategically, the use of both qualitative and quantitative data supported the validation and triangulation of information. Through a combination of methods and feedback between the various tools as well as validation between different levels and types of data collection was sought to triangulate the information, and thus ensuring the validity of the data that gives rise to the evaluation process and to this report. The evaluation matrix (see **ANNEX 3: IE EVALUATIVE MATRIX**) has been a guiding framework tool for data gathering processes. The questions and issues raised in the Terms of Reference are the basis for the evaluation matrix. An MTR evaluative matrix, specifying the main review criteria, and the indicators or benchmarks against which the criteria will be assessed was drawn for the inception process of this interim evaluation and follows template provided by UNDP and vetted by this agency and the commissioning unit. It contains the evaluation's criteria with key questions, indicators, sources of data, and methods to collect data. This matrix guides the data

collection process and, as the evaluation proceeded, it was used as a framework for data collection obtained from various sources that relate to relevant evaluation criteria and questions. The main criteria questions are operationalised and further refined in the matrix by a set of more specific research sub – questions (in the first column). The matrix contains the potential indicators that can answer these questions, where the sources are found (i.e. means of verification), and –lastly—what methodologies will be used to establish and support findings. The indicators cover several questions/sub questions as relevant and as appropriate vis-à-vis the questions.

21. Indicators embedded in tracking tools and monitoring reporting were used to measure success in implementation by comparing attainments vs. expected results (quantitative analysis). Qualitative examination was mainly applied to the information harnessed by using thematic analysis of interviews' responses.

22. Assessments of quantitative data (for instance, indicators of achievements) were analysed comparing their progress from start of implementation to date of this evaluation, and analysed these vis-à-vis inputs attained from interviews and field site visits. This not only allowed for deeper analysis, but also for reviewing progress toward results assessed based on data provided by the Project, amongst others, in the Project Document, project work plans, tracking tools, implementation reporting, as well as results substantiated during the mission. The analysis also entailed not only monitoring of attainments but deeper scrutiny regarding the reasons why achievements were attained or not. By identifying these findings, the evaluation made a set of recommendations on how to overcome barriers to the achievement of objectives, outputs and outcomes, as well as recommendations to support successful processes and activities within this project, for further programming and to relevant agencies.

23. Tools were used for the interviews (single person interviews and group interviews) as well as for site visits. The evaluation guiding questions regarding achievements and assessment criteria were operationalised in an evaluation question form. These were guidance questions used mainly as a guide for open – ended interviews with relevant stakeholders. This was an overarching tool with queries that were used by catering suitably the questions for each stakeholder typology (project staff, government, UNDP members, local stakeholders, other actors). In annexes a copy of the surveying questions is found (see **ANNEX 4: INTERIM EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE**). The form, as presented therefore, asks general guiding questions that were tailored to each relevant stakeholder interviewed and become more specific in the application of the guidance questions themselves and as part of counter questions. In many interviews interpretation in Russian and in Uzbek –as relevant to the stakeholder's language – took place.

24. This was also a gender-responsive evaluation that assessed how gender issues are included in the project (from design/planning to implementation processes). That is, the IE process was implemented using gender-responsive methodologies and tools and ensured that gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as other cross-cutting issues and SDGs, were incorporated as relevant. The gender-responsive evaluation assessed how (or if) gender issues were included in the Project (from design/planning to implementation processes) [5] and provided information on the way in which the Project is or will be affecting women and men differently and how women are included in the project

[5] UNDP. Evaluation Guidelines. *The Gender Results Effectiveness Scale (GRES): A Methodology Guidance Note*.

within a rights framework.[6] Gender-responsiveness includes and relates to both what the evaluation examined and how it was undertaken. Therefore, this evaluation fulfilled both aspects of gender responsiveness, not only by exploring how gender is included in the project but also assuring that the assessment process was inclusive of women and participatory. Seventeen percent of the stakeholders engaged with in interviews were women. The quality of the evaluation report has been reviewed by the UNDP Team, which includes the Project Team, Evaluation Manager, Head of SPI Unit, Regional Technical Advisor, and Cluster Leader. The quality of the report has been checked against the quality assessment checklist provided in UNDP Evaluation Guidelines and comments were provided to the independent evaluator via the Audit Trail.

25. *Limitations:* As it occurs in most of these sorts of assessments, there can be a series of limitations. Besides the characteristic evaluability issues such as access to inputs, constraints in terms of resources and time there were other specific limitations identified. Limits of time existed given the need to carry out this process quickly since it needed to fit into other monitoring process. Also, there were limitations of resources since not all the stakeholders could be reached within the time frame of the evaluation process. Furthermore, different access instruments were used (such as video conferences, etc.) when the relevant stakeholder was not available for in person interactions. Language was not considered a limitation given that the National Evaluator provided Russian and Uzbek interpretation and translation as needed.

26. The number of field visits were limited from what was originally planned due to budgetary constraints. The original plans indicated that the interim evaluation team was expected to conduct field missions to project sites in seven regions (Fergana, Namangan, Tashkent, Syrdarya, Jizzakh, Samarkand and Kashkadarya). This limit is related to the limits on resources (funds and time) that the evaluation has had. However, the field sites were chosen according to their representativeness within the overall field intervention implementation the Project is undertaken. Therefore, the evaluators are confident that the sampling and sample responses as well as the methodologies were very adequate, with the understanding that an evaluation of this sort can only carry out a limited number of interviews, focus group discussions and field site visits if the stakeholders engaged with are representative of the whole. The evaluators are further confident that evaluability was not threatened given the sampling size, sampling methodology, and effort put in engaging with stakeholders of different levels and streamlining timing of the evaluation, efforts not only by the evaluation team but also by the project itself.[7]

STRUCTURE OF THE INTERMEDIATE EVALUATION REPORT

27. The Interim Evaluation report is structured beginning with an executive summary, where a project summary, ratings tables, progress, conclusions and recommendations of this report are summarized. A second section introduces methodologies, scope and information of the execution of this mid-term assessment. A third section contains an overall project description within a developmental context, including an account of the problems the Project sought to address, as well as its initial objectives. A fourth core section of this report deals principally with review findings related to the actual

[6] Independent Evaluation Office, 2015. *How to Manage Gender Responsive Evaluation*. UN Women. pp 4.

[7] As indicated above, the consultants held interviews/discussions and interacted with 57 stakeholders in Tashkent and in four different regions; the list with their names and institutional affiliation is found in annexes. Ten of the stakeholders engaged with in interviews were women.

implementation of the Project. The fifth section of the present report entails overall conclusions as well as forward looking issues such as recommendations for future actions and future programming. Lastly, an annex section includes project and intermediate evaluation support documentation.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND CONTEXT

DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT: ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIO-ECONOMIC, INSTITUTIONAL, AND POLICY FACTORS RELEVANT TO THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

28. Uzbekistan is a lower-middle-income, landlocked country in Central Asia and it is ranked high (24th) in the World Bank's global natural disaster hotspots list compiled by the WB. Over nine percent of the total surface of the country is at risk, with 65.6% of the population living in risk exposed areas, and 65.5% of the national GDP (USD 12 billion annually) generated from areas at risk. Climate change-induced hazards cause loss of lives and significant economic damages and losses with floods and mudflows dominating the hazard profile. Approximately eight million people (26% of the population) are affected by mudflows, 80% of which occur in the foothills and high mountainous areas and are caused by heavy rainfall. Most damages occur in economically strong and flooding-prone provinces in the east, particularly Andijan and Ferghana (which are congruently two of the project target regions) which on average lose 3% and 2% respectively of annual GDP to flooding.

29. The economic impact of flooding in Uzbekistan due to climate change is estimated at USD 236 million. Landslides in spring and avalanche hazards during winter are also significant risks in the country's eastern mountain and foothill areas (particularly along with significant transport links e.g. the Tashkent-Osh highway). Almost 90% of the country's water resources originate from eastern mountain catchments located in neighbouring countries and supplied by rainfall, melting snow and glacial ice. Two major river systems - the Amu Darya and the Syr Darya – constitute 95% of the surface water flow. Mudflow, landslide and flooding risks are most prevalent in the east, with drought affecting the whole country, especially the more arid western areas. Given the high concentration of people, economic activities, and several climate-related hazards (floods, mudflows, landslides and avalanches), the Ferghana valley is subject to high climate-related disaster risks.

30. Climate change is expected to aggravate the intensity and frequency of hydrometeorological disasters – droughts, floods, mudflows, landslides and storms while significantly pressuring society's resilience texture. This is demonstrated by annual average temperature increase, leading to accelerated evapotranspiration and caused changes in the timing and zones of snow and ice melt, changes in river flows and increased risk of droughts, floods, mudflows and avalanches. Increases in rainfall intensity has led to increased risk of flooding, mudflow and rainfall-induced landslide risks over the eastern mountain and foothill regions. Glaciers which contribute up to 70% of the water flow in some of the river systems during summer are expected to drastically alter the regional hydrological cycle, exacerbating existing water scarcity problems and water-related conflicts. These and other similar effects are either currently seen or are expected to be seen soon in Uzbekistan. The latter supported by modelling exercises.

31. Agriculture accounts for 18.5% of the annual GDP in Uzbekistan and contributes to more than a quarter of the labour force in the country. A major problem causing the reduced agricultural productivity is inappropriate irrigation (both insufficient and over-irrigation) inadequately informed by climate information. Expected reductions in the availability of water supply in the main rivers will likely impact significantly the availability of irrigation water which currently consumes 90% of water resources. Similarly, higher than normal rainfall in other periods causes intensified problems with agriculture. These weather and climate-related impacts highlight the potential value that climate-hazard related knowledge can provide. Therefore, Uzbekistan's first Nationally Determined

Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement sets climate change adaptation as a priority for agriculture, water management, social protection, and protection of strategic infrastructure and production facilities and highlights the need to establish an MHEWS which will: raise awareness and improve access to information about climate change for all population groups and develop early warning systems for dangerous hydrometeorological hazards which will provide information for climate risk management.

32. The project intends to address a series of issues related to identified (and targeted) threats and barriers. For instance, Uzhydromet (which is the agency responsible for weather forecasting, hydro-meteorological and agro - meteorological monitoring including monitoring of extreme weather events, the forecasting of water availability and climate research) operates and maintains a hydrometeorological observation network Uzhydromet has demonstrated sufficient capacity to operate and maintain its existing network. This signals capacity by partners to operate systems, yet the coverage of this network at the time of project planning was geographically limited; hence the relevance of this project to expand geographic coverage of existing network Yet, in addition, the agency has not had access to substantial capital to upgrade and expand this network (e.g., radars) to cover all hazardous areas.

33. The State Emergency Prevention and Response System (SEPRS) defines the system, roles and responsibilities related to emergency monitoring, forecasting, prevention, early warning and response (Early Warning System EWS is one part of the SEPRS responsibilities). The Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) is the lead government entity responsible for the overall management, coordination and control over the State Emergency Prevention and Response System (SEPRS). When there is the risk of a hydrometeorological extreme event, Uzhydromet forwards warnings to the MES and other government bodies responsible for decision making.

34. MES is responsible for the distribution of warnings to the population and taking measures to respond to disasters. Public agencies receive warnings about possible storm phenomena, mudflow or avalanches which can cause damage to transportation and other communications. For drought and low water risks, warnings are forwarded by MAWR. The dissemination of hydrometeorological information in ministries and agencies is by fax and via the internet and the dissemination of warnings to the public are done via television, radio, newspapers, the website of Uzhydromet (www.meteo.uz), and SMS messages, with appropriate recommendations for addressing risks. During mudflows/avalanches, warnings are forwarded to all government bodies responsible for the operation and maintenance of roads and recreation activities.

PROBLEMS THAT THE PROJECT SOUGHT TO ADDRESS: THREATS AND BARRIERS TARGETED

35. Although the above arrangements are in place, there is no systematic ongoing monitoring of risks in a single environment where all risks can be considered together, which reduces the capability to deal with and identify multi-hazard risks. Also, Uzbekistan's capacity to map, monitor and forecast climate risks, as well as act on this information, is severely limited with many extreme weather events are unreported and disaster data is not thoroughly being collected.[8]

36. Furthermore, Uzbekistan lacks financial resources, knowledge and capacities at the system, institutional and individual levels to conduct multi-hazard, vulnerability and risk assessments, establish

[8] Source: Project Document

real-time monitoring, forecasting and early warning systems to make climate-informed decisions and implement climate-induced Disaster Risk Management (DRM) measures. There is a significant financial gap between actual and required Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation investments. Both rural and urban populations and government have low response and preparedness capacities. Especially, women appear to suffer disproportionally from disasters not only due to uneven income distribution but also due to the lesser access to information, planning and decision making.

37. As indicated in project planning documents, key barriers to be addressed to achieve long-term solutions in relation to early warning systems, are:

- Insufficient national technical capacities for hydro-meteorological monitoring, modelling, risk assessment and mapping.
- Insufficient institutional and technical capacities for timely multi-hazard forecasting and early warning, as well as effective communication and dissemination of disaster-related information.
- Warnings and advisory with several issues: not user-friendly, forecasts do not zero in on potential areas at risk, messages not geographically specific, etc. Furthermore, warnings and advisories are not tailored per the needs of citizens exposed to vulnerable situations (women, youth, elderly, people with disabilities, etc.)

38. Disparities were also identified for which the project could potentially provide support, such as:

- Lack of Information and Communication Technologies facilities, equipment and access to critical and up-to-date information of climate-induced hazards and response measures, as well as information boards;
- Limited skilled and qualified staff to run/programme hazard forecast models, manage IT systems and utilize tools for dynamically assessing risks (combining with vulnerable populations, assets and infrastructure);
- Regulations and inter-agency coordination are largely based on information gathered through disaster-management structures e.g. Mahalas (local social institutions, serving as the link between central government and communities), and the media, as well as reports through different ministries.
- At the time of project design, the revenue generation of specialized hydrometeorological services at Uzhydromet (refer to FS section 4.1.1) was only 6.5-8.3% of its annual budget, with civil aviation and transportation being the largest customers. Uzhydromet has developed clear income streams yet paid services are infrequent.
- Dissemination of warnings, alerts and “last-mile” communication to targeted areas and populations: mobile subscribers in the potential location are not targeted and public information boards are only found in a few locations and do not cover all high-risk areas; and
- Communities have limited capacities to effectively utilize and understand climate hazard-related information and advisories, including their options in responding to a hazard, especially the vulnerable groups of citizens being hit the hardiest.

39. In general, the Government of Uzbekistan has been prioritizing disaster prevention work over the past decade through the gradual enhancement of the hydro-meteorological monitoring capacities and resettlement of populations in high-risk areas. Consequently, the overall losses of life from natural

disasters have been falling. However, this work has been constrained due to the lack of capacities and access to modern risk assessment, monitoring and forecasting technologies. Continuous population growth and expansion of infrastructure increase risks due to climate-driven extreme events (in which climate change is increasing). This requires a more efficient and timely approach to i) the generation of warnings (most hazards are fast onset events which require real-time monitoring and forecasting to act ex-ante); ii) climate risk management (monitoring and forecasting new areas which are either not currently observed through ground-based technologies or the impacts are not modelled); iii) risk knowledge (which needs to quickly identify people, assets and infrastructure at risk in light of immediate information on impacts/hazards); iv) application of modern information and communication technologies; v) co-development and understanding of warnings and information with communities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGY: OBJECTIVE, OUTCOMES AND EXPECTED RESULTS, DESCRIPTION OF FIELD SITES

40. The above is a background introduction to the Project. As the planning and implementation documents indicate, this project was designed with the objective *to enhance the efficiency and coverage of an MHEWS for climate change-induced hazards in Uzbekistan given the projected climate change impacts.* The approach combines principles articulated in the Global Framework for Climate Services with a value-chain approach to target specific weaknesses in the delivery of early warning services, given the specific modes of operation, current infrastructure, technical capacities and institutional arrangements. The project is intended to introduce impact based MHEWS based on socio-economic risk modelling and to explore and facilitate elements of forecast-based financing as an innovative paradigm-shifting approach to the use of climate data in decision-making.

41. To enable obtaining this, the project has been organized in four expected outcomes. This is seen in the following table.

FIGURE 2: PROJECT OUTCOMES

A1.0 Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems for climate-responsive planning and development
A2.0 Increased generation and use of climate information in decision-making
A3.0 Strengthened adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks
A4.0 Strengthened awareness of climate threats and risk-reduction processes

42. The outputs expected to be achieved and through which the above-mentioned outcomes and the overarching objective are expected to be obtained, are three. Below are the outputs and within each the activities to be carried out to achieve them:

Output 1: Upgraded hydro-meteorological observation network, modelling and forecasting capacities.

- Activity 1.1 Upgrading and modernization of the meteorological and hydrological Observation System
- Activity 1.2 Upgrading Uzhydromet capacity to store, process and develop hazard products, as well as to communicate hydrometeorological data to regional divisions

- Activity 1.3 Re-training and advanced training of Uzhydromet staff on monitoring and forecasting technologies and procedures

Output 2 A functional Multi-Hazard Early Warning System is established based on innovative impact modelling, risk analyses, effective regional communication and community awareness.

- Activity 2.1 Developing and installing a modernised and efficient system for assessing climate risks based on dynamic information on both hazards and vulnerabilities, including socio-economic risk models for decision making and prioritization of resilience-building long-term/future investments
- Activity 2.2 Developing and introducing technical guidance, institutional and coordination frameworks
- Activity 2.3 Designing and implementing a system for information dissemination to RCMCs and area-specific mobile alerts including an information visualization system for RCMCs with software

Output 3: Strengthened climate services and disaster communication to end-users.

- Activity 3.1 Establishing National Framework for Climate Services for Uzbekistan
- Activity 3.2 Designing a sustainable business model for disaster-related information and services
- Activity 3.3 Strengthening disaster warning dissemination and communication with end-users

43. During design, the project identified 15 districts (Qoichirchik, Bostanlik, Sirdarya, Saihunabad, S. Rashidov, Gallaaral, Bulungur, Jambai, Koshrabad, Kitab, Yakkabag, Dehkanabad, Chust, Turakurgan, and Dangarin) located in seven provinces of Uzbekistan as hazard-prone target regions. Project actions were planned to be focalized in these target areas. After the launch of the project implementation, it was revealed the need for revision of some target districts, since there are some communities where climate risks were observed more frequently in recent years than the communities identified and proposed (less climate risks observed in recent years) during the development process of the project proposal for GCF. In consultation with MES, some districts were replaced with more vulnerable ones (Namangan region: Pap and Kasansay districts, Fergana region: Fergana district, Tashkent region: Parkent and Bostanlik districts, Sirdarya region: Sirdarya and Havas districts, Jizzakh region: Gallaaral and Forish districts, Samarkand region: Bulungur, Jambai and Koshrabad districts, Kashkadarya region: Kitab, Yakkabag and Dehkanabad districts) where frequent mudflow and floods occurrences observed. These changes were agreed and approved by national project partners during the first Project Board meeting held in October 2022 The revision of some target communities was agreed during the first virtual Project Board meeting in October 2022. This was reported in APR2022 and the revised list of target communities was submitted to GCF along with the APR.

44. The GCF Paradigm shifts objectives were expressed as follow: “The project will facilitate a significant shift in the provision of climate and disaster information and forecasting services through an enhanced multi-hazard early warning system in Uzbekistan. The GCF project will promote the transformation of climate hazard forecasting and warning from a reactive (ex-post) hazard-based system to one that is proactive (ex-ante), user-oriented and impact-based. Moreover, this project will be the driver of significant institutional change within Uzbekistan’s hydrometeorology and disaster response services, as well as a potential catalyst for increased investment in the sector. Uzhydromet

currently serves as a Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC) within the WMO Network for the Central Asian region. This project will strengthen Uzhydromet capacity to potentially scale up the enhanced climate information management system to other Central Asian countries through experience sharing and peer learning. "

45. The overall financing plan as set at design is as follows. Actual financing and co – financing information will be presented further along this report.

FIGURE 3: FINANCING AND CO – FINANCING PLAN

Financing Plan at Design	
GCF grant	USD 9,999,455
Confirmed cash co-financing to be administered by UNDP	USD 0
Total Budget administered by UNDP	USD 9,999,455
Confirmed (parallel) co-financing (*all other co-financing that is not cash co-financing administered by UNDP) and financial instrument*	
UZHydromet (grant)	*1,215,789 USD*
UZHydromet (in-kind)	*2,979,716 USD*
MES (grant)	*25,126,875 USD*
MES (in-kind)	*1,317,500 USD*
Total confirmed co-financing	30,639,880 USD
Grand-Total Project Financing (1) +(2)	USD 40,639,335

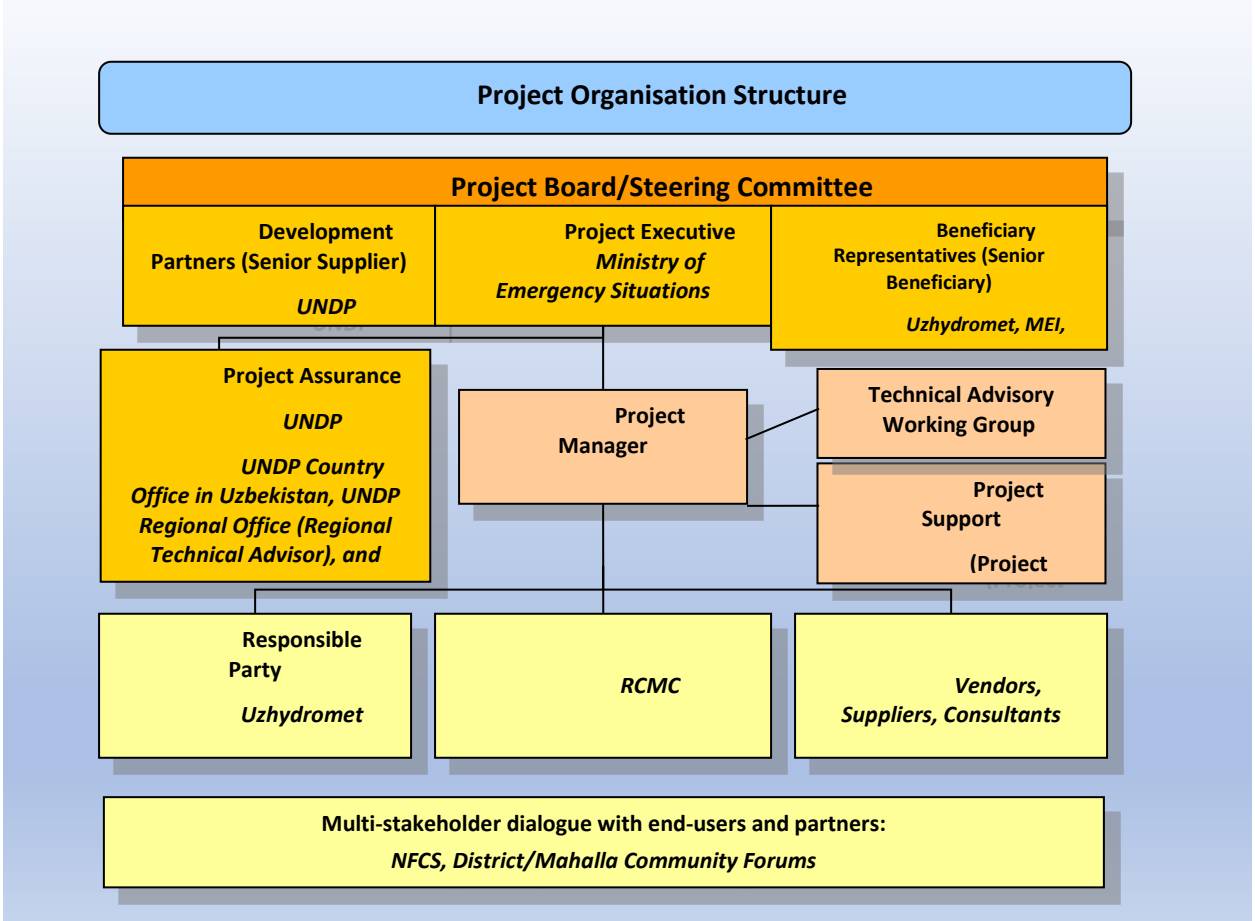
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS: KEY IMPLEMENTING PARTNER ARRANGEMENTS, SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT BOARD AND OF COMMITTEES

46. The Project is implemented under the National Implementation Modality (NIM) with the Implementing Partner (GCF Executing Entity) being the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The project is NIM, yet it receives high levels of support from UNDP in all implementation factors.

47. Within GoU, Uzhydromet is a key partner and responsible party within the project organisational structure, having also a significant role in all aspects of the project. The NIM modality followed is very much adapted to national circumstances, whereby this project is NIM yet it has substantial support by UNDP in its implementation.

48. Project planning documents included a description of implementation arrangements and project board responsibilities. This is illustrated in the figure below.

FIGURE 4: PROJECT ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



49. Planning documents (Project Document and FAA) indicate the roles and responsibilities of each actor within this implementation structure. The Project Board's specific responsibilities include: provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints; address project issues as raised by the project manager; provide guidance on new project risks, and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks; advise on major and minor amendments to the project; ensure coordination between donor and government-funded projects and programmes; ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities; track and monitor co-financing for this project; review the project progress, assess performance, and appraise the Annual Work Plan for the following year; appraise the annual project implementation report, including the quality assessment rating report; ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project; review combined delivery reports before certification by the implementing partner; provide direction and recommendations to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans; adress project-level grievances; approve the project Inception, Interim Evaluation and Terminal Evaluation reports and corresponding management responses; as well as review the final project report package.

PROJECT TIMING AND MILESTONES

50. The Project has a planned seven-year duration. The planned start date of this Project was of July 19 2021 per GCF. The funding agreement –FAA-- between GCF and UNDP was signed on 26 March 2021. In the project document, 19 July 2027 is indicated as the end date of the project. Yet activities did not actually begin until early 2022, signalling an effective start date half a year after FAA signature. UNDP assigns a start-up later given that the agency needs to go its own procedures for this to begin, such as signature and onboarding by national partners (MES and Uzhydromet in this case).

MAIN STAKEHOLDERS: SUMMARY LIST

51. At the design stage a list of stakeholders to engage with was drawn. This included ministries, agencies, development partners, etc., that would potentially engage with the project in different capacities. A summary of potential stakeholders as described at inception and design follows:

Ministry of Emergency Situations

Centre for Hydrometeorological Services of Uzbekistan (Uzhydromet)

Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education

Ministry of Public Education

Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction

Regional governments – Khokimiyats

Local governments

Makhala committees

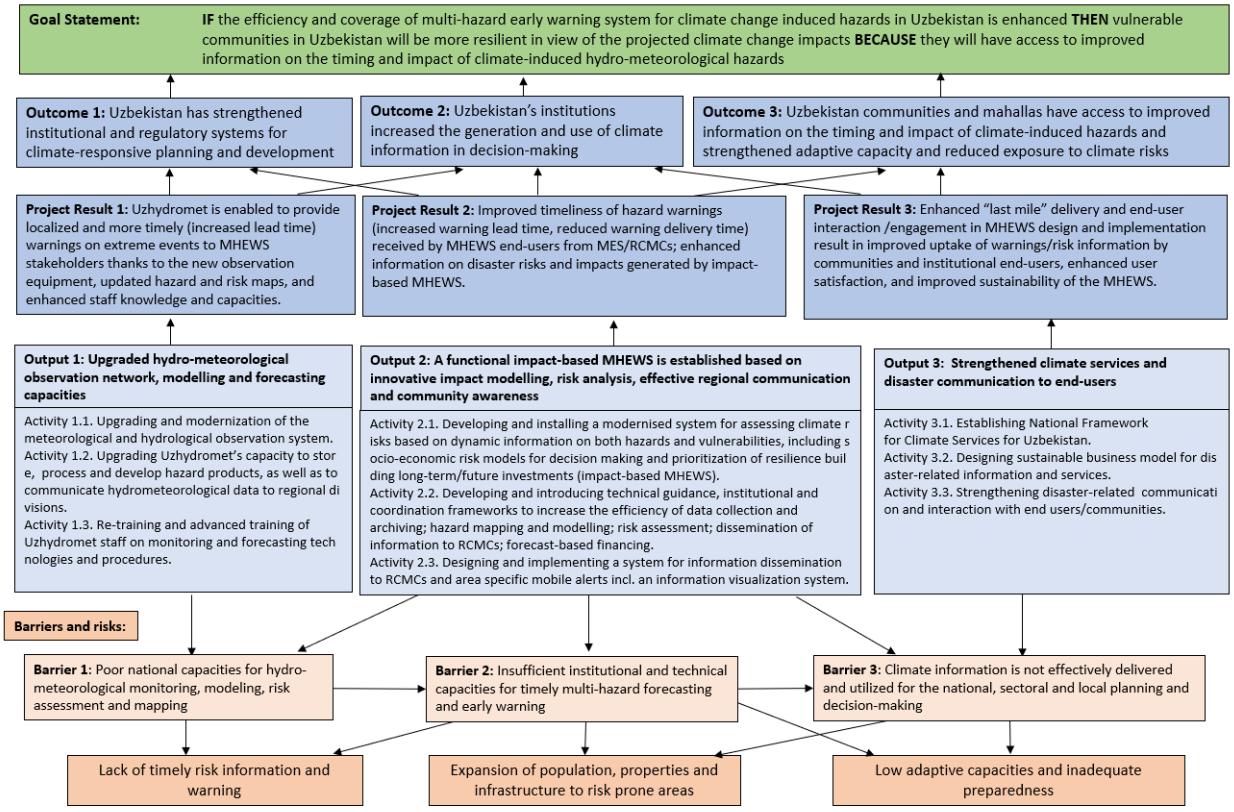
Non-governmental and civil society organizations

Red Crescent Society.

THEORY OF CHANGE

52. The project has a Theory of Change (ToC) in its design documents. This is the same ToC in the Project Document and the Funding Proposal. The project has a Theory of Change (ToC) in its design documents. This is the same ToC in the Project Document and the Funding Proposal. The TOC as indicated in these documents maps the articulation of assumptions, pathways and mechanisms that underlie how this project would achieve its goals. Although it contains the same information as other tools (such as the log frame and the narrative in planning documents) it is presented as a diagram that illustrates the causal links between expect activities, outputs and outcomes in the context of assumptions and barriers/risks. The ToC chart is found below (see **FIGURE 5: THEORY OF CHANGE DIAGRAM**).

FIGURE 5: THEORY OF CHANGE DIAGRAM



Assumptions:

- The occurrence of major extreme weather or seismic events do not deviate historic trajectory;
- Continued national and local political support for the development of a national emergency prevention and response system (NEPR);
- Continued commitment and uptake of the information by targeted communities in the project;
- Government has a political will, institutional capacity and resources to support proper O&M of MHEWS. No staff and budget cuts occur at MES and Uzhydromet;
- Capacities built across relevant agencies through the project are maintained and periodically updated;
- Relevant government agencies cooperate on the implementation of the MHEWS and data management: inter-agency data available and accessible; inter-agency data-sharing agreement between agencies institutionalized and data-sharing protocols established;
- Climate-risk information on multi-hazards made available and accessible.

4. FINDINGS

PROJECT STRATEGY

PROJECT DESIGN

53. The planning process was wide-ranging, and throughout the progression of design there were some changes, for instance as to what financing window would be used within GCF. The latter meant that planning went through different stages and that design was adjusted and streamlined from a larger intervention to the actual intervention approved. The project originated out of consultations with the Government of Uzbekistan. It is country driven, therefore, and responsive to a national request to support the establishment of an early warning system.

54. The problems addressed by the project are clearly expressed. The project strategy triggers the promotion and transformation of hazard forecasting and warning from a reactive (ex-post) hazard-based system to one that is proactive (ex-ante), user-oriented and impact-based.

55. The main underlying assumptions as expressed through the planning documents are varied. For national and subnational governments, they range from cooperation between and among government agency in the implementation of an early warning system and data management; availability and accessibility of inter-agency data for knowledge management platform; continued and government support and cross-agency commitment to the project; political support for the state emergency prevention and response system (SEPRS) and continuous governmental support for securing equipment, software, etc.

56. For civil society and communities, the assumptions were continued commitment and uptake of the information; understanding of short to long term benefits of multi – hazard early warning systems and risk reduction interventions; as well as information uptake.

57. There were also assumptions flagged of a more political nature, such as political will underlying institutional capacity; lack of budget cut backs in the relevant government areas; inter agency cooperation, readily available and accessible information.

58. Indicated assumptions were some crucial aspects which were pertinent not only for implementation but for sustainability. For instance, it is assumed that capacities built across relevant agencies through the project are maintained and periodically updated.

59. An assumption that was missing, or perhaps thought as tacit, but which could be vital for project success, was related to the specific and / or potential uptake of the information generated by the project. This would be the assumption that decision makers are willing to take on research-based and data generated advice and technical recommendations.

60. Given the issues, barriers, and assumptions, project strategy is relevant. Strategically it provides an effective route towards expected results.

61. Project planning documents indicate that the project would build upon and draw lessons from other relevant projects. The generation of synergies between these projects was also indicated as a strategic point. These are national and sub regional level intervention. Namely, some of the most salient current at the time of design were as follows:

- GCF project “Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for the Aral Sea Basin (CAMP4ASB)” managed by the World Bank

- UNDP/Adaptation Fund (AF) project "Developing climate resilience of farming communities in the drought-prone parts of Uzbekistan".
- FAO managed project "Integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey (CACILM2)".
- National Adaptation Planning project under GCF Readiness Programme implemented by UNDP with Uzhydromet (2020-2022)
- UNDP/Chamber of Commerce and Industry joint project "Enhancing the adaptation and strengthening the resilience of farming to Climate Change Risks in Fergana Valley" with the funding support of Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development (2019-2021) -
- Second phase of regional CAHM project "Upgrading of Hydrometeorological Services of Central Asian countries (Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan)" implemented by the World Meteorological Organization and the World Bank.
- As well as the also regional project "Strengthening Early Warning of Mountain Hazards in Central Asia".

62. The project is very much attuned to country priorities, both formally and implicitly. This has greatly contributed to country ownership and to being a country-driven intervention. Uzbekistani national strategic policy related to climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management highlight the need to establish an efficient and upgraded national climate risk monitoring and early warning system.

63. These aspirational aspects fall within country – wide organisation and priorities. The Government of Uzbekistan through the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) already implements a state program to modernize the early warning system for natural disasters. Therefore, this project fits into this by endeavouring to provide value added to national policies and organisation by providing resources to access innovative technologies and to create or update user friendly work with the communities to enhance preparedness and adaptation.

64. Regarding the latter, the project focalises on strengthening and updating delivery of disaster-related communication and interaction with end users, particularly in communities vulnerable to the risks of climate change. This also is good fit between to country priorities since the country is seeking to improve the capacity of Regional Crisis Management Centres (RCMCs) and local communities to use and interpret climate risk information into practical early responses.

65. It is considered by this evaluation (supported not only by documents, but also by stakeholder inputs, and through direct observation) therefore that design strategically addressed the problems relevantly. This implies also that the project is fully aligned strategically to country needs and country requirements.

66. Design follows a standard structure for this type of interventions. Intended results are meant to originate from the implementation of activities, which lead to outputs and ultimately to outcomes to fulfil project objectives. The design explicitly considers that its strategy is to overcome threats and barriers (effects) through the expected outputs and outcomes.

67. Relevant gender issues were thoroughly raised upon project design. The Project was assigned a UNDP Gender Marker GEN2, signalling that it should make contributions to gender equality. Project design includes several matters regarding gender. Not only indicating the participation of women in

different activities and process, but –albeit more importantly—also analysing and proposing processes to deal with the impact and needs regarding gender equality in climate change adaptation and in early warning systems.

68. Project document, and therefore design, followed a gender responsive approach to assure that priorities, needs and barriers differentiated by men and women are considered and addressed in disaster risk responses and climate change. This work for the implementation of the project was supported conceptually by a very thorough gender analysis and gender action plan included in the Project Document.

69. The gender analysis developed at planning provides very thorough information, data, statistics, on women in Uzbekistan and with a focus on climate change, risk perception, etc. This provides the necessary background for gender mainstreaming to eventually take place in implementation. This gender analysis and action plan have set the stage for potentially incorporate and enabling a gender – sensitive approach. It also prescribes that the project should have national and international expertise attached (national staff and international advisor) to assure quality in properly incorporating gender in project implementation, monitoring and in all relevant phases of the project.

70. The Gender Analysis and Action Plan developed upon planning sets out gender-disaggregated target data and indicators to establish a baseline and to be able to tally if change has occurred or not because of the intervention. In a broad sense, it is indicated that gender aspects and specific needs will be integrated during the development of the multi-hazard early warning regulations, mechanisms and protocols. That is, that gender will be a cross-cutting matter throughout the project.

71. The design of the MHEWS will be (according to the Project Document) gender-responsive and within the Leave No One Behind framework, ensuring that warnings are tailored to the gender-differentiated needs and capabilities of specific population groups, such as children, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities.

72. Overall, therefore, the gender – related targets are quite proper within design and deemed achievable if they are applied properly throughout implementation. They are based upon a broad analysis of gender issues in the country and on lessons and expertise on other community – based projects already carried out by UNDP and other agencies in Uzbekistan.

73. Moreover, the project's Environmental and Social project screening (SESP) analyses gender issues. In the SESP it is indicated that although the intervention is not focused on gender, it should ensure gender equity. Yet, the Gender Action Plan does not include specific budgeting lines. Therefore, it is understood that these activities are to be imbedded throughout budgeting in other financial plan areas.

RESULTS FRAMEWORK/LOG FRAME AND THEORY OF CHANGE:

74. The Project's log frame expresses objectives and outcomes in a distinct manner. The log frame is structured with expected results, objective and outcome indicators, baseline, mid-term and end of project targets.

75. The expected outcomes are properly and clearly expressed as such[9]. That is, they are expressed as "the likely or achieved short- and medium-term effects of an intervention's outputs".

[9] A5.0 Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems for climate-responsive planning and development

76. However, there are some conceptual confusions in how outputs are expressed. Outputs are "products and services that result from the project". Yet all three expected outputs are expressed as outcomes.[10] That is, these are not outputs, they are outcomes since the phrases used describe intended changes in development conditions that result from the interventions of governments and other stakeholders).[11] Furthermore, some activities (which should be clearly products to be obtained), are expressed as outcomes[12]

77. Although this analysis might seem academic or theoretical, it is understood by this evaluation that it is not the case since the results framework, its definitions, and so on, are keystones for many planning tools, and very importantly are the underpinnings for indicators. For instance, output indicators should be of a different nature than outcome indicators and—consequently—the definition of results as outputs or outcomes does play an important role on which indicators are set and on how tallying of achievements takes place. This is also linked to monitoring, reviews, and evaluations since to some extent this is done comparing achievements and results to original state before the intervention began. Furthermore, the evaluations (interim as well as the end of project evaluation) are asked to determine if expected outcomes or components are clear, practical, and feasible. This analysis derives from this evaluation guidance.

78. The Results Framework has three indicators' levels: baseline, midterm target, and end of project target. However, some of the baseline indicators are missing on the project planning documents. They were harnessed at project start and not upon planning.

79. Indicator analysis for these sorts of midpoint evaluations is based on whether these are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound). The log frame has Specific indicators since they are expressed a clear language and describe a future condition (both at midterm when relevant and at the end of project target level).[13] They are also Measurable since they have metrics making it possible to assess whether they were achieved or not.

80. They are for the most part Achievable when they are sufficiently specific since they are within the capacity of the partners to achieve within the period of implementation. Yet, some of them are

A6.0 Increased generation and use of climate information in decision-making

A7.0 Strengthened adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks

A8.0 Strengthened awareness of climate threats and risk-reduction processes

[10] Output 1: Upgraded hydro-meteorological observation network, modelling and forecasting capacities.

Output 2 A functional Multi-Hazard Early Warning System is established based on innovative impact modelling, risk analyses, effective regional communication and community awareness.

Output 3: Strengthened climate services and disaster communication to end-users.

[11] Definitions in quotes extracted from: Independent Evaluation Office. United Nations Development Programme. *UNDP Evaluation Guidelines. Revised Edition June 2021* and from UNDP GEF. *Guidance for Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects*. 2014.

[12] For example, Activity 2.1 Improvement in the timeliness of warnings received by end-users as a result of the impact-based integrated MHEWS; Activity 3.1 Level of user interaction in the co-design and co-production of disaster-related information, as a result of the establishment of a National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) for Uzbekistan.

[13] S •Specific: Indicators must use clear language, describing a specific future condition.

not possible to determine if they will be achieved and some (if achieved) would be long term and beyond the life span of the interventions. For example, when the impact indicator states "*50% lives (average of 4) saved from climate-induced hazards per annum; 3% or 9.37 million USD expected reduction in economic damages from various hazards"* there is a question mark if this can be attained within the framework of the project. And, this implies that disasters will be suffered within the scope of project's time frame to be able to tally this matter.

81. Indicators are also Relevant since they contribute to the selected priorities of the national development framework and the priorities and needs of Uzbekistan regarding early warning systems to increase resilience to climate change. They are Time-bound since they are not open ended. That is there is an expectation of when they will be achieved (midpoint and end of project).

82. This interim evaluation was asked to assess whether the total number of beneficiaries and indirect beneficiaries of the project has been properly calculated. The project planning documents state that by project end the number of its direct beneficiaries will run to 11.296 million people (34.9% of the total population), half of which are men and half of which are women. Given that this is calculated as the current population inhabiting Uzbekistan's high-risk areas (being this people exposed to one or more climate hazards), and since this is approximately equivalent to one – third of the country's population, this is overall an accurate assessment of end beneficiaries. That is, given that the project targets the already mentioned disaster prone areas and given that the population in these areas is of about 11 million, then the potential beneficiaries number appears to be correct.

83. The project has a Theory of Change (ToC) as seen in **FIGURE 5: THEORY OF CHANGE DIAGRAM**. The ToC is basically a graphic representation of expectations and processes that should take place to achieve outputs, outcomes, results deriving from a goal statement. Basically, it contains project strategy and other components (including assumptions and barriers) with arrows indicating the pathways from activities to outputs and other directional aspects. Since nothing has changed in context, there is no need to retrofit this tool.

84. The added component to the other inclusions of expectations and process that should take place to achieve results is the ToC's Goal Statement where it succinctly expresses the expectations and chain of results regarding change / results as follows: *If* the efficiency and coverage of multi-hazard early warning system for climate change induced hazards in Uzbekistan is enhanced *then* vulnerable communities in Uzbekistan will be more resilient in view of the project climate change impacts *because* they will have access to improved information on the timing and impact of climate induced hydro-meteorological hazards.

RELEVANCE

85. Relevance is the extent to which a project's objectives are consistent with beneficiaries' requirements, country needs, global priorities and partners' and donors' policies. In the first place, the project is relevant due to the importance to Uzbekistan due to the need to enhance multi-hazard early warning systems to increase the country's resilience to every increasing climate change negative effects. The relevance is further analysed with the need to overcome the barriers that Uzbekistan must overcome its lack of appropriate financial resources, knowledge and capacities at the system, institutional and individual levels to conduct multi-hazard, vulnerability and risk assessments, establish real-time monitoring, forecasting and early warning systems to make climate-informed decisions and implement climate-induced Disaster Risk Management (DRM) measures.

86. Alignment with national and corporate policies is highly evident, and therefore reinforce a great relevance assessment within this intermediate evaluation. Regarding national policies, the aims of the project are fully aligned with relevant policies and programmes at the time of design. For instance, this alignment is signalled by the national level decrees and resolutions, as well as plans directly related to early warning systems and emergencies, such as:

- State Program on Prediction and Prevention of Emergency situations, No. 71 of 03.04.2007, which includes forecasting of possible emergencies, in particular natural disasters, development of coordination mechanisms of emergency risk management, the establishment of an early warning and information system;
- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On further improvement of state emergency prevention and response system of the Republic of Uzbekistan" from 24 August 2011 No. 242;
- Decree No. 5066 on 1 June 2017, sets the agenda for developing a new approach to monitoring and forecasting natural hazards responsible for creating emergency situations; and
- Decree No. 601 by the Cabinet of Ministers on Aug 8, 2017, outlines the structure of the national early warning system for natural hazards, including an automated system for disseminating alerts and warnings. It also provides the legislative basis for the establishment of regional crisis management centres as well as the mandate of MES to operate, maintain equipment and to set aside funds/revenues for IT system and communications, and requesting the use of privately owned telecommunication facilities in an emergency.
- National DRM strategy (Uzbekistan's national strategy and Action Plan for achieving the goals under the Sendai DRR Framework).
- Resolution No. 4896 "On measures to enhance the performance of the Centre for hydrometeorological service of Uzbekistan" which outlines commitment to modernize and strengthen hydrometeorological service delivery.
- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 515 of August 26, 2020 "On further improvement of the State System of Prevention and Action in Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan" (third edition);
- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 171 of April 29, 2023 "On measures for the effective organization of the activities of the State System for Prevention and Action in Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan" (fourth edition);
- On August 11, 2023, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted Resolution No. 361 "On the development of an automated warning system about the threat of emergency situations or the occurrence of emergency situations and the organization of its effective use", which cancelled the above-mentioned Resolution No. 601 of August 8, 2017. This resolution approved the "Regulation on the procedure for the development of an automated warning system about the threat or occurrence of an emergency, as well as the organization of its effective use".

87. Alignment with national policies and with ongoing governmental programmes is one of the foundations for this project. It not only relates to relevance, but also to the high ownership and appropriation of and by the country that this project manifests in Uzbekistan. Furthermore, the project is in concurrence to broader development policies current at the time of design, such as:

- Development Strategy Framework of the Republic of Uzbekistan by 2035
- Five-Area Development Strategy for 2017-2021 [specially priority area V (5.1. Priority areas in the field of security, religious tolerance and inter-ethnic harmony: items 5 and 6 i.e. prevention of ecological effects that cause damage to the environment, health and gene pool of the population and improving the system of prevention and elimination of consequences of emergencies)].

88. Regarding international agreements and tools, is aligned with several of them that aid Uzbekistan in the fulfilment of global climate change and environmental commitments, such as those related to the following international accords and policies:

- SDG 13. Climate action, particularly the following SDG targets: Strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries (SDG Target 13.1); Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning (SDG Target 13.3)
- SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable[14]
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)
- UNFCCC and related accords, including the Paris Agreement.

89. The intervention is fully aligned with corporate UNDP and GCF mandates, and therefore relevant in this regard. At the time of design, the relevant UNDP policies vis-à-vis Uzbekistan, with which this project was aligned to were as follows:

- UNDSDCF Outcome 5. By 2025, most at-risk regions, and communities of Uzbekistan, especially the most vulnerable people, are more resilient to climate change and disasters and benefit from increasingly sustainable and gender-sensitive efficient management of natural resources and infrastructure, enhanced climate action, inclusive environmental governance and protection.
- CPD: Output 4.3. Integrated gender-responsive climate and disaster risk governance systems strengthened through enhanced multi-hazard early warning (MHEWS) and rapid recovery.

90. Furthermore, at the more comprehensive global UNDP mandates, the project is aligned with the agency's strategic plan current at the time of design (2018 – 2021) and with the most recent strategic plan (2022-2025) :

- UNDP Strategic Plan (2018 – 2021) Output 1.3.1 National capacities and evidence-based assessment and planning tools enable gender-responsive and risk-informed development investments, including for response to and recovery from crisis; Output 2.3.1 Data and risk-informed development policies, plans, systems and financing incorporate integrated and gender-responsive solutions to reduce disaster risks, enable climate change adaptation and mitigation, and prevent risk of conflict' Output 3.3.1 Evidence-based assessment and planning tools and mechanisms applied to enable implementation of gender-sensitive and risk-informed prevention and preparedness to limit the impact of natural hazards and pandemics and promote peaceful,

[14] There is also an explicit link to SDG indicators, specifically: Indicator 13.1.1: Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people.)

just and inclusive societies; Output 3.3.2 Gender-responsive and risk-informed mechanisms supported to build consensus, improve social dialogue and promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies

- UNDP Strategic Plan (2022-2025) Output 3.1:"Institutional systems to manage multi-dimensional risks and shocks strengthened at regional, national and sub-national levels".

91. Regarding GCF, the project is aligned with its paradigm shifts objectives given that the intervention is intended to a significant shift in the provision of climate and disaster information and forecasting services through an enhanced multi-hazard early warning system in Uzbekistan. Also, as the agency indicates, this aligned with the paradigm shift objectives since it will promote the transformation of climate hazard forecasting and warning from a reactive (ex-post) hazard-based system to one that is proactive (ex-ante), user-oriented and impact-based.

92. Relevance and appropriateness are not only linked to policy and corporate mandates. Relevance and appropriateness are highly linked in this case to country needs in view of hazards, climate change adaptation and how these are linked to early warning systems. As seen in the introductory section, Uzbekistan is a country with high vulnerability in relation to weather – related hazards and with a high number of its population exposed to vulnerable situations.

PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES ANALYSIS

93. Progress Towards Outcomes Analysis in chart form follows. This graph reviews the indicator-level progress as reported to GCF in the 2023 Annual Performance Report and with updated information from the project to this assessment with achievements from 2024 to the time of the interim evaluation. The chart includes an analysis regarding achievements and categorises them with colour coding as follows:

- has already been achieved (colouring table cell green);
- is partially achieved or on target to be achieved by the end of the Project (colouring table cell yellow); or
- is at high risk of not being achieved by the end of the Project and needs attention (colouring table red).[15]

94. Furthermore, classifications following a Six - point Progress Towards Results Ratings have also been added (Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Moderately Satisfactory (MS), Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), or Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)). An explanation of these ratings is found in **Error! Reference source not found.**ANNEX 6: RATINGS SCALES.

95. After the ratings/colour coded column, there is a last column with justifications for rating is provided based on the findings of the intermediate evaluation process not only on indicators per se but also on qualitative data that arises out of the analysis. Overall, this last column addresses not what

[15] Indicator Assessment Key: Traffic light system.

Green= Achieved	Yellow= On target to be achieved	Red= Not on target to be achieved

has been achieved exclusively but mainly how realistic it is for target to be achieved at the end of the intervention.

FIGURE 6: PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS MATRIX

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Achievements at interim evaluation as reported by Project up to the time of the IE	Achievement ratings	Justification for Ratings
FUND LEVEL IMPACT:							
Fund level Impact: **A1.0 Increased resilience and enhanced livelihoods of the most vulnerable people, communities and regions**	1.1 Change in expected losses of lives and economic assets (US$) due to the impact of extreme climate-related disasters in the geographic area of the GCF intervention	Loss of life: Average of 8 lives lost annually (1996-2016) for the entire country Economic losses for the entire country: US$ 312.3 million average annual loss due to various hazards (floods, droughts and mudslides)[16].	0/No change (the new system will not be fully operational at scale by mid-term)	50% lives (average of 4) saved from climate-induced hazards per annum 3% or 9.37 million USD expected reduction in economic damages from various hazards[17]	Mid-term Target 0/No change	Not applicable	Given that there is no midterm target to be used for comparing achievement to expectations and that impact could only be measured upon end of project perhaps, rating is not possible. Also, see section on SMART analysis of indicators for further information on the feasibility of this indicator.
PROJECT OUTCOMES:							
Project Outcome	Number of technologies and innovative solutions transferred or licensed to promote climate resilience as a result of Fund support	The majority of meteorological observation stations (75 out of 85) operate in manual mode, with limited use of remote-sensing and satellite data. The existing multi-hazard EWS system lacks vulnerability data of population and infrastructure, as well as systematic risk assessment and hazard mapping tools. Baseline: 0 technologies/ solutions; Status: initiated/installed	9 technologies/ solutions; status: initiated/installed Including: 4 Hydrometeorological observation technologies upgraded and installed: AWS; automatic streamflow measurements; upper-air stations; radar 4 technologies for multi-hazard risk analysis, forecasting and impact-based MHEWS: socio-economic risk and vulnerability model; mudflow modelling; landslide risk modelling; Drought EWS for the Syr Darya and Zeravshan rivers 1 communication technology: visualization systems at 3 RCMCs	11 technologies/ solutions; status: introduced/in use Including 5 Hydrometeorological observation technologies upgraded and operational: AWS; automatic streamflow measurements; upper-air stations; radars; centralised database for meteorological measurements 4 technologies for multi-hazard risk analysis, forecasting and impact-based MHEWS: socio-economic risk and vulnerability model; operational mudflow modelling; operational landslide risk modelling; Drought EWS for the Syr Darya and Zeravshan rivers	Including: 2 Hydrometeorological observation technologies upgraded and installed: AWS; automatic streamflow measurements. 2 communication technologies: visualization systems at 6 TOMCs (former RCMCs), 13 outdoor information boards installed in 7 target regions and additional 15 boards will be procured and delivered to MES until end of 2024 for installation in target districts.	**S**	There are some delays in the achievement of this outcome as compared to midpoint expectations as expressed in midpoint targets. Yet, it is expected that with sped up delivery the full set of expected outputs will be attained by the end of the project based on the experience so far, particularly the experience of the project and the partners in the instalment of automated technology.

[16] FS section 5.2 provides the national estimate of direct economic cost of disasters that is used to calculate baseline: annual economic impact is estimated to be US$ 236 million for floods, US$ 67.2 million for droughts, US$ 9.1 million for mudslides (including the valuation of loss of life: 8 people with a VSL of US$ 871,798).

[17] According to the Economic Analysis, the US$ 9.37 mln estimated reduction in economic damages, equal to 3% of US$ 312.3 mln baseline cost of climate-related disasters, is based on the assumed economic impact from increased lead time of planning for hazards and on the avoidance of loss of lives due to the them

				2 communication technologies: visualization systems at 7 RCMCs, public notice boards in 20 communities			
A5.0 Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems for climate-responsive planning and development	5.2 Number and level of effective coordination mechanisms	Uzbekistan has not yet established a National Framework of Climate Services (NFCS), a framework that can promote more efficient adaptation to climate variability through continuous improvement in the quality, delivery and use of climate-related information in planning, policy and practice. Currently, MES under the State Emergency Prevention and Response System (SEPRS) has limited capacity to coordinate the dissemination and inter-agency responses of multi-hazard forecasting and early warning, using various communication channels at national and regional levels. Specifically, the national baseline on the level of effective coordination mechanisms are defined by a metric of Level 1-4:18 A national to regional EWS protocol: Level 1	A national to regional EWS protocol: Level 2 A National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS): Level 2 (baseline assessment conducted and Action plan endorsed by stakeholders) Number of institutional and coordination frameworks and technical guidance in use by Uzhydromet and MES on i) data collection and archiving; ii) hazard mapping; iii) risk assessment; and iv) dissemination of information to RCMCs: 2 coordination protocols in place	A national to regional EWS protocol: Level 4 A National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS): Level 4, includes the operationalization of a national climate outlook forum that brings end-users and co-producers of climate and hydrometeorological information in the design and production processes. Number of institutional and coordination frameworks and technical guidance in use by Uzhydromet and MES on i) data collection and archiving; ii) hazard mapping; iii) risk assessment; and iv) dissemination of information to RCMCs: 4 coordination protocols in place	NFCS baseline has been conducted and draft NFCS and draft business plan for Uzhydromet are being developed by Civitta International OU. This task has to be completed by the end of September 2024. An institutional assessment of the integrated early warning system in the Republic of Uzbekistan was conducted. A draft National Standard of the Republic of Uzbekistan on General Technical Requirements for the System of warning and informing of population about threats and emergencies was developed and submitted to MES for further adoption by the government.	**S**	Baseline studies completed or in the process to be completed in the months immediately after the evaluation. Although there are some delays when comparing to expected achievement at midpoint (as specified by midpoint indicators), there has been sufficient progress to expect finalizing protocols, etc., for effective coordination. Also, this evaluation has harnessed information during mission that there is a good level of coordination between and among agencies, which it is expected to be formalized and improved by project end, with adequate protocols designed to be followed.

[18] Level 1 = no coordination mechanism; Level 2= coordination mechanism in place; Level 3 = coordination mechanism in place, meeting regularly with appropriate representation (gender and decision-making authorities); Level 4 = coordination mechanism in place, meeting regularly, with appropriate representation, with appropriate information flows and monitoring of action items/issues raised.

		A National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS): None (Level 1) Number of institutional and coordination framework and technical guidance in use by Uzhydromet and MES: 0					
A6.0 Increased generation and use of climate information in decision-making	6.2 Use of climate information products/services in decision-making in climate-sensitive sectors	Weather and climate-related information are not generally used for preparedness and risk management purposes among government institutions in Uzbekistan, with a few exceptions of: · Hydrological drought forecasting for the Amu Darya · Identification of avalanche GLOF risks through monitoring of snowpack and lake levels at key sites and remote sensing; · General monitoring of high-intensity rainfall in known areas of potential landslide and mudflow formation.	At least 2 government agency members under SEPRS use the forecasts and risk assessment for climate hazards in decision-making and prioritization; 30% of surveyed government beneficiaries (agencies) report improved emergency response due to improved disaster warning	At least 4 government agency members under SEPRS use the forecasts and risk assessment for climate hazards in decision-making and prioritization Inter-agency data-sharing agreement between agencies institutionalized and data-sharing protocols established 50% of surveyed government beneficiaries (agencies) report improved emergency response due to improved disaster warning	The indicators for this output will be achieved after completion of the multi-module climate risks assessment module for Uzhydromet and the information and management system for data collection and analysis based on GIS for MES, which will be developed within 2024-2025.	**S**	Although project reports that the achievement will be realized at completion, there is evidence harnessed by this evaluation that at least some information generated by partners within the project is being used, not only by other partners but also by agencies and companies outside the intervention. Expectation of completion is high.
A7.0 Strengthened adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks	7.2 Number of males and females reached by (or total geographic coverage of) climate-related early warning systems and other risk reduction measures established/strengthened [19]	Integrated climate-resilient MHEWS doesn't exist 0 males and 0 females in the project implementation regions have access to up-to-date and area-specific climate hazards and early warning information.	At least 1,133,215 females, 1,125,985 males have access to climate hazards and early warning information.	All population (5,666,075 females, 5,629,925 males) in the project implementation region have access to climate hazards and early warning information.	The indicators for this output will be achieved after completion of the multi-module climate risks assessment module for Uzhydromet and the information and management system for data collection and analysis based on GIS for MES, which will be developed within 2024-2025.	**S**	Although baseline is not correct as reported by the project, since there is some level of information being received by population in high-risk prone areas, the project has plans to complete and therefore achieve end of project target upon completion of climate risk assessment studies. Therefore, notwithstanding that the midterm target cannot be achieved if this section is not finalized, the expectations by all partners is

[19] Number of males and females reached by the early warning system will be estimated based on the coverage data of mobile network (and other communication channels, e.g TV, radio broadcast).

					It also has to be noted that the population living in climate hazards prone areas already receives the warnings through the existing early warning system via mobile texts (sms), radio and TV, and through the government internal channels.		that it will take place as planned.
A8.0 Strengthened awareness of climate threats and risk-reduction processes	8.1: Number of males and females made aware of climate threats and related appropriate responses	0 males and 0 females in the project implementation regions have a strong awareness of climate threats and risk reduction processes, and capacities to use such climate information for disaster preparedness	40% out of 500 surveyed EWS beneficiaries (100 males and 100 females) report enhanced risk awareness 30% out of 500 surveyed beneficiaries (100 males and 100 females) report that the warnings are clear and being used by their households for enhanced disaster preparedness	80% out of 500 surveyed EWS beneficiaries (200 males and 200 females) report enhanced risk awareness 70% out of 500 surveyed beneficiaries (175 males and 175 females) report that the warnings are clear and being used by their households for enhanced disaster preparedness	The project conducted a community vulnerability assessment in all target communities across 7 regions to establish a baseline. However, due to increase of prices for conducting such assessments/services and budget limitations, the project will be able to conduct only one additional survey at the end of the project to assess the increase of awareness of people living in target communities. As such, the survey in the middle of implementation of the project will be omitted due to budget constraints. The baseline community vulnerability assessment revealed that residents are aware of climate risks and use climate information to prepare for disasters. In particular, 74% of respondents (37.6% women and 36.6% men)	**MS**	Budgeting problems the project faces have curtailed the possibility of conducting full community vulnerability assessments in all target communities as planned. Document analysis of the assessments carried out indicate that the chosen methodology is a widely used method worldwide for similar studies and that the data harnessed is complete. Yet, as indicated also in the section of this report on indicators, the project cannot control external factors such as the probability of disasters and magnitude of these. Risk perception is also a matter to consider. Although demographic data is reflected (age, sex, etc.), a wider assessment –for instance at the village level—is not included.

					reported that they prepare in advance for natural disasters and have an action plan in case of emergency.		
PROJECT RESULTS:							
Output 1: Upgraded hydro-meteorological observation network, modelling and forecasting capacities	1.1 Number of new hydro-meteorological monitoring equipment purchased, installed and operational	Level = 0	13 automatic weather stations (AWS) partially installed, calibrated and operational; 2 upper-air stations partially modernized; 1 online radar system partially established	25 automatic weather stations (AWS) installed, calibrated and operational; 4 upper-air stations modernized; 2 online radar system established	25 AWSs have been installed and operational. Meteorological observations (temperature, wind speed, wind direction, and precipitation amount) are automatically transmitted to Uzhydromet information system. The ownership of the equipment was transferred to Uzhydromet. Site visits were conducted to all 25 meteorological stations to check the equipment conditions and surrounding environment.	**HS**	Target overachieved. Target was 13 stations to be installed and operational. Yet project installed all end of target 25 weather stations. This signals not only achievement but also adaptive management to accelerate implementation to solve delays, and good judgement to have all weather stations operational and save time and resources by procuring at one point and not in two sets.
	1.2 Number of districts for which hazard and risk maps (covering landslides, mudflows, avalanches and hydrological droughts) are available	0	2	7	Landslide risk maps for 19 districts have been developed, the maps for the remaining 3 climate risks covering mudflows, avalanches and hydrological droughts will be available in 2025.	**S**	Positive progress, with high expectations that the remaining risk maps will be available in the short term.
	1.3 Level of institutional capacity and knowledge of Uzhydromet staff on monitoring and forecasting technologies and procedures	Level = 0[20] Using the UNDP Capacity Assessment Methodology[21], the project team will design a tailored assessment to establish a baseline of the institutional capacity of	50% targeted staff (of a target audience of 600 people) trained (including 60% women/40% men) Institutional capacity assessment score for Uzhydromet enhanced by 20 % against baseline	100% targeted staff (of a target audience of 600 people) trained (including 60% women/40% men) Institutional capacity assessment score for Uzhydromet enhanced by 50 % against baseline	To date, 459 Uzhydromet staff members (281 men and 178 women) have been trained. The activity is ongoing, and the final target indicator for this activity to be completed by the end of this year.	**HS**	Target achieved beyond the level expected and nearly the final target level in a few months after the finalisation of this review. It remains to analyse not only the fact that training took place but what or if capacity is concretely upgraded, built, and if there has been uptake.

[20] Baseline for output 1.3 is to be established under activity 1.3 during Year 1 of the project through an institutional capacity assessment scorecard

[21] https://www.undp.org/content/dam/aplaws/publication/en/publications/capacity-development/undp-capacity-assessment-methodology/UNDP%20Capacity%20Assessment%20Users%20Guide.pdf

		Uzhydromet staff at the project inception phase.					
Output 2 A functional Multi-Hazard Early Warning System is established based on innovative impact modelling, risk analyses, effective regional communication and community awareness.	2.1 Improvement in the timeliness of warnings received by end-users as a result of the impact-based integrated MHEWS[22]	2.1.1. Warnings about all hydrometeorological phenomena/hazards provided with 1-3 days lead time (before an event) in the absence of the impact based integrated MHEWS 2.1.2. Time required to communicate warnings from MES HQs to its regional divisions: 15 minutes; time required to communicate warnings to population: 60 minutes.	No change/ the new system will not be fully operational at scale by mid-term.	2.1.1. Warnings on sudden changes in weather covering most of the territory of the country - 4-6 days lead time Mudflow warnings - 3-4 days lead time Avalanche warnings - 4-5 days lead time 2.1.2. 50% reduction: time of communicating warnings from MES HQs to its regional divisions: 7.5 minutes; time of communicating warnings to population: 30 minutes.	Mid-term Target 0/No change	Not able to assess.	At midpoint the system is not fully operational.
	2.2 Level of institutional coordination among Uzhydromet, MES and RCMCs on multi-hazard early warnings responses and dissemination[23]	Level = 1	Level = 3	Level = 4	This indicator can be assessed in 2025, upon completion and integration of the multimodal climate risk assessment platform for Uzhydromet and the information and management system for data collection and analysis based on GIS for MES.	Not able to assess.	As project reports, this output indicator is not able to be analysed at midpoint.
	2.3 Number of functional regional crisis management centres with access to area-specific early warnings, mobile alerts and risk	0 Currently, RCMCs are housed in offices that lack updated communication facilities (e.g. videoconferencing	2 2 Regional Crisis Management Centers (RCMCs) equipped with visualization systems and have access to updated risk maps, area-specific	7 7 Regional Crisis Management Centers (RCMCs) equipped with visualization systems and have access to updated risk maps, area-	6 TOMCs (RCMC) equipped, functional, mobile alert tech risk mapping tech will be integrated. The procurement case for the development and	**S**	Equipped to a large degree, with expectations of completion for most of the planned centres. Remaining equipping is planned to take place shortly, but as noted by the project, and as seem in body of the report, this is one of the cases that the project

[22] The scoring and end-user survey methodology for this indicator will be designed through activity 3.3 during Year 1 to capture user perceptions of the timeliness of warnings for different hazards. The survey will include institutional and individual users of MHEWS. Baseline survey/scoring will be conducted through activity 3.3 during Year 1.

[23] Level 1 = no institutional coordination mechanisms/SOPs; Level 2= an institutional coordination framework established/documents by not supported by clear SOPs on data exchange and communication, majority of surveyed institutional users are not fully aware/systematically engaged in coordination; Level 3 = at least 2 institutional coordination frameworks or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in place among Uzhydromet, MES and RCMCs on data exchange, risk and hazards analysis, and warnings dissemination to regional crisis centers; 50% of surveyed institutional users (i.e. 10 out of 20) report that the level of coordination is adequate for performing their functions within MHEWS; Level 4 = At least 4 institutional coordination frameworks or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in place among Uzhydromet, MES and RCMCs on data collection, archive, risk and hazards analysis, and warnings dissemination to regional crisis centers 80% of surveyed institutional users (i.e. 16 out of 20) report that the level of coordination is adequate for performing their functions within MHEWS.

	mapping technologies	) as well as access to area-specific warnings and mobile alerts, as well as risk maps based on up to date hazard information	hazard alerts and warning information. As a result, RCMCs will have improved capacity in communicating and responding to evolving emergencies.	specific hazard alerts and warning information for risk mitigation and early actions	deployment of a multi-module platform for hydrological risk, irrigation, flood/flood and avalanche risk will be initiated and completed in 2025. It has to be noted that the project equipped only 6 TOMCs, due to the increase of prices for equipment and budget constraints. Therefore, the 7th TOMC in Samarkand was equipped by MES from its own resources as a part of co-financing.		suffered budgeting and financing issues.
Output 3: Strengthened climate services and disaster communication to end-users.	3.1 Level of user interaction in the co-design and co-production of disaster-related information, as a result of the establishment of a National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) for Uzbekistan	Level = 1[24]	Level = 2	Level = 3	This activity is to be completed by the end of September 2024. As a final output of this activity it is planned to develop a user-friendly information brochure to promote the NFCS and organize a National Climate Outlook Forum.	**S**	Near completion, expectations that will be completed and that coordination framework would be operational from then on.
	3.2 Number of revenue generation options based on delivery of disaster risk information products/services included in the business model and endorsed by institutional and sectoral users	0	0[25]	At least 3 revenue generation options based on disaster-related information/services endorsed by users/stakeholders from climate-sensitive sectors	This activity will be implemented and completed along with the assignment on development of the NFCS. The project concluded a single contract with Civitta International for execution of both assignments. This activity is to be completed by the end of September 2024.	Not able to assess	This output has not begun yet, as indicated in planning documents it is not supposed to start until a later stage.

[24] Level 1: no institutional engagement channels with end-users exist; Level 2: a user-dialogue platform set up through NFCS consultation process to review the disaster-related information products; Level 3: a regular user-dialogue mechanism incorporated into the NFCS action plan and the National Climate outlook platform.

[25] Feasibility analysis for a sustainable value chain-based business model for disaster-related information and services will completed at this stage, and will be the basis for the consequent discussion and endorsement of revenue-generating options.

	3.3 Number of communities in targeted areas[26] with improved access to early warning alerts through information board, mahalla training and info-products/meetings	0	12 50% of surveyed beneficiaries (incl. 50% female) in targeted communities report that the warnings and climate advisories are clear, accessible and easy to apply for enhanced preparedness	20 75% of surveyed beneficiaries (incl. 50% female) in targeted communities report that the warnings and climate advisories are clear, accessible and easy to apply for enhanced preparedness	The community vulnerability assessment has been completed in all target communities across 7 regions. The results are now available for integration into risk models and for decision-makers in the MES.; 13 outdoor information boards installed in 7 target regions and additional 15 boards will be procured and delivered to MES until end of 2024 for installation in target districts. The trainings on climate risks and disasters, First Aid, Disaster Risk Reduction and Early Warning, as well as on disaster contingency planning have been conducted in 15 communities across 7 regions in collaboration with the Red Crescent Society; The project in cooperation with MES, Red Crescent Society in Uzbekistan, local administration and representatives of target communities organized 3 educational evacuation drills dedicated to International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) with engagement of approx. 3,000 people from local communities.	**S**	Regarding community vulnerability assessments see analysis of activity 8.1. Delivery of equipment taking place and expected to be operationally finalized by project end. Training with ultimate users have taken place. Critical review of the materials disseminated indicate that they are to a large degree satisfactory but that lack some aspects in preparation Gender sensitive inputs are not properly visualized, as indicated further in the body of the report.

[26] The updated target 15 districts of the project located in seven provinces of Uzbekistan as hazard-prone target regions. They are: Parkent, Bostanlik, Sirdarya, Havas, Farish, Gallaaral, Bulungur, Jambai, Koshrabad, Kitab, Yakkabag, Dehkanabad, Chust, Turakurgan, and Fergana.

96. In summary, the project, as seen in the chart above and as will be seen in the narrative of criteria analysis below, has –despite delays—delivered of products and processes as well as has had concrete results. Equipment has been delivered and installed to modernise and update and automate weather information and modernise territorial management centres in targeted regions. Mobile applications for delivering early warnings to end users is developed. Data information processes for the integration of data were supported, and risk models were either delivered or are being delivered to feed integrated platforms. Besides the delivery of equipment, there have been trainings and capacity building activities, as well as some work with communities. The delivery of equipment was accompanied by capacity building activities by the companies from whom the materials were purchased and some training was carried out on maintenance. Baseline analysis did take place regarding vulnerabilities of targeted communities and the Government of Uzbekistan was supported for the development of national standards on technical requisites for warning and informing the population on threats and emergencies as well as for a national framework for climate services. Information systems generated to date are open data, allowing for wide public transparent access in real time.

97. Furthermore, the project engaged international experts in several areas of relevant work. Some knowledge management products were produced, mainly informational material.

98. The delivered products are very satisfactory, not only as reported by the project but also as expressed by a variety of stakeholders to this interim evaluation. Stakeholders indicate that capacity building activities related to automated equipment was proper, although there has been some resistance to changing technologies. It was also indicated to this evaluation that further training might be needed and that maintenance capacity should be enhanced (i.e. training on maintenance, provision of spare parts). This also should consider rotation of personnel which –although it might not be as serious in other contexts—it is something to be considered to sustain institutional capacity built.

99. Importantly, there seems to be uptake taking place and improved communication systems between the different key partners (i.e. MES and Uzhydromet). The installed systems are intended also to improve the information and data exchange of Uzhydromet between the central and regional departments, thus improving the quality and timeliness of information exchange and decision-making processes. These are important factors to consider and one which could be improved to avoid or breakdown silos in the way that different areas of government operate and how this is key for not only implementing an early warning system but for its use. In the end, the overall premise of this project is that when data, information, knowledge resources as well as research results on climate change and on climate – related hazards are harnessed there should be uptake to act quickly to diminish negative impacts and generate resilience.

100. Expected output 2 and 3, to work with communities, to develop a business model to sustain the MHEWS, etc, should be completed by consultants by the end of September 2024, and this should accelerate work in this aspect in the coming time periods. For example, training has taken place with at-risk communities, yet to be truly effective there is still more to be done in this area. Several brochures and materials were produced. They are accurate, yet a critical analysis of these that these are not truly gender sensitive and do are not framed within the leave no one behind framework.

101. Regarding incorporating gender fully in project products/outputs/outcomes, is still in process, expectantly to be fully achieved before project end. As indicated by several stakeholders, this should be one of the areas where the project should deepen its work to reach adequate integrated performance.

102. Other activities that have taken place involve South – South and Triangular Cooperation processes. For instance, a study trip to Kazakhstan for representatives of Uzhydromet was organised to learn from the country's experience in flood and flash floods and mudflows. As a result of this exchange, the project engaged a specialist from Kazakhstan for training in these subjects.

103. A second study tour to Georgia (of MES and Uzhydromet representatives) was carried out. There the exchanges were to have mutual learning from another MHEWS project, also financed by GCF and implemented thorough UNDP.

EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

104. Effectiveness and efficiency are two different yet interlinked sorts of analysis. While effectiveness is the extent to which the development intervention's objectives were achieved (or are expected to be achieved) considering their relative importance it is also an aggregate measure of (or judgment about) the merit or worth of an activity, i.e. the extent to which an intervention has attained, or is expected to attain, its major relevant objectives efficiently in a sustainable fashion and with a positive institutional development impact. Efficiency, on the other hand, is a measure of how economically resources/inputs (funds, expertise, time, etc.) are converted to results. It is most applied to the input-output link in the causal chain of an intervention.[27]

105. Despite hindering factors for the project, a robust number of outputs have been achieved, some with delays, some in a timely manner, or are expected to be achieved within proper time framework. The efficiency and actual/potential effectiveness explained as achievements contributing factors can be seen in the following areas:

- Country ownership and buy-in as well as full insertion into national priorities and Uzbekistan's and national policy.
- Adaptive management, an achievement in and of itself considering the barriers, limitations and challenges faced thus far.
- Attainments at the output level, as evident in the Progress Towards Results Matrix above, several achievements at the output level have been accomplished or are at proper stages of processes to be attained fully. This includes procurement of equipment that can provide the basis for multi-hazard early warning system has been achieved and/or is in progress.
- Training, capacity building at the institutional and individual levels for the use of upgraded equipment to enhance MHEWS.
- Baseline and vulnerability analysis to strengthen MHEWS through policy adoption and implementation has been carried out.
- Outreach to communities on early warning and how to deal with DRM and DRR.

REMAINING BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES TO ACHIEVING THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE

106. As seen above, and in the Progress Towards Results matrix, as well as in the narrative in the different sections, there are a few barriers as well as challenges to achieving the project's objective. The barriers that have hindered achieving the project's objective and outcomes so far are varied, some

[27] Source: *Guidance For Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects. 2020.* Terms sourced from UNDP, GEF, UNEG and OECD-DAC.

have been dealt with via adaptive management throughout the Project; some - remain. Several of the barriers and challenges found are implementational and organisational in nature, which implies that with proper adjustments most of these can be attuned and the project can be channelled to a positive completion on time.

107. The barriers and challenges are below. These challenges are presented with a view of what can be done realistically in the remaining implementation period to fully achieve objectives.

- *Delivery.* Delays in set up, funds transfers, and unrealistic or outdated budget planning have caused delivery problems (mainly of equipment but also for underwriting studies and carrying out other activities). Therefore, planning for the next stage should review available financing considering actual costing at this point, and plan accordingly. Furthermore, there is a challenge due to delays in set up and in fund transfers. Consequently, there should be a plan that takes this into account to speed up delivery and avoid an extension (which should be a last resort if project cannot be implemented on time).

- *Capacity building.* Capacity in several of its manifestations (e.g. personal, technical, institutional) is at the root of the project, is one of the factors around which project success and sustainability pivots. But is also a challenge, current and future. Capacity building should continue but also incorporate lessons learned thus far (need to build capacity continuously, acknowledge resistance to new technologies through capacity building activities and demonstration, include different sorts of trainings based on concrete examples, acknowledge and cater to regional characteristics of each area where the project works).

- *Rotation of personnel.* Although rotation of personnel within government and at the local level is not critical, the project has identified this as a challenge for capacity building since it does occur and there is no continuity of individual capacity building which is lost after rotations.

- *Lack of awareness of gender issues*. Given that the project is perceived as a "technical" project and not also a socio-environmental intervention, the need to mainstream and incorporate gender issues is not fully understood by a considerable number of key stakeholders. Gender issues are mainly associated to the number of females that take part in project activities by several partners. There is very little acknowledgement that for early warning systems to build community resilience to disasters they need to acknowledge gender differential issues and plan accordingly.

- *Dispersed intervention area*. The project focuses on seven regions vulnerable to risks, the intervention area is very spread out. Although of course there is nothing that can or should be done at this point, the challenge for an intervention to be in such a dispersed area should be acknowledged. This is challenge for working in different contexts, areas, etc., but it is also a challenge for monitoring processes.

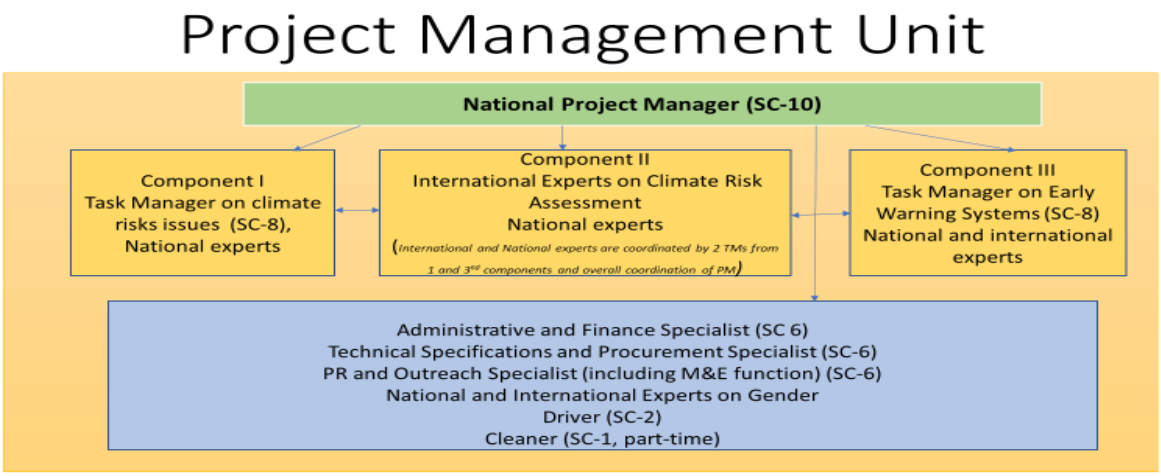
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

108. Several management arrangements were established at design (as reflected in FAA and Project Document) and these were fairly followed in set up. The management arrangements follow UNDP's National Implementation Modality (NIM). Yet, this modality, in this case, has strong UNDP support for implementation, for project oversight, and for quality assurance. UNDP performs the quality assurance

role and supports the Project Board and Project Management Unit by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions, with high quality of support.

FIGURE 7: PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT ORGANIGRAM



109. As expressed earlier in this report, setting up of project management mechanisms took some time since national project manager was hired several months after project start and hiring of other staff and experts was carried out after that. It was intended that PMU would have their offices in the implementing partner's bureaus (i.e. MES). Yet, since this is a military organisation, clearance was not possible there and PMU, it was agreed by all national partners, would be housed in Uzhydromet offices, where it is lodged at this point. The status of ministry is defined in the governmental decrees on MES, which is the central government body that carries out management and coordination of work in the field of civil defence, prevention and elimination of consequences of emergency situations caused by accidents, catastrophes and natural disasters. MES is a part of the defence system of the country and its employees are considered as military personnel with military ranks, same as in the Defence Ministry of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

110. The quality of execution and effectiveness by PMU is very high. PMU has engaged in several processes such as adaptive management and solving financing issues proactively. Responsibilities and reporting lines are clear and followed as indicated at design.

WORK PLANNING AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

111. Work planning is results based, and organised with expected deliverables and results. An overarching management tool for work planning is the Project's results framework which is used also for monitoring. As indicated before, the Project has had delays in project start-up whereby some factors have influenced delays in implementing. Differences between FAA and UNDP as to each agency's definition on when project start truly took place, delays in hiring project management staff, shifts in internal management system at UNDP (change to Quantum system), etc.

112. Nevertheless, work planning has been impaired by some issues which were and are to some degree also explained in different pertinent areas of this report. At the national level, following the

Presidential Decree 269 of late 2022, what was the Centre of Hydrometeorological Services (one of the main partners in this project) was changed, not only renaming it as the Agency of Hydrometeorological Services and but also functionally merged with the newly established Ministry of Ecology, Environment Protection and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This structural change implied changes in management and staffing at the senior level, some rotation, and had delaying consequences vis-à-vis the project including in terms of delaying decision-making processes and in some specific project activities for the modernisation and upgrading of observation systems and capacity building at Uzhydromet.

113. The main problems that have caused delays, however, have been financing issues. In the first place, inordinate delays by donor in approving Annual Performance Report (APR) and transferring funds to the project (particularly in the second tranche). Second, budgeting issues whereby programmed budget was either unrealistic or because budgeted products and processes have suffered increases in costs which cannot be covered properly by the project (even with budget reallocations as per FAA Clause 6.01 as performed and as allowed by donor and UNDP guidelines).

114. Although some of these issues have been solved, and it is hoped for that for the upcoming work planning exercise donor delays in transfer will not occur, implementation planning needs some modifications and the employment of some tools to plan for improved delivery and make – up for delays will need to be used to fulfil implementation in due time. Partners agree that a no – cost extension is not desirable since it bears greatly on partners resources, and it is costly to implement, and it should be a last resource to be sought nearing the end of the project if delivery is not sped up. However, partners trust that with the proper use of diverse planning tools delivery could be made on time and a no – cost extension would not be necessary.

115. Adaptive management has been applied to a high degree, from the macro to the micro level. At the broad macro level, project management has very much been proactive in creatively adapting procurement procedures to better fit implementation and speed up purchasing. For instance, weather stations were supposed to be procured in two consecutive years, yet project management obtained all 25 weather stations at once to avoid delays and speed-up implementation since there was no programmatic reason to divide in two years purchasing the upgraded technical materials. The same was the case same with visualization equipment for six Regional Crisis Management Centres (RCMCs) and 13 outdoor information boards, which were procured at once, instead of dividing them into several years as it was originally planned. Furthermore, when it was realised that energy might not be continuous under some conditions for installed equipment, then project added solar panels to provide a more continuous source of energy to automated equipment in remote areas, which was not contemplated in design and signals adaptation to local conditions by management. Although it might seem micro, but it is very important for the uptake of technology, management arranged for translation of equipment manuals and guidelines for the weather stations that needed this as well as translating guidelines for hydrological equipment (which were distributed among specialists during the training), and which was not contemplated in project design.

116. Project has also adopted adaptive management to creatively adjust for financing issues. For instance, for seeking co – financing from partners when budgeting of equipment was not sufficient to procure to the expected levels. Furthermore, when inordinate delays in transfer of funds from donor to the project took place in 2023, project management sought temporary sources of funds in order not stall implementation and delivery.

FINANCING AND CO - FINANCING

117. Financial management of the project is being carried out as required fulfilling mandatory monitoring and reporting on finance. That is, project has appropriate financial controls and plans. The intervention has been cost effective and resources have been utilized in the most economical, effective and equitable ways possible (considering value for money; absorption rate; commitments versus disbursements and projected commitments; co-financing). All project budget revisions are done properly within donor requirements.

118. The figure below is actual co – financing (based on expenditures) at the time of this intermediate evaluation.

FIGURE 8: CO-FINANCING TABLE (BASED ON EXPENDITURES)

Donor	Financing plan at endorsement	Expenditure at intermediate evaluation	Percentage of expenditure at intermediate evaluation
GCF grant	USD 9,999,455	USD 3,094,829[28]	30.94%
Parallel co-financing (*all other co-financing (cash and in-kind) administered by other entities; non-cash co-financing administered by UNDP)*			
Confirmed (parallel) co-financing (*all other co-financing that is not cash co-financing administered by UNDP) and financial instrument*			
UZHydromet	USD 4,195,505	USD 4,195,505	100%
MES	USD 26,444,375	USD 10,162,367	38.43%
Total confirmed co-financing	USD 30,639,880	USD 14,357,872	46.86%
Grand-Total Project Financing (1) +(2)	USD 40,639,335	USD 19,452,701	42.94%

119. The relatively low (31%) expenditure level of the GCF grant is a clear indicator of the financing and fund delivery issues the project had to face. First, due to the divergent interpretation between GCF and UNDP of when project starts, it cannot be stated that project did indeed begin upon GCF signature of the grant, since it began later. Also, set up of the project management unit took time to implement, with project coordinator hired to begin work only two years before this interim evaluation took place; in part due to UNDP internal systems for start-up and hiring. Therefore, expenditure is not truly at midpoint (i.e. that would be three and a half years after project began).

120. Budgeting was not fully attuned with actual costs. In some cases, it was not realistic. In other cases, budgets fell short of actual costs (not only costs of procurement but also management costs) due to several external factors such as increase in prices of procured materials, increased costs of managements. As seen in the section on adaptive management, project management has been able to creatively adjust, and co – financing from the GoU has been able to fill some of the gaps, but this has impacted on the transaction costs.

121. The donor rules on financial disbursement were not clearly communicated, with the 70 percent delivery threshold communicated to be expenses and commitment initially and actual disbursement later. Yet the greatest issue related to financing thus far has been the delay in the release of funds by

[28] This amount does not include committed funds (USD853,000), which are due to be paid by the end of 2024

GCF (particularly with regards of the second disbursement in 2023). Although the request for release was sent in early June 2023, funds were not transferred until late October (that is, with a five-month delay). Although the review and approval of the financial request, by GCF, was supposed to be done quite quickly to be able to implement project activities, this was not the case and the inordinate amount of time it took for transfer of funds impacted upon delivery of outputs and planning.

122. Co-financing has materialized beyond expectations for UZHydromet where the agency has already provided 100 per cent of its commitments as of 2023. From the Ministry of Emergency Situations nearly 39 per cent of its commitments have materialized, in some cases even allowing to overpass issues associated with problems in budgeting. For example, by providing equipment through co – financing when project budget did not contemplate escalation in costs.

123. Co-financing is not only important in this case just by the matter that funds are delivered by partners to properly implement project approximately as planned, but it also signals broader aspects. For instance, it allows for demonstrates country ownership, relevance to Uzbekistan of the objectives of the project, as well as marking the probability of sustained financing after the project ends.

COHERENCE IN CLIMATE FINANCE DELIVERY WITH OTHER ENTITIES

124. The main partners of the project are the Ministry of Emergency situations and Uzhydromet. They are very strategic not only in terms of their responsibilities in Uzbekistan regarding multi – hazard early warning systems to increase resilience at all levels in the country, but they are also strategic in terms of capacities and commitment.

125. These partners have complementarity with other actors, internationally and nationally. Internationally, these same partners have worked with other donors and with other projects that deal with similar subjects as the project being evaluated here. Nationally, within the project, there have been partnerships with research groups to provide inputs to the MHEWS as envisioned by the project and, overall, by government.

126. For the work with communities, the Red Crescent Society has been a strategic partner. There is coherence in the work done within the project by MES and the international non – governmental organisation, showing not only rationality but also complementarity in climate change adaptation.

127. Lastly, this GCF – funded project (as indicated in planning documents) has linkages of a different nature with key international actors to seek technical coherence. For example, the project is intended to cooperate with the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) to ensure alignment with reporting to the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) and Global Telecommunication System (GTS). With WMO there are other linkages to determine whether organisation's standards are fully met during the establishment/upgrading of the hydrometeorological observation network to increase the relevance and utility of forecasts and warnings.

PROJECT LEVEL MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEMS

128. Monitoring at design included standard instruments and tools which are characteristic for monitoring and evaluation of UNDP-implemented projects. Project-level monitoring and evaluation is undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP and UNDP Evaluation Policy. Further to the UNDP mandated M&E system, the Project is bound to fulfil additional mandatory GCF-specific monitoring and reporting requirements in accordance with relevant GCF policies.

129. Project level monitoring and evaluation (as indicated in the Project Document) are carried out as planned and as prescribed in the planning documents. The monitoring tools currently being used provide necessary information for accurate examining follow through involving main partners (these being Uzhydromet and MES). The Gender Action Plan also has indicators, not only sex disaggregated data to be harnesses, but further gender sensitive indicators

130. Since baseline information was not thorough at the time of design, project had to carry out a few baseline studies, which were underbudgeted in monitoring costing. The studies carried out were on vulnerability as well as on capacity assessment of Uzhydromet (which included recommendations and training program for building capacity of Uzhydromet personnel), baseline studies regarding the equipment to be installed, as well as other technical assessments. The project conducted a thorough needs and capacity assessment of Uzhydromet and a training plan was developed based on those findings. All technical trainings related to AWS and hydrological equipment procured by the project were both, theoretical and practical, engaging their experts from national and regional departments. The same approach is planned to be used for the rest of the equipment to be procured by the project within this and next years, i.e. the experts of the manufacturer will provide hands-on trainings for specialists of Uzhydromet on national and regional levels, including of experts of respective ministries and organizations. Relevant partners indicate that, therefore, capacity building should be supported by both theoretical and "hands-on" training.

131. Project results as outlined in the project results framework are monitored and reported annually and evaluated periodically during project implementation. Furthermore, project management periodically visits implementation locations to carry out monitoring on site. This is a laborious task that the project carries out given the dispersed sites.

132. Reporting includes the generation of monitoring reports to the donor through the template GCF Annual Performance Report (APR). This is done yearly according to plan.

133. Financial management of the project monitoring and evaluation budget is adequate. Yet the resources allocated to monitoring and evaluation are insufficient.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

134. The Project Document had a Stakeholder Engagement Plan where it is delineated that the work to be done in implementation is to be through cooperation and coordination between the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) (that is, the national implementing partner) and the Centre for Hydrometeorological Services of Uzbekistan (Uzhydromet) (project's responsible party). Following GCF guidelines, in FAA Clause 2.02: The Government of the Host Country, acting through MES, shall act as the Executing Entity. And as indicated in the section B.3. Implementation/institutional Arrangement of the approved Funding Proposal, MES is an Executing Entity (Implementing Partner) and Uzhydromet is a Responsible Party (in UNDP terminology). Cooperation and coordination between MES[29] and Uzhydromet have occurred, yet taking into consideration the culture of the two

[29] The status of ministry is defined in the governmental decrees on MES, which is the central government body that carries out management and coordination of work in the field of civil defence, prevention and elimination of consequences of emergency situations caused by accidents, catastrophes and natural disasters. MES is a part of the Defence system of the country and its employees are considered as military personnel with military ranks, same as in the Defence Ministry of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

partners. That is MES being a military organisation with an inward modality of work for strategic and security reasons while Uzhydromet being of technical organisation with a different corporate culture.

135. The above-mentioned national government stakeholders continue to support the objectives of the project and have an active role in project decision-making that draws efficient and effective project implementation. Implementation has been very robust vis-à-vis developing, leveraging and sustaining partnerships with direct and tangential stakeholders, mainly at the national level, with technical agencies and at the level of institutions that act and provide warnings at the regional and national level when disasters occur.

136. Several sub national entities in targeted areas have also been involved, such as Khokimiyats (regional and local governments), mahallas (i.e. neighbourhood associations or groupings). Engagement has occurred with research organisations and with the Red Crescent Society (non – governmental organisation).

137. Yet, as of date, the full engagement of most of the numerous (more than 15) stakeholder institutions mentioned in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been postponed for operational reasons. Within the capacity building activities, the project engages specialists from different ministries and organizations as well (Ministry of Water, Ministry of Agriculture, Transport University, Uzbekgidrogeology, etc.) for strengthening their knowledge and awareness about new technologies introduced by the project

138. As it was indicated in the Stakeholders Engagement Plan, the stakeholders will be engaged on various levels and roles. Some of them will be involved in direct implementation of activities, while some of them will provide data and participate in various meetings and consultations.

139. The project engaged various stakeholders during conducting of surveys while developing a baseline and draft NFCS. These are listed below in the reference note as reported by the project to this assessment. [30]

140. A grievance mechanism is in place, with materials printed in Russian and Uzbek and with introductory seminars held to inform population in some local communities on the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) of the basic concepts and principles of the GRM and the ways and channels to submit complaints and feedback.[31]

COMMUNICATIONS

[30] The project reports to this evaluation that the following organizations have been involved in surveys thus far (besides evidently the implementing partners): International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS); Scientific-Information Centre of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (SIC ICWC); Amu Darya Water Basin Organisation; Syr Darya Water Basin Organisation; International Innovation Centre of the Aral Sea Region under the President of Uzbekistan; Uzbekhydroenergo JSC; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Water; Research Institute of Irrigation and Water Problems under the Ministry of Agriculture; Information-Analytical and Resource Centre of the Ministry of the Interior; Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change; Scientific-Research Hydrometeorological Institute; Research and Production Centre for Agriculture; Uzbekistan Society for the Protection of Birds; Energy Club; Ma'no Centre for Research Initiatives; Computer Repair Service Centre; IKS Consulting; and Libert Miljo Kommunikation.

[31] This Interim Evaluation was asked to assess the GRM's effectiveness yet there is no evidence of activated complaints, therefore this cannot be done within the current assessment

141. Internal communications between the main in-project stakeholders (that is MES and Uzhydromet, UNDP) is proper. That is, regarding the project, communication is appropriate and fluid, as well as regularly maintained, mainly through the Project Management Unit but also direct at Board Meetings, and other such events.

142. External communication of data gathered is open sourced by Uzhydromet. That is, the date generated by project interventions is fed into the real time information provided by the agency through different platforms. External project communication regarding EWS is not carried out by the PMU directly, given that it is the role of MES to work with communities on awareness-raising and preparedness regarding potential risks associated with natural hazards and disasters. Therefore, from the project itself there is full-fledged planned formal awareness raising nor outreach campaigns nor a communication plan However, information on the project is communicated in UNDP webpages as well as GCF webpages. And all capacity building activities of the project are regularly posted in local newspapers, social media and websites of MES/Uzhydromet.

143. Communication and outreach for early warnings, however, is a key effect that will be developed as part of the project. Some activities and products that deal with direct communication have been supported by the project already (for example outdoor boards for warnings). MES oversees these and other communication methodologies of early warnings. Some communication materials have already been implemented, for instance videos of early warning in four languages (Russian, Uzbek, English as well as in Sign Language – the latter incorporated within the leave no one behind framework).

144. Project communication with GCF is mainly through the Annual Performance Reports (as seen in the reporting section below). Yet, communication is not fluid since reception of feedback from the donor to the project/UNDP takes several months (sometimes up to six months) hindering implementation processes and release of funding. Other delays were caused due to a need for resubmission of information shared with GCF given that this institution deemed that further information would be more satisfactory vis-à-vis reporting.

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS (SAFEGUARDS)

145. Project underwent Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) upon project planning, as required and as reflected in the Project Document. All risks identified were either classified as low within the SESP. There were no revisions made of these standards per se and therefore no revisions were made to the mitigation plans, nor is it considered by this evaluation that there should be any revisions, given that the ratings given to the risks identified are presently validated. The project's overall safeguards risk categorization (i.e. UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Category) is Moderate.

146. In the SESP checklist however there are answers to questions that should be paid attention to and mitigated as much as possible. For example, when referring to Question 4 in the SESP checklist: *Is there a likelihood that the Project would exclude any potentially affected stakeholders, particularly marginalized groups, from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?* the answer is Yes, signalling that there should be safeguards implemented so that this does not occur.

REPORTING

147. Reporting (as stated in other relevant sections of this report) is done following and fulfilling UNDP (following Standard UNDP monitoring and reporting requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP) and GCF reporting requirements. For GCF the Project produces Annual Project Reports. Project has

produced an Inception Report resulting from its inception workshop, as required. Project management also reports to Project Board periodically, as required. This mainly takes place for board meetings, and for the generation of annual work plans

148. Reporting by project has been efficient and timely. As seen in the communication section above, however, feedback on reporting by GCF has not been timely and has affected implementation flows.

149. UNDP oversees facilitating this intermediate independent and external evaluation; an evaluation which gives rise to the present report. This fulfils UNDP mandates on evaluation of medium to large projects.

SUSTAINABILITY

150. Intermediate evaluations (such as this one) when dealing with sustainability, assess the likelihood of sustainability of outcomes upon project termination. Sustainability is normally considered to be the prospect of continued benefits after a project ends. Consequently, the assessment of sustainability considers the risks that are likely to affect the continuation of project outcomes and outputs.

151. A tool to deal with sustainability in all its relevant areas is an exit strategy. A strategy that is to be developed within implementation with sufficient time to be able to review, accept by all relevant parties and eventually begin to implement within project execution as relevant.

152. Guidelines for this type of project evaluations establish four areas for considering risks to sustainability: financial, socioeconomic, institutional framework, and environmental. That is, at midpoint, evaluations attempt to recognise early identification of risks to sustainability along these four conditions. Each is described below.

FINANCIAL RISKS TO SUSTAINABILITY

153. Regarding financial issues, an evaluation ascertains if there are financial risks that may jeopardize the sustainability of project outcomes as well as the likelihood of financial and economic resources not being available once granted assistance ends. In the case of this project, financial risks to sustainability, with proper implementation tools, are low.

154. There are several aspects that the project's achievements will be financially supported after project end. For instance, the ownership manifested through co – financing is expected to continue after concluding the project. It is understood by all parties that financial costs for maintaining and operating the early warning system generated with support of GCF investments will continue.

155. The project has the potential to develop a powerful tool for financial sustainability, which should be developed and implemented expectantly before project end, which is the business model. One of the products expected to be developed is a business model which will include several revenue generation options based on delivery of disaster risk information products/services. Baseline studies have begun. The business model can be developed for private sector financing (in addition to public state financing) for climate information systems that would, in turn, aid in maintaining and even upscaling the investments already delivered and to be delivered throughout the intervention.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC RISKS TO SUSTAINABILITY

156. The socio-political risks to sustainability are low. The level of ownership is very high, communities (although individuals that make up the communities have different degrees of risk perceptions) are keen to participate in preparedness exercises and are receptive also to see the project expanded to other areas and other related subjects.

157. As stated elsewhere, nevertheless, government and even some stakeholders themselves, have expressed that they find some weariness in the use and in the sustainability of new technologies. This is a matter that can be dismissed, however, with proper mechanisms in the second stage of application of this project. Although rotation of government personnel is not extremely high, it does occur and can hinder uptake and capacity enhancement. With proper mechanisms, such as KM products, here also, this socio-economic risk can also be reduced.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND GOVERNANCE RISKS TO SUSTAINABILITY

158. The project has imbedded as some of its expected outcomes has low levels of risks in institutional framework and governance. Yet there are some protocols that would need to be developed and implemented as to further consolidate institutional frameworks.

159. Overall, the risks are low given institutional mechanisms that are already in place in relation to governance. As indicated in several areas of this report, the project is properly imbedded in institutional and policy frameworks in Uzbekistan. This is formally manifested by the alignment of the project with current policies (e. g. State Program on Prediction and Prevention of Emergency situations, Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On further improvement of state emergency prevention and response system of the Republic of Uzbekistan"; Decree No. 5066 on 1 June 2017, sets the agenda for developing a new approach to monitoring and forecasting natural hazards responsible for creating emergency situations; and Decree No. 601 by the Cabinet of Ministers on Aug 8, 2017, outlines the structure of the national early warning system for natural hazards, including an automated system for disseminating alerts and warnings) as well as national DRM strategy as well as Resolution No. 4896 “On measures to enhance the performance of the Centre for hydrometeorological service of Uzbekistan” which outlines commitment to modernize and strengthen hydrometeorological service delivery.

160. The above demonstrate a firm anchoring in already established national policy and practice, which is expected to continue after project end. However, there are some institutional and framework mechanisms to be developed which will further secure the institutional framework already present. That is, the development and adopting of guidance and protocols (as indicated in planning) for coordination between Uzhydromet as generator of early warning weather data and MES as the user of this data for prompt decision making.

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS TO SUSTAINABILITY

161. Regarding environmental risks to sustainability, there are no major risks identified besides being attuned to what natural and weather-related phenomena can damage or put out of order the technology installed. For instance, there were some difficulties with the operation of the equipment in extreme weather conditions, which should be considered not only after the project ends but also for the final stage of implementation in the next few years.

COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

162. Country ownership for this project is very high in Uzbekistan. This is evidenced in all agencies and departments that are involved in the project and through a variety of stakeholders.

163. Country ownership is manifested by different matters. For instance, the project is firmly imbedded in governmental plans and programmes, therefore it is not exogenous to government needs and strategies. This supports the appropriation by government of the project, its objectives, and its needs. The project’s full alignment with national development plans, and sectoral planning is also an

underpinning component of ownership. Ownership is also signalled through co-financing commitments provided by MES and Uzhydromet for both project implementation and operations and maintenance costs.

164. The sheer relevance of the need to upgrade and enhance a nation – wide early warning system and to deal with disaster risk management based on the information harnessed and decision making based on this information underpins, also, country ownership.

GENDER EQUITY

165. Gender equity is very well planned within project design, as seen in the appropriate section above. There were two powerful tools developed upon design, which were the Gender Analysis and the Gender Action Plan.

166. The design documents assert that the project should follow a gender-responsive approach that will ensure the priorities, needs, barriers, status and roles of men and women are recognized and addressed. And that the focus would be on the inclusion and empowerment of women as a critical element of sustainable development in the context of DRR and climate change.

167. However, this is not reflected fully in the application of gender equity principles in implementation. That is, mainstreaming and inclusion of gender aspects in project activities and products is not fully included in those who are relevant to be gender-sensitive. The project as designed was intended to deal with gender issues or with specific matters related to gender vis-a-vis early warning systems, or for imbedding gender issues in general project-wide activities/products.

168. The project does tally sex-disaggregated data for activities. That is, it calculates how many males and females do participate in the different activities. Project's GAP necessitates the collection of gender-disaggregated data, and seven out of nine activities carried – out include quantitative indicators, such as the proportion of women trained. Nonetheless, this is cannot be considered a true and fully gender-inclusive approach. Although project staff indicate that they recognize that a truly gender-inclusive approach requires more than just women's participation in its activities, and indicates that efforts are being made to enhance gender mainstreaming, up to the stage of this interim evaluation there are still some elements missing to fully incorporate this approach. Some of the materials developed up to now take a mechanical look at gender. For instance, a critical analysis of vulnerability – related studies indicate that demographic data such as the gender and age of the respondents were considered and analysed in terms of how it affects to the answer of everyone, the impact of these factors to the overall preparedness of the village was not assessed. That is, materials developed by or though the project in some cases rely on sex-disaggregated data per population statistics, without further analysis. Furthermore, some of the materials developed for training and awareness raising distributed as part of work with communities, where gender is a factor to include as seen in planning documents for this project and gender plan, do not fully include gender as a factor. The project indicates that the weakness of the vulnerability assessment in terms of gender analysis is primarily due to the scarcity of local experts in the country capable of integrating gender aspects into climate vulnerability assessments. Additionally, the project faced budget constraints, limiting its ability to hire more experienced international experts. The project did organize, however, an online training for company's representatives and data collectors on the principles of gender-sensitive interviewing and reporting, to ensure a gender-sensitive approach in data collection. Acknowledging this weakness, the project will conduct an additional assessment closer to the end of the project, where more emphasis on thorough gender analysis, ensuring that all gender-related aspects will be paid attention,

including stereotypes, power dynamics, access to resources, and freedom of movement, among others. As will be seen in the recommendations section, this assessment understands that these factors should be incorporated early on, and not at the end of a project given that by then it is too late to weave in a gender inclusive approach to the project itself.

169. Given that this is perceived by many stakeholders to be a "technical" project, gender mainstreaming is not seeming as a truly crucial issue and the intervention, as is apparent to them appears as gender neutral. However, this is not accurate given that there is an important area of work with communities which should include early warnings aspects as they relate to gender. At most, to some stakeholders who perceive this project as gender neutral, are attuned to the participation of women in project activities, etc. Financial resources/project activities are not explicitly allocated to incorporate gender in the products.

170. This evaluation understands however that classifying this project as just technical -as some stakeholders do- and not being cognisant that gender mainstreaming is needed is misleading. In the first place, the project is indeed technical but just not in all its components.

171. Harnessing climate information is gender neutral. Yet gender plays an important role in multi-hazard early warning systems. How that information is transmitted and how it is used or accessed by different groups, in the first place, is a crucial factor related to several cross – cutting issues such as gender equity. Multi-hazard early warning systems that do not explicitly consider gender, are gender uninformed. A gender uniformed approach, in a context with gender inequality, will likely be gender unequal, increasing the marginalization of women or at the very least not attending to their needs equitably.

172. Therefore, as will be seen in the recommendations section, the project should strive further to promote the concept that EWS needs to recognise, where relevant, that women and men are impacted differently or have different needs regarding hazards and that gender sensitive MHEWS should ensure that structural and contingency planning, use of information, disaster preparedness, response should proactively consider gender. This should be done adapting to respond to the specific needs, concerns, and capabilities of women and/or design approaches, policies, and practices to reduce gender-based inequalities and to meet the needs of all. As promoted in project planning documents (such as the Gender Action Plan and gender analysis included in the Project Document).[32]

INNOVATIVENESS IN RESULTS AREAS

173. Innovation is a cornerstone of this project. As indicated in planning documents such as the FAA, one of the aims of this intervention is to provide *access to innovative technologies and expertise for the implementation and scale-up of this national initiative*.

174. Stakeholders have expressed that this is the major achievement of the project thus far. That is to upgrade and automate outdate and inadequate tools for early warning systems. Not only to generate data but to potentially be used for preparedness, resiliency and adaptation.

[32] Brown et al., (2019) Gender Transformative Early Warning Systems: Experiences from Nepal and Peru, Rugby, UK: Practical Action; Gender in early warning and action: why do we need to talk about it? | PreventionWeb; UN Women Gender-Responsive Early Warning: A How to Guide; UNDRR gender-responsive-and-disability-inclusive-early-warning-and-early-action-in-the-pacific-region_0.pdf.

175. It must be recognised, nevertheless, that innovation is not a simple process across the board. In some cases, within this project, it is generating mistrust or uncertainty. Some stakeholders have flagged that the first reaction for some persons to the introduction of new technology is fear, especially when the benefits are not fully known or communicated. This assessment has also been able to harness this from some end users, who do not fully trust the new technologies and / or who have had negative experiences previously when new technologies were introduced.

POSITIVE UNEXPECTED RESULTS

176. There are some positive or unplanned unexpected results observed because of the project. Although some were acknowledged as possibilities in planning documentation, these were not part of the Results Framework, and are –therefore—not capturable with the indicator base presented there. Other ones just occurred in unplanned format. Some of the co-benefits captured by this evaluation are indicated below in order to eventually help knowledge management and feed the information into future project design and planning as relevant.

177. For UNDP a positive unexpected result has been the engendered working proximity with the Ministry of Emergency Situations. This opens the potentiality to work with this ministry in the future in other projects.

178. Although to a degree it was predicted or predictable that there would be attention on the project at different levels, this interim evaluation has captured interest from several parties, including civil society, as a positive unexpected result, on the continuation and on upscaling (not only geographic but also thematic). For instance, out of their expression, stakeholders have indicated that the harnessing of weather data could be used or expanded to deal with subjects such as health, productivity, etc.

REPLICATION AND SCALABILITY

179. Replication and scalability are not easily evaluated at a midpoint stage such as the one the project is at now. However, linked to potential sustainability factors as seen above in the relevant section, some aspects can be extracted. The ownership of the achievements and the appropriation of all actors indicate that there is a strong potential for replication and scalability to occur. Systematization of lessons learned, good practices as well as the creation of overarching knowledge management products and processes can promote replication and scalability.

180. In the first place, this project was designed targeting some areas of the country, not nationwide. Furthermore, all stakeholders from government and from civil society have indicated there is a need to replicate the project achievements to other rest of the country.

181. Replication is not only asked for regarding the technical upgrading that the project is achieving but also for work with the community, hands on practical training within Khokimiyats, mahallas and schools, etc. In this case it has also been pointed out that this should be done in a more programmatic level (perhaps beyond the reach of this project, but something to consider in future programming). For instance, by including in school curricula or in regular local government activities preparedness training and activities, for these to be programmatic and not a “one off” circumstance.

182. Upscaling is also a matter that has been expressed as desirable by various stakeholder groups. In training of personnel, in analysing other weather-related parameters that were not included in this project, in future programming and in thematically paying attention to other matters related to MHEWS and resilience in Uzbekistan. For instance, it was deemed necessary for upscaling to deal

deeply with other matters related to resiliency such as the impact of climate change related parameters on health and on productivity (such as agriculture).[33]

183. General concepts regarding what the document defines as an exit strategy are included in the FAA. It is stated that there is ownership and plans for continued financing by Government can guarantee continuity. Yet this is not considered a full exit strategy. [34] Therefore, as will be seen in the recommendations section, the project should generate a complete exit strategy that considers multiple variables, revisiting what is in the FAA.

[33] Although it is noted that Uzhydromet provides weather forecasts and other related information to the Ministry of Health for planning and decision purposes. Plus, the respective agrometeorological information is also being shared with the Ministry of Agriculture (and farmers at the request) for their needs and planning, what stakeholders are indicating is that this should be more programmatic and deeper analysis should be made from data harnessed.

[34] The Terms of Reference to this evaluation requested that the effectiveness of the project's exit strategy be analyzed. However, this cannot be done given that (a) there is no such strategy developed and this will be seen in the recommendations section fully and (b) an effectiveness analysis of an exit strategy can only be carried out ex – post given that the effectiveness is demonstrated after a project concludes and the exit strategy is applied and not at is intermediate stage.

5. CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND LESSONS LEARNED

CONCLUSIONS

184. As stated in UN-wide statements, an integrated Early Warning System alerts people to upcoming hazardous weather and informs governments, communities and individuals, so their impact can be minimized. In the *Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning System To Increase Resilience Of Uzbekistan Communities To Climate Change-Induced Hazard Project* the key linkages between a MHEWS and increasing resilience is in the title, the systems need to be set not only as a data gathering exercise but with an outlook to uptake by decision – makers for preparedness and alerting population on disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction. That is, early warning systems that allow for the monitoring of real-time atmospheric conditions as a way of informing conditions and predicting upcoming weather events are much more than that –if utilised properly that is. Information generated by these sorts of systems allow for planning, infrastructure upgrading to mitigate negative impacts, and overall prepare for ever increasing the multiple hazards faced and exacerbated by climate change.

185. The design of this project was very well aligned with national relevance, and fully aligned with national priorities and strengthening already functioning principles and programmes and governmental activities in Uzbekistan. The resulted design is very well grounded on GCF principles for potential funding. It provides a basis for upgrading, updating and automating a strong climate rationale to give a scientific foundation for evidence-based decision making.

186. This is perhaps the core of the project. It is not an intellectual exercise or a technological upgrading only type of intervention. That is, the generation of data is not an end in and of itself, it should be conceived to make proper decisions regarding climate change and build resilience at all levels (national and communities). There should be clear understanding and coordination, therefore, for the uptake of data to create adaptation and resiliency.

187. The project has generated thus far a set of achievements such as updating an outdated hydrometeorological system, developed baseline studies, began hazard risks mapping, carried out training/awareness raising and capacity building activities at different levels (not only at the technical level but also at the community level).

188. There is a common understanding that this a technological upgrading project, and it is understood by this evaluation that technological upgrading needed to take place as to move on to other aspects. Yet, the interim review can be taken as an inflexion point to speed up these processes now that the ground has been laid for this.

189. Although it might be considered too early by some, this is the time to consider sustainability and develop proper tools (such as an exit strategy) to implement in the next few years and evidently after project closure to fully uphold the achievements that the project has made and that with no doubt will continue to accomplish until finalisation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

190. Recommendations presented here reflect suggested corrective actions for the implementation of the project, proposals for future directions underlining main objectives as well as actions to follow up or reinforce / support either what the project has been carrying out as well as initial benefits from the project. Recommendations are within the scope and mandate of this evaluation. They are for the

project, for GCF, and for UNDP and a priority is indicated per the framework indicated (immediate, short term, and medium to long term).

Recommendations for the project, immediate timeframe:

Speed – up work planning and delivery. To make up for lost time and bottle necks withstood by the project, and engender expected results within the expected timeframe, delivery should be planned to be sped up and fast tracked based on different tools. For this, it is suggested that there should be adjustments as necessary to be effective in implementation and move execution forward at a faster pace, using different tools. Some specific sub recommendations in this aspect are as follows bearing in mind that these are not only corrective suggestions but also are supportive of what has been developed within the project thus far and what the project is doing to streamline delivery:

In the first place, budget reviews should continue to take place to realistically do costing exercises in terms of current costs and prices. While doing this , there should be decisions made as to what products and activities can be carried out within budget, or if other sources of funding (co – financing, etc.) should be leveraged to make up the gap between planned budget and actual costs.

a. Generate a clear schedule for the time-bound action (roadmap) regarding the activities that the project intends to implement in relation to objectives and results-based management (in the remaining period of implementation) looking at speeding up delivery to make up for delays experienced thus far.

b. If possible and relevant, as already done in some cases in this project to improve efficiency, procurement of tasks and processes should be grouped to have implementation to be more efficient and time binding, as well help reduce transaction costs.

c. Taking into consideration that some processes and activities do not pivot around each other, that is, they are not sequenced. Therefore, for these (as relevant and as possible) develop work plans that are more resourceful and change order as necessary, not waiting for one activity to be completed to begin others (this is of course as the possible considering factors such as funding instalments, etc.).

Recommendations for the project, short-term timeframe :

Strategic approach to capacity building and training. Strategic approach to capacity building activities should be strengthened considering what the project and associated partners have learned or achieved thus far. Therefore, there are several aspects that could be included further in strategizing for training and capacity building such as engaging further on practical trainings as well as theoretical ones, increase coverage of technical specialists to guarantee sustainable operations (while the project is ongoing and after completion, fully work on technical support and troubleshooting including itinerant support for maintenance and for spare parts, train the trainers modalities, and so on). Training and capacity (at this stage of project implementation and for the future programming) should consider regional differences and resistance to innovation that may be present in some circumstances. To sustain training (within the project for example to foresee issues that may arise out of staff rotation) or to engender sustainable approaches for after the project ends, it is suggested that knowledge

management products, tool boxes or tool kits, depositories of information and of KM products, etc., be developed to share this capacity with other actors after project ends (technical and community-oriented). As possible, increase different measurements of other weather-related factors that are being impacted negatively and consider their ultimate impact on the population (including productive sectors).

Increase work with communities to deliver products. Increase work with communities to deliver products that can be used for climate adaptation, including hands on practical trainings, KM products that take into consideration the leave no one behind framework and gender issues, and improve information services of all segments of the population to increase their readiness to take responsive measures to mitigate and or adapt to the negative consequences of hazardous events. Given the limited allocated budget for these activities, the project should seek the most effective and efficient ways to implement these and sustain those results in this context.

Improve protocols for interagency cooperation. Protocols that specify clearly interagency cooperation in early warning systems should be improved further and partners should be supported in their application even before project ends. The development of protocols should be done with further discussions and agreements with the MES considering that MES is a military organization and some documentation developed and transferred to them might be modified and classified upon acceptance.

Further integration of gender mainstreaming. Reinforce what the project has been promoting in planning documents regarding gender. This ought to be done by mainstreaming the concept that MHEWS need to recognise that women and men are impacted differently or have different needs regarding hazards and that gender sensitive MHEWS should ensure that structural and contingency planning, use of information, disaster preparedness, and –therefore-- response should proactively consider gender. This should be done adapting to and responding to the specific needs, concerns, and capabilities of women and/or design approaches, policies, and practices to reduce gender-based inequalities and to meet the needs of all people, men and women. Related intended gender mainstreaming activities should not be done at the very end of the project (such as vulnerability assessments) given that at that point it will be not possible to weave in gender mainstreaming into the project fully. Given budget limitations for gender mainstreaming , and to deal with this and further incorporate gender in the work of the project, these processes and activities could be done harnessing work already done within the UN in this matter, institutional expertise already present within the system as well as harnessing the extensive knowledge management information already present within the system and with diverse donors.

Generate an exit strategy. The project and partners should begin to develop a full exit strategy as soon as possible. A strategy that is to be developed within implementation with sufficient time to be able to review, accept by all relevant parties and eventually begin to implement within project execution as relevant. All further activities and processes need to incorporate at some level awareness of how products, activities, and results will or should be sustained in the medium or long term. If some components of an agreed exit strategy can be applied while the project is still being implemented, this should be done at once and not wait until project end to execute. An integrated exit strategy should contain the following aspects: financial sustainability (including the use of the business plan that the project should develop and hopefully begin to implement before project end); institutional and policy framework that

include inter – ministerial and inter-agency mechanisms; plans for ongoing operation of investments attending to integral maintenance; mechanisms for making trainings and community outreach programmes with communities permanent and systematic while imbedding them in institutions.

Recommendations for GCF, short term:

Improve GCF communication and feedback, while streamlining programmatic procedures and meeting with commitments. Communication and feedback from GCF must be agile, not delayed. For instance, commitments to approve APRs and transfer funds should follow the donor's assurance in time and in form. The donor should recognize that this is not just a funding issue, it should be cognisant that delays of this sort jeopardise continuity and risk proper implementation. Make disbursements available as planned, avoiding inordinate delays, establishing clear guidance, and abiding by it.

Recommendations for UNDP for future programming, medium term to longer term:

Upscaling and outreach and assure that products are and will be programmatic. Based on the achievements of this project and its lessons learned, plan and seek support for upscaling and reaching other target areas in Uzbekistan with the same approach and similar activities to have a country-wide updated MHEWS. Upscaling also implies incorporating in the use of early warning systems broad concepts, such as the utility of this data for productive sector, link to health issues, etc. Further projects should make sure that activities, processes and products are systematic and imbedded in programmatic planning, and not be just "one off" instances.

Imbed flexibility. Projects, particularly complex ones, should have embedded certain flexibility aspects to be able to face eventualities, to account for inception period and learning curve, and to be able to adapt to changing circumstances that necessarily do arise when translating design theory to implementation praxis.

Improve indicator systems. A robust indicator system with accurate metrics needs to be set at design. Indicators need to be SMART. That is, indicators should undergo a critical SMART analysis before planning documents are finalised. This implies that indicators need to be attuned to the plausibility of events (for example, in this project it is not predictable whether extreme weather events will take place within the implementation time frame and therefore indicators that measure success in facing an event that might not occur is not accurate). Indicators should refer to a project's time frame and fully consider the scope of a project.

LESSONS LEARNED

191. Lessons learned represent knowledge generated by reflecting on the actual results of a project until the time of this evaluation and on the experience that has the potential to improve future programming and actions. The project gives rise to and motivates a series of lessons learned such as those extended below.

- An indicator system that is not SMART and not realistically set hinders accurate measuring results, effects and impacts of a project. It could also hinder how the project is evaluated. For example, if no disasters or extreme weather events occur during the implementation of a project, then impact indicators in lives saved or GDP saved will not be met, and this is not a project failure. It is better to leave indicators that are not potentially achievable in a project's time frame due to externalities to ex-post analysis and not include in a results log frame.

- Projects that have a long lapse between design, approval and implementation face budgeting issues due to price and costs changes, not only in equipment/products/studies etc. but also in managerial costs.

- Inflexibly designed projects are difficult to implement, particularly if they do not have some sort of mechanisms to adapt to changing circumstances, changing costs, or from going from theory of design to on the ground application.

- Although gender plans included at design are essential first steps to incorporating gender into a project, without these plans being fully articulated and having specifics as to how they will be implemented and how they will be properly budgeted.

- Unproperly communicating changes from donors and grantees creates disorderly implementation, even stressing the effectiveness and efficiency of a project. Not meeting with donors' commitments in a timely manner desynchronises implementation and can potentially have a negative impact upon the whole expected delivery of a project.

- Capacity building is a very strategic aspect of these sorts of projects, and should be treated as such, bearing in mind a series of factors such as practicality, local differences, reactions to innovation, training the trainers, and potential and actual sustainability.

6. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: INTERMEDIATE EVALUATION TOR - NATIONAL CONSULTANT (EXCLUDING ANNEXES)

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
TERMS OF REFERENCE / INDIVIDUAL CONTRACT

PROJECT/OUTCOME INFORMATION	
Job title	National Consultant for Interim Evaluation of UNDP project 'Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning System to increase resilience of Uzbekistan communities to climate change induced hazards' UNDP PIMS 6218
Type of contract:	Individual Contract (IC)
Assignment type:	National Consultant
Duration of Contract:	**30 working days (**15 July**,** 2024 - 15 September 2024)
Duty station:	Tashkent, with missions to some of 7 regions (Ferghana, Namangan, Tashkent, Syrdarya, Jizzakh, Samarkand and Kashkadarya)
Work status (full /part time):	Part time, home-based
Reports to:	Head of Strategic planning and Integration Unit, UNDP in Uzbekistan

Introduction

This Terms of Reference (ToR) sets out the expectations for the Interim evaluation (IE) of the project titled 'Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning System to increase resilience of Uzbekistan communities to climate change induced hazards UNDP PIMS 6218. . The project started on the *19 July 2021* and is in its 3rd year of implementation. The IE process must follow the guidance outlined in the document 'Evaluation Implementation, June 2021' (http://web.undp.org/evaluation/guideline/section-4.shtml).

I. Background and context

The project objective is to enhance the efficiency and coverage of an MHEWS for climate change-induced hazards in Uzbekistan given the projected climate change impacts. The project is introducing the impact-based MHEWS based on the socio-economic risk modelling and will explore and facilitate elements of forecast-based financing as an innovative paradigm-shifting approach to the use of climate data in decision-making. More specifically, Output is 1 addressing the first element by investing in the automatic hydro-meteorological monitoring infrastructure required for the generation of hazard-specific forecasting and risk models. Output 2 and Output 3 are focusing on building the systems and modelling capacity to generate impact-based forecasts creating dissemination channels to first responders and communities through updated communication technologies to enable real-time risk analysis and evaluation. The GCF project is promoting the transformation of climate hazard forecasting and warning from a reactive (ex-post) hazard-based system to one that is proactive (ex-ante), user-oriented and impact-based. The implementing partner is Uzhydromet. By the end of the project, the number of its direct beneficiaries will come to 11.296 million people (34.9% of the total population), including 5.63 million men and 5.666 million women. The direct beneficiary of this project is the population currently living in high-risk areas of Uzbekistan (people exposed to one or more climate hazards), estimated to be 34.9% of the population.

II. IE Evaluation purpose, scope and objectives

The IE will assess implementation of the project and progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the UNDP Project Document and GCF Funded Activity Agreement (FAA), and assess early signs of project success or failure with the goal of identifying the necessary changes

to be made in order to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results. The Interim Evaluation will also review the project's strategy and its risks to sustainability.
This evaluation is to be undertaken in line with the evaluation policy of UNDP (http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/accountability/evaluation/evaluation_policyofundp) and the UNDP Handbook on Monitoring and Evaluating for Results (http://web.undp.org/evaluation/handbook/index.html). The IE will take into consideration assessment of the project in line with evaluation criteria from the GCF IEU TOR (GCF/B.06/06) and GCF Evaluation Policy, along with guidance provided by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Additional evaluation criteria can be assessed, as applicable.

The assignment will take place between July-September 2024. It will involve deskwork and meetings with national partners and stakeholders, including project beneficiaries. The national consultant will work in close collaboration with the lead evaluator for this Interim Evaluation, UNDP Uzbekistan CO and relevant stakeholders.

EVALUATION OBJECTIVES:
The evaluation is intended to provide a comprehensive overall assessment of the project and to provide recommendations for exit strategy and/or follow-up activities.
The purpose of the evaluation is:

- To assess overall performance against the Project objective and outcomes as set out in Project Document and GCF Funded Activity Agreement (FAA)
- To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the Project.
- To analyze critically the implementation and management arrangements of the Project.
- To assess the sustainability of the project's interventions.
- To list and document lessons concerning Project design, implementation and management.
- To assess Project relevance to national priorities.
- To assess changes in the baseline situation and provide guidance for the future activities in the area of promoting improved water management.

Project performance will be measured based on Project's Results and Resources Framework, which provides clear indicators for project implementation. The Report of the Evaluation will be stand-alone document that substantiates its recommendations and conclusions.

III. Functions / Key Outputs Expected

The National Consultant will provide inputs and support International Consultant/ Team Lead for the IE throughout this process including translation and accompaniment to meetings/ KII and etc as necessary. Specifically, the National Consultant will perform tasks with a focus on:

- Review project-related documents and make them available to the international team leader (with
- summarized translations into the English language, if necessary);
- Provide inputs to the IE Inception Report;
- Prepare a list of the outputs achieved under the project; Assist the project team in organising the IE mission programme and take part in the IE mission in Uzbekistan;
- Perform translation/ interpretation if and where necessary in support of the IE;
- Provide inputs to the presentation of initial findings;
- Contribute to the design of the evaluation methodology;

- Draft specific parts of the evaluation report to be agreed upon with the international IE team leader and make inputs to other sections of the report in coordination with the IE team leader;
- Provide support in circulation of draft IE report for comments;
- Assist International IE Team Leader in finalizing the evaluation report through incorporating suggestions received on draft related to his/her assigned sections.

Evaluation will be undertaken in line with the principles outlined in the UNDP Evaluation Guidelines:

- Independence
- Impartiality
- Transparency
- Disclosure
- Ethical
- Partnership
- Competencies and Capacities
- Credibility
- Utility

The assignment will take place within July-September 2024. It will involve deskwork and meetings with national partners and stakeholders, including project beneficiaries. The international consultant will work in close collaboration with UNDP Uzbekistan CO and relevant stakeholders.

VI. TE Deliverables and timeframe

The following deliverables and indicative schedule are expected from the consultancy contract. Exact dates of beginning and completion stages as well as scope of works for each phase can be corrected by the Commissioning Unit based on reasonable justification by the consultant. The Commissioning Unit reserves the right, if necessary, to amend the terms of reference of a consultant on a written agreement. The final schedule will be agreed upon in the beginning of consultancy assignment. All deliverables should be submitted to UNDP by the Consultant in English.

#	Deliverable	Deadline	Payment condition
1	**Output #1** - Contribution to IE Inception Report has been developed and submitted to the Evaluation Team Leader and Commissioning Unit and project management (expected timeline 5 days). Note: consultant clarifies objectives, methodology and timing of the IE submits contributions to Inception Report. - Contribution to presentation on initial findings has been prepared and submitted (10 days). Note: consultant also works with the Project Team in arranging stakeholder online/on-site meetings, interviews, etc., providing translation to local language, collecting stakeholders' feedback, etc.	24 June 2024 16 July 2024 25 July 2024	50%

2	- Contribution to Full Draft IE Report has been prepared and submitted using guidelines on report content in ToR Annex A, C) with annexes (10 days). Note: consultant submits to Evaluation Team Leader, commissioning unit, and project management. **Output #2** - Inputs to revised final report in which the IE details how all received comments have (and have not) been addressed in the final IE report (See template in ToR Annex D) submitted to the Commissioning unit, Evaluator and the project management (5 days).	11 September 2024	

V. Payment conditions

This is a lump sum contract that should include costs of consultancy and other costs required to produce the
above deliverables. Trips are included in this payment and the consultant is obliged to perform each at least 2 days for each pilot district (8 days). Payment will be released in 1 (one) instalment upon timely submissions of the above-mentioned respective deliverables and their acceptance by the Supervisor and UNDP CO.

VI. Evaluator Ethics

This evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation'. The consultant must safeguard the rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees, and stakeholders through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing collection of data and reporting on data. The consultant must also ensure security of collected information before and after the evaluation and protocols to ensure anonymity and confidentiality of sources of information where that is expected. The information knowledge and data gathered in the evaluation process must also be solely used for the evaluation and not for other uses with the express authorization of UNDP and partners.

*All IE reports will be quality assessed by the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office (IEO). Details of the IEO's quality assessment of decentralized evaluations can be found in Section 6 of the UNDP Evaluation Guidelines.[35]

VII. Qualifications Requirements	
Education and work experience:	• Bachelor degree or higher in environmental or climate change fields, disaster risk reduction and preparedness, social sciences, public administration or other closely related field. • Familiarity with climate change, disaster risk reduction and preparedness issues in Uzbekistan is an asset; • Work experience in relevant areas for at least 5 years;

[35] Access at: http://web.undp.org/evaluation/guideline/section-6.shtml

	• Project evaluation experience within international organizations (UNDP, GCF, GEF, USAID and others) will be considered an asset.
Knowledge of languages:	Fluency in English, Russian and Uzbek.
Computer skills	Proficiency in the work with Microsoft Packages.
Other:	• Excellent oral and written communication skills • Good interpersonal and facilitation skills; ability to be flexible, respectful, and effective while working with others from diverse backgrounds • Ability to meet strict deadlines and work under stressful conditions · • Ability to work in close collaboration with a group of national and international experts, to meet strict deadlines and plan the work according to priorities.

UNDP is an equal opportunity employer. Qualified female candidates, people with disabilities, and minorities are highly encouraged to apply. UNDP Gender Balance in Management Policy promotes achievement of gender balance among its staff at all levels.

VIII. Application Process[36]

Recommended Presentation of Proposal:

a) **Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability** using the template[37] provided by UNDP;
b) **CV** and a **Personal History Form** (P11 form[38]);
c) Brief description **of approach to work/technical proposal** of why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment, and a proposed methodology on how they will approach and complete the assignment; (max 1 page)
d) **Financial Proposal** that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price, supported by a breakdown of costs, as per template attached to the Letter of Confirmation of Interest template. If an applicant is employed by an organization/company/institution, and he/she expects his/her employer to charge a management fee in the process of releasing him/her to UNDP under Reimbursable Loan Agreement (RLA), the applicant must indicate at this point, and ensure that all such costs are duly incorporated in the financial proposal submitted to UNDP.

Applicants are requested to apply online through the UNDP website at http://www.undp.uz. Application shall be submitted by indicated deadline. Incomplete applications will be excluded from further consideration. Application should contain a current and complete C.V. or PH form with indication of the e-mail and phone contact. Shortlisted candidates will be requested to submit a price of fee indicating the total cost of the assignment (including daily fee, per diem and travel costs). Incomplete applications will be excluded from further consideration.

[36] Engagement of evaluators should be done in line with guidelines for hiring consultants in the POPP https://popp.undp.org/SitePages/POPPRoot.aspx

[37] https://intranet.undp.org/unit/bom/pso/Support%20documents%20on%20IC%20Guidelines/Template%20for%20Confirmation%20of%20Interest%20and%20Submission%20of%20Financial%20Proposal.docx

[38] http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Careers/P11_Personal_history_form.doc

ANNEX 2: INTERMEDIATE EVALUATION TOR-INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT (EXCLUDING ANNEXES)

Interim Evaluation Terms of Reference

Type of Contract: Individual Contract
Post Level: International Consultant
Duty Station: Home based and Field Mission to Uzbekistan
Languages Required: English
Starting Date: 15 July, 2024
Duration of Contract: 30 working days (15 June, 2024 through30 October 2024)

1. INTRODUCTION

This is the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Interim Evaluation (IE) of the UNDP-supported GCF-financed project titled 'Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning System to increase resilience of Uzbekistan communities to climate change induced hazards' (UNDP PIMS 6218 / GCF SAP022) implemented through the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which is to be undertaken in 2024. The project started on the *19 July 2021* and is in its 3*rd* year of implementation. This ToR sets out the expectations for this Interim Evaluation.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The project objective is to enhance the efficiency and coverage of an MHEWS for climate change-induced hazards in Uzbekistan given the projected climate change impacts. The project is introducing the impact-based MHEWS based on the climate induced and socio-economic risks modelling and will explore and facilitate elements of forecast-based financing as an innovative paradigm-shifting approach to the use of climate data in decision-making. More specifically, Output is 1 addressing the first element by investing in the automatic hydro-meteorological monitoring infrastructure required for the generation of hazard-specific forecasting and risk models. Output 2 and Output 3 are focusing on building the systems and modelling capacity to generate impact-based forecasts creating dissemination channels to first responders and communities through updated communication technologies to enable real-time risk analysis and evaluation. The GCF project is promoting the transformation of climate hazard forecasting and warning from a reactive (ex-post) hazard-based system to one that is proactive (ex-ante), user-oriented and impact-based. The implementing partners are the Ministry of Emergency Situations and the Agency for Hydrometeorological Services (Uzhydromet). It is expected that by the end of the project, the number of its direct beneficiaries will come to 11.296 million people (34.9% of the total population), including 5.63 million men and 5.666 million women. The direct beneficiary of this project is the population currently living in high-risk areas of Uzbekistan (people exposed to one or more climate hazards), estimated to be 34.9% of the population.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERIM EVALUATION

The IE will assess implementation of the project and progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the UNDP Project Document and GCF Funded Activity Agreement (FAA), and assess early signs of project success or failure with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made in

order to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results. The Interim Evaluation will also review the project's strategy and its risks to sustainability.

The IE will take into consideration assessment of the project in line with the following evaluation criteria from the GCF IEU TOR (GCF/B.06/06) and GCF Evaluation Policy, along with guidance provided by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Additional evaluation criteria can be assessed, as applicable. The IE must assess the following:

- **Implementation and adaptive management** – seeks to identify challenges and propose additional measures to support more efficient and effective implementation. The following aspects of project implementation and adaptive management will be assessed: management arrangements, work planning, finance and co-finance, project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, stakeholder engagement, reporting, and communications.
- **Risks to sustainability** – seeks to assess the likelihood of continued benefits after the project ends. The assessment of sustainability at the Interim Evaluation stage considers the risks that are likely to affect the continuation of project outcomes. The IE should validate the risks identified in the Project Document, Annual Project Reports, and the ATLAS Risk Management Module and whether the risk ratings applied are appropriate and up to date.
- **Relevance, effectiveness and efficiency** - seeks to assess the appropriateness in terms of selection, implementation and achievement of FAA and project document results framework activities and expected results (outputs, outcomes and impacts).
- **Coherence in climate finance delivery with other multilateral entities** - looks at how GCF financing is additional and able to amplify other investments or de-risk and crowd-in further climate investment.
- **Gender equity** - ensures integration of understanding on how the impacts of climate change are differentiated by gender, the ways that behavioural changes and gender can play in delivering paradigm shift, and the role that women play in responding to climate change challenges both as agents but also for accountability and decision-making.
- **Country ownership of projects and programmes** - examines the extent of the emphasis on sustainability post project through country ownership; on ensuring the responsiveness of the GCF investment to country needs and priorities including through the roles that countries play in projects and programmes.
- **Innovativeness in results areas** - focuses on identification of innovations (proof of concept, multiplication effects, new models of finance, technologies, etc.) and the extent to which the project interventions may lead to a paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways.
- **Replication and scalability** – the extent to which the activities can be scaled up in other locations within the country or replicated in other countries (this criterion, which is considered in document GCF/B.05/03 in the context of measuring performance could also be incorporate d in independent evaluations).
- **Unexpected results, both positive and negative** - identifies the challenges and the learning, both positive and negative, that can be used by all parties (governments, stakeholders, civil society, AE, GCF, and others) to inform further implementation and future investment decision-making.

4. INTERIM EVALUATION APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

The IE team must provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful.

The IE team will review all relevant sources of information including documents prepared during the preparation phase (i.e. baseline Funding proposal submitted to the GCF, FAA, the Project Document, project reports including Annual Performance Reports, Quarterly Progress Reports, UNDP Environmental & Social Safeguard Policy, project budget revisions, records of surveys conducted, national strategic and legal documents, stakeholder maps, and any other materials that the team considers useful for this evidence-based assessment).

The IE team is expected to follow a collaborative and participatory approach[39] ensuring close engagement with the Project Team, Implementing Partner, NDA focal point, government counterparts, the UNDP Country Office, Regional Technical Advisers, and other principal stakeholders and beneficiaries.

Engagement of stakeholders is vital to a successful IE. Stakeholder involvement should include (where possible) surveys/questionnaires, focus groups, interviews with stakeholders who have project responsibilities, including but not limited to executing agencies, senior officials and task team/component leaders, key experts and consultants in the subject area, Project Steering Committee, project stakeholders, local government, CSOs, project beneficiaries, etc. Additionally, the Interim Evaluation team is expected to conduct field missions to project sites in 7 regions *(Fergana, Namangan, Tashkent, Syrdarya, Jizzakh, Samarkand and Kashkadarya)* of country, to be decided in consultation with the project team. Data collection (government data/records, field observation visits, GIS data, etc.) will be used to validate evidence of results and assessments (including but not limited to: assessment of Theory of Change, activities delivery, and results/changes occurred).

The specific design and methodology for the IE should emerge from consultations between the IE team and the above-mentioned parties regarding what is appropriate and feasible for meeting the IE purpose and objectives and answering the evaluation questions, given limitations of budget, time and data. The IE team must, however, use gender-responsive methodologies and tools and ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as other cross-cutting issues and SDGs are incorporated into the IE report.

The final methodological approach including interview schedule, field visits and data to be used in the IE must be clearly outlined in the Inception Report and be fully discussed and agreed between UNDP, stakeholders and the IE team.

The final Interim Evaluation report should describe the full evaluation approach taken and the rationale for the approach making explicit the underlying assumptions, challenges, strengths and weaknesses about the methods and approach of the assessment. The final report must also describe any limitations encountered by the Interim Evaluation team during the evaluation process, including limitations of the methodology, data collection methods, and any potential influence of limitation on how findings may be interpreted, and conclusions drawn. Limitations include, among others: language barriers, inaccessible project sites, issues with access to data or verification of data sources, issues with availability of interviewees, methodological limitations to collecting more extensive or more representative qualitative or quantitative evaluation data, deviations from planned data collection and analysis set out in the ToR and Inception Report, etc. Efforts made to mitigate the limitations should also be included in the Interim Evaluation report. The final IE report will discuss how collected data was triangulated. Further, the final report will also include details on how UNDP will use and disseminate the evaluation findings.

5. DETAILED SCOPE OF THE INTERIM EVALUATION

[39] For ideas on innovative and participatory Monitoring and Evaluation strategies and techniques, see UNDP Discussion Paper: Innovations in Monitoring & Evaluating Results, 05 Nov 2013.

The Interim Evaluation team will assess the following categories of project progress. The following questions are intended to guide the Interim Evaluation team to deliver credible and trusted evaluations that provide assessment of progress and results achieved in relationship to the GCF investment, can identify learning and areas where restructuring or changes through adaptive management in project implementation are needed, and can make evidence-based clear and focused recommendations that may be required for enhancing project implementation to deliver expected results and to what extent these can be verified and attributed to GCF investment.

i. Project Strategy

Project design:

- Review the problem addressed by the project and the underlying assumptions. Review the effect of any incorrect assumptions or changes to the context to achieving the project results as outlined in the Project Document.
- Review the relevance of the project strategy and assess whether it provides the most effective route towards expected/intended results. Were lessons from other relevant projects properly incorporated into the project design?
- Review how the project addresses country priorities. Review country ownership. Was the project concept in line with the national sector development priorities and plans of the country (or of participating countries in the case of multi-country projects)?
- Review decision-making processes: were perspectives of those who would be affected by project decisions, those who could affect the outcomes, and those who could contribute information or other resources to the process, taken into account during project design processes?
- Review the extent to which relevant gender issues were raised in the project design. See Annex 9 of *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* for further guidelines.
- If there are major areas of concern, recommend areas for improvement.

Results Framework/Logframe and Theory of Change:

- Undertake a critical analysis of the project's logframe indicators and targets, assess how "SMART" the midterm and end-of-project targets are (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound), and suggest specific amendments/revisions to the targets and indicators as necessary.
- Undertake an examination of the means of verification and completeness of the assumptions
- Are the project's objectives and outcomes or components clear, practical, and feasible within its time frame?
- Examine if progress so far has led to, or could in the future catalyse beneficial development effects (i.e. income generation, gender equality and women's empowerment, improved governance, etc.) that should be included in the project results framework and monitored on an annual basis.
- Ensure broader development and gender aspects of the project are being monitored effectively. Develop and recommend SMART 'development' indicators, including sex-disaggregated indicators and indicators that capture development benefits.
- Ensure that the indicators (gender-disaggregated) are SMART, aligned with GCF/Results Management Framework (RMF)/Performance Measurement Frameworks (PMFs) and the guidance in the GCF programming manual.
- Evaluate the Theory of Change (ToC) proposed by the project during the inception and design phases in comparison to the approach, relevance, actions, interventions, practicality, and current context. Foresee the way forward and propose necessary adjustments.

ii. Relevance, Effectiveness and Efficiency

- Were the context, problem, needs and priorities well analysed and reviewed during project initiation? Review the project's alignment with UNDP priorities, the GCF result areas, and GCF Investment Criteria.

- Are the planned project objectives and outcomes relevant and realistic to the situation on the ground?
- Do outputs link to intended outcomes which link to broader paradigm shift objectives of the project?
- Are the outputs being achieved in a timely manner? Is this achievement supportive of the ToC and pathways identified?
- How is the project Theory of Change (ToC) used in helping the project achieve results/ How is the ToC applied through the project?
- Is the project Theory of Change (ToC) and intervention logic coherent and realistic? Does the ToC and intervention logic hold or does it need to be adjusted? Reconstruct the ToC, if appropriate, aligning it with the GCF ToC format.
- Verify the mitigation impact that the project has achieved. Analyse the GHG emissions achieved (including indirect emissions). Has an appropriate MRV system for GHG emission been established and implemented? Do outputs link to intended outcomes which link to broader paradigm shift objectives of the project?
- Are the planned inputs and strategies identified realistic, appropriate and adequate to achieve the results? Were they sequenced sufficiently to efficiently deliver the expected results?
- What and how much progress has been made towards achieving the overall outputs and outcomes of the project (including contributing factors and constraints)?
- To what extent is the project able to demonstrate changes against the baseline (assessment in approved Funding Proposal) for the GCF investment criteria (including contributing factors and constraints)?
- How realistic are the risks and assumptions of the project?
- How did the project deal with issues and risks in implementation?
- To what extent did the project's M&E data and mechanism(s) contribute to achieving project results?
- Are the project's governance mechanisms functioning efficiently?
- To what extent did the design of the project help or hinder achieving its own goals?
- Were there clear baselines indicators and/or benchmark for performance measurements? How were these used in project management? To what extent and how the project apply adaptive management?
- What, if any, alternative strategies would have been more effective in achieving the project objectives?

iii. Progress Towards Results

Progress Towards Outcomes and Outputs Analysis:

- By reviewing the aspects of the project that have already been successful, identify ways in which the project can further expand these benefits.
- Assess the logframe indicators against progress made towards the end-of-project targets using the Progress Towards Results Matrix and colour code progress in a "traffic light system" based on the level of progress achieved; assign a rating on progress for each indicator; make recommendations from the areas marked as "Not on target to be achieved" (red).

Table. Progress Towards Results Matrix (Achievement of indicators against End-of-project Targets)

This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal (s): *SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable and SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts as well as to the achievement*

UNDSDCF Outcome 5. By 2025, most at-risk regions, and communities of Uzbekistan, especially the most vulnerable people, are more resilient to climate change and disasters and benefit from increasingly sustainable and gender-sensitive efficient management of natural resources and infrastructure, enhanced climate action, inclusive environmental governance and protection.
CPD: Output 4.3. Integrated gender-responsive climate and disaster risk governance systems strengthened through enhanced multi-hazard early warning (MHEWS) and rapid recovery.
UNDP SP: Output 3.3.1. Evidence-based assessment and planning tools and mechanisms applied to enable the implementation of gender-sensitive and risk-informed prevention and preparedness to limit the impact of natural hazards and pandemics and promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

GCF Paradigm shifts objectives: The project will facilitate a significant shift in the provision of climate and disaster information and forecasting services through an enhanced multi-hazard early warning system in Uzbekistan. The GCF project will promote the transformation of climate hazard forecasting and warning from a reactive (ex-post) hazard-based system to one that is proactive (ex-ante), user-oriented and impact-based. Moreover, this project will be the driver of significant institutional change within Uzbekistan's hydrometeorology and disaster response services, as well as a potential catalyst for increased investment in the sector. Uzhydromet currently serves as a Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC) within the WMO Network for the Central Asian region. This project will strengthen Uzhydromet capacity to potentially scale up the enhanced climate information management system to other Central Asian countries through experience sharing and peer learning. By the end of the project, the number of its direct beneficiaries will come to 11.296 million people (34.9% of the total population), including 5.63 million men and 5.666 million women. The direct beneficiary of this project is the population currently living in high-risk areas of Uzbekistan (people exposed to one or more climate hazards), estimated to be 34.9% of the population.1515454

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End of Project Target**	**Assumptions**
SDG indicators	*11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population* *11.5.2 Direct economic loss concerning global GDP, damage to critical infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters* *13.1.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population* *13.2.1 Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, as reported to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* *13.2.2 Total greenhouse gas emissions per year* *13.3.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education, and (d) student assessment*	*See http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/*	*Expected status a mid-point of project implementation*	*Expected status a project closure*	*Note how project data will link with national statistics offices or other bodies monitoring SDG indicators*
FUND LEVEL IMPACT:					
Fund level Impact: ***A1.0 Increased resilience and enhanced livelihoods of the most vulnerab***	*1.1 Change in expected losses of lives and economic assets (US$) due to the impact of extreme climate-related disasters in the geographic area of the GCF intervention*	Loss of life: Average of 8 lives lost annually (1996-2016) for the entire country Economic losses for the entire country: US$ 312.3 million average annual loss due to various hazards	*0/No change* *(the new system will not be fully operational at scale by mid-term)*	50% lives (average of 4) saved from climate-induced hazards per annum 3% or 9.37 million USD	*The occurrence of major extreme events (e.g., seismic) does not deviate historic trajectory.*

le people, communities and regions		(floods, droughts and mudslides)[40].		expected reduction in economic damages from various hazards[41]	
PROJECT OUTCOMES:					
Project Outcomes	Number of technologies and innovative solutions transferred or licensed to promote climate resilience as a result of Fund support	The majority of meteorological observation stations (75 out of 85) operate in manual mode, with limited use of remote-sensing and satellite data. The existing multi-hazard EWS system lacks vulnerability data of population and infrastructure, as well as systematic risk assessment and hazard mapping tools. Baseline: 0 technologies/ solutions; Status: initiated/installed	9 technologies/ solutions; status: initiated/installed Including: 4 Hydrometeorological observation technologies upgraded and installed: AWS; automatic streamflow measurements; upper-air stations; radar 4 technologies for multi-hazard risk analysis, forecasting and impact-based MHEWS: socio-economic risk and vulnerability model; mudflow modelling; landslide risk modelling; Drought EWS for the Syr Darya and Zeravshan rivers 1 communication technology: visualization systems at 3 RCMCs	11 technologies/ solutions; status: introduced/in use Including: 5 Hydrometeorological observation technologies upgraded and operational: AWS; automatic streamflow measurements; upper-air stations; radars; centralised database for meteorological measurements 4 technologies for multi-hazard risk analysis, forecasting and	Relevant government agencies cooperate on the implementation of the MHEWS and data management Inter-agency data available and accessible as inputs to the knowledge management platform Continued government support and commitments to secure adequate O/M of monitoring equipment, relevant software and databases during the project implementation and afterwards

[40] FS section 5.2 provides the national estimate of direct economic cost of disasters that is used to calculate baseline: annual economic impact is estimated to be US$ 236 million for floods, US$ 67.2 million for droughts, US$ 9.1 million for mudslides (including the valuation of loss of life: 8 people with a VSL of US$ 871,798).

[41] According to the Economic Analysis, the US$ 9.37 mln estimated reduction in economic damages, equal to 3% of US$ 312.3 mln baseline cost of climate-related disasters, is based on the assumed economic impact from increased lead time of planning for hazards and on the avoidance of loss of lives due to the them

				impact-based MHEWS: socio-economic risk and vulnerability model; operational mudflow modelling; operational landslide risk modelling; Drought EWS for the Syr Darya and Zeravshan rivers 2 communication technologies: visualization systems at 7 RCMCs, public notice boards in 20 communities	
A5.0 Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems for climate-responsive planning and development	5.2 Number and level of effective coordination mechanisms	Uzbekistan has not yet established a National Framework of Climate Services (NFCS), a framework that can promote more efficient adaptation to climate variability through continuous improvement in the quality, delivery and use of climate-related information in planning, policy and practice. Currently, MES under the State	A national to regional EWS protocol: Level 2 A National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS): Level 2 (baseline assessment conducted and Action plan endorsed by stakeholders) Number of institutional and coordination frameworks and technical guidance in use by Uzhydromet and MES on i) data collection and archiving; ii) hazard mapping; iii) risk assessment; and iv)	A national to regional EWS protocol: Level 4 A National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS): Level 4, includes the operationalization of a national climate outlook forum that brings end-users	Continued and government support and cross-agency commitment to the project

		Emergency Prevention and Response System (SEPRS) has limited capacity to coordinate the dissemination and inter-agency responses of multi-hazard forecasting and early warning, using various communication channels at national and regional levels. Specifically, the national baseline on the level of effective coordination mechanisms are defined by a metric of Level 1-4:42 A national to regional EWS protocol: Level 1 A National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS): None (Level 1) Number of institutional and coordination framework and technical guidance in use by Uzhydromet and MES: 0	dissemination of information to RCMCs: 2 coordination protocols in place	and co-producers of climate and hydrometeorological information in the design and production processes. Number of institutional and coordination frameworks and technical guidance in use by Uzhydromet and MES on i) data collection and archiving; ii) hazard mapping; iii) risk assessment; and iv) dissemination of information to RCMCs: 4 coordination protocols in place	
A6.0 Increased generation and use of climate information in	*6.2 Use of climate information products/services in decision-making in climate-sensitive sectors*	Weather and climate-related information are not generally used for preparedness and risk management purposes among government institutions in	At least 2 government agency members under SEPRS use the forecasts and risk assessment for climate hazards in decision-making and prioritization;	At least 4 government agency members under SEPRS use the forecasts and risk assessment for	Uzhydromet and MES have continued national and local political support for the development of a state emergency prevention and response system (SEPRS).

[42] Level 1 = no coordination mechanism; Level 2= coordination mechanism in place; Level 3 = coordination mechanism in place, meeting regularly with appropriate representation (gender and decision-making authorities); Level 4 = coordination mechanism in place, meeting regularly, with appropriate representation, with appropriate information flows and monitoring of action items/issues raised.

decision-making		Uzbekistan, with a few exceptions of: · Hydrological drought forecasting for the Amu Darya · Identification of avalanche GLOF risks through monitoring of snowpack and lake levels at key sites and remote sensing; · General monitoring of high-intensity rainfall in known areas of potential landslide and mudflow formation.	30% of surveyed government beneficiaries (agencies) report improved emergency response due to improved disaster warning	climate hazards in decision-making and prioritization Inter-agency data-sharing agreement between agencies institutionalized and data-sharing protocols established 50% of surveyed government beneficiaries (agencies) report improved emergency response due to improved disaster warning	
A7.0 Strengthened adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks	7.2 Number of males and females reached by (or total geographic coverage of) climate-related early warning systems and other risk reduction measures established/strengthened [43]	Integrated climate-resilient MHEWS doesn't exist 0 males and 0 females in the project implementation regions have access to up-to-date and area-specific climate hazards and early warning information.	At least 1,133,215 females, 1,125,985 males have access to climate hazards and early warning information.	All population (5,666,075 females, 5,629,925 males) in the project implementation region have access to climate hazards and early warning information.	Continued commitment and uptake of the information by targeted communities in the project Target communities understand shorter- to longer-term benefits of MHEWSs and risk reduction interventions Government has a political will, institutional capacity and necessary resources to support the proper O/M of MHEWS.

[43] Number of males and females reached by the early warning system will be estimated based on the coverage data of mobile network (and other communication channels, e.g TV, radio broadcast).

					No staff and budget cuts occur at MES and Uzhydromet
A8.0 Strengthened awareness of climate threats and risk-reduction processes	8.1: Number of males and females made aware of climate threats and related appropriate responses	0 males and 0 females in the project implementation regions have a strong awareness of climate threats and risk reduction processes, and capacities to use such climate information for disaster preparedness	40% out of 500 surveyed EWS beneficiaries (100 males and 100 females) report enhanced risk awareness 30% out of 500 surveyed beneficiaries (100 males and 100 females) report that the warnings are clear and being used by their households for enhanced disaster preparedness	80% out of 500 surveyed EWS beneficiaries (200 males and 200 females) report enhanced risk awareness 70% out of 500 surveyed beneficiaries (175 males and 175 females) report that the warnings are clear and being used by their households for enhanced disaster preparedness	Continued commitment and uptake of the information by targeted communities in the project Target communities understand shorter- to longer-term benefits of MHEWSs and risk reduction interventions Government has a political will, institutional capacity and necessary resources to support the proper O/M of MHEWS. No staff and budget cuts occur at MES and Uzhydromet * The methodology to measure the change in awareness and the survey sample size will be established through activity 3.3 during the implementation phase (Year 1) as part of the survey design, tentatively it will include at least 500 project beneficiaries from 10 different communities.
PROJECT RESULTS:					
Output 1: Upgraded hydro-meteorological observation network, modelling and forecasting capacities	1.1 Number of new hydro-meteorological monitoring equipment purchased, installed and operational	Level = 0	13 automatic weather stations (AWS) partially installed, calibrated and operational; 2 upper-air stations partially modernized; 1 online radar system partially established	25 automatic weather stations (AWS) installed, calibrated and operational; 4 upper-air stations modernized; 2 online radar system established	- Government commitments to secure adequate O/M of monitoring equipment, relevant software and databases are fulfilled continuously both during the project implementation and afterwards - Capacities built across relevant agencies through the project are maintained and periodically updated - Land for installation is available and accessible

	1.2 Number of districts for which hazard and risk maps (covering landslides, mudflows, avalanches and hydrological droughts) are available	0	2	7	Relevant government agencies cooperate on the implementation of the MHEWS and data management
	1.3 Level of institutional capacity and knowledge of Uzhydromet staff on monitoring and forecasting technologies and procedures	Level = 0[44] Using the UNDP Capacity Assessment Methodology[45], the project team will design a tailored assessment to establish a baseline of the institutional capacity of Uzhydromet staff at the project inception phase.	50% targeted staff (of a target audience of 600 people) trained (including 60% women/40% men) Institutional capacity assessment score for Uzhydromet enhanced by 20 % against baseline	100% targeted staff (of a target audience of 600 people) trained (including 60% women/40% men) Institutional capacity assessment score for Uzhydromet enhanced by 50 % against baseline	- Inter-agency data available and accessible as inputs to the knowledge management platform - Inter-agency data-sharing agreement between agencies institutionalized and data-sharing protocols established - Decision support tool is available to and accessed by project sites
Output 2 A functional Multi-Hazard Early Warning System is established based on innovative impact modelling, risk analyses, effective regional	2.1 Improvement in the timeliness of warnings received by end-users as a result of the impact-based integrated MHEWS[46]	2.1.1. Warnings about all hydrometeorological phenomena/hazards provided with 1-3 days lead time (before an event) in the absence of the impact based integrated MHEWS 2.1.2. Time required to communicate warnings from MES HQs to its regional divisions: 15 minutes; time	No change/ the new system will not be fully operational at scale by mid-term.	2.1.1. Warnings on sudden changes in weather covering most of the territory of the country - 4-6 days lead time Mudflow warnings - 3-4 days lead time Avalanche warnings - 4-5 days lead time	- Relevant government agencies cooperate on the implementation of the MHEWS and data management - Uzhydromet and MES adequately capacitated - Existing exposure and hazard data inventoried and data gaps identified - Inventoried and reviewed available tools and technologies to facilitate climate risk profiling - Standard project implementation process for conducting climate risk profiling established through a consultative process

[44] Baseline for output 1.3 is to be established under activity 1.3 during Year 1 of the project through an institutional capacity assessment scorecard

[45] https://www.undp.org/content/dam/aplaws/publication/en/publications/capacity-development/undp-capacity-assessment-methodology/UNDP%20Capacity%20Assessment%20Users%20Guide.pdf

[46] The scoring and end-user survey methodology for this indicator will be designed through activity 3.3 during Year 1 to capture user perceptions of the timeliness of warnings for different hazards. The survey will include institutional and individual users of MHEWS. Baseline survey/scoring will be conducted through activity 3.3 during Year 1.

communication and community awareness.		required to communicate warnings to population: 60 minutes.		2.1.2. 50% reduction: time of communicating warnings from MES HQs to its regional divisions: 7.5 minutes; time of communicating warnings to population: 30 minutes.	- Disaster loss and damage curves developed - Exposure databases updated and centralized - Vulnerability of communities in eastern districts assessed - Climate-risk information on multi-hazards made available and accessible
	2.2 Level of institutional coordination among Uzhydromet, MES and RCMCs on multi-hazard early warnings responses and dissemination[47]	Level = 1	Level = 3	Level = 4	- Inter-agency data-sharing agreement between agencies institutionalized and data-sharing protocols established - national and regional CMC and other relevant government units are willing to cooperate and conduct regulatory and institutional reform
	2.3 Number of functional regional crisis management centres with access to area-specific early warnings, mobile alerts and risk mapping technologies	0 Currently, RCMCs are housed in offices that lack updated communication facilities (e.g. videoconferencing) as well as access to area-specific warnings and mobile alerts, as well as risk maps based on up to date	2 2 Regional Crisis Management Centers (RCMCs) equipped with visualization systems and have access to updated risk maps, area-specific hazard alerts and warning information. As a result, RCMCs will have improved capacity in	7 7 Regional Crisis Management Centers (RCMCs) equipped with visualization systems and have access to updated	- Government undertakes office refurbishment and establishes power and internet connections - Government staffs RCMCs - Decision support tool is available to and accessed by project sites

[47] Level 1 = no institutional coordination mechanisms/SOPs; Level 2= an institutional coordination framework established/documents by not supported by clear SOPs on data exchange and communication, majority of surveyed institutional users are not fully aware/systematically engaged in coordination; Level 3 = at least 2 institutional coordination frameworks or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in place among Uzhydromet, MES and RCMCs on data exchange, risk and hazards analysis, and warnings dissemination to regional crisis centers; 50% of surveyed institutional users (i.e. 10 out of 20) report that the level of coordination is adequate for performing their functions within MHEWS; Level 4 = At least 4 institutional coordination frameworks or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in place among Uzhydromet, MES and RCMCs on data collection, archive, risk and hazards analysis, and warnings dissemination to regional crisis centers 80% of surveyed institutional users (i.e. 16 out of 20) report that the level of coordination is adequate for performing their functions within MHEWS.

		hazard information	communicating and responding to evolving emergencies.	risk maps, area-specific hazard alerts and warning information for risk mitigation and early actions	
Output 3: Strengthened climate services and disaster communication to end-users.	3.1 Level of user interaction in the co-design and co-production of disaster-related information, as a result of the establishment of a National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) for Uzbekistan	Level = 1[48]	Level = 2	Level = 3	MES, Uzhydromet and relevant government agencies willing to cooperate on climate service and data management
	3.2 Number of revenue generation options based on delivery of disaster risk information products/services included in the business model and endorsed by institutional and sectoral users	0	0[49]	At least 3 revenue generation options based on disaster-related information/services endorsed by users/stakeholders from climate-sensitive sectors	MES, Uzhydromet and relevant government agencies willing to cooperate and mobilize private sector participation
	3.3 Number of communities in targeted areas[50] with improved access to early warning alerts through information board, mahalla training and info-products/meetings	0	12 50% of surveyed beneficiaries (incl. 50% female) in targeted communities report that the warnings and climate advisories are clear, accessible and easy to apply for enhanced preparedness	20 75% of surveyed beneficiaries (incl. 50% female) in targeted communities report that the warnings and	Continued commitment and uptake of the information by targeted communities in the project

[48] Level 1: no institutional engagement channels with end-users exist; Level 2: a user-dialogue platform set up through NFCS consultation process to review the disaster-related information products; Level 3: a regular user-dialogue mechanism incorporated into the NFCS action plan and the National Climate outlook platform.

[49] Feasibility analysis for a sustainable value chain-based business model for disaster-related information and services will completed at this stage, and will be the basis for the consequent discussion and endorsement of revenue-generating options.

[50] The project has identified 15 districts located in seven provinces in eastern Uzbekistan as hazard-prone target regions. They are: Qoichirchik, Bostanlik, Sirdarya, Saihunabad, S. Rashidov, Gallaaral, Bulungur, Jambai, Koshrabad, Kitab, Yakkabag, Dehkanabad, Chust, Turakurgan, and Dangarin.

				climate advisories are clear, accessible and easy to apply for enhanced preparedness	
DO NOT INCLUDE ACTIVITIES OR INPUTS IN THIS PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK					

Indicator Assessment Key

Green= Achieved	Yellow= On target to be achieved	Red= Not on target to be achieved

In addition to the progress towards outcomes and outputs analysis:

- Assess whether the total number of beneficiaries and indirect beneficiaries of the project has been properly calculated.
- Identify remaining barriers to achieving the project objective in the remainder of the project.
- By reviewing the aspects of the project that have already been successful, identify ways in which the project can further expand these benefits.
- Include a comprehensive assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on different aspects of project implementation. Assess the impact on results delivery, overall funded activity performance along with a plan of action to address these.

iv. Project Implementation and Adaptive Management

Management Arrangements:

- Review overall effectiveness of project management as outlined in the FAA/Funding proposal. Have changes been made and have these been approved by GCF? Are responsibilities and reporting lines clear? Is decision-making transparent and undertaken in a timely manner? Recommend areas for improvement.
- Review the quality of execution of the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner(s) and recommend areas for improvement.
- Review the quality of support provided by UNDP and recommend areas for improvement.

Work Planning:

- Review any delays in project start-up and implementation, identify the causes and examine if they have been resolved.
- Are work-planning processes results-based? If not, suggest ways to re-orientate work planning to focus on results?
- Examine the use of the project's results framework/ logframe as a management tool and review any changes made to it since project start.

Financing and Co-financing:

- Consider the financial management of the project, with specific reference to the cost-effectiveness of interventions.
- Review the changes to fund allocations as a result of budget revisions and assess the appropriateness and relevance of such revisions.

- Have project resources been utilized in the most economical, effective and equitable ways possible (considering value for money; absorption rate; commitments versus disbursements and projected commitments; co-financing; etc.)?
- Does the project have the appropriate financial controls, including reporting and planning, that allow management to make informed decisions regarding the budget and allow for timely flow of funds?
- Assess factors that contributed to low/high expenditure rate and impact on the project.
- Informed by the co-financing monitoring table to be filled out, provide commentary on co-financing: Is co-financing being used strategically to help the objectives of the project? Comment on the use of different financial streams (parallel, leveraged, mobilized finance), as applicable in the context of the project – see GCF policy on co-finance[51]. Discuss whether co-finance related conditions and covenants, as listed in the FAA, have been fulfilled, as applicable.
- Conduct an analysis of materialized co-financing and implications for project scope and results. If co-finance is not materialising as planned (timing and/or amount), assess mitigation measures, and discuss the impact of that on the project and results on the ground.

Coherence in climate finance delivery with other multilateral entities

- Who are the partners of the project and how strategic are they in terms of capacities and commitment?
- Is there coherence and complementarity by the project with other actors for local other climate change interventions?
- To what extent has the project complimented other on-going local level initiatives (by stakeholders, donors, governments) on climate change adaptation or mitigation efforts?
- How has the project contributed to achieving stronger and more coherent integration of shift to low emission sustainable development pathways and/or increased climate resilient sustainable development (GCF RMF/PMF Paradigm Shift objectives)? Please provide concrete examples and make specific suggestions on how to enhance these roles going forward.

Project-level Monitoring and Evaluation Systems:

- Review the monitoring tools currently being used: Do they provide the necessary information? Do they involve key partners? Do they use existing information? Are they efficient? Are they cost-effective? Are additional tools required? How could they be made more participatory and inclusive?
- Discuss any quality assuring mechanisms being used (e.g. ISO standard, government accreditations, international certificates, etc.)
- Is project reporting and information generated by the project linked to national SDGs, NDC and other national reporting systems?
- Examine the financial management of the project monitoring and evaluation budget. Are sufficient resources being allocated to monitoring and evaluation? Are these resources being allocated effectively?

Stakeholder Engagement:

- Project management: Has the project developed and leveraged the necessary and appropriate partnerships with direct and tangential stakeholders?
- Participation and country-driven processes: Do local and national government stakeholders support the objectives of the project? Do they continue to have an active role in project decision-making that supports efficient and effective project implementation?
- Participation and public awareness: To what extent has stakeholder involvement and public awareness contributed to the progress towards achievement of project objectives?
- Is a grievance mechanism in place? If so, assess its effectiveness

[51] https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/policy-cofinancing.pdf

Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)

- Validate the risks identified in the project's most current SESP/ESIA, and those risks' ratings; are any revisions needed?
- Summarize and assess the revisions made since Board Approval (if any) to:
  - The project's overall safeguards risk categorization.
  - The identified types of risks[52] (in the SESP).
  - The individual risk ratings (in the SESP) .
- Describe and assess progress made in the implementation of the project's social and environmental management measures as outlined in the SESP submitted at the Funding Proposal stage (and prepared during implementation, if any), including any revisions to those measures. Such management measures might include Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) or other management plans, though can also include aspects of a project's design; refer to Question 6 in the SESP template for a summary of the identified management measures.

A given project should be assessed against the version of UNDP's safeguards policy that was in effect at the time of the project's approval.

Reporting:

- Assess how adaptive management changes have been reported by the project management and shared with the Project Board.
- Assess how well the Project Team and partners undertake and fulfil GCF reporting requirements (i.e. how have they addressed poorly-rated APRs, if applicable?)
- Assess how lessons derived from the adaptive management process have been documented, shared with key partners and internalized by partners.
- Assess the efficiency, timeliness, and adequacy of reporting requirements

Communications:

- Review internal project communication with stakeholders: Is communication regular and effective? Are there key stakeholders left out of communication? Are there feedback mechanisms when communication is received? Does this communication with stakeholders contribute to their awareness of project outcomes and activities and investment in the sustainability of project results?
- Review external project communication: Are proper means of communication established or being established to express the project progress and intended impact to the public (is there a web presence, for example? Or did the project implement appropriate outreach and public awareness campaigns?)
- For reporting purposes, write one half-page paragraph that summarizes the project's progress towards results in terms of contribution to sustainable development benefits, as well as global environmental benefits.

v. Sustainability

- Validate whether the risks identified in the FAA and Funding proposal, APRs and the ATLAS Risk Management Module are the most important and whether the risk ratings applied are appropriate and up to date. If not, explain why.
- In addition, assess the following risks to sustainability:

Financial risks to sustainability:

[52] Risks are to be labeled with both the UNDP SES Principles and Standards, and the GEF's "types of risks and potential impacts": Climate Change and Disaster; Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups; Disability Inclusion; Adverse Gender-Related impact, including Gender-based Violence and Sexual Exploitation; Biodiversity Conservation and the Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources; Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement; Indigenous Peoples; Cultural Heritage; Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention; Labor and Working Conditions; Community Health, Safety and Security.

- What is the likelihood of financial and economic resources not being available once the GCF assistance ends (consider potential resources can be from multiple sources, such as the public and private sectors, income generating activities, and other funding that will be adequate financial resources for sustaining project's outcomes)?

Socio-economic risks to sustainability:

- Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outcomes? What is the risk that the level of stakeholder ownership (including ownership by governments and other key stakeholders) will be insufficient to allow for the project outcomes/benefits to be sustained? Do the various key stakeholders see that it is in their interest that the project benefits continue to flow? Is there sufficient public / stakeholder awareness in support of the long term objectives of the project? Are lessons learned being documented by the Project Team on a continual basis and shared/ transferred to appropriate parties who could learn from the project and potentially replicate and/or scale it in the future?

Institutional Framework and Governance risks to sustainability:

- Do the legal frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes pose risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project benefits? While assessing this parameter, also consider if the required systems/ mechanisms for accountability, transparency, and technical knowledge transfer are in place.

Environmental risks to sustainability:

- Are there any environmental risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project outcomes?

vi. Country Ownership

- To what extent is the project aligned with national development plans, national plans of action on climate change, or sub-national policy as well as projects and priorities of the national partners?
- How well is country ownership reflected in the project governance, coordination and consultation mechanisms or other consultations?
- To what extent are country level systems for project management or M&E utilized in the project?
- Is the project, as implemented, responsive to local challenges and relevant/appropriate/strategic in relation to SDG indicators, National indicators, GCF RMF/PMF indicators, AE indicators, or other goals?
- Were the modes of deliveries of the outputs appropriate to build essential/necessary capacities, promote national ownership and ensure sustainability of the result achieved?

vii. Gender equity

- Does the project only rely on sex-disaggregated data per population statistics?
- Are financial resources/project activities explicitly allocated to enable women to benefit from project interventions?
- Does the project account in activities and planning for local gender dynamics and how project interventions affect women as beneficiaries?
- Do women as beneficiaries know their rights and/or benefits from project activities/interventions?
- How do the results for women compare to those for men?
- Is the decision-making process transparent and inclusive of both women and men?
- To what extent are female stakeholders or beneficiaries satisfied with the project gender equality results?
- Did the project sufficiently address cross cutting issues including gender?
- How does the project incorporate gender in its governance or staffing?

viii. Innovativeness in results areas

- What are the lessons learned to enrich learning and knowledge generation in terms of how the project played in the provision of "thought leadership," "innovation," or "unlocked additional climate finance" for

climate change adaptation/mitigation in the project and country context? Please provide concrete examples and make specific suggestions on how to enhance these roles going forward.

ix. Unexpected results, both positive and negative

- What has been the project's ability to adapt and evolve based on continuous lessons learned and the changing development landscape? Please account for factors both within the AE/EE and external.
- Can any unintended or unexpected positive or negative effects be observed as a consequence of the project's interventions?
- What factors have contributed to the unintended outcomes, outputs, activities, results?
- Do any of the unintended results constitute a major change?[53]

x. Replication and Scalability

- Assess the effectiveness of exit strategies and approaches to phase out assistance provided by the project including contributing factors and constraints? Is there a need for recalibration?
- What factors of the project achievements are contingent on specific local context or enabling environment factors?
- Are the actions and results from project interventions likely to be sustained, ideally through ownership by the local partners and stakeholders?
- What are the key factors that will require attention in order to improve prospects of sustainability, scalability or replication of project outcomes/outputs/results?

xi. Impact of COVID 19

- Review of the impact of COVID-19 on overall project management, implementation and results (including on indicators and targets).
- Assess the project's response to COVID-19 impacts including and not limited to responses related to stakeholder engagement, management arrangements, work planning and adaptive management actions.

Conclusions, Recommendations and Lessons Learned

The Interim Evaluation team will include a section of the report setting out the evaluation's evidence-based conclusions, in light of the findings. Explain whether the project will be able to achieve planned development objective and outcomes by the end of implementation.

Recommendations should be succinct suggestions for critical intervention that are specific, measurable, achievable, and relevant. A recommendation table should be put in the report's executive summary.

The Interim Evaluation team should make no more than 10 recommendations total.

The Interim Evaluation will also include a separate section with a concise and logically articulated set of lessons learned (new knowledge gained from the project, context, outcomes, even evaluation methods; failrues/locst opportunities to date, what might have been done better or differently, etc.). Lessons should be based on specific evidence presented in the report and can be used to inform design, adapt and change plans and actions, as appropriate, and plan for scaling up.

[53] See Section '9.4 Major Changes and Restructuring' in the GCF Programming Manual

The Interim Evaluation report's findings, conclusions, recommendations and lessons learned need to consider gender equality and women's empowerment and other cross-cutting issues.

Ratings

The Interim Evaluation team will include its ratings of the project's results and brief descriptions of the associated achievements in an *Interim Evaluation Ratings & Achievement Summary Table* in the Executive Summary of the Interim Evaluation report. See Annex E for ratings scales. No rating on Project Strategy and no overall project rating is required.

Table. Interim Evaluation Ratings & Achievement Summary Table for 'Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning System to increase resilience of Uzbekistan communities to climate change induced hazards' project

Measure	Interim Evaluation Rating[54]	Achievement Description
Project Strategy	N/A	
Progress Towards Results	Objective Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Outcome/Output 1 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Outcome/Output 2 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Outcome/Output 3 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Etc.	
Project Implementation & Adaptive Management	(rate 6 pt. scale)	
Sustainability	(rate 4 pt. scale)	

6. TIMEFRAME

The total duration of the Interim Evaluation will be approximately 35 *(thirty-five)* working days over a time period of 10 *(ten)* of weeks. The tentative Interim Evaluation timeframe is as follows:

ACTIVITY	NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS	COMPLETION DATE
Desk review and Inception Report		
Document review and preparation of Interim Evaluation (IE) Inception Report; Submission of IE Inception Report	*4 days*	*12 July*

54 Ratings for Objective/Outcome Achievement and Project Implementation & Adaptive Management: 6 = Highly Satisfactory (HS): exceeds expectations and/or no shortcomings; 5 = Satisfactory (S): meets expectations and/or no or minor shortcomings; 4 = Moderately Satisfactory (MS): more or less meets expectations and/or some shortcomings; 3 = Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU): somewhat below expectations and/or significant shortcomings; 2 = Unsatisfactory (U): substantially below expectations and/or major shortcomings; 1 = Highly Unsatisfactory (HU): severe shortcomings, Unable to Assess (U/A): available information does not allow an assessment

Ratings for Sustainability: 4 = Likely (L): negligible risks to sustainability; 3 = Moderately Likely (ML): moderate risks to sustainability; 2 = Moderately Unlikely (MU): significant risks to sustainability; 1 = Unlikely (U): severe risks to sustainability; Unable to Assess (U/A): Unable to assess the expected incidence and magnitude of risks to sustainability

(Inception Report due no later than 2 weeks before the evaluation mission)		
Mission and Data Collection		
IE mission: stakeholder meetings, interviews, field visits	*5 days*	*2 August*
Presentation of initial findings- last day of the Interim Evaluation mission	*1 day*	*7 August*
. Report Writing		
Preparation and submission of Draft IE Report #1	*6 days*	*15 August*
Incorporation of comments (from CO, Project Manager, RTA, VF Hub) on Draft IE Report #1; Preparation and submission of Draft IE Report #2	*7 days*	*23 August*
Incorporation of comments from Draft IE Report #2 and Finalization of IE report + completed audit trail from feedback on draft report *(note: accommodate time delay in dates for circulation and review of the draft report)*	*7 days*	*8 October*

7. INTERIM EVALUATION DELIVERABLES

#	Deliverable	Description	Timing & Due Date	Responsibilities
1	**Interim Evaluation (IE) Inception Report**	Proposed evaluation methodology, work plan and structure of the Interim Evaluation report, and options for site visits	No later than 2 weeks before the evaluation mission 12 July	Interim Evaluation team submits to the Commissioning Unit and project management
2	**Presentation**	Initial Findings	End of evaluation mission *7 August*	Interim Evaluation Team presents to project management and the Commissioning Unit
3	**Draft IE Report #1**	Full report (using guidelines on content outlined in Annex B) with annexes	Within 3 weeks of the evaluation mission 16 August	Interim Evaluation Team sends draft to the Commissioning Unit, reviewed by RTA, Project Coordinating Unit, NDA focal point
4	**Draft IE Report #2**	Full report (using guidelines on content outlined in Annex B) with annexes	8 October	Interim Evaluation Team sends draft to the Commissioning Unit, reviewed by RTA, Project Coordinating Unit, NDA focal point
5	**Final Interim Evaluation Report* + Audit Trail**	Revised report with audit trail detailing how all received comments have (and have not) been addressed in the final report	8 October	Interim Evaluation Team sends final report Commissioning Unit
6	**Concluding Stakeholder Workshop**	Meeting to present and discuss key findings and recommendations of the	30 October	Led by Interim Evaluation team or

	(optional; strongly encouraged)	evaluation report, and key actions in response to the report.		Project Team and Commissioning Unit

*The final Interim Evaluation report must be in English. If applicable, the Commissioning Unit may choose to arrange for a translation of the report into a language more widely shared by national stakeholders.

8. INTERIM EVALUATION ARRANGEMENTS

The principal responsibility for managing this IE resides with the Monitoring & Evaluation Focal Point of the Commissioning Unit. The Commissioning Unit for this project's IE is the UNDP Country Office in Uzbekistan During this assignment, the Interim Evaluation team will report to the M&E focal point in the Commissioning Unit who will provide guidance and ensure satisfactory completion of deliverables.

The Commissioning Unit will contract the IE team and ensure the timely provision of per diems and travel arrangements within the country. The Project Team will be responsible for liaising with the Interim Evaluation team to provide all relevant documents, set up stakeholder interviews, and arrange field visits.

9. TEAM COMPOSITION

A team of *two independent consultants* will conduct the IE - one international team leader with experience in climate change, adaptation to CC and/or early warning systems, and exposure to projects and evaluations in other regions globally, and one national team expert, from the country of the project with expertise in a relevant area. The consultants cannot have participated in the project preparation, formulation, and/or implementation (including the writing of the Project Document) and should not have a conflict of interest with project's related activities.

The selection of consultants will be aimed at maximizing the overall "team" qualities in the following areas:

Education

- At least master's degree in environmental or climate change fields, disaster risk reduction and preparedness, social sciences, public administration or other closely related field (20 points).

Work Experience

- Recent experience with result-based management evaluation methodologies; project mid-term or terminal evaluations (3-5 evaluations - 10 marks, less than 3 evaluations - 5 marks).
- Experience with GEF, GCF evaluations will be considered an asset (10 points).
- Experience applying SMART indicators and reconstructing or validating baseline scenarios (5 points).
- Competence in adaptive management, as applied to climate change risks, EWS and/or DRR (10 points).
- Relative working experience in Uzbekistan or CIS countries (20 points).
- Work experience in relevant technical areas for at least 10 years (10 points).
- Demonstrated understanding of issues related to gender and climate change induced hazards; experience in gender sensitive evaluation and analysis (5 points)

Language

- Fluency in written and spoken English, knowledge of Russian is an advantage (10 points)

10. EVALUATOR ETHICS

The evaluation team will be held to the highest ethical standards and is required to sign a code of conduct (see ToR Annex D) upon acceptance of the assignment. This evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation. The evaluation team must safeguard the rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees and stakeholders through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing collection of data and reporting on data. The evaluation team must also ensure security of collected information before and after the evaluation and protocols to ensure anonymity and confidentiality of sources of information where that is expected. The information knowledge and data gathered in the evaluation process must also be solely used for the evaluation and not for other uses without the express authorization of UNDP and partners.

11. PAYMENT MODALITIES AND SPECIFICATIONS

20% upon satisfactory delivery and approval of the final Interim Evaluation Inception Report
50% upon satisfactory delivery of the of the first draft Interim Evaluation report
30% upon satisfactory delivery and approval of the final Interim Evaluation report by the Commissioning Unit Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Nature, Climate and Energy (NCE) Regional Technical Advisor and UNDP NCE Principal Technical Advisor +submission of completed Audit Trail

Criteria for issuing the final payment of 30%[55]:

i) The final IE report includes all requirements outlined in the IE TOR and is in accordance with the IE guidance.
ii) The final IE report is clearly written, logically organized, and is specific for this project (i.e. text has not been cut & pasted from other IE reports).
iii) The Audit Trail includes responses to and justification for each comment listed.
iv) Commissioning Unit DRR and RTA approvals are via signatures on the TE Report Clearance Form

12. APPLICATION PROCESS[56]

Recommended Presentation of Proposal:

a) **Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability** using the template[57] provided by UNDP;
b) **CV** and a **Personal History Form** (P11 form[58]);
c) **Brief description of approach to work/technical proposal** of why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment, and a proposed methodology on how they will approach and complete the assignment; (max 1 page)

[55] The Commissioning Unit is obligated to issue payments to the IE team as soon as the terms under the ToR are fulfilled. If there is an ongoing discussion regarding the quality and completeness of the final deliverables that cannot be resolved between the Commissioning Unit and the IE team, the Regional M&E Advisor and Vertical Fund Directorate will be consulted. If needed, the Commissioning Unit's senior management, Procurement Services Unit and Legal Support Office will be notified as well so that a decision can be made about whether or not to withhold payment of any amounts that may be due to the evaluator(s), suspend or terminate the contract and/or remove the individual contractor from any applicable rosters. See the UNDP Individual Contract Policy for further details:

https://popp.undp.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/UNDP_POPP_DOCUMENT_LIBRARY/Public/PSU_Individual%20Contract_Individual%20Contract%20Policy.docx&action=default

[56] Engagement of the consultants should be done in line with guidelines for hiring consultants in the POPP: https://info.undp.org/global/popp/Pages/default.aspx

[57] https://intranet.undp.org/unit/bom/pso/Support%20documents%20on%20IC%20Guidelines/Template%20for%20Confirmation%20of%20Interest%20and%20Submission%20of%20Financial%20Proposal.docx

[58] http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Careers/P11_Personal_history_form.doc

d) **Financial Proposal** that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price and all other travel related costs (such as flight ticket, per diem, etc), supported by a breakdown of costs, as per template attached to the Letter of Confirmation of Interest template. If an applicant is employed by an organization/company/institution, and he/she expects his/her employer to charge a management fee in the process of releasing him/her to UNDP under Reimbursable Loan Agreement (RLA), the applicant must indicate at this point, and ensure that all such costs are duly incorporated in the financial proposal submitted to UNDP.

All application materials should be submitted to the address (fill address) in a sealed envelope indicating the following reference "Consultant for "Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning System to increase resilience of Uzbekistan communities to climate change induced hazards"(MHEWS project) Midterm Review" or by email at the following address ONLY: (fill email) by ***(time and date).*** Incomplete applications will be excluded from further consideration.

Criteria for Evaluation of Proposal: Only those applications which are responsive and compliant will be evaluated. Offers will be evaluated according to the Combined Scoring method – where the educational background and experience on similar assignments will be weighted at 70% and the price proposal will weigh as 30% of the total scoring. The applicant receiving the Highest Combined Score that has also accepted UNDP's General Terms and Conditions will be awarded the contract.

ANNEX 3: IE EVALUATIVE MATRIX

Evaluative Questions	*Indicators*	*Sources / Means of Verification*	*Methodology*
Project Strategy: To what extent is the project strategy relevant to country priorities, country ownership, and the best route towards expected results?			
To what extent was the project in line with the national development priorities, the country programme's outputs and outcomes, the UNDP Strategic Plan, and the SDGs? What is the relevance of the project? Has the relevance changed at all at the national/local levels since project design? To what extent does the project contribute to the theory of change for the relevant country programme outcome? To what extent were lessons learned from other relevant projects considered in the project's design? To what extent were perspectives of those who could affect the outcomes, and those who could contribute information or other resources to the attainment of stated results, considered during the project design processes? To what extent does the project contribute to gender equality, the empowerment of women principles? To what extent does the project contribute to the leave no one behind paradigm and the human rights-based approach? Does the Project Strategy include cross-cutting issues, such as gender, SDGs, poverty alleviation, indigenous people's rights? To what extent has the project been appropriately responsive to political, legal, economic, institutional, etc., changes in the country? How did project design change in the planning processes To what extent has the project contributed to covid-19 response?	Coherence with national policies. Coherence with corporate priorities (UNDP, GCF) Level of coherence between project expected results and project design internal logic Inclusion of gender strategy, leave no one behind principles, and participation in planning documents Has Covid affected inception and implementation processes?	Project planning documents FAA Project Document - UNDP Relevant governmental policies/strategies Corporate (UNDP, GCF) policy documents	Document analysis

Progress Towards Results: To what extent have the expected outcomes and objectives of the project been achieved thus far?			
To what extent did the project contribute to the country programme outcomes and outputs, the SDGs, the UNDP Strategic Plan, and national development priorities? To what extent were the project outputs achieved? Unexpected or unplanned results? What has been the efficiency and effectiveness of the project? What expected outputs have been achieved thus far? In which areas does the project have the greatest achievements? Why and what have been the supporting factors? How can the project build on or expand these achievements? What factors have contributed to achieving or not achieving intended country programme outputs and outcomes? To what extent has the UNDP partnership strategy been appropriate and effective? What factors contributed to effectiveness or ineffectiveness? What is causing delays in implementation in particular outputs for the project? In which areas does the project have the fewest achievements? What have been the constraining factors and why? How can or could they be overcome? What, if any, alternative strategies would have been more effective in achieving the project's objectives? Are the projects objectives and outputs clear, practical, and feasible within its frame? To what extent have stakeholders been involved in project implementation? To what extent are project management and implementation participatory and is this participation contributing towards achievement of the project objectives? To what extent has the project been appropriately responsive to the needs of the national constituents and changing partner priorities? To what extent has a gender responsive results framework been incorporated into the project design and implementation consistent with the objectives and the project indicators, outputs, outcomes, objectives, and baseline data are gender-sensitive and ensure that gender-related data are collected and contribute to performance?	Coherence with country programme expected outcomes Degree or level of indicators met Discrepancies between expected outputs/outcome by the time of mid-term and actual achievements Coherence between planned outputs and outcomes as planned and what has been achieved thus far Factors that have aided in achievements UNDP implementation modalities in Uzbekistan Partnership with different stakeholders Evidence of synergies between the Project and other similar interventions. What is the programmatic coherence of the Project? Does it avoid duplication and enhance synergies? Are some outcomes more advanced than others in their implementation? Where is the implementation 'bottlenecks? Are the products being developed according to schedule? How does this relate to effectiveness and efficiency? How can these issues be solved? What changes are needed? Hindering factors or bottlenecks Evidence of stakeholder participation (in planning, design, and in actual implementation) Gender strategy as design and as implemented	Monitoring Reports Annual / semi-annual/ quarterly reports (for example Annual Performance Report CY2021, Annual Performance Report CY2022; Annual Performance Report CY2023) Minutes of meetings Back to the office/mission reports Project stakeholders Degree of achievement vis a vis expected outcome indicators Stakeholders' inputs	Document analyses Indicators Interviews Group Interviews

Project Implementation and Adaptive Management: Has the project been implemented efficiently, cost-effectively, and been able to adapt to any changing conditions thus far? To what extent are project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, reporting, and project communications supporting the project's implementation? Gender Mainstreaming.			
To what extent was the project management structure as outlined in the project document efficient in generating the expected results? To what extent have the UNDP project implementation strategy and execution been efficient and cost-effective? To what extent has there been an economical use of financial and human resources? Have resources (funds, human resources, time, expertise, etc.) been allocated strategically to achieve outcomes? To what extent have resources been used efficiently? Have activities supporting the strategy been cost-effective? To what extent have project funds and activities been delivered in a timely manner? To what extent do the M&E systems utilized by UNDP ensure effective and efficient project management? To what extent resources (funds, human resources, time, expertise, etc) are allocated strategically to achieve gender-related objectives? Has there been a new SESP, i.e. after project planning? If so, are risks identified in most current SESP validated, and those risks' ratings; are any revisions needed? Have there been updated risks analysis, in project's overall safeguards risk categorization; as identified types of risks (in the SESP); in individual risk ratings (in the SESP). How and what progress has been made in the implementation of the project's social and environmental management measures as outlined in the SESP (and prepared during implementation, if any), including any revisions to those measures. [Management measures might include Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs)?	Institutional arrangement Adaptation of design downsizing Efficiency, value for money Funds allocations (timeliness and strategic) Monitoring tools used to right track project, adaptive management, etc. Budgetary / financial means to implement outputs products.	Policy documents contain sustainability factors (policy adopted, implemented) Budget arrangements (allocations, etc.) made to sustain project outputs and outcomes	Documentation analysis Stakeholder interviews

Sustainability: To what extent are there financial, institutional, socio-economic, and/or environmental risks to sustaining long-term project results? Replication and scalability			
Sustainability possibilities/risks In what way may the benefits from the project are likely to be maintained or increased in the future?	Level of isks to sustainability? To what extent are lessons learned being documented by the project team on a continual basis and shared with appropriate parties who could learn from the project. Extent of project interventions have well-designed and well-planned exit strategies? Strength of exit strategies and sustainability. Extent the project has an impact of its implementing and other partners to transform their policies, programmes, and services to advance gender equality and women empowerment.	Indicators in project document results framework and log frame	Project documents and reports Interviews (including with state representatives)
Social sustainability factors/risks: Is there sufficient public/stakeholder awareness in support of the project' s long-term objectives? What is the risk that the level of stakeholders' ownership will be sufficient to allow for the project benefits to be sustained?	To what extent do stakeholders support the project's long-term objectives? To what extent do mechanisms, procedures and policies exist to allow primary stakeholders to carry forward the results attained on gender equality, empowerment of women, human rights, and human development?	Evidence that partnerships/linkages will be sustained	Interviews.: Government Project team, UNDP
Financial sustainability factors / risks Are there any financial risks that may jeopardize the sustainability of project outputs?	Extent of financial and economic resources be available to sustain the benefits achieved by the project	Evidence that financing will be available (budgetary allocations, policy reforms, commitments, further international financing	
Political sustainability/risks: Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outputs and the project's contributions to country programme outputs and outcomes?	Do the legal frameworks, policies, and governance structures and processes within which the project operates pose risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project benefits??	Evidence that practices will be sustained	Interviews.: Government of local governments Project team, UNDP; other actors.

Environmental sustainability / risks: Are there any environmental sustainability risks to the outputs/outcomes?	Extent of environmental threat to the sustainability of project outputs.		
Replicability and upscaling	Which of the project's aspects deserve to be replicated in future initiatives? What are the potentials for replication and/or scalability	Evidence that practices will be sustained, upscaled and replicated in other semiarid states and localities.	Interviews: Government Local Stakeholders, Project team, UNDP

ANNEX 4: INTERIM EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

This review questionnaire operationalizes the evaluation's guiding questions regarding achievements and criteria. It is mainly a guide for interviews with relevant stakeholders at different institutions and at site visits. That is, it is not a questionnaire, but it is an overarching tool with queries that would be used and cater suitably for each stakeholder (project staff, government, other actors). The survey as presented therefore asks general guiding questions that would be tailored to each relevant stakeholder interviewed and become more specific in the application of the guidance questions themselves and as part of counter questions. In some interviews translation is contemplated.

(1) Were the relevant country representatives, from government and civil society, as well as the private sector, NGOs, CBOs, Associations, etc., involved in the project preparation and execution? If yes, how?

(2) How did the design process take place?

(3) What changes were implemented at design to adjust for downscaling the project from originally planned?

(4) What have been the project's achievements (at the output, outcome, results levels) thus far? Are achievements clearer or more advanced for some outcomes than others? If, yes, why?

(5) Have their being changes (governmental, policy, etc.) that have hindered or aided project implementation? What kind of changes occurred? Which project outcome/outputs were influenced by such changes?

(6) To what extent other projects contribute to the GCF-funded project objective achievements? Are there any overlaps?

(7) Is the project budgetary planning in line with the project activities? Is there any significant adjustment required?

(8) What has been the effective role of guidance of the project's committees, etc.?

(8) What have been the projects weaknesses, if any?

(9) How is the work with the communities carried out? With local level stakeholders (NGOs, private sector, municipalities, etc.?)

(10) What are the probabilities that results would be sustained over the medium/long term? If project outputs/outcomes are achieved, what variables can help with sustainability (institutional, social, financial, environmental, etc.)?

(11) Has the project promoted gender equality and women's empowerment? If yes, how? Does the project attend to human rights and leave no one behind approaches?

(12) What are the technology and inputs challenges (for example, capacity, access to early warning technical inputs)? Are they available in country?

(13) If something could have been done different, in hindsight what could this have been (lesson learned)?

(14) What are your recommendations for the remaining implementation period? How can these be achieved?

(15) What are the recommendations for sustainability of achievements once project ends?

ANNEX 5: FIELD OBSERVATION GUIDE

OBSERVATION DETAILS

place: date: Actors

- **OBSERVATION OF PARTICIPATION/APPROPRIATION/INTERACTION**

participation: Active participation in the Project?

Yes - No

participation: There is a perceived appropriation of objectives, results, etc. of the Project?

Yes - No

participation: Is there a perceived improvement in capacities?

Yes-No

- **INTERACTION BETWEEN ACTORS**

interaction: Is there any perceived collaboration between actors?

Yes-No

- **FACILITIES**

facilities Were field facilities deployed, investments, practical demonstration implementation? How appropriate have they been? Sustainability?

Yes-No

ANNEX 6: RATINGS SCALES

Ratings for Progress Towards Results: (one rating for each outcome and for the objective)		
6	Highly Satisfactory (HS)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve or exceed all its end-of-project targets, without major shortcomings. The progress towards the objective/outcome can be presented as "good practice".
5	Satisfactory (S)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets, with only minor shortcomings.
4	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets but with significant shortcomings.
3	Moderately Unsatisfactory (HU)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve its end-of-project targets with major shortcomings.
2	Unsatisfactory (U)	The objective/outcome is expected not to achieve most of its end-of-project targets.
1	Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The objective/outcome has failed to achieve its midterm targets, and is not expected to achieve any of its end-of-project targets.
Ratings for Project Implementation & Adaptive Management: (one overall rating)		
6	Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of all seven components – management arrangements, work planning, finance and co-finance, project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, stakeholder engagement, reporting, and communications – is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management. The Project can be presented as "good practice".
5	Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of most of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management except for only few that are subject to remedial action.
4	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of some of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management, with some components requiring remedial action.
3	Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Implementation of some of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive, with most components requiring remedial action.
2	Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of most of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management.
1	Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of none of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management.
Ratings for Sustainability: (one overall rating)		
4	Likely (L)	Negligible risks to sustainability, with key outcomes on track to be achieved by the Project's closure and expected to continue into the foreseeable future
3	Moderately Likely (ML)	Moderate risks, but expectations that at least some outcomes will be sustained due to the progress towards results on outcomes at the Midterm Review
2	Moderately Unlikely (MU)	Significant risk that key outcomes will not carry on after project closure, although some outputs and activities should carry on
1	Unlikely (U)	Severe risks that project outcomes as well as key outputs will not be sustained

ANNEX 7: MISSION AGENDA

June 26 and July 3, 2024

Time	Events / Participants	Location
Wednesday, 26 June		
16:00 – 17:00	Kick – off Meeting between UNDP, Project Manager and Staff, and International Evaluator	Online
Wednesday, 3 July		
16:30 – 17:15	Meeting with representatives of UNDP, Project Manager and Staff, International Evaluator and National Evaluator	Online

July 25 - August 3, 2024

Time	Events / Participants	Location
Thursday, 25 July		
6:00	Departure International Consultant	Siena, Italy
Friday, 26 July		
7:00	Arrival International Consultant	Tashkent
15:00	Meeting with Project Coordinator	Tashkent
Monday, 29 July		
10:00 - 11:00	Meeting with representatives of the UNDP Country Office, Project Staff	UNDP Country Office Tashkent
11:30 - 12:30	Meeting with MHEWS project staff	Project office in Uzhydromet building
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:30 – 15:30	Meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Emergency Situations	Project office in Uzhydromet building
15:30 – 16:30	Meeting with representatives of the Agency for Hydrometeorological Service (Uzhydromet)	Uzhydromet office, Bodomzor
17:00 – 18:00	Meeting with representatives of O'zbekgidrogeologiya	O'zbekgidrogeologiya office

Tuesday, 30 July		
8:30 - 10:30	Travel to Gulistan of Syrdarya region by project car	Gulistan city, Syrdarya region
10:30 - 11:30	Visit to the Department of Ministry of Emergency Situation (MES) of Syrdarya region to observe the work of the Situational Center of MES	Building of the Regional Department of MES, Gulistan, N.Makhmudov street, 109
12:00 - 12:30	Visit to project site: AWS Gulistan, Syrdarya region	Weather station Gulistan, Gulistan, Syrdarya region
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:30 - 15:30	Meeting with representatives of Khavasobod community	Building of Khavasobod MCC, Khavas district, Syrdarya region
16:00 - 17:30	Travel to Samarkand by project car	Gulistan city, Syrdarya region
18:00	Arrival and check-in at the hotel	Samarkand
Wednesday, 31 July		
10:00-11:00	Meeting with representatives of the Department of Uzhydromet of Samarkand region	Building of the Regional Department of Uzhydromet, Samarkand
11:15-11:30	Visit to project site: Outdoor information board provided to MES in Samarkand region	Samarkand city, Samarkand region
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch	
14:30 - 15:00	Visit to project site: Agalik hydrological station, Samarkand district	Samarkand district, Samarkand region
15:00 - 18:00	Travel back to Tashkent by project car	Tashkent
18:30	Arrival and check-in at the hotel	Tashkent
Thursday, 1 August		
9:00 - 11:00	Travel to Bostanlik district of Tashkent region by project car	Bostanlik district, Tashkent region
11:00 - 11:30	Visit to project site: Sidjak hydrological station, Bostanlik district	Bostanlik district, Tashkent region
11:30 - 12:30	Lunch	

12:30 - 15:00	Travel to Ahangaran district of Tashkent region by project car	Ahangaran district, Tashkent region
15:30 - 15:40	Visit to project site: Outdoor information board installed at Kamchik mountain pass	Ahangaran district, Tashkent region
16:00 – 16:15	Visit to project site: Weather and avalanche station Kamchik, Ahangaran district	Ahangaran district, Tashkent region
16:30 – 17:00	Meeting with representatives of School #44, local community and Department of MES in Kamchik mountain pass	Pap district, Namangan region
17:00 – 19:30	Travel back to Tashkent by project car	Tashkent
20:00	Arrival and check-in at the hotel	Tashkent
Friday, 2 August		
9:00 - 13:00	Work in the project office. Clarification, analysis and consolidation of the collected information.	Project office in Uzhydromet building
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:30 - 15:30	Wrap-up meeting with representatives of the UNDP Country Offic	UNDP Country Office Tashkent
16:00 - 18:00	Work in the project office. Discussion and clarification of project implementation issues.	Project office in Uzhydromet building
21:00	Departure of International Consultant from Tashkent	Transfer from hotel to Tashkent airport
Saturday, 3 August		
18:00	Arrival of International Consultant to Home Base	Siena, Italy

ANNEX 8: LIST OF CONSULTED PERSONS

List of participants of the meetings with IE team
29 July – 2 August 2024

UNDP

#	Name	Job title
	IRH	
1	Benjamin Larroquette	Regional Technical Adviser
2	Rayza Oblitas	Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Specialist
	CO in Uzbekistan	
3	Akiko Fujii	Resident Representative
4	Bakhadur Paluaniyazov	Environment and Climate Action Cluster Leader
5	Mukhabbat Turkmenova	Head of the Strategic Planning and Integration Unit
	MHEWS project	
6	Ulugbek Dedabaev	Project Manager
7	Aleksandr Merkushkin	Task Manager on Climate Risks
8	Mirdjakhongir Mirdjaparov	Task Manager on Early Warning Systems
9	Nilufar Kayumova	M&E and Gender Specialist
10	Naira Inogamova	Admin-Finance Associate
11	Alisher Kasimov	Driver

The Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES)

#	Name	Job title
	Tashkent city, 29 July 2024	
12	Pyotr Volkov	Head of the Department for ICT Development, Digitalization and Information Security, MES
13	Nuriddin Tokhtasinov	Head of cyber security unit, MES
	Syrdarya region, 30 July 2024	
14	Sherzod Ernazarov	Deputy Head of the Department of Emergency Situations of Syrdarya region
15	Rovshan Jurabaev	Head of communication department
16	Bakhtiyor Sodikov	Head of monitoring & forecasting department
17	Adkham Rustamov	Head of territorial operation center
	Tashkent region, 1 August 2024	
18	Hasan Bobonov	Head of the Department of Emergency Situations of Kamchik mountain pass

19	Sobirjon Mirzaliev	Head of communication unit of the "Kamchik" special fire, search & rescue department

The Agency for hydrometeorolical service (Uzhydromet)

#	Name	Job title
	Tashkent city, 29 July 2024	
20	Sherzod Khabibullaev	Director of Uzhydromet
21	Firuz Safarov	Director's Advisor
22	Kakhramon Zahidov	Head of the Department of Hydrometeorological Observations and Environmental Quality Monitoring
23	Shavkat Kodirov	Head of the department for monitoring hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena
24	Nodir Mamadaliev	Leading engineer of the department for monitoring hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena
25	Natalya Agaltseva	Head of Climate Change Monitoring Department
	Syrdarya region, 30 July 2024	
26	Abror Khaidarov	Head of the Center for hydrometeorology of Syrdarya region
27	Sardor Saidov	Lead Engineer
28	Ibrohimjon Zulkhaidarov	Engineer 1st category
29	Alfiya Valieva	Engineer 2 categories
30	Dostonbek Turdimuhammatov	Engineer 2 categories
31	Asadbek Sharafitdinov	Technician 2 categories M-2 Gulistan
	Samarkand region, 30 July 2014	
32	Vagif Mirzoev	Head of the Center for hydrometeorology of Samarkand Region
33	Zhamshed Suleymanov	Chief Specialist
34	Ramal Mirzoev	Head of the regional cluster of information center
35	Shakhzod Khakberdiev	Head of Samarkand weather station
	Snow avalanche station Kamchik, 1 August 2024	
36	Viner Dasaev	Head of the snow avalanche station Kamchik
37	Victor Safronov	Engineer Glaciologist
38	Vinera Pardaeva	Meteorologist technician
39	Rashid Kasimov	Meteorologist technician

Uzbekgidrogeologiya

#	Name	Job title
	Tashkent city, 29 July 2024	
40	Gani Bimurzaev	Head of the Service for Monitoring Dangerous Geological Processes
41	Ibragim Uralov	Leading Hydrogeologist
42	Fazlitdin Anorboev	Head of the Department
43	Jasur Melibaev	Leading Hydrogeologist
44	Ganisher Abdullaev	Leading Hydrogeologist
45	Andrey Krutikov	Senior Researcher
46	Evgeniy Vasilenko	Senior Researcher
47	Sergey Klimov	GIS Specialist

Representatives of communities

#	Name	Job title
	Khavasabad community, Syrdarya region, 30 July 2024	
48	Jamshid Koroboev	Community leader, the Chairman of the Makhalla Committee
49	Farukh Ashurbaev	Youth Specialist
50	Rustam Jalilov	Specialist on disabled and vulnerable population
51	Shokhriyor Akhmedov	Prevention inspector/District police officer
52	Abduvakos Turakulov	Resident of the community
53	Nilufar Khadjanova	Resident of the community
54	Shoira Astanakulova	Resident of the community
	Rezaksoy community, school #44, Tashkent region, 1 August 2024	
55	Davronbek Elisboev	Director of the school #44
56	Bashirali Akhmedov	Community leader, the Chairman of the Makhalla Committee
57	Tukhtarali Sattarov	Teacher of the school #44

ANNEX 9: LIST OF CONSULTED DOCUMENTS

Reference Documents

- Brown et al., (2019) Gender Transformative Early Warning Systems: Experiences from Nepal and Peru, Rugby, UK: Practical Action; Gender in early warning and action: why do we need to talk about it? Prevention Web
- Financial and Administration guidelines used by Project Team Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures. https://popp.undp.org/SitePages/POPPRoot.aspx
- GCF Evaluation Policy
- https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/sap022
- Independent Evaluation Office. United Nations Development Programme *UNDP Evaluation Guidelines. Revised Edition June 2021*
- Independent Evaluation Office. United Nations Development Programme. UNDP Evaluation Guidelines. Revised Edition June 2021
- Independent Evaluation Office. United Nations Development Programme. Guidance For Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects. 2023.
- UN Women Gender-Responsive Early Warning: A How to Guide
- UNDP – GEF. *Guidance for Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects*. 2014.
- UNDP CPD Uzbekistan (2021 – 2025)
- UNDP. Evaluation Guidelines. *The Gender Results Effectiveness Scale (GRES): A Methodology Guidance Note*.
- UNDP. Independent Evaluation Office, 2015. *How to Manage Gender Responsive Evaluation*. UN Women.
- UNDRR gender-responsive-and-disability-inclusive-early-warning-and-early-action-in-the-pacific-region
- www.gcf.org
- www.undp.org/content/dam/aplaws/publication/en/publications/capacity-development/undp-capacity-assessment-methodology/UNDP%20Capacity%20Assessment%20Users%20Guide.pdf

Documents from the *"Enhancing MHEWS to increase resilience of Uzbekistan communities to climate change induced hazards"* Project:

- Annual Performance Report 2022 APR SAP022 GCF Uzbekistan - Multi Hazard Early Warning System
- Annual Performance Report 2023 APR - GCF Uzbekistan SAP022
- Annual Performance Report SAP022 CY 2021
- FP-UNDP-20012020-6218-Annex II Implementation timetable
- FP-UNDP-20012020-6218-Annex VII Risk Assessment
- FP-UNDP-22042020-6218-Annex IV Gender Action Plan GAP
- FP-UNDP-22072020-6218 18Feb2021
- FP-UNDP-22072020-6218-Annex II Log frame
- FP-UNDP-23012020-6218-Annex III Budget
- Funded Activity Agreement (FAA) Implementation Plan Revised
- MHEWS Project (00116677) Inception Workshop Minutes 11 Jan 2022
- Minutes 1st Project Board Meeting 131222
- Minutes 2nd Project Board Meeting 060224
- Printed materials, Brochures:
    - Avalanche (in Russian)
    - Avalanche (in Uzbek)
    - Floods(in Russian)
    - Floods (in Uzbek)
    - Landslide(in Russian)
    - Landslide (in Uzbek)
    - Mudflow(in Russian)
    - Mudflow (in Uzbek)
    - Project leaflet (in Russian)
    - Project leaflet (in Uzbek)
- Project Document
- Project Inception Report
- Red Crescent Reports
- SAP022 UNDP Uzbekistan Countersigned FAA
- Uzbekgidrogeology Report
- Uzbekistan SESP 20 Dec 2020

ANNEX 10 SIGNED UNEG CODE OF CONDUCT FORM

Evaluators/Consultants:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study limitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.

IE Consultant Agreement Form

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System:

Name of Consultant: Salomat YULDASHEVA

Signed at *Tashkent, July 23 2024*

Signature: 

Name of Consultant: Maria ONESTINI

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at *Siena, Italy, July 23 2024.-*

Signature: