

Midterm Evaluation Report



Project Name: Area-Based Approach to Development Emergency Initiatives (ABADEI 2.0)

Project Duration: 1 April 2023 – 31 December 2025

Evaluation Period: 30 September 2024 – 15 December 2024

Report Date: 06 December, 2024

Country: Afghanistan

Evaluation Organization:

Premium Performance Consulting

Acknowledgments

The completion of this Midterm Evaluation of the Area-Based Approach to Development Emergency Initiatives (ABADEI 2.0) would not have been possible without the support and contributions of many individuals and organizations.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the **United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Afghanistan** for commissioning this evaluation and providing invaluable guidance throughout the process. Special thanks are due to the UNDP regional offices and implementing partners for their coordination and logistical support, which enabled access to targeted communities.

We are immensely grateful to the **enumerators and field staff** of Premium Performance Consulting (PPC), whose dedication and resilience under challenging conditions made this evaluation possible. Their unwavering commitment to data collection and community engagement ensured the voices of beneficiaries were captured.

We also acknowledge the **local responsible parties, community elders, and stakeholders** who facilitated access and supported the evaluation activities. Your cooperation was instrumental in overcoming the many challenges faced during the fieldwork.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the **beneficiaries and community members** who generously shared their time, experiences, and insights. Your participation and honesty have been critical in shaping the findings and recommendations of this report.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this important evaluation. Your efforts will help enhance the impact of ABADEI 2.0 and ensure the project continues to serve those who need it most.

Project Information		
Project/outcome title	Area Based Approach to Development Emergency Initiatives (ABADEI 2.0)	
Atlas ID	01000372	
Corporate outcome and output	<p>Corporate Outcome and Output:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outcome 1: Equitable access to essential services. ○ Outcome 2: Inclusive economy and resilient livelihoods. ○ Outcome 3: Socially cohesive and inclusive society. • Outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Output 1: Improved essential services. ○ Output 2: Improved local economies. ○ Output 3: Enhanced resilience to disaster and climate risks. ○ Output 4: Improved community capacity and social cohesion. 	
Country	Afghanistan	
Region	South Asia	
Date project document signed	13 February 2023	
Project dates	Start	Planned end
	1 April 2023	31 December 2025
Total committed budget	USD 401,300,000	
Project expenditure at the time of evaluation	151.403.089	
Funding source	Government of Japan (JSB2022 AND JSB2023) JICA EU STFA GOVERNMENT OF KUWAIT UNDP CORE FUNDING	
Implementing party ²	UNDP	

Evaluation Information		
Evaluation type (project/outcome/thematic/country projectme, etc.)	Project Evaluation	
Final/midterm review/ other	Midterm Review	
Period under evaluation	Start	End
	1 April 2023	30-Sep-2024
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Evaluation dates	Start	Completion
	30-Sep-2024	15-Dec-2024

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List of acronyms and abbreviations

ABADEI: Area-Based Approach to Development Emergency Initiatives
AIMS: ABADEI Information Management System
CSO: Civil Society Organization
DFA: De Facto Authorities
DRC: Danish Refugee Council
DRR: Disaster Risk Reduction
FGD: Focus Group Discussion
GESI: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
IDP: Internally Displaced Person
IP: Implementing Partner
KII: Key Informant Interview
MSME: Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
PPC: Premium Performance Consulting
SDG: Sustainable Development Goal
TCPRF: Transitional Country Program Strategy
ToC: Theory of Change
TVET: Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNDP: United Nations Development Project
UNSDCF: United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
WASH: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Executive Summary

The ABADEI project represents a significant intervention to address Afghanistan's multifaceted challenges, including livelihoods, disaster resilience, social cohesion, and infrastructure development. Its integrated, multi-sectoral approach seeks to deliver immediate support while fostering long-term resilience and empowerment, especially for marginalized groups. This midterm evaluation assessed the project's performance against key criteria: coherence, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, inclusion, and likelihood of impact. The midterm review was conducted from 30 September to 15 December 2024.

Purpose and Objectives of the Evaluation

The evaluation aimed to assess ABADEI's progress in achieving its objectives, identify challenges, and provide actionable recommendations to enhance implementation and sustainability. The specific objectives were to:

- Evaluate the project's alignment with community needs and priorities.
- Assess the effectiveness of interventions in achieving stated outcomes.
- Identify limitations and operational barriers.
- Provide evidence-based recommendations for improved performance and long-term impact.

The evaluation findings are intended for project stakeholders, including UNDP, implementing partners, and donors, to refine strategies and optimize outcomes. This process supports both accountability and learning for future interventions.

Evaluation Approach and Methods

The evaluation utilized a mixed-methods approach and collected data using key informant interviews, focus group discussions, remote interviews and physical observations:

- **18 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)** with donors, implementing partners, and UNDP officials provided strategic and operational insights.
- **17 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)** captured beneficiaries' perspectives across intervention areas, including disaster risk reduction (DRR), vocational training, energy provision, and community development.
- **1660 remote interviews** were conducted with beneficiaries of diverse interventions such as psychotherapy, legal aid, waste management, and public infrastructure support.
- **124 physical observations** of infrastructure facilities and **213 in-person surveys** gathered data on their operational status and beneficiaries' satisfaction.

The sampling strategy involved a multi-stage stratified design, ensuring geographic and demographic diversity. Representative data were collected from 16 provinces, stratified by region and urban-rural classification, with targeted sampling within clusters for individuals and infrastructure. The data sources were sufficient to enable triangulation of the data.

There were significant challenges during data collection due to access restrictions and security sensitivities imposed by local DFA authorities. Key limitations and their mitigations are summarized below:

1. **Challenges in Data Compilation for Sampling**

Limitation: Delays due to incomplete or inaccurate records, unavailable Responsible Parties (RPs), and invalid samples.

Mitigation: Utilized local resources for data verification and adapted sampling methods, though constraints persisted

- **Detention of Enumerator in Kabul (Gul Dara District)**
 - **Limitation:** Enumerator was detained due to lack of a valid access letter, despite prior coordination.
 - **Mitigation:** Resolved through intervention by CARE, ensuring release and continuation of activities.
- **Prohibition of Female Enumerator Activities in South-East Region (Khost)**
 - **Limitation:** Female enumerator barred from activities due to restrictions on women's work.
 - **Mitigation:** Suspended activities in the region to prioritize safety and avoid conflict.
- **Restrictions on Female Enumerator Activities in South-East Region (Paktya Province)**
 - **Limitation:** Female enumerator hindered by restrictions, affecting inclusivity of data.
 - **Mitigation:** Assigned male enumerators to proceed, though female-specific data was not collected.
- **Lack of Field Support in Central Highlands Region (Ghor and Bamyan Provinces)**
 - **Limitation:** No official support or access letters for enumerators.
 - **Mitigation:** Leveraged local networks; succeeded in Bamyan but failed to collect data in Ghor due to access limitations.
- **Lack of Coordination and Support in South Region (Kandahar and Uruzgan Provinces)**
 - **Limitation:** No response from UNDP South Regional Office; access letter missing for Uruzgan.
 - **Mitigation:** Halted data collection in Uruzgan and focused on Kandahar with a limited scope.
- **Limited Support and Denied Access in Western Region (Herat and Badghis Provinces)**
 - **Limitation:** Delays and restricted access to RP-related samples in Herat; denied access to a women's marketplace in Badghis.
 - **Mitigation:** Halted data collection in Badghis and focused on permitted areas in Herat, with limited coverage.

Key Findings

Coherence: Across all groups, there was a shared acknowledgment of the value of creating synergies, area-based integration, and ABADEI's role in avoiding duplications. The project has built synergies with other agencies through successful collaborations. The comprehensive, area-based implementation ensures the alignment of efforts within the same regions. The data collection and reporting mechanisms support coordinated and transparent operations.

Relevance: ABADEI's flexibility and adaptability allowed it to maintain relevance in a challenging environment. The project's relevance is rooted in its community-centered, integrated, and adaptable approach and is aligned to address critical livelihoods and infrastructure needs within communities. It addressed critical gaps in business skills and access to financial resources and women-led MSMEs received targeted support, enhancing their access to markets, technical resources, and capacity-building projects. The project was highly relevant to the changing Afghan context by adapting to and addressing economic disruption. The Project demonstrates strong alignment with the United Nations Strategic Framework

(UNSF) 2023–2025 for Afghanistan, the UNDP Afghanistan CPRF (2022–2023) , and the Transitional Country Project Strategy (TCPS) for Afghanistan (2024–2025).

Effectiveness: The ABADEI project demonstrated effectiveness through its quality service delivery, economic empowerment initiatives, strong community engagement, adaptability, and collaborative partnerships. ABADEI achieved meaningful outcomes despite the complex socio-political environment. Projects yielded measurable benefits, including improved productivity, increased income, and stronger community cohesion. DRR initiatives were praised for reducing risks of floods and fires, with participants feeling better prepared and empowered. Participants expressed significant economic and social benefits, such as job creation and improved confidence. Future phases could further enhance impact by scaling successful initiatives, expanding community-based monitoring, and deepening gender-sensitive approaches.

Efficiency: The ABADEI project demonstrated efficiency through strategic resource allocation, collaborative partnerships, community engagement, adaptability, and robust accountability mechanisms. By optimizing resource use, leveraging local expertise, and adapting to challenges, the project delivered quality and cost-effective interventions that met community needs and strengthened resilience. Future projects can build on these strengths by expanding community-based monitoring and enhancing collaboration for even greater impact.

Sustainability: The sustainability of the ABADEI project was driven by its adaptive strategies, community empowerment initiatives, efficient resource use, and resilience-building efforts. By navigating socio-political challenges, fostering local ownership, maximizing resources, and strengthening disaster resilience, ABADEI laid the groundwork for sustained impact and long-term community development. Future efforts can build on these successes by expanding community-based governance and enhancing economic and environmental resilience initiatives.

Likelihood of impact: The likelihood of sustained impact from the ABADEI project is rooted in its economic empowerment initiatives, gender inclusion efforts, community resilience-building activities, and adaptive strategies to navigate challenges. By balancing immediate relief with long-term development, engaging marginalized groups, and reducing economic vulnerability, ABADEI has laid a strong foundation for lasting community and individual resilience. Future efforts should continue to address market barriers, dependency concerns, and socio-cultural resistance to ensure the durability of project outcomes.

Diversity and inclusion: ABADEI's diversity and inclusion efforts have significantly contributed to economic empowerment, gender equity, social inclusion, and community cohesion. By balancing cultural adaptation, community-driven engagement, and targeted support for vulnerable groups, the project has laid the groundwork for lasting impact. Continued efforts are needed to address market barriers, social tensions, and the challenges of achieving sustainable inclusion in restrictive environments.

Theory of Change: The Theory of Change (ToC) for the ABADEI 2.0 project outlines a comprehensive framework to address Afghanistan's critical challenges, including lack of access to essential services, economic vulnerabilities, and social inequalities. It connects immediate interventions, such as infrastructure rehabilitation, livelihood support, disaster preparedness, and social cohesion initiatives, to long-term outcomes of equitable access, inclusive economies, and strengthened resilience. The ToC emphasizes the importance of community cooperation, gender equality, and integrated approaches while identifying dependencies on external factors like security and operational access. It highlights the need for detailed risk mitigation, adaptive implementation, and phased activities to achieve sustainable development within the given timeframe.

Risks, Mitigation Strategies and Implementation Progress: The ABADEI 2.0 project has made significant progress in addressing critical challenges in Afghanistan, focusing on essential services, economic empowerment, resilience-building, and social cohesion. Key achievements include the rehabilitation of vital infrastructure, support for women-led MSMEs, promotion of climate-smart agriculture, and disaster risk reduction. The project successfully empowered vulnerable populations, particularly women, and implemented robust social and environmental safeguards to ensure inclusivity and sustainability. Despite

challenges like funding gaps, security risks, and cultural barriers, the project exceeded targets in many areas, demonstrating its capacity to deliver impactful, long-term solutions.

Conclusions

Conclusion 1: The ABADEI project's internal and external coherence, through collaboration with key entities using an area-based implementation approach and inclusive community engagement, has helped to avoid duplication and enhance service delivery. Despite the many challenges, ABADEI has achieved meaningful progress in fostering cohesive, cross-sectoral interventions that align with donor expectations and community priorities. However, continued strategic and operational level collaboration will be required as the project moves forward, which can be facilitated by coordination using mechanisms such as an Information Management System (AIMS) and regular meetings. **(Coherence)**

Conclusion 2: The ABADEI project demonstrates strong relevance by addressing socio-economic challenges faced by Afghan communities through a community-centered, integrated, and adaptable approach. The project aligns with local needs and national and international frameworks. The project's emphasis on disaster resilience, economic empowerment, and social cohesion further solidifies its alignment with the broader development priorities of Afghanistan. Despite many challenges ABADEI has demonstrated adaptability, maintaining relevance by aligning with Afghanistan's evolving political and security landscape. Addressing ongoing barriers will be essential to meeting the growing needs of vulnerable communities. **(Relevance)**

Conclusion 3: The ABADEI project has been highly effective in achieving its objectives across multiple sectors in response to urgent community needs. By employing a multi-sectoral, area-based approach, the project has integrated interventions such as livelihood support, renewable energy solutions, gender mainstreaming, and disaster resilience, resulting in meaningful results. Interventions have led to immediate changes (such as new sources of income), contributing to job creation, economic stability, and poverty reduction, as well as improved access to essential services and strengthened agricultural productivity. Despite these successes, ongoing challenges such as limited resources, bureaucratic constraints, and regulatory barriers have occasionally hindered the scale and reach of interventions, which are likely to affect the project's ability to achieve its overall objectives.

The Year 1 implementation of the ABADEI 02 project demonstrated mixed effectiveness, with notable successes in several outputs while facing challenges in others. Indicators were generally well-aligned with SMART criteria, particularly in specificity, measurability, relevance, and time-bound targets. However, achievability was a recurring challenge, with some outputs falling significantly short of their targets. **(Effectiveness)**

Conclusion 4: By optimizing the use of resources through strategic allocation, prioritization of high-need regions, and leveraging cost-effective approaches, such as combining livelihoods support with infrastructure development, as well as minimizing duplications by establishing synergies, the project has demonstrated high levels of efficiency. This has been helped by the timely adjustment of implementation activities using data from the monitoring and accountability mechanisms. However, rigid donor requirements (with earmarked funding) and delays in signing MOUs, as well as local interference in beneficiary selection, have affected operational efficiency.

The ABADEI project's **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system** is a robust framework designed to ensure accountability, inclusivity, and efficient tracking of project outcomes. Anchored by tools like the ABADEI Information Management System (AIMS) and complemented by third-party monitoring in inaccessible areas, the system leverages real-time data, geographical mapping, and regular reporting to support adaptive management and evidence-based decision-making. Responsible parties play a pivotal role in data collection, validation, and stakeholder engagement, ensuring the system is responsive to community needs and aligned with project objectives. However, the reliance on responsible parties for detailed beneficiary data poses challenges, including delays, discrepancies, and limited oversight by UNDP. Addressing these challenges through system upgrades, capacity building, and enhanced data integration mechanisms will strengthen the system's reliability and effectiveness, furthering its ability to deliver impactful and equitable outcomes.

The **financial analysis** highlights strong budget utilization and operational efficiency. In 2023, a 99% delivery rate reflected excellent financial planning, while 2024 has shown steady progress with 77% of the budget executed by September. Management costs remained under the 10% benchmark in both years, demonstrating effective cost control.

To meet 2024 targets, the remaining budget must be strategically utilized, and spending closely monitored. Finalized financial data will enable a more comprehensive efficiency analysis, providing greater insights into the project's long-term financial performance and impact. **(Efficiency)**

Conclusion 5: By fostering local ownership through community-led governance structures, training initiatives, community empowerment, and resilience-building activities, ABADEI has, to an extent, reduced dependency on external support and promoted long-term functionality of infrastructure and services, hence laying a strong foundation for sustainability. However, reliance on donor funding raises concerns about achieving longer-term sustainability without continued external support. Addressing these challenges through enhanced capacity-building, robust local governance structures, and diversified funding mechanisms will be essential for sustaining and expanding project reach and impact. **(Sustainability)**

Conclusion 6: By adopting culturally sensitive gender inclusion strategies, such as engaging male family members (mahrams) and establishing women-led vocational centers, the project has successfully navigated socio-cultural barriers to create safe and supportive environments for women's economic and social engagement. By prioritizing the inclusion of vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities and economically disadvantaged households, the project has facilitated a sense of belonging and reduced social isolation. However, challenges such as social tensions from shifting gender roles, market saturation, and increased workloads for women will require the project to rethink its approach in order to ensure women's continued participation and economic empowerment. **(Inclusion)**

Conclusion 7: The ABADEI 2.0 strategy provides an integrated framework to address Afghanistan's challenges, focusing on restoring essential services, revitalizing economies, enhancing disaster resilience, and fostering social cohesion and gender equality. Its logical design aligns with UNSF outcomes, targeting both immediate needs and long-term development. Success depends on addressing risks such as security constraints and political instability, while fostering partnerships and adaptive approaches. The strategy offers a critical pathway for empowering marginalized groups, reducing vulnerabilities, and building sustainable resilience in Afghan communities. **(Theory of Change)**

Conclusion 8: The ABADEI 2.0 project has made significant progress in addressing Afghanistan's humanitarian and development challenges by integrating immediate relief with long-term resilience measures. Key achievements include providing essential services, empowering women-led enterprises, promoting disaster risk reduction, and implementing climate-smart practices. Despite challenges like funding gaps and socio-cultural barriers, the project has exceeded expectations in many areas, ensuring inclusivity and sustainability through strong social and environmental safeguards. Moving forward, strengthening local capacities and stakeholder engagement will be critical to sustaining and scaling the project's positive impacts. **(Risks, Mitigation Strategies and Implementation Progress)**

Recommendations

1	Actions	Responsibility	Timelines
<p>Key recommendation 1: Improve coordination mechanisms to avoid duplication including beneficiary overlap as well as address the bureaucratic impediments and regulatory challenges and ensure strong partnerships.</p> <p>The de facto authority’s regulations have posed challenges in implementing certain phases of ABADEI. Additionally, donor-specific reporting requirements and budget constraints have limited the scope of certain interventions, necessitating careful planning to align resources and activities. Inefficient coordination among partners led to instances of beneficiary overlap, with multiple interventions targeting the same populations.</p> <p>Linked to conclusion 1 - Coherence</p>			
1.1	Introduce a centralized project management system to enhance tracking and alignment of partner activities and conduct regular partner coordination workshops to address overlapping roles and streamline efforts.	UNDP Project Management Unit and implementing partners	System deployed within 6 months; workshops conducted quarterly
1.2	Develop a centralized beneficiary tracking system accessible to all implementing partners and conduct bi-monthly coordination meetings to update and reconcile beneficiary data across partners.	UNDP, implementing partners, and technical consultants	Launch the tracking system within 4 months; hold the first coordination meeting within 6 weeks
1.3	Advocate for streamlined regulatory processes with local authorities through regular dialogue and consultations and form a dedicated task force to address emerging regulatory barriers swiftly	UNDP senior management and advocacy teams	Initiate dialogues within 1 month; establish the task force within 2 months
1.4	Establish partnership agreements with clear timelines and deliverables to reduce delays caused by dependence on external partners and expand engagement with local NGOs to ensure contextually relevant and efficient service delivery	UNDP senior leadership and regional managers	Agreements finalized within 4 months; expanded local NGO partnerships within 6 months
1.5	Develop market linkages by establishing partnerships with private sector actors and integrating MSMEs into value chains as well as facilitate trade fairs and networking events to expand market opportunities.	UNDP economic development team and implementing partners	Partnerships established and trade fairs launched within 6 months; value chain integration initiatives operational within 8 months.
2	<p>Recommendation 2: Undertake regular and systematic needs assessments including gender analysis and use data from monitoring, feedback and accountability platforms to inform this analysis to ensure ongoing adaptations and alignment with changing needs.</p> <p>While ABADEI promoted gender inclusion, achieving consistent impact across regions was challenging due to cultural and regulatory barriers. ABADEI’s area-based management approach integrated multiple sectors, such as livelihoods, renewable energy, and resilience-building. While this approach enhanced overall impact, aligning efforts across sectors required improved coordination to prevent fragmentation and ensure that interventions were consistently relevant to community priorities.</p> <p>Linked to conclusion 2 – Relevance</p>		

2.1	Conduct localized gender analyses to tailor interventions to cultural and regulatory contexts based upon which expand support for women-led MSMEs through grants, training, and capacity-building programs.	UNDP Gender Specialists, regional managers, and implementing partners	completed within 3 months; expanded support implemented within 6 months
2.2	Enhance community feedback systems to ensure continuous alignment of interventions with local needs and use this feedback to refine current and future project plans.	UNDP monitoring and evaluation teams and implementing partners	Enhanced mechanisms operational within 2 months; bi-annual feedback reports generated
2.3	Develop targeted programs to promote climate-smart farming techniques and disaster risk reduction strategies and provide agricultural kits and training to farmers in high-risk areas.	UNDP agricultural team and local partners.	Programs designed within 4 months; implementation in 6 months
2.4	Implement a pilot adaptive reporting mechanism to address urgent community.	UNDP project management unit and donor representatives.	Initiate pilot reporting within 2 months; propose revised reporting framework to donors within 6 months.
2.5	Conduct market assessments to identify high-demand sectors and guide vocational training programs and collaborate with local businesses to create apprenticeship and job placement opportunities for beneficiaries.	UNDP livelihoods team and economic development partners	Market assessments completed within 3 months; new training and placement initiatives launched within 6 months.
3	<p>Recommendation 3: Scale up livelihoods and MSME support, enhancing infrastructure, and strengthening social cohesion. Refine gender mainstreaming and promoting climate-smart agriculture</p> <p>Vocational training, cash-for-work programs, and MSME support effectively improved livelihoods and community resilience. However, gaps were identified in underserved regions and among women-led enterprises, indicating a need for expanded coverage and tailored business support packages to ensure sustainability. Investments in solarized health facilities, water systems, and disaster-resilient infrastructure demonstrated positive impacts. Feasibility studies and scaling these initiatives to underserved areas were highlighted as critical for expanding reach and addressing infrastructure gaps. Community-based recovery plans and inclusive decision-making processes promoted social cohesion, but challenges remained in fostering sustained collaboration across diverse groups. Expanding these initiatives and facilitating dialogue were identified as necessary to strengthen community bonds. Gender-focused interventions faced implementation challenges due to socio-cultural norms, leading to inconsistent impact. Conducting gender impact assessments and collaborating with local women's organizations were deemed essential for refining and scaling these programs. Disaster risk reduction and sustainable farming techniques contributed to resilience, but broader implementation and enhanced farmer support through agricultural kits and training were needed to amplify impact.</p> <p>Linked to conclusion 3 - Effectiveness</p>		

3.1	Expand vocational training programs, cash-for-work initiatives, and targeted grants for MSMEs, with a focus on underserved regions and women-led enterprises. Develop tailored business support packages to strengthen MSME sustainability.	UNDP livelihoods team, regional managers, and implementing partners.	Programs scaled up within 6 months; support packages launched within 9 months.
3.2	Prioritize investments in solarized health facilities, water management systems, and disaster-resilient infrastructure. Conduct feasibility studies for scaling up renewable energy solutions in underserved areas.	UNDP infrastructure team, technical consultants, and regional managers.	Feasibility studies completed within 4 months; infrastructure projects expanded within 8 months.
3.3	Expand community-based recovery plans, capacity-building workshops, and inclusive decision-making processes. Facilitate cross-community dialogue to foster greater understanding and collaboration.	NDP social cohesion team, regional managers, and local community leaders.	Expanded initiatives launched within 6 months; dialogue forums held quarterly.
3.4	Conduct a gender impact assessment to identify gaps and refine current interventions. Increase collaboration with local women's organizations to scale gender-focused programs.	UNDP Gender Specialists and regional managers.	Assessment completed within 3 months; refined programs implemented within 6 months.
3.5	Develop targeted programs to promote climate-smart farming techniques and disaster risk reduction strategies. Provide agricultural kits and training to farmers in high-risk areas.	UNDP agricultural team and local partners	Programs designed within 4 months; implementation in 6 months.
4	<p>Recommendation 4: Strengthen resource mobilization as well as resource allocation and maintain flexibility in light of donor fatigue and funding challenges. Upgrade the M&E system to include fields for detailed beneficiary and infrastructure information.</p> <p>ABADEI effectively optimized limited resources through flexible allocation and prioritization of high-need regions. However, emerging needs and changing contexts highlighted the importance of a more structured framework for reallocating resources promptly. Strong partnerships with UN agencies, local NGOs, and community organizations improved resource sharing and cost efficiency. Despite this, delays caused by reliance on external partners and unclear timelines demonstrated the need for partnership agreements with defined roles and deliverables.</p> <p>AIMS relies on responsible parties to input beneficiary counts, while the detailed beneficiary data remains with them. This dependency increases the risk of delays and discrepancies during evaluations. Gathering detailed beneficiary data from multiple responsible parties can take weeks, leading to inefficiencies in reporting and monitoring.</p> <p>While the increase in management costs is reasonable, continuous monitoring is needed to ensure they do not disproportionately grow relative to programmatic expenditures.</p> <p>Linked to Conclusion 4 - Efficiency</p>		
4.1	Develop a strategic donor engagement plan to secure additional funding and allocate resources to underserved regions and explore innovative funding mechanisms to address budget constraints.	UNDP project management team and donor relations unit	Plan developed within 4 months; funding adjustments implemented in the next project cycle

4.2	Develop a resource reallocation framework to address emerging needs promptly and prioritize high-need regions for funding and resource allocation.	UNDP project management team and regional managers	Framework developed within 3 months; resource adjustments implemented in the next funding cycle
4.3	Streamline internal processes for signing MOUs and resolving administrative barriers and establish a task force to address implementation bottlenecks promptly to avoid delays	UNDP senior management and regional teams.	Streamlined processes implemented within 2 months; task force operational within 3 months.
4.4.	Upgrade AIMS to include fields for detailed beneficiary and infrastructure data. Develop an input interface for responsible parties to directly upload this information.	UNDP IT Department, AIMS Development Team, Responsible Parties	6 months
4.5	Establish a quarterly data validation process to reconcile AIMS data with detailed records from responsible parties.	UNDP M&E Team, Responsible Parties	Ongoing (Quarterly)
4.6	Create a centralized, secure database linked to AIMS for storing and managing detailed data on beneficiaries and infrastructure.	UNDP IT Department, Responsible Parties	8 months
4.7	Develop and implement a targeted spending plan for the remaining 23% of the 2024 budget, focusing on high-priority activities to ensure annual targets are met.	Financial Management Team and Program Leads.	By mid-December 2024.
4.8	Review and analyze monthly spending trends, and adjust resource allocation to maintain efficiency and avoid under- or over-expenditure in Q4.	Financial Management Team	Monthly through December 2024.
4.9	Conduct a review of expenditures to ensure alignment with the AWP and reallocate funds if necessary to address deviations.	Program Managers and Financial Management Team.	By November 30, 2024.
4.10	Identify and implement strategies to maintain management costs below 10%, such as reducing non-essential administrative expenses and reallocating funds to programmatic activities.	Project Director and Administrative Team.	Ongoing through December 2024.
4.11	Compile and finalize all financial data to support a detailed efficiency analysis during the end-line evaluation.	Financial Management Team.	By January 31, 2025.

5	<p>Recommendation 5: In order to foster sustainability, the project should foster approaches that support economic independence, address dependency on external support, expand capacity-building efforts, strengthen local governance structures</p> <p>Sustainable outcomes require capacity building within local institutions to ensure the continuity of project activities after donor funding ends. Strengthening governance, management, and operational systems will enhance resilience and reduce dependency on external support. Encouraging community involvement in project planning, implementation, and decision-making fosters a sense of ownership. This promotes long-term sustainability as communities are more likely to maintain and build upon the outcomes of the project.</p> <p>Linked to conclusion 5 – Sustainability</p>		
5.1	Transition beneficiaries from cash-for-work projects to self-sustaining livelihoods by providing advanced vocational training, business development support, and access to micro-grants. In addition, strengthen financial literacy programs to empower beneficiaries to manage and grow their income.	UNDP livelihoods team and regional managers	Transition strategy implemented within 6 months; advanced training and financial literacy programs launched within 4 months.
5.2	Strengthen community-led maintenance and governance structures to promote ownership and sustainability of project outcomes and provide leadership and resource management training to local committees.	UNDP regional teams and local governance partners.	Structures strengthened within 4 months; training programs initiated within 6 months.
5.3	Introduce self-sustaining economic models such as cooperative businesses and revolving funds to reduce reliance on external aid,	UNDP livelihoods team and local NGOs	Self-sustaining models piloted within 8 months; expanded incubator programs operational within 10 months.
5.4	Provide sustained mentorship and capacity-building programs for MSMEs, community leaders, and beneficiaries to ensure they can independently manage and scale.	UNDP capacity-building team and implementing partners.	Mentorship programs expanded within 5 months; capacity-building sessions conducted quarterly.
5.5	Develop dual-purpose interventions that address urgent needs while building capacity for long-term resilience.	UNDP project management team and regional managers.	Dual-purpose interventions designed and implemented within 4 months.
6	<p>Recommendation 6: In order to enhance inclusion diversity, diversify economic opportunities and inclusion of vulnerable groups, as well as support balanced work life for women, and strengthen community dialogue and social cohesion</p> <p>Vocational training, micro-grants, and support for women-led MSMEs enhanced financial independence and employability for women, youth, and other marginalized groups. However, market saturation in sectors like tailoring limited the profitability of women-trained businesses, underscoring the need for sector diversification and stronger market linkages. Targeted interventions, including skill-building initiatives and cash-for-work programs, supported the integration of vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities and</p>		

	economically disadvantaged households. However, gaps in outreach and sustained mentorship limited the full inclusion of these populations. Linked to conclusion 6 – Diversity and Inclusion		
6.1	Introduce vocational training programs in diverse sectors to reduce market saturation and expand economic opportunities for women and marginalized groups. In addition, strengthen market linkages and value chain integration to ensure sustainable income sources.	UNDP livelihoods team and local partners.	Diversified training programs launched within 6 months; strengthened market linkages operational within 8 months
6.2	Develop support systems, such as childcare services and family support programs, to address the increased workload for women participating in economic activities and conduct awareness sessions with families to promote shared responsibilities and balanced family dynamics.	UNDP gender specialists and regional managers.	Support systems initiated within 6 months; family awareness sessions conducted quarterly.
6.3	Facilitate continuous community dialogue sessions to address social tensions and foster acceptance of shifting gender roles including engaging local leaders and influencers to advocate for inclusive practices.	UNDP social cohesion team and local community leaders	Dialogue sessions initiated within 4 months; ongoing quarterly
6.4	Design targeted interventions for vulnerable populations, such as people with disabilities and disadvantaged households, to enhance their participation in economic and social activities including mentorship programs to support skill development and integration.	UNDP regional teams and implementing partners.	Targeted interventions launched within 6 months; mentorship programs operational within 8 months.
6.5	Develop culturally sensitive strategies, including engaging male family members (mahrams) and collaborating with community leaders, to ensure meaningful participation of women in economic and social activities. Also expand women-led vocational centers to provide safe learning spaces.	UNDP gender specialists and regional managers.	Strategies implemented within 4 months; vocational center expansion operational within 6 months.
7	<p>Recommendation 7: Develop detailed risk mitigation strategies and contingency plans to address security challenges and ensure community cooperation through strong engagement with local leaders and stakeholders. Prioritize and phase activities based on urgency, feasibility, and impact to align ambitions with realistic timelines. Regularly monitor progress, adapt strategies to regional conditions, and recalibrate goals based on on-ground realities and resource availability.</p> <p>The program's success relies heavily on external factors, including security and community cooperation, which are critical for effective implementation. While risks have been identified, the lack of detailed mitigation strategies poses challenges to managing uncertainties. Additionally, the high ambition of achieving comprehensive results across eight regions within the set timeframe requires careful prioritization, phased implementation, and ongoing adaptation to regional conditions to ensure feasibility and effectiveness.</p>		

	Linked to conclusion 7 – Theory of Change		
7.1	Create context-specific risk mitigation plans and contingency strategies for security and operational challenges.	Risk Management Unit (IRMU); Regional Teams	Month 1-3
7.2	Conduct regular consultations with local leaders and stakeholders to foster trust and ensure community ownership.	Community Engagement Specialists; Local Partners	Ongoing throughout the program
7.3	Develop a phased implementation plan that focuses on high-priority activities with the greatest impact.	Program Manager; Regional Teams	Month 1-6
7.4	Tailor interventions to regional-specific security, cultural, and operational realities through localized planning.	Regional Teams; Local Implementing Partners	Month 1-12
7.5	Set up periodic reviews to assess progress, identify challenges, and adjust goals and plans as necessary.	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialists	Quarterly reviews
7.6	Build partnerships with local NGOs, government bodies, and community groups to share resources and reduce dependencies.	Program Manager; Partnership Specialists	Month 1-6 (ongoing)
8	<p>Recommendation 8: The project should strengthen local capacities, enhance stakeholder engagement through feedback mechanisms, and scale up successful interventions like renewable energy and climate-smart agriculture to ensure sustainability and maximize impact.</p> <p>As the project transitions to its next stages, maintaining momentum, strengthening local capacities, and enhancing stakeholder engagement will be pivotal to ensuring long-lasting impacts for the communities it serves.</p> <p>Linked to conclusion 8 – Risk, Mitigation Strategies and Implementation Progress</p>		
8.1	Develop a detailed roadmap for transitioning to the next project stages with clear milestones. Regularly communicate progress and achievements to stakeholders to sustain engagement.	UNDP, Project Manager, Communication Unit	Q1–Q2 2024
8.2	Provide capacity-building workshops for Community Development Councils (CDCs) and local NGOs to enhance project management skills. Equip local partners with advanced tools and resources for effective	UNDP, Training Institutions, Local NGOs	Q1–Q4 2024
8.3	Establish a stakeholder feedback mechanism to incorporate community and partner inputs into planning and implementation. Conduct quarterly stakeholder meetings to align expectations and address emerging challenges.	UNDP, Local Partners, CDCs	Ongoing (quarterly)

Project Description

Context

The **ABADEI 2.0 (Area-Based Approach for Development Emergency Initiatives)** project, spearheaded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is a crucial component of the international community's response to the humanitarian and socio-economic crisis in Afghanistan. The project was initiated in response to the fallout from the political changes in August 2021, which led to economic collapse, displacement, and increased poverty. The ABADI project is part of the broader **UN Transitional Engagement Framework (TEF) and Transitional Country Programme Strategy (TCPS)**, designed to stabilize Afghanistan's fragile economy while addressing the most urgent humanitarian needs and rebuilding local communities.

At its core, ABADI focuses on strengthening community resilience and socio-economic recovery by integrating emergency responses with long-term development objectives. It prioritizes the delivery of essential services, livelihood recovery, disaster resilience, and community cohesion, working hand in hand with local leaders and civil society organizations. The project aims to reach **all 34 provinces of Afghanistan**, channeling resources directly to the local level to ensure inclusive and equitable development.

Key Elements and Objectives

ABADI's core mission is to preserve essential services, protect human capital, and restore local economies in Afghanistan's most vulnerable regions. Key objectives include:

- **Supporting MSMEs:** The project provides technical support and financial assistance to **Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs)**, with a focus on women-led businesses and informal sectors. It helps entrepreneurs overcome barriers created by the economic downturn and enables them to sustain or expand their operations.
- **Cash-for-Work Programs:** ABADI employs **cash-for-work initiatives** to provide short-term income to unemployed individuals, contributing to the restoration of local infrastructure and promoting job creation within communities.
- **Disaster Resilience:** In addition to addressing economic recovery, ABADI places a strong emphasis on building **climate and disaster resilience**. It supports projects that mitigate the impact of natural disasters, such as flood protection systems and rehabilitation of agricultural land.
- **Infrastructure and Essential Services:** The project rehabilitates critical infrastructure, including **schools, health facilities, water systems**, and renewable energy solutions, ensuring that communities have access to the basic services necessary for recovery.

Gender Empowerment and Social Cohesion

One of ABADI's guiding principles is ensuring gender equality and empowerment. The project has targeted Afghan women and girls, who have been disproportionately affected by the ongoing crisis. By providing cash-based support, training, and vocational opportunities, ABADI helps women engage in economic activities and regain autonomy despite significant restrictions. The project also encourages **social cohesion** by fostering inclusive community planning and participation in dispute resolution and local governance initiatives.

The Evaluation Object

ABADI 2.0 is a multi-sectoral project implemented by UNDP in Afghanistan to address the urgent needs of vulnerable communities while fostering resilience and sustainable development. The project benefits vulnerable communities, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, host communities, and women. It addresses pressing issues such as the lack of basic infrastructure, limited livelihood opportunities, inadequate renewable energy access, and weak social cohesion, all exacerbated by socio-economic and political instability.

The intervention focuses on several core areas:

- **Education and Skills Development:** Establishing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) projects and promoting gender-inclusive initiatives.

- **Infrastructure Development:** Rehabilitating public infrastructure with climate-smart and gender-sensitive designs.
- **Renewable Energy Access:** Deploying solar and hydro energy systems to power essential community services.
- **Livelihood and Economic Empowerment:** Supporting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and marginalized groups through training, grants, and market linkages.
- **Social Cohesion and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR):** Enhancing community bonds and resilience against natural disasters.

Project Results

The project's outcomes include improved access to essential services, strengthened community resilience, and enhanced livelihoods. Outputs focus on infrastructure rehabilitation, renewable energy installation, skills training, livelihood support, and social cohesion workshops.

Outcomes:

1. Outcome 1: By the end of 2025, more marginalized people in Afghanistan can equitably access essential services, meeting minimum quality standards.
2. Outcome 2: By the end of 2025, more people in Afghanistan benefit from a stable, inclusive, and employment-rich economy with resilient livelihoods and greater equality of economic opportunities.
3. Outcome 3: By the end of 2025, more people in Afghanistan participate in a socially cohesive, gender-equal, and inclusive society, with progressive upholding of the rule of law and human rights.

Outputs:

1. Output 1: Essential services improved in infrastructure, agriculture, health, education, and energy.
 - Construction and rehabilitation of critical physical infrastructure.
 - Provision of essential health and education services.
 - Support for clean/renewable energy technologies.
2. Output 2: Local economies improved through gender-responsive, community-based livelihoods.
 - Distribution of unconditional cash transfers and support for basic income.
 - Promotion of local private sector development and access to new markets.
 - Support for cross-border trade and digital financial solutions.
3. Output 3: Local communities' resilience capacity enhanced to better respond and adapt to disaster and climate-induced risks.
 - Support for food security and regenerative agriculture infrastructure.
 - Enhancement of community preparedness for disasters.
 - Water security and natural ecosystem restoration initiatives.
4. Output 4: Communities' capacity, ownership, and engagement improved for better social cohesion and access to justice.
 - Promotion of gender equality, women empowerment, and social cohesion programs.
 - Rights-based access to justice, including gender justice and human rights.
 - Development of territorial plans for enhanced community engagement.

Implementation Strategies

The project employs area-based, integrated approaches tailored to regional needs, emphasizing community engagement to ensure local ownership and sustainability. Cross-sectoral interventions link humanitarian assistance with development and social cohesion efforts to maximize impact.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities

ABADEI 2.0 aligns with Afghanistan's national humanitarian response framework and development goals, emphasizing resilience and community-led recovery. It contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) priorities for Afghanistan and supports SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 5 (Gender Equality), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), and 10 (Reduced Inequalities). Additionally, it reflects UNDP's Strategic Plan goals for building resilience and sustainable development in fragile contexts.

Implementation Phase and Changes

The project is midway through its implementation phase (2023–2025). Significant changes have been made to address logistical delays, cultural barriers affecting women’s participation, and evolving security challenges. These adjustments have required greater flexibility in implementation strategies and resource allocation.

Key Partners and Their Roles

- **UNDP Afghanistan:** Oversees coordination and management.
- **Implementing Partners (NGOs, local governments):** Deliver services, engage communities, collect data and report in AIMS.
- **Community Leaders and Local Stakeholders:** Facilitate local participation and ownership of projects.

Target Groups and Cross-Cutting Issues

The project benefits IDPs, returnees, host communities, women, youth, and persons with disabilities. MSMEs are also key drivers of economic recovery. Cross-cutting issues include gender equality, with a focus on women’s economic empowerment through skills training and renewable energy systems, and human rights, ensuring no one is left behind.

The scale of the Intervention

The project comprises five core components: skills development and education, infrastructure rehabilitation, renewable energy access, livelihood enhancement and MSME support, and social cohesion and DRR. It targets approximately 300,000 individuals, with 50% being women, across multiple provinces.

Evaluation Users and Uses

The primary audience for this evaluation includes several key stakeholders. **UNDP Afghanistan** aims to use the findings to refine strategies, improve implementation processes, and enhance accountability to donors and stakeholders. **Donors and funding partners** are interested in receiving evidence regarding the impact of their investments and validating the project’s relevance and efficiency. **Implementing partners**, including NGOs and local governments, seek to understand the operational challenges and improve the quality of interventions. Finally, **beneficiaries and local communities** are integral to ensuring their needs and priorities are effectively addressed.

These stakeholders intend to learn the extent to which the ABADEI 2.0 project has achieved its intended outcomes, how efficiently resources have been utilized, and recommendations for improving implementation, ensuring sustainability, and overcoming identified challenges. The evaluation results are expected to guide mid-course adjustments, inform future project and policy development, and share lessons learned across similar interventions globally.

Evaluation objective, purpose, and scope

Purpose of the Evaluation

The Midterm Evaluation has both a learning and accountability purpose.

It was conducted to assess progress made towards achieving the specified output level results and to understand the impact of the strategies employed, including the Transitional Country Programme Strategy. This evaluation is critical for identifying successful elements of the project that can be scaled up and determining areas where adjustments may be necessary. The timing of this mid-term evaluation is strategically important as it allows for course corrections and strengthening of project components in real-time, thus enhancing the overall effectiveness and reach.

Scope

The evaluation scope covered the following:

- **Geographical scope:** The evaluation included an assessment of activities at both national and sub-national levels, reflecting on interventions across all regions of Afghanistan to ensure a balanced view of the project's reach and impact.
- **Temporal scope:** included all project activities from April 1, 2023, to Sep 30, 2024.
- **Thematic scope:** Included the project's core areas—infrastructure, agriculture, health, education, and energy. Also included was the integration of gender equality and empowerment initiatives

Evaluation Criteria and Questions

The evaluation was guided by the OECD-DAC criteria and addressed the questions given in Table 1

Table 1: Evaluation Criteria and Questions

OECD-DAC Criteria	Evaluation questions
Coherence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Do synergies exist with other interventions carried out by UNDP as well as intervention partners and stakeholders including the donor? 2- To what extent does ABADEI add value and avoid duplication in the given context? 3- To what extent did the project implement the Afghanistan Coordination Group Principles?
Relevance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Are the project's strategies, design, and implementation arrangements relevant to the needs Afghanistan? To what extent did the ABADEI implementation strategy been responsive to the needs and priorities of the humanitarian-development scenario in Afghanistan? 2- To what extent does the project contribute to the Theory of Change (ToC) for the relevant country programme outcomes (UN Transitional Engagement Framework, the UNDP Transitional Country Programme Strategy (TCPRF) and UNDP Strategic Plan? 3- To what extent were the overall design and approaches of the project relevant? 4- To what extent did the project achieve its overall outputs? Are the project's contributions to outcomes clear?
Effectiveness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what extent were project activities delivered effectively in terms of quality, quantity, and timing? And what are the project's greatest achievements? Why and what have been the supporting factors? How can the project build on or expand these achievements? 2. What are the key internal and external factors (success & failure factors) that have contributed, affected, or impeded the achievements, and how UNDP and the partners have managed these factors? 3. To what extent has the project's interventions carried out through Responsible Parties been effective in helping beneficiaries meet their basic human needs, improve livelihoods and strengthen resilience? 4. To what extent has the project management and implementation been participatory, flexible, adaptive, and responsive to the emerging needs and priorities of Afghanistan.
Efficiency	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have resources (funds, human resources, time, expertise, etc.) been allocated strategically and utilized cost effectively to achieve outcomes? 2. Was the process of achieving results efficient? Were the resources effectively utilized?

OECD-DAC Criteria	Evaluation questions
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. To what extent has the project been effective in managing partnerships to enhance optimal results through building synergy with others in an efficient and cost-effective manner? 4. Did the project activities overlap, and duplicate other similar interventions funded nationally, and/or by other donors?
Sustainability	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what extent did the project's results contribute to long-term objectives? 2. What were the major factors/risks which influenced or hampered the sustainability of results produced by the project? To what extent did the project manage these risks? 3. 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? 4. To what extent are lessons learned being documented by the project team and shared with appropriate parties who can learn from the project?
Likelihood of Impact	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- To what extent is the project likely to contribute to improved economic condition of the target beneficiaries? 2- What positive and/or negative changes are the beneficiaries experiencing because of their participation in ABADEI activities? 3- Did the UNDP staff take timely measures for mitigating any unplanned negative impacts of the ABADEI project? 4- To what extent the local communities benefited from the quick-impact projects implemented through ABADEI?
Diversity and inclusion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- To what extent did the project contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment? To what extent has the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women? Were there any unintended effects? 2- Did the results have a differentiated impact on women and other vulnerable groups? 3- How can the project further broaden its contribution to enhancing diversity and inclusion? 4- To what extent have local communities, women, youth, people with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups benefited from the project?

Examination of Theory of Change

Table 2: Theory of Change

Development Challenges	Outcomes	Outputs	Activity Results	Indicators
Lack of equitable access to essential services	Outcome 1: By the end of 2025, marginalized people equitably access essential services that meet minimum quality standards.	1. Essential services improved in infrastructure, health, education, and energy.	1.1 Rehabilitate critical infrastructure (e.g., water management, health, education, and basic services).	1.1 Number of infrastructure rehabilitated, repaired, or maintained.

Development Challenges	Outcomes	Outputs	Activity Results	Indicators
Weak economic performance, high unemployment, and poverty	Outcome 2: More people benefit from inclusive economies with resilient livelihoods, greater equality of opportunities, and improved resource management.	2. Local economies improved through gender-responsive community-based livelihoods.	2.1 Support households with Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) or Temporary Basic Income (TBI).	2.1 Number of households provided with unconditional cash transfers or temporary basic income.
Lack of private sector investments in infrastructure			2.2 Support livelihoods through Cash-for-Work (CfW) programs, especially for women and vulnerable groups.	2.2 Number of individuals benefiting from CfW programs.
Lack of social cohesion, gender equality, and rule of law	Outcome 3: Social cohesion, gender equality, and participation in governance are strengthened.	3. Disaster and climate-resilient response provided and sustained.	3.1 Support essential food security and regenerative agriculture infrastructure and services.	3.1 Number of farmers benefiting from training and inputs.
			4. Communities' capacity, engagement, and ownership improved for better social cohesion and access to justice.	4.1 Promote community-level peacebuilding, social cohesion, and civic engagement.
		4. Communities' capacity, engagement, and ownership improved for better social cohesion and access to justice.	4.2 Promote gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) through integrated programming.	4.2 Number of women participating in decision-making processes.
			4.3 Rights-based access to justice supported (e.g., gender justice and human rights).	4.3 Number of communities with access to justice services.

To examine the intervention's Theory of Change (ToC), we assess its clarity, assumptions, logical coherence, and ability to address the identified challenges and achieve the intended outcomes.

1. Development Challenges Addressed

The ToC clearly identifies three critical challenges:

- **Lack of access to essential services**
- **Weak economic performance and poverty**
- **Lack of social cohesion, gender equality, and rule of law**

These challenges reflect the complex socio-economic, political, and environmental realities in Afghanistan. They are critical and directly linked to the intervention's objectives.

2. Assumptions

The success of the ToC hinges on key assumptions:

- **Coordination with humanitarian efforts:** Assumes alignment of priorities with existing humanitarian response plans.
- **Operational access:** Relies on sufficient security and operational freedom to implement activities.
- **Community engagement:** Assumes active participation and ownership by local stakeholders.
- **Gender-sensitive approaches:** Assumes that interventions for women and girls can be implemented in restrictive environments without negative consequences.

These assumptions are logical but depend heavily on external factors like security, political will, and local acceptance, making them potential risks.

3. Logical Flow

The ToC is structured around:

- **Outputs:** Four clear intervention areas addressing services, livelihoods, disaster resilience, and social cohesion.
- **Activity Results:** Specific, actionable steps that contribute to the outputs.
- **Outcomes:** Concrete, measurable goals that tie back to the challenges.

The logical progression from **activity results** → **outputs** → **outcomes** is well-structured. For example:

- **Challenge:** Weak economic performance and poverty.
- **Activity Results:** Unconditional cash transfers, Cash-for-Work programs, and MSME support.
- **Output:** Local economies strengthened.
- **Outcome:** Resilient livelihoods and inclusive economic opportunities.

This logical alignment ensures a direct link between activities and desired outcomes.

4. Relevance of Outputs

The outputs are well-designed to address the challenges:

- **Essential Services:** Focuses on infrastructure, health, education, and energy—foundational for human well-being.
- **Livelihoods:** Targets poverty alleviation and local economic revival.
- **Disaster Resilience:** Aims to mitigate the effects of environmental and climate risks, reducing displacement.
- **Social Cohesion:** Strengthens community governance, gender equality, and access to justice.

The outputs are comprehensive and cover both immediate needs and long-term resilience.

5. Indicators

The indicators are specific, measurable, and aligned with activity results. Examples:

- Number of households receiving cash transfers (Activity 2.1).
- Number of community development plans developed (Activity 4.5).
- Number of farmers trained in disaster-resilient agriculture (Activity 3.1).

These indicators provide a clear mechanism to track progress and assess the impact of interventions.

6. Potential Risks

Despite its strengths, there are notable risks:

- **Security and Operational Access:** The success of activities relies on access to remote and conflict-affected areas.
- **Community Resistance:** Gender-sensitive activities may face cultural resistance in some areas.
- **Political and Financial Constraints:** Dependency on donor funding and political stability poses risks to continuity.
- **Coordination Challenges:** Requires alignment with multiple stakeholders (e.g., UN agencies, local governments, community groups).

7. Gender and Inclusion

The ToC strongly integrates gender equality and social inclusion:

- Dedicated activities for women and girls (e.g., vocational training, access to justice).
- Indicators to measure gender-specific results.

- Focus on marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities.

However, the feasibility of implementing these activities in restrictive environments remains a challenge.

8. Strengths

- **Comprehensive Framework:** Covers essential services, livelihoods, resilience, and social cohesion.
- **Integration of Immediate and Long-term Goals:** Balances emergency response with sustainable development.
- **Measurable Indicators:** Provides clear metrics for monitoring and evaluation.
- **Alignment with UNSF Outcomes:** Ensures coherence with broader strategic goals.

9. Weaknesses

- **Dependence on Assumptions:** Success relies heavily on external factors, especially security and community cooperation.
- **Limited Detail on Risk Mitigation:** While risks are identified, detailed mitigation strategies are less explicit.
- **High Ambition:** Achieving such comprehensive results across eight regions may be challenging within the set timeframe.

The ABADEI 2.0 ToC is well-structured, logically coherent, and addresses critical challenges in Afghanistan. It balances immediate needs with long-term resilience and aligns closely with UNSF outcomes. However, its success depends on external factors, particularly security and political stability. Strengthening risk mitigation plans and ensuring realistic expectations will enhance the likelihood of achieving its goals.

Evaluation Approach and Methodology

The evaluation was collaborative and participatory. It utilized a mixed method to collect data and comprehensively evaluate ABADEI 02. Qualitative data was collected to provide in-depth insights into the contextual, behavioral, and experiential aspects of the project, identifying how stakeholders perceive its effects. Quantitative data was collected to provide measurable insights that can confirm patterns and generalizations derived from qualitative analysis. This approach enhanced the robustness of the findings to provide a comprehensive picture of the project's effectiveness and impact from multiple perspectives. Mixed methods also supported triangulation, validating results across different methods to increase confidence in the conclusions drawn.

Quantitative methods involved collecting survey data from a representative sample of beneficiaries and infrastructure observation, providing statistical information on key variables of interest. Qualitative methods included using key informant interviews and focus group discussions to gather rich, contextual insights into participants' and stakeholders' experiences, perceptions, and the underlying factors influencing project results. In addition, extensive document review was undertaken, which included strategic documents, action plans, meeting minutes, past evaluations, results and monitoring frameworks, and progress reports. For the list of references, refer to Annex II.

The Midterm Evaluation employed a gender-responsive methodology by integrating gender considerations throughout the evaluation process. Gender issues were explicitly addressed, with tools designed to capture gender-specific experiences and ensure data disaggregation by sex. A mixed-methods approach combined quantitative surveys, qualitative interviews, and focus group discussions, enabling a comprehensive analysis of gender equality and women's empowerment. The evaluation utilized diverse data sources, including primary and secondary data, and ensured triangulation and validation for credibility and inclusivity. The sampling strategy prioritized the inclusion of diverse stakeholders, particularly women and other vulnerable groups, to reflect their unique perspectives and challenges.

Data collection

Data was collected from 10 Nov 2024 to 26 Nov 2024. The evaluation team trained 15 female call center agents to conduct the remote interviews and 13 couples in eight regions to conduct the physical observation of the infrastructure and their related in-person interviews. The couples were from the same region. Following a pilot test of the data collection tools, the evaluation team carried out a comprehensive data collection process involving multiple methods and stakeholders to ensure a thorough assessment of the ABADEI project.

Key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted remotely (through MS Teams) and through the phone using the CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews) system, focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted in-person with the beneficiaries, and physical observations were associated with in-person interviews.

Key Informant Interviews:

The sampling strategy used to select key informants (KIs) for the midterm review of the ABADEI project demonstrates a comprehensive and representative approach by including a diverse range of stakeholders from various roles and organizations. The KIs were drawn from UNDP leadership, program specialists, regional area managers, donors (EU, GoJ, JICA), implementing partners (BRAC, CARE, IRW), and a gender specialist. Geographic representation was ensured through the inclusion of area managers from all key regions (Center, South, West, and East), while thematic coverage was achieved by involving specialists in risk management, program effectiveness, and program quality assurance. The sampling also reflected gender balance, with both male and female representatives in leadership and technical roles, ensuring the inclusion of gender-focused insights. This broad inclusion of stakeholders across donor, partner, and implementing groups reflects the ecosystem of the ABADEI program. This approach underscores the strategy's alignment with the diverse universe of project stakeholders.

A total of 18 KIIs were conducted with donors, responsible partners, and UNDP officials, as shown in Table 1.

Table 3 Number of interviews conducted and interview respondents

Organization	Gender	Number of KIIs
Donors	Female	4
Partners	Male	3
UNDP	Male	5
UNDP	Female	6
Total KIIs		18

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):

The sampling strategy for conducting Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) ensured a balanced representation of key project interventions, aligning with the diverse thematic areas of the ABADEI program. A total of 17 FGDs were conducted, with sessions distributed across critical intervention areas, including Energy Provision (2 FGDs), TVET (2 FGDs), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) (2 FGDs), Community Development Plan (3 FGDs), Agrokit (2 FGDs), Extension and Farmer Training (2 FGDs), MSME (2 FGDs), and Social Cohesion (2 FGDs). This distribution reflects the program's multidimensional focus on addressing community needs in areas such as infrastructure, skills development, disaster resilience, agricultural enhancement, and economic empowerment. This balanced and inclusive approach ensures that perspectives from all major intervention areas are adequately represented, providing a holistic understanding of the program's impact and challenges.

The team facilitated 17 FGDs with beneficiaries across various intervention groups to capture diverse perspectives.

Table 4: Number of FGDs conducted

Interventions	Female	Male
Energy Provision	1	1
TVET	1	1
DRR	1	1
Community Development Plan	0	3
Agrokit	0	2
Extension and Farmer Training	0	2
MSME	2	0
Social Cohesion	2	0
Total FGDs	7	10

Remote interviews: A total of 1,660 remote interviews were conducted with beneficiaries of interventions, including psychotherapy, legal aid, waste transportation, public infrastructure, community development plans, DRR awareness, social cohesion, energy provision, MSME support, Agrokit training, and TVET sessions.

Physical observations were conducted in 124 infrastructure facilities to assess their operational status and condition.

In-person survey: was administered to 213 beneficiaries of these infrastructure facilities to gather insights on their experiences and level of satisfaction.

Sampling strategy

A multi-stage stratified sampling design was used to ensure geographic and demographic diversity while maintaining logistical feasibility. Data received from ABADEI Information Management System (AIMS), was used to sample beneficiaries with a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error. A 10% non-response rate was added to enhance the representation and validity of the results.

Stratification: Divided 32 provinces into 8 regions, further stratified into urban and rural areas.

Province Selection: Randomly selected one urban and one rural province from each region (16 provinces total).

Cluster Sampling: Within selected provinces, randomly choose districts, towns, or villages where interventions occurred.

Sampling within Clusters: Used random or systematic sampling to select individuals (intervention beneficiaries) and infrastructure (e.g., schools, roads).

Sampling strategy

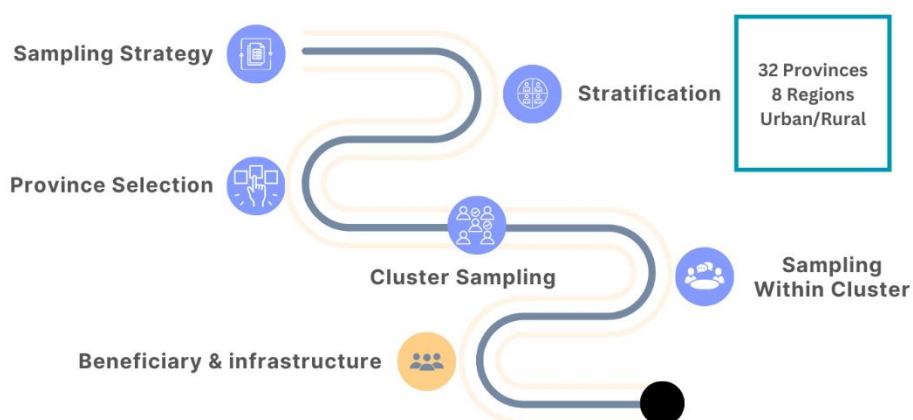


Figure 1: Sampling Strategy Road map

Table 5: Sampled regions and provinces

Regions	Sampled Provinces
Central	Kabul
Central	Kapisa
Central Highland	Bamyan
Central Highland	Ghor
Eastern	Nangarhar
Eastern	Nuristan
North Eastern	Badakhshan
North Eastern	Kunduz
Northern	Balkh
Northern	Sar-e-Pul
South Eastern	Khost
South Eastern	Paktya
Southern	Kandahar
Southern	Uruzgan
Western	Badghis
Western	Hirat

The population and sample selected for direct observation and beneficiary survey are given in Table 4 and 5.

Table 6: Sample for direct observation

Direct Observation	Population	Sample
Infrastructure	338	181

Table 7: Sample for beneficiary survey

Beneficiary Survey	Population	Sample	Sample + 10% NRR
Output 1	6072	362	398.2
Output 2	25029	379	416.9
Output 3	3870	350	385
Output 4	6872	364	400.4
Total	16818	1455	1600.5

Data Management and Analysis

Quantitative data (collected through SurveyCTO) was cleaned and managed data directly using SurveyCTO. Every form was reviewed variable by variable, and data was managed accordingly.

All qualitative data from FGDs were translated from the local languages (Pashto and Dari) to English for analysis and the KIIs were transcribed in English.

To avoid the non-sampling errors, the evaluation team took the following measures:

1. Conducted intensive training;
2. Good field supervision and
3. Double-checked for doubtful for minimizing data entry errors.

The team downloaded the dataset from the server, reviewed it for outliers, and cleaned the data analysis.

Data Analysis

The analytical framework that guided the analysis process is based on the evaluation questions and output indicators. The methods of analysis included the following:

- Thematic analysis was used for analyzing qualitative data obtained from KIIs and FGDs. It involved identifying, analyzing, and reporting themes within the data. This enabled the identification of detailed insights into the experiences, opinions, and feedback from donors, project staff, and beneficiaries, providing a deep understanding of underlying factors influencing project results (including outcomes).
- Descriptive analysis was used to summarize the basic features of the data set and to describe and interpret quantitative data collected through remote and in-person interviews and physical observations. This included using statistics to describe the central tendency, distribution, and variability of the collected data.
- Triangulation involved using multiple data sources to produce a deeper understanding of the topic of interest. It was used to corroborate findings across data sources. The data sources were adequate to enable triangulation of the data.

Ethics

The evaluation methodology adhered to the 2020 UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation, ensuring the evaluation process was grounded in four key principles:

1. **Integrity:** Upholding honesty, independence, professionalism, and transparency throughout the evaluation process to ensure trustworthiness and credibility.
2. **Accountability:** Ensuring responsibility for decisions and actions taken during the evaluation. This included transparent communication, responsiveness to ethical concerns, and reporting any observed harm or misconduct through appropriate channels.
3. **Respect:** Treating all stakeholders with dignity, ensuring inclusive engagement, safeguarding privacy and confidentiality, and honoring diversity in terms of gender, race, and cultural backgrounds.

4. **Beneficence:** Striving to maximize positive outcomes while minimizing harm. This included assessing risks and benefits, protecting vulnerable populations, and applying the principle of "do no harm" to all evaluation activities.

Limitations

Despite PPC's coordination with the UNDP regional office and implementing partners (IPs), challenges arose during field visits.

Table 8: Limitations and Mitigations

<p>1. Limitation: Challenges in Data Compilation for Sampling</p> <p>The compilation of required data for sampling from the UNDP regional offices faced significant delays. This was due to incomplete data records, the absence of Responsible Parties (RPs) in some regions, or the completion of their projects. As a result, some data necessary for accurate sampling were either unavailable or inaccurate, leading to further delays. In certain cases, samples were entirely invalid, such as beneficiaries of solar systems who had relocated or could not be found at documented locations. These issues delayed our data collection efforts and, given the limited time available, left little room for compensation or resampling.</p>	<p>Mitigation: Local Adaptation and Proactive Measures</p> <p>To address these challenges, we relied on local connections and resources to identify sample locations and verify data independently. Where data gaps persisted, alternative sampling was conducted based on the initial information available. Despite these efforts, the limited support from RPs and time constraints prevented a complete resolution.</p>
<p>2. Limitation: Detention of PPC Enumerator in Kabul (Gul Dara District)</p> <p>One of our enumerators in the Gul Dara District of Kabul was detained by the local intelligence department due to the absence of a valid access letter. The enumerator was taken to the District Directorate (Wolswali) for investigation. Despite prior coordination with the UNDP Central Region Office and the Responsible Party (RP), CARE, this incident highlighted gaps in communication and procedural clarity. The detention caused delays in data collection and created concerns regarding staff safety in the field.</p>	<p>Mitigation: Coordination and Intervention</p> <p>After several hours, CARE intervened by clarifying to the local authorities that the enumerator was conducting a surprise field visit on their behalf. Following this intervention, the enumerator was released, and the situation was resolved promptly.</p>
<p>3. Limitation: Prohibition of Female Enumerator Activities in South-East Region</p> <p>Despite prior coordination with the UNDP South-East Regional Office and the support of the RP, CARE, our Khost province enumerators particularly a female enumerator faced direct intervention from DFA while conducting survey and infrastructure assessments. The authorities, citing the ban on women's work, explicitly prohibited the enumerator from continuing field activities, stating that even with a valid access letter, she was not permitted to conduct surveys in the region. This encounter not only halted the data collection process but also created a sense of vulnerability and helplessness among the team. The UNDP regional office and the RP were unable to resolve the issue or provide</p>	<p>Mitigation: Prioritizing Safety and Avoiding Conflict</p> <p>To ensure the safety and well-being of the PPC enumerators and the IP team, PPC made the difficult decision to suspend data collection activities in the region.</p>

<p>additional support to continue activities under these circumstances.</p>	
<p>4. Limitation: Restrictions on Female Enumerator Activities in South-East Region (Paktya Province) In Paktya Province, despite thorough coordination with the UNDP South-East Regional Office and the RP, the facilitation of field visits for our female enumerator was hindered by the DFA ban on women’s work. The RP was unable to accompany or support the female enumerator during field activities due to these restrictions, creating a significant barrier to collecting data on female-specific establishments or facilities in the province. which limitation not only reduced the inclusivity of our data collection but also highlighted the challenging operational environment in the region.</p>	<p>Mitigation: Adaptation to Gender-Specific Constraints To navigate this sensitive situation and avoid further conflict, PPC adapted its approach by assigning male enumerators to continue data collection efforts. While it allowed progress on male-specific samples, it meant that data on female specific establishments or facilities in Paktya Province could not be collected. This decision was made to prioritize the safety of our team and to comply with the prevailing restrictions in the region.</p>
<p>5. Limitation: Lack of Field Support in Central Highlands Region (Ghor and Bamyan Provinces) During initial coordination with the UNDP Central Highlands Regional Office, PPC was informed that neither the UNDP regional office nor the RP could provide field-level support for enumerators due to the project's completion and the RP's operational cessation in the region. This presented a significant challenge for data collection in the sampled Ghor and Bamyan provinces. Without official support or access letters, PPC faced obstacles in securing necessary permissions and support, particularly for activities in Ghor Province.</p>	<p>Mitigation: Leveraging Local Networks To address this gap, PPC relied on its local connections to facilitate field visits. Which proved effective in Bamyan Province, where both male and female enumerators were able to access the field and achieve the data collection targets. Unfortunately, PPC was unable to secure access letters for Ghor Province, which meant that no data could be collected in that region.</p>
<p>6. Limitation: Lack of Coordination and Support in South Region (Kandahar and Uruzgan Provinces) PPC’s request for a coordination meeting with the UNDP South Regional Office went unanswered, leaving critical field-level support unaddressed. As a result, PPC faced significant challenges in data collection across Uruzgan provinces. While PPC managed to collect some data in Kandahar, the absence of an access letter for Uruzgan Province made it impossible to proceed with field activities there.</p>	<p>Mitigation: Adjusted Data Collection Strategy Without a valid access letter for Uruzgan Province, PPC made the decision to halt data collection activities in the region to avoid potential conflicts and ensure the safety of its enumerators. Efforts were focused on achieving data collection targets in Kandahar Province, albeit with limited scope, given the lack of broader regional support.</p>

7. Limitation: Limited Support and Denied Access in Western Region (Herat and Badghis Provinces)

In the Western region, PPC encountered significant delays as the UNDP West Regional Office took over two weeks to facilitate field visits. Even after access was granted, support was limited to UNDP-implemented samples, excluding those related to the RP, DRC. In Herat Province, this constraint meant that PPC could only collect partial data. In Badghis Province, access was further restricted when DFA denied entry to a women's marketplace, effectively preventing data collection in the region altogether.

Mitigation: Decision to Halt Data Collection in Badghis

Faced with limited support from the UNDP West Regional Office and restrictions imposed by local authorities, PPC made the decision to halt data collection activities in Badghis Province entirely. This decision was made to avoid further conflict and to prioritize the safety and integrity of the team. In Herat Province, PPC focused efforts on collecting data where access was permitted, though the scope remained constrained.

Findings

The evaluation findings are structured around key evaluation questions, addressing the project's effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, sustainability, and equity.

Coherence

Summary of key findings: Across all groups, there was a shared acknowledgment of the value of creating synergies, area-based integration, and ABADEI's role in avoiding duplications. The project has built synergies with other agencies through successful collaborations. The comprehensive, area-based implementation ensures alignment of efforts within the same regions. The data collection and reporting mechanisms support coordinated and transparent operations. While ABADEI has successfully fostered synergies, challenges such as compliance delays, bureaucratic restrictions, and differing partner policies sometimes hinder coordination. Coordination mechanisms do not alone ensure smooth implementation.

The project has built synergies with other agencies through successful collaborations. The ABADEI project showcases significant collaboration with partners such as IOM, UNFPA, and donors, resulting in enhanced service delivery and resource utilization. Key informants from UNDP highlighted increased collaboration with projects like SESEHA and CBARD, creating cohesive, synergistic interventions across sectors. Partner synergies have allowed for resource-sharing mechanisms and complementary contributions, such as facility construction, energy solutions, and community resilience initiatives. This collaborative approach has successfully optimized resources, avoided duplication, and created impactful, multifaceted support systems. Regular coordination meetings and partner oversight further strengthens collaboration, ensuring compliance and minimizing duplication.

Coordination with IOM, UNFPA, and Global Fund demonstrates synergy in facility construction and energy solutions, avoiding duplication and enhancing community resilience." — UNDP Staff

The comprehensive, area-based implementation ensures alignment of efforts within the same regions. This has led to improved community resilience and reduced resource fragmentation, creating a coherent approach. ABADEI employs an area-based approach that focuses on integrating interventions to maximize impact. This method ensures that community needs are addressed comprehensively, with cross-sectoral coordination enhancing service delivery. Regional managers facilitate the integration of various UNDP initiatives, such as energy and agriculture projects, within targeted areas.

"ABADEI uses an area-based approach linking initiatives like SASEHA (energy) and CBARD (agriculture), providing a cohesive framework for addressing regional needs." — UNDP Staff

The data collection and reporting mechanisms support coordinated and transparent operations. The ABADEI project has established several mechanisms to enhance coordination and transparency, such as the ABADEI Information Management System (AIMS) and Project Management Units (PMUs). These tools enable the integration of reporting, data-sharing, and stakeholder alignment, promoting transparency and coherence across interventions. While these mechanisms have demonstrated success in coordination, complexities in donor-specific reporting occasionally creates challenges.

"The ABADEI Information Management System (AIMS) unifies reporting and ensures alignment, enhancing coordination with NGO partners." — UNDP Staff

While ABADEI has successfully fostered synergies, challenges such as compliance delays, bureaucratic restrictions, and differing partner policies sometimes hinder coordination. For example, the de facto government's regulations have posed challenges in implementing certain phases of

ABADEI. Additionally, donor-specific reporting requirements and budget constraints have limited the scope of certain interventions, necessitating careful planning to align resources and activities.

"CARE's internal policies can slow processes like beneficiary selection, complicating coordination." — A representative of Responsible Partner

Coordination mechanisms do not alone ensure smooth implementation. While the expectation was that coordination mechanisms would streamline synergies, feedback from implementing partners revealed that compliance delays, bureaucratic processes and differing internal processes among partners could significantly slow down project implementation.

UNDP representatives highlighted the strategic integration and cross-sectoral synergies of ABADEI, emphasizing alignment and regional collaboration mechanisms such as the area-based model and coordination with other UNDP initiatives, indicating internal coherence.

Collaborative partnerships strengthened synergies, hence reducing duplication, this approach was critical to the project's success and community-centered outcomes.

ABADEI leveraged partnerships with UN agencies, NGOs, and local organizations to maximize its impact. The project's area-based approach enabled cross-sectoral integration, ensuring that resources were used efficiently and effectively. Collaboration with agencies like UNICEF and UNFPA enhanced service delivery in health, education, and infrastructure sectors. By working closely with local NGOs, ABADEI ensured that interventions were culturally relevant and aligned with local priorities.

"Strong collaboration with local NGOs and an area-based approach allowed ABADEI to pool resources and avoid duplication." — A UNDP Official

"By partnering with agencies like UNICEF and UNFPA, ABADEI solarized health facilities, providing reliable energy for essential services." — Area Manager

Relevance

Summary of key findings: ABADEI's flexibility and adaptability allowed it to maintain relevance in a challenging environment. The project's relevance is rooted in its community-centered, integrated, and adaptable approach and is aligned to address critical livelihoods and infrastructure needs within communities. It addressed critical gaps in business skills and access to financial resources and women-led MSMEs received targeted support, enhancing their access to markets, technical resources, and capacity-building projects. The project was highly relevant to the changing Afghan context by adapting to and addressing economic disruption. The Project demonstrates strong alignment with the United Nations Strategic Framework (UNSF) 2023–2025 for Afghanistan, the UNDP Afghanistan CPRF (2022–2023) and the Transitional Country Project Strategy (TCPS) for Afghanistan (2024–2025).

ABADEI's flexibility and adaptability allowed it to maintain relevance in a challenging environment. By responding to emerging challenges and adapting project activities, the project ensured continued alignment with community needs.

ABADEI demonstrated adaptability in response to Afghanistan's complex socio-political environment. The project adjusted its activities to align with regulatory and cultural norms, particularly regarding gender-sensitive initiatives, by engaging male family members or modifying project formats. Flexible project design allowed for quick adjustments, ensuring that interventions remained effective despite external pressures. Resource limitations and short project phases posed challenges, but adaptive management helped mitigate their impact.

"ABADEI adapted its focus to emphasize social cohesion and resilience in response to political restrictions." — A UNDP Official from Kabul

The ABADEI project's relevance is rooted in its community-centered, integrated, and adaptable approach. It has aligned interventions with community needs, to address critical livelihoods and infrastructure needs.

The project activities were aligned with MSME Needs and addressed critical gaps in business skills and access to financial resources, which are significant challenges for MSMEs in Afghanistan. It focused on providing vocational training, small grants, and business development support to local entrepreneurs, particularly targeting women and youth. Support for MSMEs helped create jobs, stabilize local economies, and promote entrepreneurship, which respond to the for and are essential for economic resilience.

Women-led MSMEs received targeted support, enhancing their access to markets, technical resources, and capacity-building projects. Gender action plans ensured that women entrepreneurs had the tools and training needed to succeed in a challenging socio-economic environment. By addressing structural inequalities, ABADEI's support to women entrepreneurs enhanced their role in the economic landscape.

The project was highly relevant to the changing Afghan context by adapting to and addressing economic disruption a building resilience. In the context of Afghanistan's fragile economy, MSMEs play a critical role in creating employment and fostering local economic activity. ABADEI's emphasis on MSME support aligns with the urgent need to rebuild and stabilize local economies. The focus on cash-for-work projects complemented MSME development by providing immediate financial relief while creating infrastructure and services that benefit local businesses. By integrating MSMEs into broader disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience-building strategies, ABADEI ensured that businesses were better prepared to withstand economic and environmental shocks.

Interventions were well-aligned with the needs and traditions of the communities. Projects addressed specific challenges such as lack of electricity, farming inefficiencies, and disaster preparedness. Participants noted that aligning projects with local practices enhanced their relevance and acceptance.

"The solar system solved the main problem of our society, which was the lack of electricity" – FGD participant - Energy Provision.

"The workshop was relevant to our cultural and social context because elders and youth were part of it" – FGD participant - Social Cohesion).

ABADEI's ability to adapt to changing conditions enabled it to maintain its relevance. However, constraints due to government restrictions and resource limitations sometimes required adjustments that affected the scale and reach of certain interventions. ABADEI demonstrated flexibility by adapting its interventions to align with evolving political and security dynamics in Afghanistan. Integration with UNDP's Risk Management Unit allowed the project to pivot its focus, such as emphasizing social cohesion in response to new restrictions. This adaptability ensured continued service delivery, despite challenges posed by local authorities and security concerns.

"ABADEI adapted its framework to emphasize social cohesion and resilience in response to new restrictions from local authorities." — UNDP Staff

"When faced with challenges in transporting women to centralized training locations, ABADEI adapted by conducting smaller, community-based sessions." — A representative of Responsible Partner

The ABADEI 02 Project demonstrates strong alignment with the United Nations Strategic Framework (UNSF) 2023–2025 for Afghanistan across priorities 1-3 (sustained essential services, economic opportunities and resilient livelihoods, social cohesion, inclusion, and gender equality). It also directly contributes to SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 5 (Gender Equality), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), and 10 (Reduced Inequalities), which are embedded in the UNSF priorities.

Alignment with UNSF Priority 1, which emphasizes sustained access to essential services such as health, education, and renewable energy to ensure resilience-building across vulnerable communities is ensured by establishing TVET projects and infrastructure rehabilitation with climate-smart and gender-sensitive designs which focus on education and skills development. In addition, deployment of solar and hydro energy systems for essential services provide access to renewable energy and provision of training, grants, and market linkages support livelihood and economic empowerment of MSMEs.

Alignment with UNSF Priority 2, which focuses on creating economic opportunities to mitigate poverty and enhance the resilience of communities is ensured through ABADEI 02 supporting **vocational training and MSMEs** to foster economic self-reliance and improve livelihoods in addition to strengthening **agricultural resilience** through targeted support such as irrigation and agro-kit distribution.

Alignment with UNSF Priority 3, which aims to strengthen social cohesion and promote inclusivity, with a particular focus on gender equality and the rights of marginalized groups is ensured through integrating **gender equality initiatives**, i.e. promoting women-led enterprises and vocational training for women and youth **and social cohesion efforts such as** enhancing community bonds through disaster risk reduction and capacity-building.

The project is aligned with the principle of Leaving No One Behind and cross sectoral integration by targeting vulnerable populations, including women, IDPs, returnees, and persons with disabilities. Its area-based and community-focused approaches align with UNSF's principle of prioritizing the needs of the most marginalized populations, ensuring that no one is left behind. **The project** employs a **comprehensive area-based approach**, integrating interventions in renewable energy, livelihoods, education, and social cohesion. This is consistent with UNSF's emphasis on cross-pillar interventions that link humanitarian, development, and peace-building efforts.

The ABADEI 02 Project aligns with the UNDP Afghanistan CPRF (2022–2023) in several areas, reflecting shared priorities and objectives in the areas of fostering community resilience and social cohesions, sustainable livelihoods, and essential services, climate-smart agriculture and renewable energy.

Under the CPRF objective of basic service delivery, infrastructure (health, education, WASH), and socio-economic assessments to address human needs, **the project is aligned through the rehabilitation of public infrastructure**, such as health facilities, transitional shelters, and water systems, deployment of renewable energy solutions for schools and marketplaces and socio-economic assessments informing project implementation.

Under the CPRF objective of enhancing livelihoods through Cash for Work (CfW), financial/non-financial support for MSMEs, and TVET **interventions, ABADEI 02's** Cash for Work schemes provided temporary income to households in high-poverty areas, MSMEs received grants and market linkages, improving local economies and TVET interventions focused on skill-building and job placement, particularly for women and youth.

Under the CPRF objective of promoting climate-smart agriculture, disaster preparedness, and renewable energy access, ABADEI 02 was aligned through renewable energy installations powered essential facilities and supported climate-smart agricultural practices and disaster risk reduction measures, including training and awareness projects for communities.

Under the CPRF Objective of strengthening social cohesion, gender equality, and justice access while fostering community recovery ABADEI 02 was aligned through provision of social cohesion workshops and community-based recovery plans strengthened bonds and resilience and women-led MSMEs and gender-responsive projects enhanced inclusion and empowerment.

ABADEI 02 is strongly aligned with the Transitional Country Project Strategy (TCPS) for Afghanistan (2024–2025) by addressing essential services, economic opportunities, and social cohesion, ensuring localized solutions, that resonate with the TCPS's focus on community resilience and inclusivity and gender-sensitive and climate-resilient interventions. These reflect the TCPS's emphasis on sustainable and equitable development. Both ABADEI 02 and the TCPS emphasize the Triple Nexus Approach, Leave No One Behind and Do No Harm principle.

Outcome Area 1: TCPS Focuses on provision of essential healthcare, education, renewable energy, and infrastructure to the most vulnerable populations with gender-sensitive and shock-responsive approaches. In this regard ABADEI 02 is aligned as it delivered TVET projects and renewable energy installations to underserved communities, rehabilitated public infrastructure such as schools, healthcare facilities, and water systems and enhanced access to essential services for marginalized groups, particularly women and IDPs.

Outcome Area 2: TCPS Focuses on promotion of MSMEs, cash-for-work schemes, and climate-resilient agricultural practices to improve livelihoods and food security. ABADEI 02 is aligned with these through supporting MSMEs with grants and market linkages, enabling economic recovery, implementation of cash-for-work projects, providing temporary income for vulnerable populations and promoting climate-smart agriculture and renewable energy for economic resilience.

Outcome Area 3: TCPS Focuses on strengthening social cohesion, promoting gender equality, and fostering community-led governance and decision-making. ABADEI 02 is aligned with these through conducting community-based recovery projects and social cohesion workshops, supporting women-led enterprises and gender-inclusive interventions and addressing gender-based barriers to participation, advancing equity and inclusion.

Leave No One Behind (LNOB)

The ABADEI 02 project demonstrates progress in addressing inclusivity and equity for marginalized populations, aligning with its LNOB principles:

1. **Marginalized Groups Reached:**
 - Over 319,000 households, including vulnerable groups such as women, IDPs, and persons with disabilities, benefitted from improved infrastructure and essential services.
 - Gender-responsive vocational training programs empowered 2,211 women out of 3,174 total participants.
 - Initiatives like cash-for-work (CfW) created 50,905 labor opportunities, prioritizing youth and marginalized groups.
2. **Women's Empowerment:**
 - 10,227 women-led MSMEs were supported with grants and technical assistance, reflecting a strong commitment to gender inclusivity.
 - Specific gender milestones included enhanced access to services, economic agency, and disaster risk reduction for women.

Social and Environmental Standards (SES)

1. **Environmental Sustainability:**
 - The project implemented climate-smart agricultural practices, benefiting 7,613 farmers (including 2,704 women), and rehabilitated 787 hectares of land.
 - Renewable energy initiatives, such as solar installations, provided clean energy to 947,930 individuals and powered 265 community facilities.
2. **Social Safeguards:**
 - Social cohesion programs reached 63,190 individuals, promoting community collaboration and conflict mitigation.
 - Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM) ensured accountability and responsiveness to community concerns, receiving and resolving 71 grievances.
3. **Gender and Inclusion:**

- Gender-responsive planning and safety measures mitigated risks such as SEA (sexual exploitation and abuse), ensuring safe programming environments for women.

Key Metrics of ABADEI 02 Project

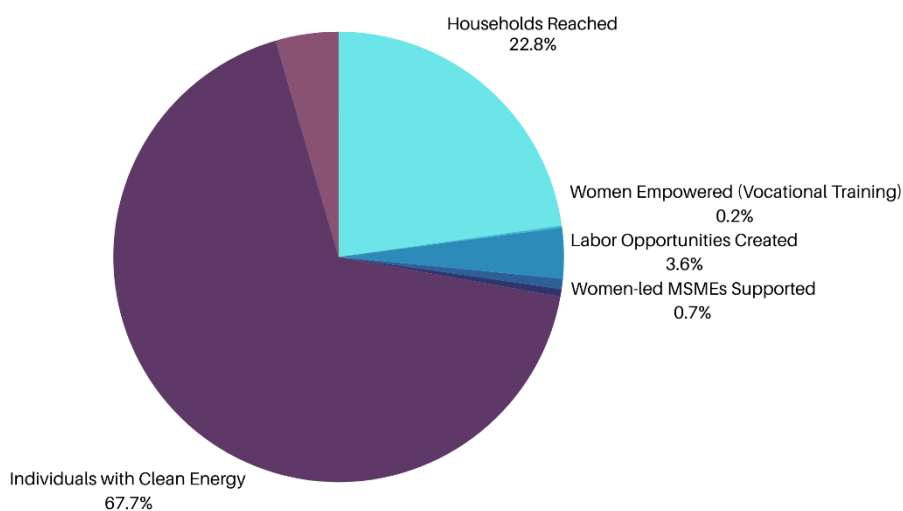


Figure 2: Key Metrics of ABADEI 02 Project

Effectiveness

Summary of key findings: The ABADEI project demonstrated effectiveness through its quality service delivery, economic empowerment initiatives, strong community engagement, adaptability, and collaborative partnerships. ABADEI achieved meaningful outcomes despite the complex socio-political environment. Projects yielded measurable benefits, including improved productivity, increased income, and stronger community cohesion. DRR initiatives were praised for reducing risks of floods and fires, with participants feeling better prepared and empowered. Participants expressed significant economic and social benefits, such as job creation and improved confidence. Future phases could further enhance impact by scaling successful initiatives, expanding community-based monitoring, and deepening gender-sensitive approaches.

Summary of Overall Effectiveness

The Year 1 implementation under the ABADEI program exhibited **mixed effectiveness**, with some outputs achieving or exceeding targets, while others faced significant shortfalls. Below is a summary with illustrative examples:

Highly Effective Outputs:

- 1. Infrastructure Development (1.1):**
 - Achievement: 523 infrastructures completed (122% of target).
 - Significance: Exceeded the target, showcasing strong implementation capacity.
- 2. Ecosystem Restoration (3.4):**
 - Achievement: 780 hectares rehabilitated (624% of target).
 - Significance: Delivered remarkable results in enhancing climate resilience.
- 3. Unconditional Cash Transfers (2.1):**
 - Achievement: 25,000 households supported (150% of target).
 - Significance: Strongly addressed immediate livelihood needs.
- 4. Legal Aid Services (4.3):**
 - Achievement: 3,372 individuals served (237% of target).
 - Significance: Successfully supported marginalized communities.

5. **Community Development Plans (4.4):**
 - Achievement: 231 plans developed (308% of target).
 - Significance: Far exceeded expectations, enabling community-driven recovery.

Moderately Effective Outputs:

1. **Households Benefiting from Improved Infrastructure (1.1.2):**
 - Achievement: 189,941 households (63% of target).
 - Significance: Positive progress, but room for improvement.
2. **Agricultural Support (3.1):**
 - Achievement: 5,788 farmers supported (58% of target).
 - Significance: Helped bolster food security but fell short of the target.
3. **Renewable Energy Facilities Powered (1.4):**
 - Achievement: 153 facilities (38% of target).
 - Significance: Progress made but below expectations.
4. **Social Cohesion Programs (4.4.2):**
 - Achievement: 6 programs implemented (60% of target).
 - Significance: Reinforced community networks, but short of full potential.

Low or Very Low Effectiveness Outputs:

1. **Medical Materials and Health Services (1.2.1 b):**
 - Achievement: 46 individuals supported (~0.01% of target).
 - Significance: Severely underperformed, highlighting major challenges.
2. **Cash-for-Work Programs (2.2):**
 - Achievement: 19,285 laborers (~13% of target).
 - Significance: Limited impact in providing livelihood opportunities.
3. **Awareness of Social Cohesion (4.1):**
 - Achievement: 5,537 individuals (~2.8% of target).
 - Significance: Fell significantly short, requiring stronger engagement efforts.

Not Implemented Outputs:

1. **Businesses Operationalized (2.5.1):**
 - Achievement: None.
 - Significance: Not planned or implemented for Year 1.
2. **Digital Solutions for MSMEs (2.5.2):**
 - Achievement: None.
 - Significance: Not planned or implemented for Year 1.
3. **Regional Strategies (4.5):**
 - Achievement: None.
 - Significance: Not implemented, requiring attention in subsequent phases.

Overall Assessment of Quality of Indicator in terms of SMART

The indicators largely meet SMART criteria for **specificity**, **measurability**, **relevance**, and **time-bound** targets. However, **achievability** is a challenge for several indicators due to resource or operational limitations. Focusing on realistic target setting and improving specificity will enhance their effectiveness.

Strengths

1. **Specific:**
 - Indicators are generally well-defined and focused on measurable outputs, such as:
 - *Number of individuals benefiting from legal aid services* (4.3.1).
 - *Number of community development plans developed or updated* (4.4.1).
 - *Hectares of land rehabilitated to absorb environmental stress* (3.4.1).
 - Disaggregation by variables (e.g., sex, age, location) enhances clarity.
2. **Measurable:**
 - Almost all indicators use numerical targets, enabling straightforward tracking of progress.
 - Examples: *Number of MSMEs benefiting from support* (2.3.1) and *Number of healthcare facilities equipped* (1.2.1).
3. **Relevant:**

- Indicators are closely aligned with the program’s goals of resilience building, social cohesion, and service delivery.
 - Key indicators like *social cohesion programs carried out* (4.4.2) and *legal aid services* (4.3.1) address critical needs.
4. **Time-bound:**
- Most indicators are linked to Year 1 targets, ensuring accountability within a specific timeframe.

Weaknesses

1. **Achievability:**
 - Some indicators had overly ambitious targets that were not met due to resource or operational challenges:
 - *Awareness about social cohesion and conflict prevention* (4.1.1): Only ~2.8% of the target was achieved.
 - *Number of businesses operationalized* (2.5.1): Not implemented in Year 1.
2. **Specificity:**
 - Certain indicators lack clarity on intervention types or expected outcomes:
 - *Number of cross-border trades established* (2.4.1) and *regional strategies developed* (4.5.1) need more detail.
3. **Measurability:**
 - Qualitative aspects, such as the impact of *social cohesion programs* (4.4.2), are not adequately captured.
 - This limits the ability to assess outcomes beyond numerical achievements.

Opportunities for Improvement

1. **Refine Targets:**
 - Set realistic, evidence-based targets to ensure achievability, particularly for underperforming indicators like *healthcare services* (1.2.1) and *cash-for-work* (2.2.1).
2. **Enhance Specificity:**
 - Clearly define expected outcomes and mechanisms, especially for complex indicators like *regional strategies* (4.5.1) and *digital solutions for MSMEs* (2.5.2).
3. **Include Qualitative Measures:**
 - Complement numerical targets with qualitative indicators to better assess program impact, e.g., community satisfaction or resilience improvements.

See annex V for the indicator wise explanation in the log frame

ABADEI consistently delivered high-quality activities, including vocational and business training projects that equipped women and youth with practical skills. Cash-for-work initiatives addressed critical infrastructure gaps, such as roads and flood protection measures, while providing immediate financial relief to vulnerable populations. While most activities met delivery targets, short project phases posed challenges for more complex initiatives, such as large-scale infrastructure projects.

"Cash-for-work initiatives filled critical infrastructure gaps while directly benefiting local economies." —Area Manager

"Vocational and business training projects for youth and women provided practical skills, enhancing economic resilience." — Area Manager

ABADEI’s economic empowerment initiatives strengthened community resilience, provided employment opportunities, and promoted financial independence. While effective, some initiatives faced cultural and regulatory constraints. Economic empowerment was a core focus of ABADEI’s interventions, with projects designed to provide skills training, business development support, and temporary employment. Vocational training equipped participants with market-relevant skills, enhancing their employment prospects and financial independence. Small business support for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) fostered entrepreneurship and economic growth. Cash-for-work projects offered immediate income while contributing to critical community infrastructure. Gender-

sensitive initiatives ensured that women, often excluded from economic activities, were included and supported in culturally appropriate ways.

"The vocational and business training projects for youth and women provided practical skills, enhancing economic resilience." — Area Manager

"ABADEI's support for women-led MSMEs and training projects empowered women economically and socially."
— UNDP Staff

Projects yielded measurable benefits, including improved productivity, increased income, and stronger community cohesion. Solar energy interventions, for example, enabled businesses to operate efficiently and improved quality of life. Participants expressed satisfaction with the outcomes but identified gaps, such as unfulfilled promises of resources, which limited the extent of progress.

"Solar power has improved our tailoring workshop activities" - FGD participants - Energy Provision.
"We now know how to practically manage our farms and solve challenges like canal cleaning" FGD participants
- Extension and farmer training

Beneficiaries emphasized the reliability and sustainability of solar systems in meeting energy needs, particularly for workshops and homes. The consistent benefit across communities suggests a uniform positive change. However, some participants highlighted limitations on cloudy days and the need for more solar panels to meet higher energy demands.

DRR initiatives were praised for reducing risks of floods and fires, with participants feeling better prepared and empowered. Community engagement was high, with traditional methods complemented by modern approaches. Unlike other interventions, DRR projects faced no major resource-related complaints but called for more advanced safety equipment.

Participants expressed significant economic and social benefits, such as job creation and improved confidence, but noted the lack of machines and tools to fully capitalize on the training. TVET participants were more likely to identify ongoing resource needs compared to other groups, emphasizing a dependence on external support for further progress.

Project achievements related to specific intervention areas are given below.

Achievements related to TVET activities and skills education projects

TVET and skills education projects were highly successful in improving the skills of most participants, as evidenced by the overwhelming **96%** of survey respondents providing a positive response. However, there is room for improvement in translating these skills into tangible economic outcomes, with only **65%** of respondents able to find jobs or earn income. This gap may indicate a need for stronger job placement support or market linkage initiatives.

The disparity in kit distribution, with **58%** of respondents reporting receiving starter kits, could explain some of the challenges faced by participants in applying their skills to generate income. Starter kits appear to be a critical component of enabling participants to transition from training to effectively practice.

The **94% of respondents reporting being satisfied** reflects the project's overall success in meeting participants' expectations, but addressing the barriers to income generation and ensuring equitable access to resources such as kits will be vital for maximizing the project's effectiveness.

The TVETs established for providing skills education are not all in operation (only 7 of the nine are) which may indicate a targeting issue. A majority of these establishments are used by women (5), with youth also accessing them (2) and four of these received training. The lack of training in some establishments highlights a potential underutilization of resources or misalignment with objectives.

On average, 6 participants (all female) were enrolled, and sessions were fully attended in 3 of the TVET observed. Engagement levels were inconsistent, potentially indicating issues with training relevance, delivery, or scheduling. Most TVETS (6) provide a clean and well-organized training environment. The positive environment in most establishments provides conducive setup for learning, though there is room for improvement. Only 3 establishments reported having sufficient materials. A lack of adequate materials is a critical barrier to effective training delivery.



Figure 3: TVET Establishment - Women trained on drying fruits and vegetables

Three establishments are accessible to all, 2 partially accessible, and 2 inaccessible. Accessibility challenges might limit the inclusion of diverse groups. Measures and first-aid kits were present in only 1 establishment. The absence of safety provisions pose significant risks to participants. Feedback mechanisms were available in only 3 establishments. Limited feedback channels hinder participants' ability to express concerns or provide suggestions.

55.6% of respondents are male, while 44.4% are female, indicating a slight majority of males. Youths make up 55.6% of the participants, with women accounting for 44.4%. This highlights a slightly higher proportion

of youths compared to women. These insights are crucial for planning future initiatives aimed at achieving greater inclusivity and balanced representation.

TVET Establishment

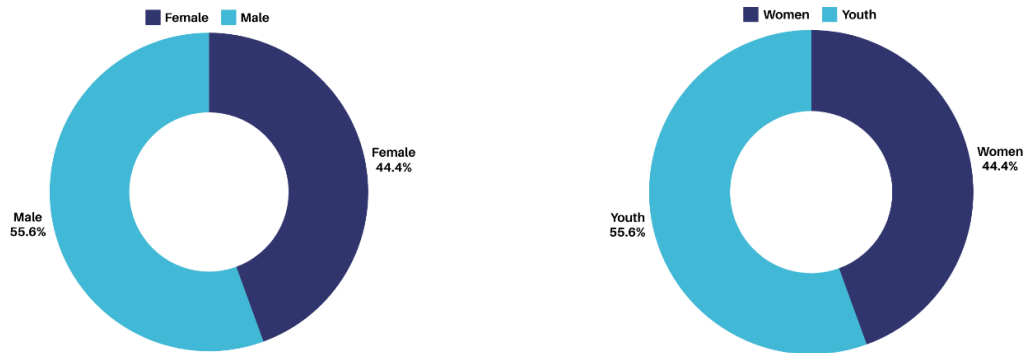


Figure 4: Percentage of participants in TVET Establishment based on gender

The training environment is predominantly clean and organized, with 57.1% of male and 42.9% of female participants indicating this. Regarding the accessibility of facilities for both men and women, responses are divided as follows: 42.9% responded "Yes", 28.6% responded "Partially Yes", and 28.6% responded "No". These insights highlight the need for improvements in facility accessibility to ensure it is fully inclusive for all participants.

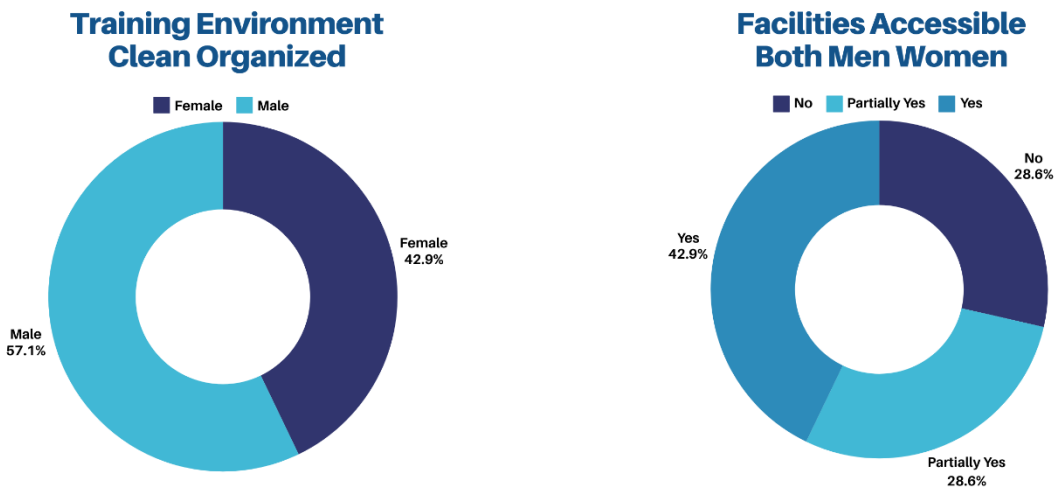


Figure 5: Percentage of Training Environment clean Organized & Facility Accessible

Achievements related to renewable energy

Out of 116 beneficiaries interviewed regarding solar or renewable energy projects, **76%** confirmed receiving solar kits. All beneficiaries who received the kits were identified as having some form of vulnerability, including being part of a woman-headed household, having a family member with a disability, or caring for someone who is chronically ill. This aligns with the project's objective to prioritize those most in need. This approach demonstrates a strong focus on inclusivity and equity, ensuring that limited resources are allocated to those who are likely to benefit the most. However, it is not clear why the remaining **24%** of interviewed beneficiaries did not receive solar kits and further investigation into the reasons for this is necessary. Addressing these gaps could improve the project's overall reach and effectiveness in supporting vulnerable groups.

When asked about how energy system has improved their lives, 30% (57) of respondents reported that it improved lighting for extended hours, enabling tasks such as studying and working. Closely following this 28% (54) reported that it provides more reliable power for household appliances like phone charging and radios, emphasizing the role of energy in communication.

Additionally, 27% (52) reported enhanced safety at night due to better lighting, reflecting the importance of energy in creating secure environments during nighttime (refer to Figure x).

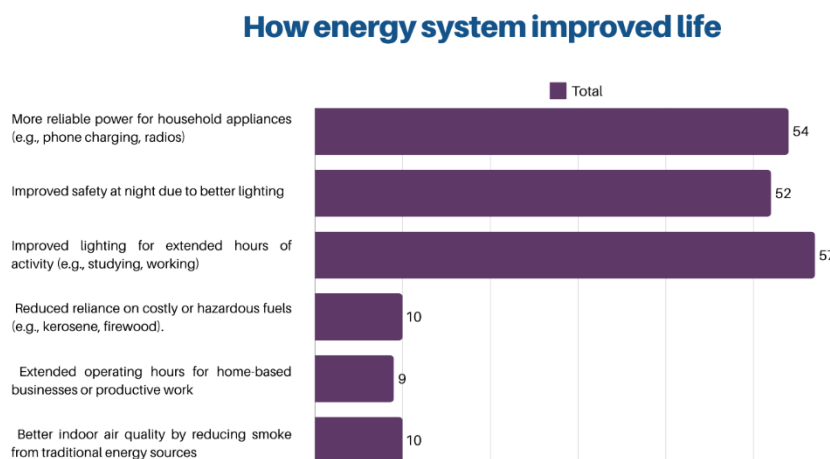


Figure 6: How energy system improved life

All 31 facilities are equipped with renewable energy systems. Of these, 29 (93.5%) are operational, showcasing a high success rate in functionality. The systems power a diverse range of facility types, including 12 community productive centers, 10 health centers, 8 MSMEs. The systems have an average capacity of 9.2 kW, ranging from 6 kW to 30 kW, reflecting varying energy needs across facilities. Notably, all operational systems are utilized regularly, underscoring their importance in sustaining facility operations. However, maintenance challenges persist, as 10 systems (32.3%) exhibit visible technical issues, emphasizing the need for routine maintenance (refer to Figure x).

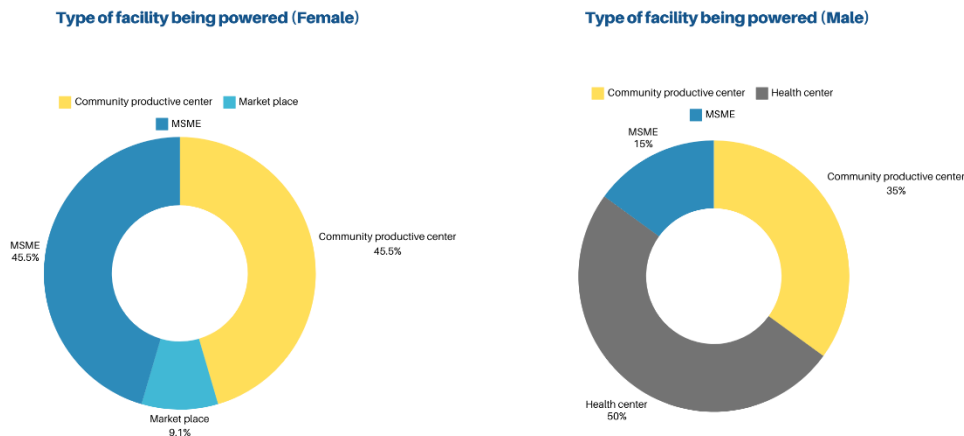


Figure 7: Type of facility being powered based on gender

The contributions of these systems are substantial and multifaceted. Lighting is a universally reported benefit, enhancing functionality and safety. Many systems also power tools and machinery, which are critical for productivity. Additionally, the systems support reliable power for income-generating activities, reducing operational costs and fostering economic resilience. Some facilities benefit from specialized uses, such as providing refrigeration or continuous access to clean water. Overall, renewable energy systems play a pivotal role in enabling facility operations and improving service delivery, though addressing maintenance gaps could further optimize their impact.

Achievements related to transitional Shelters

Out of 20 beneficiaries of transitional shelters, 19 confirmed receiving the shelters, and 65% found them relevant, suggesting that while the intervention addressed immediate needs, there may be room to better align the assistance with the beneficiaries' long-term requirements or preferences. 55% reported assistance was provided at the right time. Among them, 8 have been residing in these shelters for over a year. Beneficiaries noted that the shelters were of good quality and improved their living conditions to some extent. Overall, the beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the shelter assistance they received.

The positive feedback regarding timeliness and quality, coupled with overall satisfaction, highlights the project's effectiveness in improving living conditions for vulnerable households. However, the 15% who deemed the shelters irrelevant point to the importance of aligning shelter projects more closely with beneficiaries' needs, such as providing durable materials, essential facilities (water, kitchens, and bathrooms), and adequate space for larger families.



Figure 8: Renewable energy supports female MSMEs in Nangarhar province

Achievements related to MSMEs

Satisfaction amongst the majority of beneficiaries reflects the initiative's overall success, though expanding training and financial support could further increase its impact. These findings underline the effectiveness of ABADEI's approach to supporting female entrepreneurs and fostering economic empowerment.

A total of **305 female MSMEs** were interviewed regarding the support they received under the ABADEI initiative. The findings highlight the types of support provided, its utilization, and the impact on their business operations:

- **52% (158)** received financial support.
- **43% (130)** received both financial and technical support (e.g., training).
- **6% (17)** received only technical support.

Distribution of MSMEs by the Type of Support

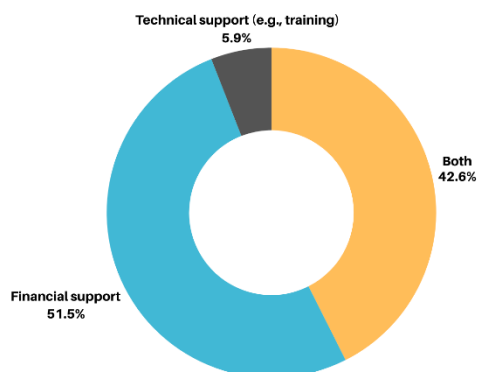


Figure 9: Distribution of MSMEs by the type of support

The financial support ranged from **300 to 350,000 AFN**:

- **91% (n=262)** received financial support as grants.
- **9% (n=26)** received financial support as loans.

Utilization of Financial Support:

- **57% (n=164)** used the financial support for business expansion.
- **40% (n=114)** utilized it to purchase equipment.
- **3% (n=9)** allocated it for operational expenses.

Training Support:

- **51% (n=156)** of MSMEs received training, and **97% (n=151)** of those beneficiaries reported that their business operations improved as a result of the training.

Business Impact of Support

- **29% (n=88)** of MSMEs reported that ABADEI's support helped them create new jobs, with an **average of 4 jobs created** per business.
- **90% (n=274)** experienced an increase in sales or production, with an **average growth of 52%**.

Primary purpose of financial support

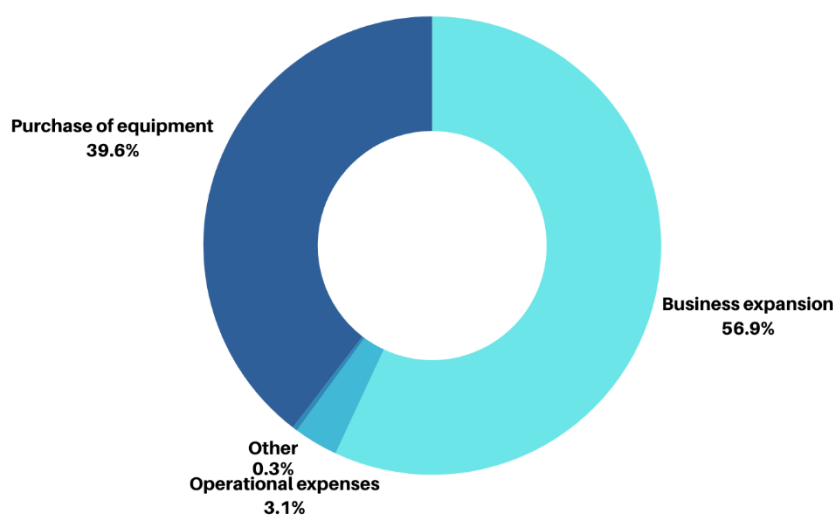


Figure 10: Primary purpose of financial support

Almost all beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the support provided under the ABADEI initiative.

The ABADEI initiative demonstrated a substantial positive impact on female MSMEs

High Utilization and Impact of Financial Support: Most recipients used the financial support effectively for business expansion and equipment purchases, indicating a focus on sustainable growth rather than short-term operational needs. The predominance of grants (91%) over loans minimized financial burdens for MSMEs, aligning with the initiative's goal of empowering female entrepreneurs.

Effectiveness of Training: The overwhelmingly positive feedback on training (97% reporting improved operations) highlights the critical role of technical support in enhancing business practices. However, only 51% of beneficiaries received training, suggesting potential to expand this component to reach more MSMEs.

Job Creation and Economic Growth: With 29% of MSMEs creating an average of 4 new jobs each, the project contributed to local employment and economic development, aligning with broader livelihood objectives. The 90% increase in sales or production (52% average growth) demonstrates tangible improvements in business performance as a result of the support.

Areas for Enhancement: The 6% who received only technical support may have faced limitations in translating skills into tangible outcomes without financial backing. Ensuring a more balanced integration of financial and technical support for all beneficiaries could further enhance the project's impact.

Achievements related to Agricultural Inputs and Training

The provision of agricultural inputs and training under the ABADEI initiative has yielded overwhelmingly positive outcomes, with beneficiaries reporting high satisfaction levels and an effective combination of tangible assets and skills development. Efforts to address distribution challenges and expand training coverage can further enhance the initiative's success and ensure even greater impact across the agricultural sector.

A total of 89% (275) of agricultural beneficiaries confirmed receiving agricultural inputs or assets under the ABADEI initiative. The provided inputs included:

- Gardening tools, vegetable seeds, and fertilizers (most common).
- Micro-greenhouses, livestock, and drip irrigation kits.

Challenges in Receipt: 11% of beneficiaries reported facing challenges in receiving the agricultural inputs.

Satisfaction with Inputs: 96% of the beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the agricultural inputs provided.

Training Support:

- 64% (197) of the beneficiaries received training in addition to agricultural inputs.
- Of those trained, 98% (193) were satisfied with the training provided.

Received agricultural inputs/assets

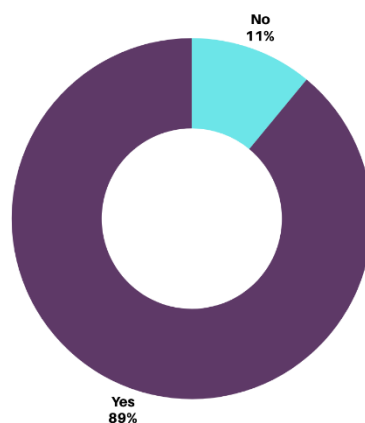


Figure 11: Agricultural inputs/assets received

High Distribution Success Rate: With 89% confirming receipt of agricultural inputs, the initiative demonstrates effective distribution, though 11% of beneficiaries faced challenges. These challenges could include delays, logistical issues, or mismatched needs, and addressing them could further improve the project's efficiency.

Varied and Relevant Agricultural Inputs: The distribution of a diverse range of inputs, from gardening tools and seeds to advanced systems like micro-greenhouses and drip irrigation kits, reflects an effort to meet a broad spectrum of agricultural needs. This mix caters to both small-scale subsistence farming and larger-scale, innovative agricultural practices.

Training Impact: The high training rate (64%) and the 98% satisfaction among those trained indicate that the project effectively combined practical resources with capacity building. Training appears to be a critical factor in maximizing the utility of the agricultural inputs.

Overall Satisfaction: The 96% satisfaction rate with inputs and the 98% satisfaction with training highlight the success of the project in meeting beneficiaries' expectations and needs.

Areas for Improvement: Addressing the 11% of beneficiaries who faced challenges in receiving inputs could improve equity and accessibility. Additionally, increasing the proportion of beneficiaries who receive training (currently at 64%) could enhance the overall impact and sustainability of the initiative.

Participation in training

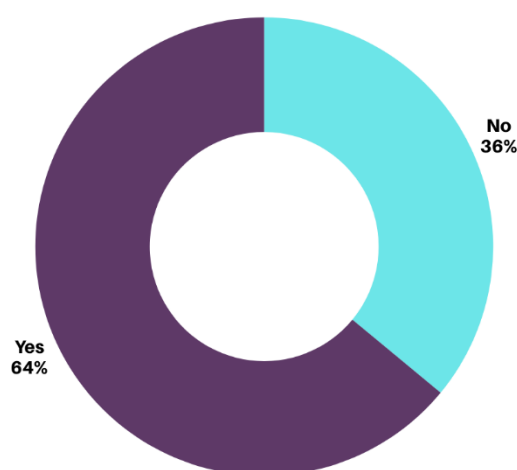


Figure 12: Participation in the training

Achievements related to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Training

The DRR training project under ABADEI has successfully equipped beneficiaries with the knowledge and confidence to address disaster risks. However, the relatively low engagement in DRR activities highlights the need for enhanced post-training support and practical opportunities to apply these skills. By bridging this gap, the project can further strengthen community resilience and disaster preparedness.

Confidence in Applying DRR Skills

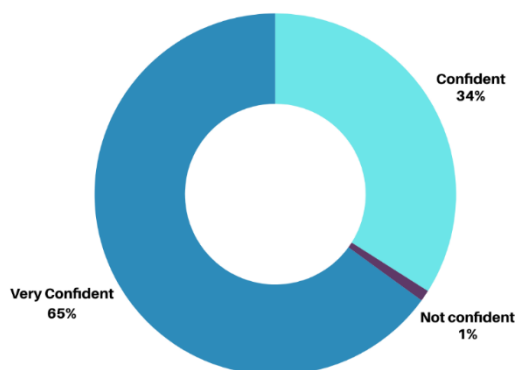


Figure 13: Confidence in applying DRR skills

A total of **91 beneficiaries** of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) projects were interviewed, revealing the following key findings:

- **93% (85)** received training specifically on DRR.
- **7% (6)** were trained on Climate Resilience and Adaptation.
- The duration of the training ranged from **1 to 12 days**, with an average duration of **3.32 days**.

Confidence in Applying Skills: **99%** of respondents expressed confidence in applying the skills they learned during the training.

Engagement in DRR Activities: Despite high confidence levels, only **62%** of respondents reported engaging in disaster risk reduction activities.

High Confidence but Moderate Engagement: While nearly all beneficiaries (**99%**) felt confident in their ability to apply the skills learned, the relatively lower engagement rate (**62%**) in DRR activities suggests potential barriers to practical application. These barriers could include a lack of resources, opportunities, or community-level infrastructure to implement DRR measures effectively.

Focus on DRR Training: The majority of beneficiaries (**93%**) were trained on DRR, with a smaller portion receiving Climate Resilience and Adaptation training. Expanding training on climate resilience could broaden the project's impact, particularly as climate change poses increasing risks to disaster-prone communities.

Short Training Duration: The average training duration of **3.32 days** reflects a concise project, which likely focuses on essential skills and knowledge. While this may be sufficient to build confidence, extending the duration or incorporating follow-up sessions could enhance the depth of learning and increase engagement in DRR activities.

Opportunities for Improvement: The **gap between confidence and engagement** indicates the need for additional support mechanisms, such as community-led DRR initiatives, access to tools and resources, and ongoing mentorship, to translate training into actionable outcomes. Encouraging collaboration between trained individuals and local governments or organizations could create more opportunities for beneficiaries to apply their skills in real-world settings.

Achievements related to Social Cohesion Beneficiaries and Activities

The Social Cohesion project demonstrates strong engagement, particularly with youth, and offers varied opportunities for participation. The overwhelming confidence in skill application underscores the effectiveness of the project. Expanding outreach to include more adults and local residents and diversifying participation across activities could further enhance the project's inclusivity and impact on community harmony.

Distribution of respondents by intervention type

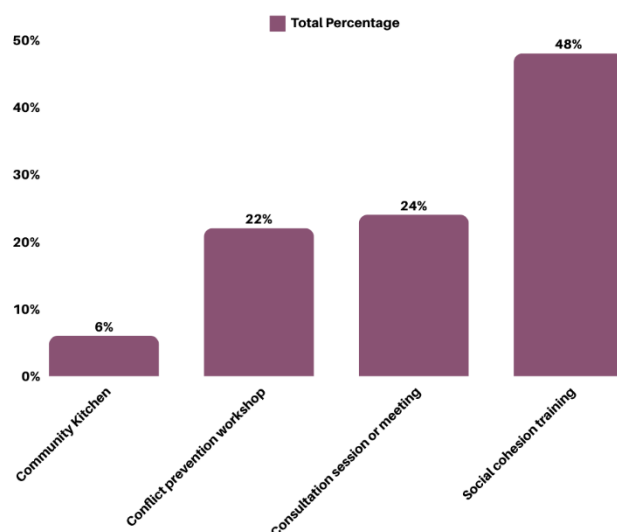


Figure 14: Distribution of respondents by intervention type

A total of **104 beneficiaries** of Social Cohesion projects were interviewed, with the following demographic breakdown:

- **70% (73)** were youth.
- **25% (26)** were adults.
- **5% (5)** were local residents.

Participation in Activities:

- **48% (50)** attended Social Cohesion training sessions.
- **24% (25)** participated in consultation sessions or meetings.
- **6% (6)** took part in community kitchen activities.

Confidence in Applying Skills: Almost all beneficiaries (**99%**) expressed confidence in their likelihood to apply the skills learned through these activities.

Youth-Centric Participation: Youth make up the majority of participants (**70%**), reflecting a deliberate effort to involve younger generations in social cohesion initiatives. This focus on youth engagement aligns with the goal of fostering long-term community harmony by empowering future leaders.

Broad-Based Engagement: While the largest proportion of participants attended training sessions (**48%**), the inclusion of consultation sessions (**24%**) and community kitchen activities (**6%**) highlights a multifaceted approach to fostering social cohesion. These diverse activities cater to different interests and provide varied platforms for engagement.

High Confidence in Skill Application: The overwhelming confidence (**99%**) in applying learned skills suggests the project effectively equips participants with actionable tools for promoting social cohesion. This high confidence indicates that the training and activities resonated well with beneficiaries, reinforcing their relevance and impact.

Opportunities for Greater Inclusion: Adults and local residents constituted **30% of participants**, indicating room for broader engagement with older community members. Their involvement could enhance intergenerational dialogue and further strengthen the project's impact.

Achievements related to Community Development Plan Training

The Community Development Plan training has had a notable positive impact on addressing community needs, improving services, and fostering resilience. However, efforts should focus on enhancing the sustainability of CDP initiatives and ensuring broader integration of gender-specific needs. Addressing these areas could further improve satisfaction and maximize the long-term effectiveness of the project.

A total of **51 beneficiaries** of the Community Development Plan (CDP) training were interviewed. The key findings are as follows:

Strong Training Coverage and Community Relevance: A high proportion of beneficiaries (**96%**) received training, and **94%** felt the CDP addressed their community's key needs. This indicates that the training effectively equipped participants to identify and address pressing issues within their communities.

Impact on Services and Resilience: The majority of beneficiaries (**80%**) reported improved services such as infrastructure, education, and health due to the CDP implementation. Furthermore, **84%** believed the CDP enhanced their community's resilience, suggesting the plan is making tangible contributions to community stability and preparedness.

Sustainability Concerns: Only **55%** of respondents believed the initiatives could be sustained without external support, highlighting a potential dependency on ongoing assistance. Strengthening local capacity and resources could help improve the sustainability of these initiatives.

Consideration of Women's Needs: While **71%** of respondents felt the CDP considers women's needs, this leaves room for improvement in ensuring gender-specific considerations are more widely integrated into planning.

Satisfaction and Areas for Improvement: A significant majority (**83%**) of beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the CDP training and outcomes. However, the **6%** of respondents who were very dissatisfied, suggesting that certain aspects—such as sustainability or inclusivity—might not fully meet expectations.

Achievements related to Product Facilities

There are overall positive results with regard to productive facilities, with all **observed** centers reported to exist and six out of seven being functional and accessible to the community. While five centers have adequate space and equipment for productive activities, two require additional resources to meet operational needs. Safety and security measures, such as fire extinguishers and first aid kits, are present in only three centers, highlighting a critical area for improvement. Participation by women and vulnerable groups is actively promoted in three centers, while four centers show a lack of inclusivity, emphasizing the need for targeted outreach efforts. Attendance and participation records are maintained in five centers, ensuring accountability and project evaluation capabilities.



Figure 15: Community Productive Center in Kapisa – Bee-keeping

Achievements with regard to Community Kitchen Greenhouse

The CK Greenhouse exists and is reported to be well-maintained and functional, indicating a positive operational status. Drip irrigation systems, however, are only partially operational, which could limit the efficiency of water usage and affect crop productivity. The availability of appropriate tools and seeds is adequate, supporting the ongoing activities within the greenhouse. Farmers and participants have received partial training in greenhouse operations, highlighting a need for more comprehensive capacity-building initiatives to enhance their skills. Proper maintenance practices, such as cleaning and watering, are not being followed, which poses a risk to the long-term sustainability of the greenhouse. Despite this, vegetables and plants are growing well, showcasing the potential of the greenhouse to contribute effectively to agricultural production. Participants have reported partial improvements in food security, but the absence of surplus produce being used for income generation points to an opportunity to further optimize the greenhouse's impact on livelihoods.

Achievements regarding Food Processing Center

Both food processing centers exist and are operational, though with notable differences in their functionality. One center is fully operational and well-maintained, while the other is only partially maintained, reflecting variability in upkeep. Tools and equipment are fully functional in one center but only partially functional in the other, highlighting inconsistencies in resource availability. Proper hygiene and sanitation practices are followed in one center but are lacking in the other, signaling a critical need for improvement in health standards. Participant training is uneven, with one center providing technical training while the other does not, limiting skill development opportunities. Women-led groups are actively involved in one center but only partially involved in the other, showing varying levels of inclusivity.

Achievements regarding Public Infrastructure

The analysis of **69 surveyed public infrastructure facilities** shows that **81% (56)** exist, while **18.8%** do not. Among the existing facilities, **94.6%** are fully constructed or reconstructed, and **5.4%** are still in progress. Of these, **83.9%** are operational and actively serving communities, while **16.1%** are non-operational, indicating a need for intervention.

Proper waste management practices are observed in around **60.7%** of the facilities, while **28.6%** exhibit deficiencies and **10.7%** are marked as not applicable. Environmental risks such as erosion, flooding, or pollution are reported in **37.5%** of the facilities, while **62.5%** show no observable risks.

Regarding community impact, **73.2%** of the facilities meet critical community needs, such as water access, health, or safety, while **26.8%** fall short. Community utilization is evident in **58.9%** of the facilities, while **41.1%** remain underutilized. Accessibility for disabled individuals remains a challenge, as only **48.2%** of the facilities have ramps or wide paths, leaving **51.8%** inaccessible. These findings highlight the need for targeted interventions in waste management, operationality, environmental risk mitigation, and accessibility to maximize the impact of public infrastructure.



Figure 16: Protection wall in Paktia

Efficiency

Summary of key findings: The ABADEI project demonstrated efficiency through strategic resource allocation, collaborative partnerships, community engagement, adaptability, and robust accountability mechanisms. By optimizing resource use, leveraging local expertise, and adapting to challenges, the project delivered quality and cost-effective interventions that met community needs and strengthened resilience. Future projects can build on these strengths by expanding community-based monitoring and enhancing collaboration for even greater impact.

ABADEI's strategic allocation of resources ensured maximum impact and cost efficiency, enabling the delivery of high-quality services within budgetary limits. Flexible resource management allowed for timely responses to emerging challenges and needs. ABADEI demonstrated a strong commitment to maximizing the impact of limited resources. The project prioritized high-need regions and leveraged cost-effective strategies such as cash-for-work projects, which simultaneously provided immediate income and contributed to critical infrastructure development.

Resource allocation was carefully managed to achieve maximum coverage while adhering to budgetary constraints. Flexibility in reallocating resources based on emerging needs further enhanced the project's ability to respond to changing conditions.

"ABADEI prioritized resources for high-need regions, optimizing impact within the available budget." —Area Manager

"Cost-effective delivery strategies, such as combining livelihood support with infrastructure development, allowed for dual benefits." — Area Manager

ABADEI's collaborative partnerships enhanced efficiency and impact by pooling resources, expertise, and local knowledge. This approach minimized duplication and ensured that interventions were both effective and contextually relevant. Collaborative partnerships were central to ABADEI's success. By working closely with UN agencies such as UNICEF and UNFPA, as well as local NGOs, the project maximized resource use, avoided duplication, and leveraged existing expertise. These partnerships allowed ABADEI to deliver comprehensive, multi-sectoral services and address community needs holistically. Coordination with local organizations also ensured cultural relevance and alignment with local priorities, further strengthening project outcomes.

"By partnering with UN agencies like UNICEF and UNFPA, ABADEI extended its impact and avoided duplication." — Area Manager

"Strong collaboration with local NGOs ensured culturally relevant and cost-effective service delivery." — A representative of Responsible Partner

Community-centric engagement enhanced the relevance and efficiency of ABADEI's interventions. By leveraging local knowledge and labor, the project reduced costs and strengthened community trust, resulting in more impactful and sustainable outcomes.

ABADEI's emphasis on community engagement was key to its efficiency. By involving local labor and working closely with community-based organizations, the project ensured that its interventions were culturally appropriate and aligned with local needs. This approach-built community trust and buy-in, resulting in greater project acceptance and long-term sustainability. Engaging local expertise also reduced costs and enhanced project delivery through culturally informed practices.

"Engaging local NGOs helped ABADEI deliver culturally relevant and cost-effective services." — A representative of Responsible Partner

"Community-based organizations were instrumental in ensuring that resources reached the most vulnerable." — Area Manager

ABADEI's adaptability and responsive management allowed it to navigate challenges and optimize resource use, maintaining relevance and impact despite changing circumstances.

ABADEI demonstrated adaptability in navigating Afghanistan's complex socio-political landscape. Regulatory constraints and cultural norms required modifications to project activities, particularly gender-focused interventions. By engaging local leaders and adjusting project formats, ABADEI maintained its impact while respecting local contexts. Flexible project design allowed for quick adjustments, ensuring that resources were used efficiently to address emerging challenges.

"ABADEI adapted to local regulatory constraints by modifying activities to respect cultural norms while maintaining impact." — A UNDP Official

"Flexibility in project management allowed ABADEI to pivot and address new challenges effectively." — A UNDP Official

Effective monitoring and accountability mechanisms ensured that ABADEI's resources were used efficiently and transparently. Real-time data and regular audits enabled the project to adapt quickly and align activities with its goals. ABADEI's efficiency was supported by strong monitoring and accountability

mechanisms. The use of the ABADEI Information Management System (AIMS) provided real-time data on project activities and resource allocation, enabling timely adjustments and transparent reporting. Regular audits and outcome-based resource tracking further enhanced project accountability, ensuring that resources were used effectively and aligned with project goals.

"The ABADEI Information Management System provided real-time insights, ensuring timely resource allocation and project accountability." — A UNDP Official

"Regular audits and transparent reporting strengthened resource management and project outcomes." — Area Manager

The responsible partners acknowledged the positive impacts noted by community members but focused on operational and logistical challenges. They discussed the complexities of coordinating multiple stakeholders, managing resources under tight constraints, and navigating regulatory and bureaucratic hurdles. Partners emphasized the need for adaptability and noted areas where resource limitations or regulatory issues affected efficiency.

Local organizations highlighted the importance of flexible and community-driven approaches to maximize project efficiency and impact. They emphasized the benefits of engaging local labor and expertise, which reduced costs and increased cultural relevance. However, they also pointed out the challenges posed by rigid donor requirements that sometimes limited the scope of adaptive measures. Donors, on the other hand, emphasized structured resource allocation, accountability, and adherence to project timelines. They valued measurable outcomes, rigorous reporting, and a focus on achieving predefined milestones. Donors' priorities sometimes contrasted with the flexibility sought by local partners.

Donor fatigue and financial constraints have significantly impacted the ABADEI program, as major funders like Japan and the EU report financial challenges leading to reduced budget allocations. There is little optimism for increased funding, with Japan facing particular difficulties in reallocating resources. Adding to the strain are complexities in coordination and bureaucracy, such as delays in signing MOUs with the de facto authorities and other administrative challenges, which have slowed project implementation and created inefficiencies that hinder funding priorities. Moreover, increasing interference from local authorities in implementation and beneficiary selection has further disrupted the program's pace and quality.

Donors have also shifted their focus to more specific areas, such as alternative livelihoods, moving away from the broader goals of ABADEI. Some have prioritized other projects or regions, leading to a dilution of funding concentration on the program. Operational challenges, including compliance issues, reporting discrepancies, and misalignment with donor expectations, have caused dissatisfaction among donors.

Timely implementation has also suffered due to contextual hurdles and a constrained operational environment, exacerbating perceptions of inefficiency. Collectively, these factors underscore the multi-dimensional decline in funding for ABADEI, shaped by financial limitations, operational barriers, and changing donor priorities.

Donors' shifting interests are driven by evolving priorities, financial constraints, and the contextual realities in Afghanistan. Here's a detailed breakdown:

Focus on Specific Sectors:

- **Japan:** Japan, a major donor, has indicated a priority shift toward "alternative livelihood support." While this aligns with ABADEI's objectives to some extent, it reflects a narrowing focus compared to the broader multi-sectoral goals of the program. This has implications for other program components that might now face funding shortfalls
- **EU:** While the EU funds components related to women's economic empowerment and microfinance, it appears more focused on smaller, targeted interventions rather than the broader ABADEI framework

Preference for Tangible Outputs:

- Donors, including JICA, have expressed frustration with the slow pace of tangible results. JICA's focus has been primarily on outcomes like women's economic empowerment, and delays in visible results have made them hesitant about future commitments
- Infrastructure projects and direct economic activities tend to be preferred by donors due to their more measurable and immediate impact. This contrasts with longer-term interventions like social cohesion or human rights, which donors perceive as less aligned with immediate needs

Reallocation of Funds Due to Decreased Budgets:

- Several donors, including Japan and the EU, have explicitly mentioned financial shortfalls. This has led to reallocating resources to smaller, more focused projects rather than continuing to fund larger, multi-sectoral programs like ABADEI
- Financial constraints mean donors are increasingly prioritizing what they consider "high-impact" areas, such as economic recovery and alternative livelihoods

Contextual Adaptation:

- The evolving political and operational landscape in Afghanistan has further influenced donor strategies. Some donors are hesitant to engage in activities that might attract undue interference from de facto authorities or are logistically difficult to implement
- Economic activities that align more closely with the de facto authorities' interests, like construction and livelihoods, are more likely to be supported, whereas broader, cross-cutting themes like governance or human rights face reduced attention

Scaling Down Projects:

- Japan has already expressed that due to budget constraints, projects within ABADEI will need to be scaled down. This reflects a broader trend where donors are reassessing the scope and feasibility of their commitments, often opting for scaled-down versions of existing programs.

Donors' shifting interests reflect a confluence of financial realities, strategic priorities, and operational challenges. They are moving toward:

- Targeted interventions with tangible outputs.
- Projects that align with immediate needs like livelihoods and economic empowerment.
- Reducing commitments to expansive, multi-sectoral frameworks like ABADEI in favor of focused, sector-specific initiatives.

This realignment requires programs like ABADEI to adapt, either by narrowing their scope or by improving coordination and efficiency to align better with donor priorities.

Monitoring and Evaluation System Analysis

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system for the ABADEI project demonstrates a comprehensive, structured, and adaptive approach to tracking project outcomes and ensuring accountability.

Core Components of the M&E System

1. **Framework and Structure:**
 - The system operates through three main components:
 - **Component 1:** Context monitoring using socio-economic assessments and political/security analysis.
 - **Component 2:** Program implementation monitoring with monthly reporting by implementing partners (IPs).
 - **Component 3:** Risk monitoring embedded in operational and strategic levels.
2. **Tools and Mechanisms:**
 - The **ABADEI Information Management System (AIMS)** tracks progress using real-time data.
 - Community-based surveys collect data biannually to assess outputs and outcomes.
 - GIS tools integrate geographical data for mapping interventions and conducting cost-benefit analyses.
3. **Third-Party Monitoring (TPM):**
 - Engaged in high-risk or inaccessible areas, ensuring the collection and validation of data by female enumerators to reach all demographics.
4. **Reporting and Feedback:**

- Regular site visits, monthly and quarterly reports, and follow-up activities ensure continuous tracking and learning. Lessons learned are incorporated into future planning.

Strengths

1. **Real-Time Monitoring:**
 - Digital technologies enable near-real-time updates, enhancing adaptability and informed decision-making.
2. **Gender Inclusivity:**
 - Special provisions, such as female monitors, ensure the inclusion of women's perspectives in assessments.
3. **Risk Management:**
 - Risks are systematically logged, monitored, and mitigated using the Integrated Risk Management Unit (IRMU).
4. **Capacity Building:**
 - Regular training for the M&E team enhances data collection and assessment quality.

Key Responsibilities of Responsible Parties in the M&E System

Responsible parties play a crucial role in the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system by ensuring accurate data collection, compliance with M&E standards, and effective stakeholder engagement. They are responsible for collecting and reporting data on project activities and outcomes, adhering to agreed-upon indicators and using standardized tools like the ABADEI Information Management System (AIMS). They facilitate field monitoring by enabling access to project sites for field teams and third-party monitors, ensuring data validation and accuracy through coordination with local stakeholders. In addition, they actively engage with community members and local authorities to ensure that the data collection process is inclusive and reflective of the target populations' needs. Responsible parties also provide training to their staff and community representatives, enhancing their capacity to collect and analyze quality data. They are instrumental in identifying and mitigating risks in data collection and reporting, working closely with the Integrated Risk Management Unit (IRMU). Furthermore, they provide feedback to the project management team based on monitoring results, offering insights and recommendations for course corrections to improve project effectiveness and alignment with objectives.

Key Features of AIMS

The ABADEI Information Management System (AIMS) is a vital tool within the project's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework, designed to enhance efficiency and accuracy. It enables real-time monitoring by collecting, storing, and analyzing data to support timely decision-making and adaptive management. Integrated Geographic Information System (GIS) functionality allows for spatial data mapping and cost-benefit analysis, ensuring project activities are geographically aligned with community needs. AIMS serves as a centralized database, consolidating all project-related data for seamless collaboration among stakeholders. Automated reporting features streamline the generation of progress reports, ensuring consistency and reducing manual effort. Additionally, AIMS incorporates data validation mechanisms to cross-verify information submitted by implementing partners and field teams, enhancing accuracy and reliability. Accessible to various stakeholders, AIMS provides role-specific data usage while maintaining data security. These features collectively make AIMS an indispensable component of the ABADEI project, supporting transparency, accountability, and efficient resource allocation.

Key Challenges:

1. **Dependence on Responsible Parties:**
 - AIMS relies on responsible parties to input beneficiary counts, while the detailed beneficiary data remains with them. This dependency increases the risk of delays and discrepancies during evaluations.
2. **Data Collection Delays:**
 - Gathering detailed beneficiary data from multiple responsible parties can take weeks, leading to inefficiencies in reporting and monitoring.
3. **Data Discrepancies:**
 - When detailed beneficiary data is compared with AIMS during evaluations, discrepancies are often found, highlighting gaps in data validation processes.
4. **Limited UNDP Oversight:**

- UNDP does not have direct access to detailed data, relying entirely on reports from responsible parties. This reduces the organization's ability to independently verify data accuracy and consistency.

Financial Analysis

Key Achievements

- 1. Exceptional Delivery in 2023:**
 - The project achieved a **99% delivery rate** of its allocated budget, reflecting nearly complete utilization of resources and alignment with the Annual Work Plan (AWP).
 - Strong financial planning ensured minimal wastage while prioritizing impactful activities.
- 2. Progress in 2024 (Up to September):**
 - A **77% budget execution rate** by September demonstrates steady progress in resource deployment.
 - \$66,989,287 of the \$86,566,055 total budget has been utilized, indicating efficient spending in the first three quarters.
- 3. Operational Efficiency:**
 - Across both years, the project effectively balanced programmatic activities with minimal operational overheads, ensuring resources were deployed where they were most needed.

Key Considerations

- 1. Resource Deployment:**
 - While 2023 showcased near-perfect utilization, the remaining 23% of the 2024 budget must be strategically allocated in the final months to meet annual targets.
- 2. Spending Rate in 2024:**
 - The average monthly spending rate of **8.56%** suggests the need for careful management in Q4 to ensure efficient utilization without exceeding the allocated budget.
- 3. Budget Alignment:**
 - Across both years, spending must be reviewed to ensure alignment with planned activities and objectives, particularly in the final stages of 2024.

Analysis of Management Costs (2023 vs. 2024)

Management Costs and Proportion to Total Expenditure

Year	Management Cost (\$)	Total Expenditure (\$)	Management Cost as % of Total Expenditure
2023	7,650,824	84,413,802	9.06%
2024	8,503,776	86,566,055	9.82%

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION VS MGT COST (2024)

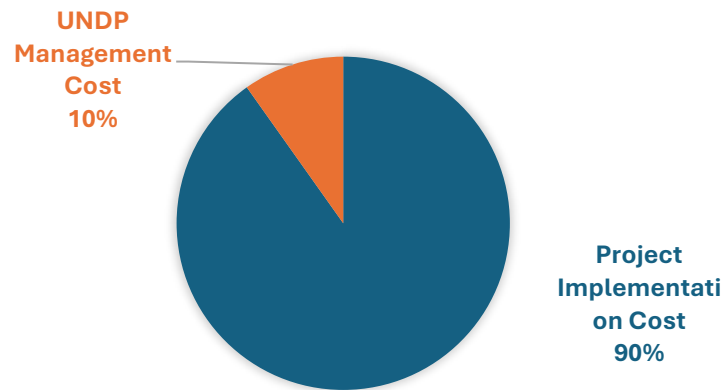


Figure 17: Project Implementation VS MGT cost (2024)

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION VS MGT COST (2023)

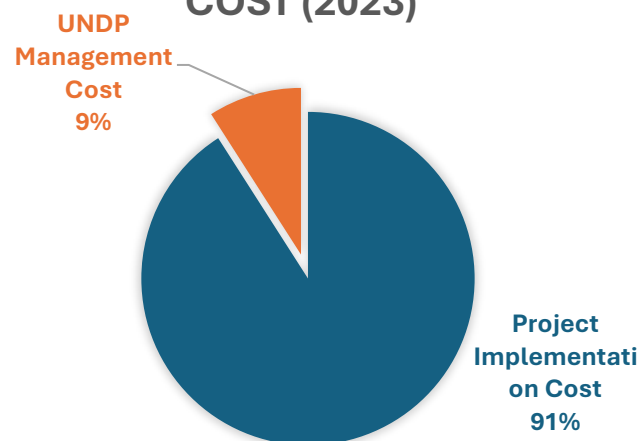


Figure 18: Figure 17: Project Implementation VS MGT cost (2023)

Key Observations

1. Proportion of Management Costs:

- In 2023, management costs accounted for 9.06% of total expenditure, while in 2024, this proportion increased slightly to 9.82%.
- Both percentages remain below the 10% threshold, a widely accepted benchmark for administrative overheads in development projects.

2. Efficiency Maintenance:

- The modest increase in the management cost percentage suggests effective cost control while ensuring programmatic and operational priorities are met.

• Positive Aspects:

- Management costs are well-managed and remain under 10% of the total expenditure, signifying efficient allocation of resources.

• Potential Risks:

- While the increase in management costs is reasonable, continuous monitoring is needed to ensure they do not disproportionately grow relative to programmatic expenditures.

Given the current stage of the evaluation and the evolving nature of financial reports, it is not yet possible to perform a detailed analysis of the efficiency metrics. The figures in the Annual Work Plan (AWP) have been updated periodically throughout the project cycle, and as this is a mid-term evaluation, the reports and data are not yet finalized.

Additionally, some limitations in the availability of finalized data make it challenging to draw firm conclusions at this stage. Once the figures and reports are finalized, a more comprehensive and accurate analysis of efficiency can be conducted.

Sustainability

Summary of key findings: The sustainability of the ABADEI project was driven by its adaptive strategies, community empowerment initiatives, efficient resource use, and resilience-building efforts. By navigating socio-political challenges, fostering local ownership, maximizing resources, and strengthening disaster resilience, ABADEI laid the groundwork for sustained impact and long-term community development. Future efforts can build on these successes by expanding community-based governance and enhancing economic and environmental resilience initiatives.

ABADEI's adaptive approach allowed it to navigate complex socio-political and regulatory landscapes, maintaining project relevance and inclusivity while respecting cultural norms. This adaptability was crucial to sustaining core project outcomes. ABADEI faced significant challenges due to regulatory constraints and socio-cultural norms that limited the participation of women and other vulnerable groups. By engaging male family members (mahrams), collaborating with local leaders, and adapting project formats, the project was able to maintain some level of inclusivity while respecting local norms. Political instability also required frequent adjustments to project strategies to ensure the continuation of critical services and activities.

"ABADEI adapted its gender-focused interventions by engaging male family members and working with local leaders, maintaining women's participation within cultural norms." — A UNDP Official

"Navigating political instability necessitated frequent adjustments to keep key interventions operational." — A UNDP Official

Community empowerment and ownership were key to the project's sustainability strategy. By building local capacity and fostering governance structures, ABADEI ensured that project outcomes were maintained beyond the project's direct involvement. ABADEI's approach to sustainability was rooted in empowering local communities and fostering a sense of ownership over project initiatives. The establishment of community-based governance structures and local committees for project maintenance, such as water systems and infrastructure, ensured ongoing functionality and reduced dependence on external support. Capacity-building efforts, including training for local leaders and community members, further strengthened the ability of communities to manage and sustain project outcomes independently.

"Community-led maintenance of water systems ensured long-term functionality, reducing reliance on external support." — A representative of responsible partner

"Empowering local leaders through training fostered a sense of ownership and responsibility, critical for project sustainability." — Area Manager

Efficient resource use and economic empowerment were central to ABADEI's sustainability efforts. The project's focus on maximizing partnerships and promoting economic independence strengthened community resilience and reduced reliance on external support. ABADEI prioritized

cost-effective resource allocation and collaborated with partners to maximize the impact of limited funding. By partnering with UN agencies and local organizations, the project pooled resources avoided duplication and delivered services efficiently. Economic independence was promoted through livelihood support, vocational training, and small business development, enhancing community resilience and reducing dependency on external aid.

"By partnering with UNICEF and UNFPA, ABADEI shared resources, maximizing efficiency and extending the project's reach." — Area Manager

"Vocational training and small business support empowered community members economically, reducing dependency on aid." — Area Manager

By integrating disaster risk reduction and resilience-building initiatives, ABADEI reduced community vulnerability to environmental risks and ensured the sustainability of critical infrastructure. These efforts enhanced long-term community resilience and self-sufficiency.

ABADEI incorporated DRR initiatives into its core activities to build community resilience against natural disasters, such as floods and droughts. Community-led projects, including the construction of flood barriers and reforestation efforts, provided both immediate and long-term benefits. The project's focus on sustainable infrastructure development reduced the need for emergency interventions and strengthened local capacity to respond to future environmental challenges.

"Community-led DRR initiatives, such as flood barriers, have strengthened local resilience and reduced dependence on emergency interventions." — Area Manager

"Sustainable infrastructure projects provided long-term benefits, reducing vulnerability to future environmental risks." — A representative of responsible partner

Local authorities highlighted the importance of ABADEI's alignment with local governance structures and cultural norms. They valued the project's respect for local traditions and its ability to engage community leaders to ensure project acceptance and sustainability. Donors, on the other hand, were more focused on measurable outcomes, accountability, and long-term impact assessments. They often expressed concerns about the reliance on donor funding for sustainability and emphasized the need for robust monitoring and evaluation to demonstrate lasting results.

Sustainability remains a challenge due to insufficient follow-up, lack of advanced equipment, and dependence on external resources. Participants highlighted the need for more training and infrastructure to ensure long-term benefits.

One of the unexpected challenges faced by ABADEI was the extent to which local regulations and cultural norms restricted women's participation. While efforts were made to engage male family members and respect cultural traditions, these constraints limited the full implementation of gender-focused initiatives. This highlighted the complexity of achieving gender inclusivity within restrictive environments, posing challenges to the long-term sustainability of some project outcomes.

While ABADEI made significant strides toward fostering economic independence and resilience, the reliance on donor funding emerged as a potential challenge to sustainability. Communities expressed concerns about maintaining project outcomes without ongoing external support, indicating a need for more self-sustaining economic activities and local revenue generation. Many participants emphasized a need for continued external assistance, such as financial aid, machinery, or advanced training. This reliance challenges the self-reliance objectives of ABADEI and highlights the need for a stronger emphasis on capacity-building for independence.

While community members and local authorities often viewed community-led maintenance and governance structures as strong indicators of sustainability, some implementing partners and donors expressed concerns about the long-term viability of these structures without continued

external support or capacity-building initiatives. This variation in perception underscored the complexity of measuring and defining sustainability across different stakeholder groups.

A recurring issue across interventions was the lack of follow-up support, advanced tools, or additional resources. While the initial impact of projects was positive, FGD participants often highlighted gaps in sustaining benefits long-term.

Likelihood of Impact

Summary of key findings: The likelihood of sustained impact from the ABADEI project is rooted in its economic empowerment initiatives, gender inclusion efforts, community resilience-building activities, and adaptive strategies to navigate challenges. By balancing immediate relief with long-term development, engaging marginalized groups, and reducing economic vulnerability, ABADEI has laid a strong foundation for lasting community and individual resilience. Future efforts should continue to address market barriers, dependency concerns, and socio-cultural resistance to ensure the durability of project outcomes.

ABADEI's focus on skill development and economic support has strengthened beneficiaries' financial independence and resilience, laying a strong foundation for long-term economic stability and community growth. ABADEI's economic empowerment initiatives have provided substantial opportunities for beneficiaries to improve their livelihoods. Vocational training projects equipped participants with market-relevant skills, enhancing employability and income potential. MSME support and micro-grants enabled small businesses to expand and create new jobs within their communities. Cash-for-work projects offered immediate financial relief while addressing community infrastructure needs, such as roads and flood protection measures.

"ABADEI's vocational training projects have equipped beneficiaries with market-relevant skills, enhancing their employability and income potential." — Area Manager

"Micro-grants and MSME support have empowered local businesses to thrive and create job opportunities." — Area Manager

ABADEI's gender inclusion efforts have empowered women within restrictive socio-cultural environments, promoting social and economic equity. Continued adaptation to local norms will be crucial for sustaining these gains. ABADEI implemented culturally sensitive projects to empower women economically and socially. Women-led vocational centers and business training projects provided safe spaces for women to learn and engage in income-generating activities. Despite facing significant socio-cultural resistance, the project adapted by engaging male family members (mahrams) and collaborating with local leaders to ensure the inclusion of women within culturally acceptable frameworks.

"ABADEI's culturally sensitive projects, such as women-led vocational centers, have empowered women and provided safe spaces for economic participation." — A UNDP Official

"Engaging male family members has enabled women to participate in training while respecting cultural norms." — A UNDP Official

ABADEI's resilience-building efforts have reduced vulnerability to natural disasters and strengthened community capacity to maintain infrastructure and economic gains over the long term. ABADEI integrated disaster risk reduction (DRR) into its core activities to enhance community resilience. Community-led projects, such as building flood barriers and reforestation, reduced the economic vulnerability of beneficiaries and protected their assets from natural disasters. The focus on sustainable infrastructure and environmental initiatives provided both immediate protection and long-term resilience to communities facing climate-related risks.

"By building flood barriers and reforestation projects, ABADEI reduced the economic vulnerability of beneficiaries and protected their assets." — Area Manager

"Community-led DRR initiatives have strengthened local resilience to environmental shocks." — A representative of responsible partner

ABADEI's focus on reducing dependency and building long-term economic resilience highlights the importance of market linkages and sustainable business practices. Addressing market access barriers and transitioning beneficiaries to self-sustaining opportunities remain critical for lasting impact.

Diversity and Inclusion

Summary of key findings: ABADEI's diversity and inclusion efforts have significantly contributed to economic empowerment, gender equity, social inclusion, and community cohesion. By balancing cultural adaptation, community-driven engagement, and targeted support for vulnerable groups, the project has laid the groundwork for lasting impact. Continued efforts are needed to address market barriers, social tensions, and the challenges of achieving sustainable inclusion in restrictive environments.

ABADEI's efforts in economic empowerment improved financial independence and employment opportunities for marginalized groups, contributing to greater economic resilience and community well-being. ABADEI emphasized economic empowerment by providing vocational training, micro-grants, and support for women-led micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The project aimed to improve employability and financial independence for women and youth, equipping them with skills and resources to participate actively in the local economy. Cash-for-work projects offered immediate financial relief while building critical community infrastructure, such as roads and flood protection.

"ABADEI's vocational training projects have equipped women and youth with market-relevant skills, enhancing their employability and income potential." — A UNDP Official

"Micro-grants and MSME support have empowered local businesses to thrive and create job opportunities." — Area Manager

ABADEI's gender inclusion efforts successfully balanced cultural sensitivity with the goal of empowering women, creating pathways for participation and reducing socio-cultural barriers.

ABADEI faced socio-cultural and regulatory barriers to women's participation, necessitating culturally sensitive approaches. By involving male family members (mahrams) and collaborating with community leaders, the project created opportunities for women to participate in training and economic activities within culturally acceptable frameworks. Women-led vocational centers provided safe and supportive environments for skill development, contributing to gender equity and economic empowerment.

"ABADEI's approach to engaging male family members allowed women to participate in economic projects while respecting local cultural norms." — Area Manager

"Women-led vocational centers provided safe spaces for learning and empowerment." — A UNDP Officials

ABADEI's inclusive approach supported the economic and social integration of vulnerable groups, reducing inequality and promoting community cohesion. ABADEI prioritized the inclusion of vulnerable groups through targeted interventions, such as skill-building projects, tailored cash-for-work initiatives, and community-based support networks. By engaging people with disabilities and economically disadvantaged households, the project aimed to reduce social isolation and promote their active contributions to the community. These efforts not only improved livelihoods but also fostered a sense of belonging and self-worth among marginalized groups.

"The inclusion of people with disabilities in cash-for-work projects helped reduce social isolation and demonstrate their active contributions to the community." — A representative of responsible partner

"Skill-building initiatives for youth empowered them with market-relevant skills, reducing unemployment and economic disparity." — Area Manager

Community-led engagement promoted ownership, inclusivity, and social cohesion, ensuring that project outcomes were culturally relevant and sustainable. ABADEI engaged local communities in the design and implementation of its interventions, fostering a sense of ownership and collective responsibility. Community-led maintenance and engagement activities, such as infrastructure upkeep and disaster

preparedness, strengthened social bonds and reduced inequality. By involving diverse stakeholders, including marginalized populations, ABADEI promoted social cohesion and reduced social tensions.

"Community-led maintenance and engagement activities have strengthened social bonds and reduced social inequality, fostering a more inclusive environment." — Area Manager

"Engaging local leaders ensured that project activities aligned with community needs and cultural norms." — Area Manager

Efforts to include diverse groups varied across projects. While many initiatives engaged men, women, and youth, barriers to participation persisted for certain marginalized groups, particularly women. Participants suggested that public awareness campaigns and targeted outreach could improve inclusion in future projects.

"No opportunity was given for women and disadvantaged groups to participate" FGD Participants -Extension and farmer training

"We recommend increasing engagement efforts to enhance inclusivity" FGD Participant - MSMEs

Despite its successes, ABADEI faced challenges related to market saturation among women-trained businesses, such as tailoring, leading to decreased profitability. Increased economic participation for women sometimes resulted in higher workloads, affecting family dynamics. Social tensions also arose as traditional gender roles shifted, underscoring the need for continuous community engagement and adaptation.

"Market saturation among women-trained tailors led to reduced profitability, highlighting the need for diverse training projects." —Area Manager

"Increased workloads for women participating in economic activities sometimes strained family dynamics." — A UNDP Official

Implementing partners shared a more operational perspective, discussing the challenges faced in delivering these interventions, such as cultural resistance, market saturation, and balancing gender inclusion with socio-cultural sensitivities. While they acknowledged the positive outcomes, they also pointed to areas where the project's impact could be at risk due to unintended consequences or external constraints.

Gender specialists placed particular emphasis on the challenges and complexities of promoting gender inclusion in restrictive socio-cultural environments. They highlighted the need for ongoing efforts to ensure meaningful participation and to overcome barriers related to cultural norms and regulatory restrictions.

An unexpected challenge faced by ABADEI was market saturation in specific sectors, such as tailoring, where women-trained businesses faced declining profitability due to competition and limited market opportunities. This finding suggests that while vocational training is impactful, there is a need for market diversification and stronger market linkages to ensure sustainable economic outcomes.

While the economic participation of women was celebrated, it also resulted in increased workloads, affecting family dynamics and potentially creating stress within households. This unintended consequence highlights the need for balanced support systems, including childcare and family support, to ensure that economic gains do not come at the cost of increased burdens on women.

ABADEI's focus on gender inclusion sometimes led to social tensions and resistance as traditional gender roles shifted. This underscores the complexity of navigating cultural norms and the importance of continuous community dialogue to address concerns and foster acceptance of changing roles for women in economic and social spheres.

Some community members expressed concerns about their reliance: ABADEI's cash-for-work projects and other economic support measures, raising questions about the sustainability of these initiatives

once project funding ends. This finding highlights the importance of transitioning beneficiaries to self-sustaining opportunities and reducing dependency on external aid.

Analysis of ABADEI's Risks, Mitigation Strategies and Implementation Progress

Identified Risks

1. **Security and Political Instability:** Ongoing instability and lack of coordination with de facto authorities threatened access to project sites and the safety of staff.
2. **Operational Challenges:** Limited access to remote areas, difficulty in beneficiary identification due to weak infrastructure and data systems.
3. **Social and Gender Barriers:** Cultural restrictions, especially targeting women's mobility and participation in economic and educational activities.
4. **Environmental Risks:** Droughts, land degradation, and extreme weather events posed challenges to agricultural productivity and infrastructure.
5. **Funding Gaps:** Insufficient donor funding created a shortfall in meeting project requirements.
6. **Social Cohesion Risks:** Potential conflict among communities due to competition for limited resources and exclusion of marginalized groups.

Mitigation Strategies

1. **Integrated Risk Monitoring:** Established the Integrated Risk Monitoring Unit (IRMU) to ensure compliance with international risk management standards (e.g., anti-money laundering) and early identification of emerging risks.
2. **Community Engagement:** Strengthened partnerships with Community Development Councils (CDCs), local NGOs, and community leaders to build trust and foster ownership.
3. **Social and Gender Safeguards:**
 - Promoted gender-inclusive programming through targeted support for women-led MSMEs and skill-building initiatives.
 - Ensured women's participation in community decision-making and provided support for survivors of gender-based violence.
4. **Environmental Safeguards:**
 - Adopted climate-smart agriculture practices and rehabilitated land to mitigate environmental degradation and build climate resilience.
 - Incorporated renewable energy solutions (e.g., solar energy systems) to reduce reliance on environmentally harmful energy sources.
5. **Social Safeguards:**
 - Mainstreamed a "Do No Harm" approach to prevent unintended negative impacts on vulnerable groups.
 - Promoted social cohesion through awareness programs, community engagement events, and inclusive decision-making.
6. **Capacity Building:** Enhanced the capacity of local stakeholders to independently manage and sustain interventions.
7. **Resource Mobilization:** Maximized efficiency of existing resources and secured supplementary funding through innovative partnerships.

Implementation Progress

1. **Security and Operational Challenges:**
 - Project teams used semi-structured interviews and informal data collection methods in high-risk areas to ensure staff safety.
 - Feasibility studies, baseline assessments, and cash-for-work initiatives successfully addressed operational constraints.
2. **Social and Gender Barriers:**
 - Over 10,000 women-led MSMEs received support, empowering women through financial and technical assistance.

- Gender-based violence (GBV) programs supported survivors and engaged communities in promoting gender equality.
- 3. **Environmental Safeguards:**
 - Climate-smart agricultural techniques improved food security, with over 7,600 farmers trained in sustainable practices.
 - Renewable energy systems were installed, benefiting thousands of households and MSMEs.
- 4. **Social Safeguards:**
 - Social cohesion programs reached over 63,000 individuals, fostering peace and reducing tensions through community-led development plans.
 - Marginalized groups, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) and persons with disabilities, participated in project activities.
- 5. **Environmental Resilience:**
 - Land rehabilitation projects covered approximately 787 hectares, protecting against environmental degradation.
 - Disaster risk reduction training equipped communities to handle climate shocks.
- 6. **Funding Challenges:**
 - Despite funding gaps, significant progress was made, with infrastructure projects, vocational training, and MSME support exceeding initial targets in some areas.

Social and Environmental Safeguard Integration

The project applied **Social and Environmental Safeguard Standards (SES)** to ensure minimal negative impact on communities and ecosystems. Key measures included:

- **Risk Mitigation:** Applied "Do No Harm" principles to avoid exacerbating vulnerabilities.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Promoted renewable energy, sustainable farming, and disaster-resilient infrastructure.
- **Inclusivity:** Ensured equitable access to resources and participation for marginalized groups (e.g., women, IDPs, persons with disabilities)

Conclusion

Conclusion 1: The ABADEI project's internal and external coherence, through collaboration with key entities using an area-based implementation approach and inclusive community engagement, has helped to avoid duplication and enhance service delivery. Despite the many challenges, ABADEI has achieved meaningful progress in fostering cohesive, cross-sectoral interventions that align with donor expectations and community priorities. However, continued strategic and operational level collaboration will be required as the project moves forward, which can be facilitated by coordination using mechanisms such as an Information Management System (AIMS) and regular meetings. **(Coherence)**

Conclusion 2: The ABADEI project demonstrates strong relevance by addressing socio-economic challenges faced by Afghan communities through a community-centered, integrated, and adaptable approach. The project aligns with local needs and national and international frameworks. The project's emphasis on disaster resilience, economic empowerment, and social cohesion further solidifies its alignment with the broader development priorities of Afghanistan. Despite many challenges ABADEI has demonstrated adaptability, maintaining relevance by aligning with Afghanistan's evolving political and security landscape. Addressing ongoing barriers will be essential to meeting the growing needs of vulnerable communities. **(Relevance)**

Conclusion 3: The ABADEI project has been highly effective in achieving its objectives across multiple sectors in response to urgent community needs. By employing a multi-sectoral, area-based approach, the project has integrated interventions such as livelihood support, renewable energy solutions, gender mainstreaming, and disaster resilience, resulting in meaningful results. Interventions have led to immediate changes (such as new sources of income), contributing to job creation, economic stability, and poverty reduction, as well as improved access to essential services and strengthened agricultural productivity. Despite these successes, ongoing challenges such as limited resources, bureaucratic constraints, and regulatory barriers have occasionally hindered the scale and reach of interventions, which are likely to affect the project's ability to achieve its overall objectives.

The Year 1 implementation of the ABADEI 02 project demonstrated mixed effectiveness, with notable successes in several outputs while facing challenges in others. Indicators were generally well-aligned with SMART criteria, particularly in specificity, measurability, relevance, and time-bound targets. However, achievability was a recurring challenge, with some outputs falling significantly short of their targets. **(Effectiveness)**

Conclusion 4: By optimizing the use of resources through strategic allocation, prioritization of high-need regions, and leveraging cost-effective approaches, such as combining livelihoods support with infrastructure development, as well as minimizing duplications by establishing partnerships, the project has demonstrated high levels of efficiency. This has been helped by the timely adjustment of implementation activities using data from the monitoring and accountability mechanisms. However, rigid donor requirements (with earmarked funding) and delays in signing MOUs, as well as local interference in beneficiary selection, have affected operational efficiency.

The ABADEI project's **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system** is a robust framework designed to ensure accountability, inclusivity, and efficient tracking of project outcomes. Anchored by tools like the ABADEI Information Management System (AIMS) and complemented by third-party monitoring in inaccessible areas, the system leverages real-time data, geographical mapping, and regular reporting to support adaptive management and evidence-based decision-making. Responsible parties play a pivotal role in data collection, validation, and stakeholder engagement, ensuring the system is responsive to community needs and aligned with project objectives. However, the reliance on responsible parties for detailed beneficiary data poses challenges, including delays, discrepancies, and limited oversight by UNDP. Addressing these challenges through system upgrades, capacity building, and enhanced data integration mechanisms will strengthen the system's reliability and effectiveness, furthering its ability to deliver impactful and equitable outcomes.

The **financial analysis** highlights strong budget utilization and operational efficiency. In 2023, a 99% delivery rate reflected excellent financial planning, while 2024 has shown steady progress with 77% of the budget executed by September. Management costs remained under the 10% benchmark in both years, demonstrating effective cost control.

To meet 2024 targets, the remaining budget must be strategically utilized, and spending closely monitored. Finalized financial data will enable a more comprehensive efficiency analysis, providing greater insights into the project's long-term financial performance and impact. **(Efficiency)**

Conclusion 5: By fostering local ownership through community-led governance structures, training initiatives, community empowerment, and resilience-building activities, ABADEI has, to an extent, reduced dependency on external support and promoted the long-term functionality of infrastructure and services, hence laying a strong foundation for sustainability. However, reliance on donor funding raises concerns about achieving longer-term sustainability without continued external support. Addressing these challenges through enhanced capacity-building, robust local governance structures, and diversified funding mechanisms will be essential for sustaining and expanding project reach and impact. **(Sustainability)**

Conclusion 6: By adopting culturally sensitive gender inclusion strategies, such as engaging male family members (mahrams) and establishing women-led vocational centers, the project has successfully navigated socio-cultural barriers to create safe and supportive environments for women's economic and social engagement. By prioritizing the inclusion of vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities and economically disadvantaged households, the project has facilitated a sense of belonging and reduced social isolation. However, challenges such as social tensions from shifting gender roles, market saturation, and increased workloads for women will require the project to rethink its approach in order to ensure women's continued participation and economic empowerment. **(Inclusion)**

Conclusion 7: The ABADEI 2.0 strategy provides an integrated framework to address Afghanistan's challenges, focusing on restoring essential services, revitalizing economies, enhancing disaster resilience, and fostering social cohesion and gender equality. Its logical design aligns with UNSF outcomes, targeting both immediate needs and long-term development. Success depends on addressing risks such as security constraints and political instability, while fostering partnerships and adaptive approaches. The strategy offers a critical pathway for empowering marginalized groups, reducing vulnerabilities, and building sustainable resilience in Afghan communities. **(Theory of Change)**

Conclusion 8: The ABADEI 2.0 project has made significant progress in addressing Afghanistan's humanitarian and development challenges by integrating immediate relief with long-term resilience measures. Key achievements include providing essential services, empowering women-led enterprises, promoting disaster risk reduction, and implementing climate-smart practices. Despite challenges like funding gaps and socio-cultural barriers, the project has exceeded expectations in many areas, ensuring inclusivity and sustainability through strong social and environmental safeguards. Moving forward, strengthening local capacities and stakeholder engagement will be critical to sustaining and scaling the project's positive impacts. **(Risks, Mitigation Strategies and Implementation Progress)**

Recommendations

1	Actions	Responsibility	Timelines
<p>Key recommendation 1: Improve coordination mechanisms to avoid duplication including beneficiary overlap as well as address the bureaucratic impediment and regulatory challenges and ensure strong partnerships.</p> <p>The de facto authority's regulations have posed challenges in implementing certain phases of ABADEI. Additionally, donor-specific reporting requirements and budget constraints have limited the scope of certain interventions, necessitating careful planning to align resources and activities. Inefficient coordination among partners led to instances of beneficiary overlap, with multiple interventions targeting the same populations.</p> <p>Linked to conclusion 1 - Coherence</p>			
1.1	Introduce a centralized project management system to enhance tracking and alignment of partner activities and conduct regular partner coordination workshops to address overlapping roles and streamline efforts.	UNDP Project Management Unit and implementing partners	System deployed within 6 months; workshops conducted quarterly
1.2	Develop a centralized beneficiary tracking system accessible to all implementing partners and conduct bi-monthly coordination meetings to update and reconcile beneficiary data across partners.	UNDP, implementing partners, and technical consultants	Launch the tracking system within 4 months; hold the first coordination meeting within 6 weeks
1.3	Advocate for streamlined regulatory processes with local authorities through regular dialogue and consultations and form a dedicated task force to address emerging regulatory barriers swiftly	UNDP senior management and advocacy teams	Initiate dialogues within 1 month; establish the task force within 2 months
1.4	Establish partnership agreements with clear timelines and deliverables to reduce delays caused by dependence on external partners and expand engagement with local NGOs to ensure contextually relevant and efficient service delivery	UNDP senior leadership and regional managers	Agreements finalized within 4 months; expanded local NGO partnerships within 6 months
1.5	Develop market linkages by establishing partnerships with private sector actors and integrating MSMEs into value chains as well as facilitate trade fairs and networking events to expand market opportunities.	UNDP economic development team and implementing partners	Partnerships established and trade fairs launched within 6 months; value chain integration initiatives operational within 8 months.
2	<p>Recommendation 2: Undertake regular and systematic needs assessments including gender analysis and use data from monitoring, feedback and accountability platforms to inform this analysis to ensure ongoing adaptations and alignment with changing needs.</p> <p>While ABADEI promoted gender inclusion, achieving consistent impact across regions was challenging due to cultural and regulatory barriers. ABADEI's area-based management approach integrated multiple sectors, such as livelihoods, renewable energy, and resilience-building. While this approach enhanced overall impact, aligning efforts across sectors required improved coordination to prevent fragmentation and ensure that interventions were consistently relevant to community priorities.</p> <p>Linked to conclusion 2 – Relevance</p>		
2.1	Conduct localized gender analyses to tailor interventions to cultural and	UNDP Gender Specialists, regional	completed within 3 months; expanded

	regulatory contexts based upon which expand support for women-led MSMEs through grants, training, and capacity-building programs.	managers, and implementing partners	support implemented within 6 months
2.2	Enhance community feedback systems to ensure continuous alignment of interventions with local needs and use this feedback to refine current and future project plans.	UNDP monitoring and evaluation teams and implementing partners	Enhanced mechanisms operational within 2 months; bi-annual feedback reports generated
2.3	Develop targeted programs to promote climate-smart farming techniques and disaster risk reduction strategies and provide agricultural kits and training to farmers in high-risk areas.	UNDP agricultural team and local partners.	Programs designed within 4 months; implementation in 6 months
2.4	Implement a pilot adaptive reporting mechanism to address urgent community.	UNDP project management unit and donor representatives.	Initiate pilot reporting within 2 months; propose revised reporting framework to donors within 6 months.
2.5	Conduct market assessments to identify high-demand sectors and guide vocational training programs and collaborate with local businesses to create apprenticeship and job placement opportunities for beneficiaries.	UNDP livelihoods team and economic development partners	Market assessments completed within 3 months; new training and placement initiatives launched within 6 months.
3	<p>Recommendation 3: Scale up livelihoods and MSME support, enhancing infrastructure, and strengthening social cohesion. Refine gender mainstreaming and promoting climate-smart agriculture</p> <p>Vocational training, cash-for-work programs, and MSME support effectively improved livelihoods and community resilience. However, gaps were identified in underserved regions and among women-led enterprises, indicating a need for expanded coverage and tailored business support packages to ensure sustainability. Investments in solarized health facilities, water systems, and disaster-resilient infrastructure demonstrated positive impacts. Feasibility studies and scaling these initiatives to underserved areas were highlighted as critical for expanding reach and addressing infrastructure gaps. Community-based recovery plans and inclusive decision-making processes promoted social cohesion, but challenges remained in fostering sustained collaboration across diverse groups. Expanding these initiatives and facilitating dialogue were identified as necessary to strengthen community bonds. Gender-focused interventions faced implementation challenges due to socio-cultural norms, leading to inconsistent impact. Conducting gender impact assessments and collaborating with local women's organizations were deemed essential for refining and scaling these programs. Disaster risk reduction and sustainable farming techniques contributed to resilience, but broader implementation and enhanced farmer support through agricultural kits and training were needed to amplify impact.</p> <p>Linked to conclusion 3 - Effectiveness</p>		
3.1	Expand vocational training programs, cash-for-work initiatives, and targeted grants for MSMEs, with a focus on underserved regions and women-led enterprises. Develop tailored business support packages to strengthen MSME sustainability.	UNDP livelihoods team, regional managers, and implementing partners.	Programs scaled up within 6 months; support packages launched within 9 months.

3.2	Prioritize investments in solarized health facilities, water management systems, and disaster-resilient infrastructure. Conduct feasibility studies for scaling up renewable energy solutions in underserved areas.	UNDP infrastructure team, technical consultants, and regional managers.	Feasibility studies completed within 4 months; infrastructure projects expanded within 8 months.
3.3	Expand community-based recovery plans, capacity-building workshops, and inclusive decision-making processes. Facilitate cross-community dialogue to foster greater understanding and collaboration.	NDP social cohesion team, regional managers, and local community leaders.	Expanded initiatives launched within 6 months; dialogue forums held quarterly.
3.4	Conduct a gender impact assessment to identify gaps and refine current interventions. Increase collaboration with local women's organizations to scale gender-focused programs.	UNDP Gender Specialists and regional managers.	Assessment completed within 3 months; refined programs implemented within 6 months.
3.5	Develop targeted programs to promote climate-smart farming techniques and disaster risk reduction strategies. Provide agricultural kits and training to farmers in high-risk areas.	UNDP agricultural team and local partners	Programs designed within 4 months; implementation in 6 months.
4	<p>Recommendation 4: Strengthen resource mobilization as well as resource allocation and maintain flexibility in light of donor fatigue and funding challenges. Upgrade the M&E system to include fields for detailed beneficiary and infrastructure information.</p> <p>ABADEI effectively optimized limited resources through flexible allocation and prioritization of high-need regions. However, emerging needs and changing contexts highlighted the importance of a more structured framework for reallocating resources promptly. Strong partnerships with UN agencies, local NGOs, and community organizations improved resource sharing and cost efficiency. Despite this, delays caused by reliance on external partners and unclear timelines demonstrated the need for partnership agreements with defined roles and deliverables. AIMS relies on responsible parties to input beneficiary counts, while the detailed beneficiary data remains with them. This dependency increases the risk of delays and discrepancies during evaluations. Gathering detailed beneficiary data from multiple responsible parties can take weeks, leading to inefficiencies in reporting and monitoring. While the increase in management costs is reasonable, continuous monitoring is needed to ensure they do not disproportionately grow relative to programmatic expenditures. Linked to Conclusion 4 - Efficiency</p>		
4.1	Develop a strategic donor engagement plan to secure additional funding and allocate resources to underserved regions and explore innovative funding mechanisms to address budget constraints.	UNDP project management team and donor relations unit	Plan developed within 4 months; funding adjustments implemented in the next project cycle
4.2	Develop a resource reallocation framework to address emerging needs promptly and prioritize high-need regions for funding and resource allocation.	UNDP project management team and regional managers	Framework developed within 3 months; resource adjustments implemented in the next funding cycle

4.3	Streamline internal processes for signing MOUs and resolving administrative barriers and establish a task force to address implementation bottlenecks promptly to avoid delays	UNDP senior management and regional teams.	Streamlined processes implemented within 2 months; task force operational within 3 months.
4.4.	Upgrade AIMS to include fields for detailed beneficiary and infrastructure data. Develop an input interface for responsible parties to directly upload this information.	UNDP IT Department, AIMS Development Team, Responsible Parties	6 months
4.5	Establish a quarterly data validation process to reconcile AIMS data with detailed records from responsible parties.	UNDP M&E Team, Responsible Parties	Ongoing (Quarterly)
4.6	Create a centralized, secure database linked to AIMS for storing and managing detailed data on beneficiaries and infrastructure.	UNDP IT Department, Responsible Parties	8 months
4.7	Develop and implement a targeted spending plan for the remaining 23% of the 2024 budget, focusing on high-priority activities to ensure annual targets are met.	Financial Management Team and Program Leads.	By mid-December 2024.
4.8	Review and analyze monthly spending trends, and adjust resource allocation to maintain efficiency and avoid under- or over-expenditure in Q4.	Financial Management Team	Monthly through December 2024.
4.9	Conduct a review of expenditures to ensure alignment with the AWP and reallocate funds if necessary to address deviations.	Program Managers and Financial Management Team.	By November 30, 2024.
4.10	Identify and implement strategies to maintain management costs below 10%, such as reducing non-essential administrative expenses and reallocating funds to programmatic activities.	Project Director and Administrative Team.	Ongoing through December 2024.
4.11	Compile and finalize all financial data to support a detailed efficiency analysis during the end-line evaluation.	Financial Management Team.	By January 31, 2025.
5	<p>Recommendation 5: In order to foster sustainability, the project should foster approaches that support economic independence, address dependency on external support, expand capacity-building efforts, strengthen local governance structures</p> <p>Sustainable outcomes require capacity building within local institutions to ensure the continuity of project activities after donor funding ends. Strengthening governance, management, and operational systems will enhance resilience and reduce dependency on external support. Encouraging community involvement in project planning, implementation, and decision-making</p>		

<p>fosters a sense of ownership. This promotes long-term sustainability as communities are more likely to maintain and build upon the outcomes of the project. Linked to conclusion 5 – Sustainability</p>			
5.1	<p>Transition beneficiaries from cash-for-work projects to self-sustaining livelihoods by providing advanced vocational training, business development support, and access to micro-grants. In addition, strengthen financial literacy programs to empower beneficiaries to manage and grow their income.</p>	<p>UNDP livelihoods team and regional managers</p>	<p>Transition strategy implemented within 6 months; advanced training and financial literacy programs launched within 4 months.</p>
5.2	<p>Strengthen community-led maintenance and governance structures to promote ownership and sustainability of project outcomes and provide leadership and resource management training to local committees.</p>	<p>UNDP regional teams and local governance partners.</p>	<p>Structures strengthened within 4 months; training programs initiated within 6 months.</p>
5.3	<p>Introduce self-sustaining economic models such as cooperative businesses and revolving funds to reduce reliance on external aid,</p>	<p>UNDP livelihoods team and local NGOs</p>	<p>Self-sustaining models piloted within 8 months; expanded incubator programs operational within 10 months.</p>
5.4	<p>Provide sustained mentorship and capacity-building programs for MSMEs, community leaders, and beneficiaries to ensure they can independently manage and scale.</p>	<p>UNDP capacity-building team and implementing partners.</p>	<p>Mentorship programs expanded within 5 months; capacity-building sessions conducted quarterly.</p>
5.5	<p>Develop dual-purpose interventions that address urgent needs while building capacity for long-term resilience.</p>	<p>UNDP project management team and regional managers.</p>	<p>Dual-purpose interventions designed and implemented within 4 months.</p>
6	<p>Recommendation 6: In order to enhance inclusion diversity, diversify economic opportunities and inclusion of vulnerable groups, as well as support balanced work life for women, and strengthen community dialogue and social cohesion</p> <p>Vocational training, micro-grants, and support for women-led MSMEs enhanced financial independence and employability for women, youth, and other marginalized groups. However, market saturation in sectors like tailoring limited the profitability of women-trained businesses, underscoring the need for sector diversification and stronger market linkages. Targeted interventions, including skill-building initiatives and cash-for-work programs, supported the integration of vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities and economically disadvantaged households. However, gaps in outreach and sustained mentorship limited the full inclusion of these populations.</p> <p>Linked to conclusion 6 – Diversity and Inclusion</p>		

<p>6.1 Introduce vocational training programs in diverse sectors to reduce market saturation and expand economic opportunities for women and marginalized groups. In addition, strengthen market linkages and value chain integration to ensure sustainable income sources.</p>	<p>UNDP livelihoods team and local partners.</p>	<p>Diversified training programs launched within 6 months; strengthened market linkages operational within 8 months</p>
<p>6.2 Develop support systems, such as childcare services and family support programs, to address the increased workload for women participating in economic activities and conduct awareness sessions with families to promote shared responsibilities and balanced family dynamics.</p>	<p>UNDP gender specialists and regional managers.</p>	<p>Support systems initiated within 6 months; family awareness sessions conducted quarterly.</p>
<p>6.3 Facilitate continuous community dialogue sessions to address social tensions and foster acceptance of shifting gender roles including engaging local leaders and influencers to advocate for inclusive practices.</p>	<p>UNDP social cohesion team and local community leaders</p>	<p>Dialogue sessions initiated within 4 months; ongoing quarterly</p>
<p>6.4 Design targeted interventions for vulnerable populations, such as people with disabilities and disadvantaged households, to enhance their participation in economic and social activities including mentorship programs to support skill development and integration.</p>	<p>UNDP regional teams and implementing partners.</p>	<p>Targeted interventions launched within 6 months; mentorship programs operational within 8 months.</p>
<p>6.5 Develop culturally sensitive strategies, including engaging male family members (mahrams) and collaborating with community leaders, to ensure meaningful participation of women in economic and social activities. Also expand women-led vocational centers to provide safe learning spaces.</p>	<p>UNDP gender specialists and regional managers.</p>	<p>Strategies implemented within 4 months; vocational center expansion operational within 6 months.</p>
<p>7 Recommendation 7: Develop detailed risk mitigation strategies and contingency plans to address security challenges and ensure community cooperation through strong engagement with local leaders and stakeholders. Prioritize and phase activities based on urgency, feasibility, and impact to align ambitions with realistic timelines. Regularly monitor progress, adapt strategies to regional conditions, and recalibrate goals based on on-ground realities and resource availability.</p> <p>The program's success relies heavily on external factors, including security and community cooperation, which are critical for effective implementation. While risks have been identified, the lack of detailed mitigation strategies poses challenges to managing uncertainties. Additionally, the high ambition of achieving comprehensive results across eight regions within the set timeframe requires careful prioritization, phased implementation, and ongoing adaptation to regional conditions to ensure feasibility and effectiveness.</p>		
<p>7.1 Create context-specific risk mitigation plans and contingency strategies for security and operational challenges.</p>	<p>Risk Management Unit (IRMU); Regional Teams</p>	<p>Month 1-3</p>

7.2	Conduct regular consultations with local leaders and stakeholders to foster trust and ensure community ownership.	Community Engagement Specialists; Local Partners	Ongoing throughout the program
7.3	Develop a phased implementation plan that focuses on high-priority activities with the greatest impact.	Program Manager; Regional Teams	Month 1-6
7.4	Tailor interventions to regional-specific security, cultural, and operational realities through localized planning.	Regional Teams; Local Implementing Partners	Month 1-12
7.5	Set up periodic reviews to assess progress, identify challenges, and adjust goals and plans as necessary.	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialists	Quarterly reviews
7.6	Build partnerships with local NGOs, government bodies, and community groups to share resources and reduce dependencies.	Program Manager; Partnership Specialists	Month 1-6 (ongoing)
8	<p>Recommendation 8: The project should strengthen local capacities, enhance stakeholder engagement through feedback mechanisms, and scale up successful interventions like renewable energy and climate-smart agriculture to ensure sustainability and maximize impact.</p> <p>As the project transitions to its next stages, maintaining momentum, strengthening local capacities, and enhancing stakeholder engagement will be pivotal to ensuring long-lasting impacts for the communities it serves.</p> <p>Linked to conclusion 8 – Risk, Mitigation Strategies and Implementation Progress</p>		
8.1	Develop a detailed roadmap for transitioning to the next project stages with clear milestones. Regularly communicate progress and achievements to stakeholders to sustain engagement.	UNDP, Project Manager, Communication Unit	Q1–Q2 2024
8.2	Provide capacity-building workshops for Community Development Councils (CDCs) and local NGOs to enhance project management skills. Equip local partners with advanced tools and resources for effective	UNDP, Training Institutions, Local NGOs	Q1–Q4 2024
8.3	Establish a stakeholder feedback mechanism to incorporate community and partner inputs into planning and implementation. Conduct quarterly stakeholder meetings to align expectations and address emerging challenges.	UNDP, Local Partners, CDCs	Ongoing (quarterly)

Lessons Learned

1. Adaptive Strategies Ensure Success

ABADEI's ability to adapt to Afghanistan's complex socio-political and cultural environment was instrumental in its success. Adjustments to gender-focused activities, such as engaging male

family members (mahrams) and working with community leaders, allowed the project to maintain inclusivity while respecting local norms. This highlights the importance of flexibility and culturally sensitive approaches in project design and implementation.

2. **Community-Led Approaches Foster Ownership**

Involving local communities in project planning, implementation, and maintenance promoted ownership and ensured sustainability. Community-led governance structures, such as committees for infrastructure maintenance, proved effective in reducing dependency on external support. Strengthening such structures is crucial for long-term impact.

3. **Economic Empowerment Requires Market Integration**

While vocational training, MSME support, and cash-for-work projects improved livelihoods, market saturation and limited access to broader economic opportunities reduced long-term viability. Establishing stronger market linkages and diversifying training sectors can enhance economic sustainability.

4. **Balancing Immediate Relief with Long-Term Goals is Critical**

The project's dual focus on providing immediate financial relief and fostering long-term resilience was effective but revealed tensions between short-term and sustainable outcomes. Clear transition pathways from aid dependency to self-sustaining livelihoods are essential for durable impact.

5. **Gender Inclusion is a Complex Process**

Efforts to empower women in restrictive socio-cultural environments demonstrated progress, but challenges persist. Socio-cultural resistance, increased workloads for women, and family dynamics require balanced support systems, such as childcare and family awareness programs, to ensure meaningful and sustainable inclusion.

6. **Resource Efficiency Improves Outcomes**

Leveraging local labor and expertise not only reduced costs but also ensured interventions were culturally appropriate and well-received. Efficient resource allocation, combined with adaptive frameworks, allowed the project to address emerging needs effectively.

7. **Integrated Disaster Resilience Enhances Community Stability**

Disaster risk reduction initiatives, such as flood barriers and reforestation, provided immediate protection and long-term resilience. Scaling these activities while integrating them with other interventions can reduce vulnerability to environmental risks.

8. **Social Cohesion Reduces Tensions**

Community dialogue and inclusive engagement can reduce social tensions and promote acceptance of shifting gender roles and economic empowerment initiatives. Continued efforts to foster cohesion and address concerns proactively can strengthen the foundation for lasting impact.

9. **Dependency Challenges Sustainability**

Reliance on external aid, particularly for cash-for-work and economic support measures challenges sustainability. Introducing self-sustaining models, such as cooperatives and local revenue-generating initiatives, can reduce dependency and enhance resilience.

10. **Monitoring and Evaluation Need Refinement**

Tools like the ABADEI Information Management System (AIMS) support accountability, but usability and integration is also important. Real-time monitoring and enhanced reporting mechanisms enable better tracking of implementation and results and facilitate timely adjustments.

Annexes:

Annex I: TOR

SECTION 5: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Services/Work Description:	The Mid-term Evaluation (MTE) of ABDAEI Project
Project/Programme Title:	Area Based Approach to Development Emergency Initiatives (ABADEI 2.0)
Type of Contract:	Contract for Professional Services
Duty Station:	Kabul, Afghanistan
Duration:	15 August 2024 – 31 October 2024
Expected start date:	15 August 2024

Background and context

The Area-Based Approach to Development Emergency Initiatives (ABADEI) Strategy is a tailored response to the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan, as requested by the UN Executive Committee Working Group for Afghanistan. ABADEI is an area-based integrated programming approach to support basic human needs by combining short-term humanitarian lifesaving assistance with safeguarding livelihoods and enhancing community resilience. It aims to address worsening poverty and vulnerability, support community resilience and social cohesion, and rehabilitate small-scale infrastructure vital for basic human needs. It emphasizes creating immediate income sources through initiatives like cash-for-work (CfW) and cash-for-market (CfM), small businesses, and livelihood opportunities, with a particular focus on agri-business and regenerative agriculture infrastructure critical for food security.

Sensitive to the chronic and emerging vulnerabilities and marginalization of Afghan women and girls, ABADEI seeks to assist them without worsening their susceptibility to violence and deprivation of opportunities and rights. The project aims to enhance women's access to essential services and opportunities for community-based economic activities and skill development. It will strengthen community resilience and social cohesion. The project will support community leaders to include diversity, inclusivity, equity, non-discrimination and equality principles in local activity planning, implementation, dispute resolution, and resource management. The project will also increase the use of gender-disaggregated data and mainstream gender equality and empowerment into design, selection, and monitoring of community interventions.

With gender-specific results and activities, the Project is supporting women-owned businesses, women's access to health, energy, and vocational training, and provide increased opportunities for women, girls, survivors, and at-risk women to participate actively in alternative livelihoods or income generation activities supported by cash-based interventions.

ABADEI is grounded in partnerships to maximize synergies and capitalize on existing capacities at the local level. ABADEI complements the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and aims to address key concerns such as food insecurity, emergency needs for essential goods and services, and the effects of displacement on IDPs, hosts and refugee returnees through a resilience-building approach.

Area-Based Programming (ABP), at the core of the ABADEI Strategy, is a context-sensitive, needs-based targeting approach that aims to preserve human, social, cultural, and institutional capital amidst a multidimensional crisis. It recognizes that while life-saving humanitarian assistance is essential to address urgent needs, it must be simultaneously accompanied by measures to reduce further displacement and the rapid rise of the humanitarian case load. It recognizes the importance of addressing multiple vulnerabilities simultaneously to prevent the socio-economic collapse of the country in a context of severe instability.

BADEI 2.0's Theory of Change (TOC) is as follows:

IF essential basic services are functioning, **THEN** people can meet their basic needs without humanitarian assistance.

IF the most vulnerable receive livelihood support & local economies are revitalized, **THEN** people can earn a living, and communities can flourish.

IF communities are prepared for disaster management and water/natural ecosystems are restored, **THEN** livelihoods will be protected, and displacement reduced.

IF reconciliation, inclusive participatory and planning processes, gender equality and access to justice improved, **THEN** social cohesion and resilience are strengthened at the community level. Against the above background, ABADEI expects to achieve three main UN SFA and UNDP outcomes through the implementation of four outputs, and subsequent 18 activities/interventions in eight (8) targeted geographic locations that enable the provision of immediate support and long-term development through the ABADEI integrated package. Following the implementation of ABADEI Phase 1, the project is now mid-way in Phase 2, contributing towards UNDP's three strategic outcomes, as well as all to UNDP's six signature solutions. The project is implemented through the following outputs: **Output 1:** Essential services improved in the area of infrastructure, agriculture, health, education, and energy; **Output 2:** Local economies improved through gender-responsive community -based livelihoods; **Output 3:** Local communities' resilience capacity enhanced to better respond and adapt to the disaster and climate- induced risks; **Output 4:** Communities' capacity, ownership, engagement improved for better social cohesion and access to justice (especially for those who are systematically discriminated against, such as women, girls, ethnic and persons with disabilities).

Evaluation purpose, scope, and objectives

The Mid-term Evaluation (MTE) will assess progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the Project Document and assess early signs of project success or failure with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results. The MTE will also review the project's strategy and its risks to sustainability.

The MTE aims to inform UNDP Afghanistan and its partners of lessons learned, results achieved and areas for improvements. The MTE will be able to produce valuable lessons and experiences, providing useful findings to the other relevant projects and various initiatives organized by UNDP Afghanistan as well as Country Offices (COs) globally.

Responding to the Theory of Change (ToC) as described in the project document, the agreed results framework and the approved workplans, the MTE should look at the relevance of the project, quality of the project design, effectiveness, and efficiency of the implementation to date, sustainability of the overall project results, impact of intervention made to date, and forward-looking directions to strengthen project implementation and likelihood of achieving results and impact. The Evaluation Team should specifically assess the project outputs i.e. **Output 1:** Essential services improved in the area of infrastructure, agriculture, health, education, and energy; **Output 2:** Local economies improved through gender-responsive community -based livelihoods; **Output 3:** Local communities' resilience capacity enhanced to better respond and adapt to the disaster and climate- induced risks; **Output 4:** Communities' capacity, ownership, engagement improved for better social cohesion and access to justice (especially for those who are systematically discriminated against, such as women, girls, ethnic and persons with disabilities).

The MTE will serve to:

- Ascertain the coherence, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the project.
- Assess project performance and progress against the expected outputs, targets including indicators presented in the results framework and contribution to expected outcomes.
- Assess whether cross-cutting issues such as gender, inclusion and sustainability have been mainstreamed in the project's implementation and approaches.
- Assess the Project's contribution to higher level results such as CPRF/ TCPS and Strategic Plan Outputs and Outcomes, through the selected indicators.
- Assess the effectiveness of the project's engagement with ABADEI project implementing partners including UNAs, specialized INGOs, and local NGOs/CSOs
- Assess the quality of implementation, including financial management and project efficiency.

- Assumptions made during the preparation stage, particularly objectives and agreed indicators, against current conditions.
- Provide forward-looking recommendations that contribute to enhancing the quality of results during future implementation including possible realignment in scope and approach in line with the project’s desired outcome.
- Review and document challenges and successes, drawing out lessons learned.

Since the ABADEI 2.0 Project is now mid-way into implementation, the MTE will provide an independent assessment of project progress against target results and likelihood of achieving the project outcomes from its commencement on 01 April 2023 to date. It will propose recommendations to strengthen implementation of the project and in the design of future UNDP projects. It will cover the project interventions at the national and sub-national levels, taking into consideration that ABADEI’s geographical coverage includes all regions of Afghanistan. Responsible Parties composed of international and local NGOs and UN agencies have been engaged by ABADEI to carry out activities on the ground. UNDP Regional Offices plays a vital role in coordination and communication with DFA’s, communities and regional teams of Responsible parties. They are also responsible for compliance, supervision and monitoring of all the activities on ground.

Furthermore, the “Leave No One Behind” (LNOB) principle is a cornerstone of the OECD’s approach to inclusive development and evaluation. The Evaluation team must consider integrating LNOB into evaluation methodology and approach to ensure that the evaluation consider the most marginalized and disadvantaged groups. This aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’s commitment to prioritize the needs of the furthest behind first. By embedding LNOB in evaluation practices, UNDP advocates for a systematic focus on equity and non-discrimination, therefore, encouraging the evaluation team to identify and address disparities in project outputs and to ensure that development interventions contribute to equality and empowerment for all. The evaluation team must note that this principle is vital for capturing the true breadth of UNDP intervention’s impact and for steering policies towards more inclusive and sustainable outcomes.

The target audience of the MTE are the members of the ABADEI Project Board, UNDP Management, and the project’s donors. The report will also be shared with other project stakeholders, development partners, UN Agencies, civil society, and private sector. The final evaluation report will be accessible by the public.

Evaluation criteria and key guiding questions

In responding to the MTE purpose and objectives, the MTE will use the [OECD/DAC evaluation](#) criteria and guiding questions outlined below:

Table 2 - Criteria and Guiding Questions

Criteria	Guiding Questions
Coherence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Do synergies exist with other interventions carried out by UNDP as well as intervention partners and stakeholders including the donor? 2- To what extent does ABADEI add value and avoid duplication in the given context? 3- To what extent did the project implement the Afghanistan Coordination Group Principles?
Relevance	<p>Review the progress against project outputs and contribution to outcome level results as defined in the project’s ToC whether assumptions and risks remain valid. Identify any other intended or unintended, positive, or negative results.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are the project’s strategies, design, and implementation arrangements relevant to the needs Afghanistan? To what extent did the ABADEI implementation strategy been responsive to the needs and priorities of the humanitarian-development scenario in Afghanistan? 2. To what extent does the project contribute to the Theory of Change (ToC) for the relevant country programme outcomes (UN Transitional

	<p>Engagement Framework, the UNDP Transitional Country Programme Strategy (TCPRF) and UNDP Strategic Plan?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. To what extent were the overall design and approaches of the project relevant? 4. To what extent did the project achieve its overall outputs? Are the project's contributions to outcomes clear?
Effectiveness	<p>Review project's technical as well as operational approaches, the regionality and deliverables, quality of results and their impact, alignment with national priorities and responding to the needs of the CSOs; covering the results achieved, the partnerships established, as well as issues of capacity using following guiding questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. To what extent were project activities delivered effectively in terms of quality, quantity, and timing? And what are the project's greatest achievements? Why and what have been the supporting factors? How can the project build on or expand these achievements? 6. What are the key internal and external factors (success & failure factors) that have contributed, affected, or impeded the achievements, and how UNDP and the partners have managed these factors? 7. To what extent has the project's interventions carried out through Responsible Parties been effective in helping beneficiaries meet their basic human needs, improve livelihoods and strengthen resilience? 8. To what extent has the project management and implementation been participatory, flexible, adaptive, and responsive to the emerging needs and priorities of Afghanistan.
Efficiency	<p>Efficiency of the project management structure and the added value of the project's regional approach: review planning, management, monitoring, and quality assurance mechanisms for the delivery of the project interventions and the added value of the regionality of the project set up in the context of fiscal reform at national and subnational level using following questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Have resources (funds, human resources, time, expertise, etc.) been allocated strategically and utilized cost effectively to achieve outcomes? 6. Was the process of achieving results efficient? Were the resources effectively utilized? 7. To what extent has the project been effective in managing partnerships to enhance optimal results through building synergy with others in an efficient and cost-effective manner? 8. Did the project activities overlap, and duplicate other similar interventions funded nationally, and/or by other donors?
Sustainability	<p>Sustainability of the project results and risks along with opportunities related to future interventions: review and assess if the current project setup has plans for future resource mobilization, synergy, long term partnership and / or considering institutionalization of the project impact for continued support after the project end using following questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. To what extent did the project's results contribute to long-term objectives? 6. What were the major factors/risks which influenced or hampered the sustainability of results produced by the project? To what extent did the project manage these risks?

	<p>7. 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?</p> <p>8. To what extent are lessons learned being documented by the project team and shared with appropriate parties who can learn from the project?</p>
Likelihood of Impact	<p>5- To what extent is the project likely to contribute to improved economic condition of the target beneficiaries?</p> <p>6- What positive and/or negative changes are the beneficiaries experiencing because of their participation in ABADEI activities?</p> <p>7- Did the UNDP staff take timely measures for mitigating any unplanned negative impacts of the ABADEI project?</p> <p>8- To what extent the local communities benefited from the quick-impact projects implemented through ABADEI?</p>
Diversity and inclusion	<p>Sustainability and effectiveness of diversity and inclusion approach: review the project's approaches and strategies in integrating gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) in the countries, using following questions.</p> <p>5- To what extent did the project contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment? To what extent has the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women? Were there any unintended effects?</p> <p>6- Did the results have a differentiated impact on women and other vulnerable groups?</p> <p>7- How can the project further broaden its contribution to enhancing diversity and inclusion?</p> <p>8- To what extent have local communities, women, youth, people with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups benefited from the project?</p>

Methodology

The evaluation will apply the standard [OECD/DAC criteria](#) using a mixed-methods approach, i.e., qualitative, and quantitative data collection. This should be further developed by the evaluator(s) and approved by the evaluation manager during the inception phase of the evaluation.

Final decisions about the specific design and methods for the evaluation should emerge from consultations with UNDP, including the Evaluation Manager (in consultation with UNDP business units) and the ABADEI Project Management Unit the evaluators about what is appropriate and feasible to meet the evaluation purpose and objectives and answer the evaluation questions, considering the limitations of budget, time, and data.

The evaluation will employ a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods to assess project's impact. Evaluators are expected to adopt a participatory and consultative approach, engaging closely with evaluation manager, responsible parties, and male and female direct beneficiaries.

Evaluation should employ a combination of both qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods and instruments. The MTE firm is expected to follow a collaborative and participatory approach, ensuring close coordination with the PMU, Regional Offices for ABADEI, Responsible Parties, UNDP Technical Specialists, and beneficiaries. Suggested methodological tools and approaches may include but not limited to the following:

- **Document review of all relevant documentation.** This would include a review of inter alia.
 - Project document and contribution agreement.
 - Theory of change and results framework.
 - Programme and project quality assurance reports.
 - Annual workplans.
 - Activity designs.

- Consolidated quarterly and annual reports.
 - Results-oriented monitoring reports.
 - Highlights of project board meetings.
 - Technical/financial monitoring reports.
 - Third Party Monitoring Reports
 - Project supported publications and IEC materials.
- **Data collection done in the form of:**
 - **Semi-structured interviews** with key representatives of key civil society organizations, and implementing partners:
 - Key informant and focus group discussions with men and women, beneficiaries of ABADEI project implementing partners.
 - All interviews should be undertaken in full confidence and anonymity. The evaluation report should not assign specific comments to individuals.

For the above, evaluation questions developed around the evaluation criteria and guiding questions will be designed for different ABADEI project stakeholders to be interviewed.

- **Surveys and questionnaires** including participants in development programs, surveys and questionnaires involving ABADEI project implementing partners at strategic and programmatic levels.
- **Field visits** and on-site validation of key tangible outputs and interventions.
- **Meetings with UNDP and stakeholders:** The evaluation team will have meetings and discussions with the following:
 - Project Management Unit, Technical Specialists and Regional Offices, as well as relevant UNDP Afghanistan business units, and Senior Management
 - Responsible Parties, Trust Fund Management Unit, and other relevant UN Agencies
 - Project donors

Other methods such as outcome mapping, observational visits, group discussions, etc.

The Evaluation Team expected to follow a participatory and consultative approach that ensures close engagement with the evaluation managers, implementing partners and direct beneficiaries.

- **Data Review and Analysis of Monitoring and Other Data Sources.** To ensure maximum validity and reliability of data quality, the evaluation team should:
 - Triangulate information from various data sources.
 - Apply a gender and human rights lens to all evaluation products.
 - Address gender, disability, and human rights issues in the ABADEI Mid-term Evaluation Report.

All conclusions, judgments, and opinions must be qualified by evidence and not be based on opinions.

As part of the requirement, evaluation must include an assessment of the extent to which the design, implementation, and results of the project have incorporated gender equality perspective and rights-based approach. The evaluators will make sure Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluation during the inception phase. In addition, the methodology used in the evaluation, including data collection and analysis methods should be human rights and gender-sensitive to the greatest extent possible, with evaluation data and findings disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, age, etc. – with a focus on people with disabilities. Detailed analysis on disaggregated data will be undertaken as part of evaluation from which findings are consolidated to make recommendations and identify lessons learned for enhanced gender responsive and rights-based approach of the project. These evaluation approach and methodology should consider diverse types of groups in the project intervention – women, youth, vulnerable groups etc.

The final methodological approach including interview schedule, field visits and data to be used in the evaluation should be clearly outlined in the inception report and be fully discussed and agreed between UNDP and the evaluators.

Evaluation products (deliverables)

The Evaluation products include:

Evaluation inception report (10-15 pages, excluding annexes). The inception report should be carried out following and based on preliminary discussions with UNDP after the desk review and should be produced before the evaluation starts (before any formal evaluation interviews, survey distribution or field visits) and prior to the country visit in the case of international evaluators. The inception report should include the **workplan and methodology which** should provide clear timeline of how and when each step the evaluation will be undertaken. Considering the travel restriction due to safety and security in Afghanistan. The workplan can be annexed to the inception report or shared with the evaluation reference group/ evaluation manager in advance. The **updated Evaluation matrix** should be included in the inception report. The evaluation matrix is a tool that the evaluator creates as a map and reference in planning and conducting an evaluation. It also serves as a useful tool for summarizing and visually presenting the evaluation design and methodology for discussions with stakeholders. It details evaluation questions that the evaluation will answer, data sources, data collection and analysis tools or methods appropriate for each data source, and the standard or measure by which each question will be evaluated. Below is the sample of the evaluation matrix template.

Relevant evaluation criteria	Key questions	Specific Sub-questions	Data sources	Data collection methods/ tools	Indicators/ success standards	Methods for data analysis

- **Evaluation debriefings.** Immediately following the data collection and field work, UNDP may ask for a preliminary debriefing and findings.
- **Draft evaluation report (not more than 40 pages excluding annexes).** The content of the [report](#) should consist of the following:
 - List of Acronyms and Abbreviations (1 page)
 - Executive Summary summarizing the key findings with rating scale, and recommendation (1-2 pages)
 - Introduction (1 page)
 - Evaluation Scope and Objective (1-2 pages)
 - Evaluation Approach and Methods (1-2 pages)
 - Data analysis, finding, including a table of progress against indicators (15-20 pages)
 - The report will also reflect human/best practice narrative as per the evidence collected from the field visit.
 - Conclusion, recommendations and Lessons Learned (5 pages)

The report should consist of good flow reflecting clear linkage from data analysis to each finding, its relevant conclusion, and recommendation. The recommendation should be focus, specific, and actionable. The lesson learnt should be elaborated based on the reflection from the project performance, coupled with the experience from the firm. The lesson learnt should be able to serve the purpose to inform the current project and could be leveraged to inform other future project/programming.

Annexes: Survey/ questionnaire questions and analyses, List of contacts, and Other relevant information.

- **Evaluation report audit trail.** Comments and changes by the evaluator in response to the draft report should be retained by the evaluator to show how they have addressed comments. Template to be provided by UNDP.

Final evaluation report, reflecting the achievements and success stories of the project. The firm will revise the draft based on the inputs provided and submit the final report within two weeks after receiving the comments. The evaluation team lead is expected to develop a brief PowerPoint presentation and present the evaluation results (max two times) to UNDP, the Evaluation Reference Group or Project Board or as suggested by the Evaluation Manager

Expected Deliverables:

#	Deliverables	Description	Due date
1	ABADEI project MTE Inception report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inception report should include a proposed schedule of tasks, activities, and deliverables, building on what has been provisionally proposed in this ToR. • It should be prepared by the MTE firm before going into the full-fledged MTE exercise. • It should detail the reviewing approach, proposed format, and table of content of the MTE report. • It must also outline reviewers' understanding of what is being reviewed and why, showing how each area of inquiry will be answered by way of: proposed methods; proposed sources of data; and data collection procedures. This information should be provided through the preparation of the MTE Matrix. • The inception report should provide UNDP and the MTE with an opportunity to verify that they share the same understanding about the assignment, the same understanding of the ToC and clarify any misunderstandings at the outset. • The MTE Inception report should include MTE Evaluation Matrix. The matrix should include key evaluation criteria, indicators, question, and sub-questions to capture and assess them. <p>The workplan should provide clear timeline of how each MTE steps will be undertaken. The firm is required to provides clear interview and/or focus group discussion scheduled online as this will require coordination support from the ABADEI project team at Kabul. The ABADEI project MTE methodology should provide a specific assessment framework, covering both quantitative and qualitative dimensions, with a detailed list of required ABADEI project implementing partners who need to be interviewed in the MTE process. A simple ABADEI project implementing partners analysis for conducting interviews and evaluations can be conducted. The draft methodology can be adjusted later once the MTE has completed the desk review of the project related documents. The final MTE approach and methodology can be presented as a part of the Inception Report. .</p>	Upto 09 days (after signing the contract)
2	MTE evaluation briefing	After completion of data collection or before sharing the draft report, the evaluator should present preliminary debriefing and findings to UNDP and MTE reference group.	Up to 20 Days (after Completion of 1 st Deliverable)
3	Draft MTE report	The draft Report will be reviewed by the UNDP Evaluation Reference Group including respective CO teams. Detailed comments and feedback on the draft report will be provided to the MTE and discussions may be held to provide clarifications, as necessary.	Upto 5 days (After Completion)

			of 2 nd Deliverable
4	Presentation to ABADEI Management on Findings, Lessons Learned and Recommendation	Presentation of the final Evaluation (With inputs from UNDP Team incorporated in the presentations) findings, recommendations and lessons learned to the UNDP Management, Programme Units and Projects.	Upto 5 days (after Completion of 3 rd Deliverable
5	Final MTE report with achievements and success stories with Audit Trail Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final MTE report will be produced by the MTE based on feedback received on the draft report. The evaluation team lead should include two rounds of feedback from UNDP. The final report will be shared with the Evaluation Reference Group. The final draft report should be submitted within the given timeline with enough detail and quality. <p>The comments and changes by the firm in response to the draft report should be retained by the evaluator in form of audit trail to show they have addressed comments. The Audit Trail Form is submitted as an Annex to the final evaluation report.</p>	Upto 6 days (After Completion of 4 th Deliverable

Payment Modality:

Payment to the consultancy company will be made based on the actual number of days worked, deliverables accepted and upon certification of satisfactory completion by the manager.

payment Instalments:

Deliverables/ Outputs		Estimated Working Days	% Of total contract amount
1	Upon satisfactory completion of the MTE inception report, cleared by the evaluation manager (including final methodology, data collection tools and preparation of questioner; proposed data collection schedules, evaluation matrix, evaluation briefing etc.) and successful completion of the literature review stage. Provides clear interview and/or focus group discussion scheduled online as this will require coordination support from the ABADEI project team at Kabul Preliminary debriefing and findings to UNDP and MTE reference group.	15 days (after contract signing)	10%
2	Upon satisfactory completion of data collection, analysis and draft report cleared by the evaluation manager, interviews and analysis and submission of MTE draft report including debrief (presentation) on draft findings and recommendation to the management	40 days (after contract signing)	50%
3	Upon satisfactory submission of MTE Final report, cleared by the evaluation manager (with all the raw and processed data collected during the course of time)	45 days (after contract signing)	40%
Total		Estimated 45 days	100%

* The total duration of the task should not exceed 45 working days.

* A buffer of 5 days is given for unforeseen circumstances.

The firm must send a financial proposal based on per-diem. The total amount quoted shall be all-inclusive and include all costs components required to perform the deliverables identified in the TOR, including professional fee, living allowance and any other applicable cost to be incurred by the firm in completing the assignment. The contract price will be fixed output-based price regardless of extension of the herein specified duration. Payments will be done upon completion of the deliverables/outputs and as per the above percentages.

It is important to note that multiple iterations of the report may be required for the satisfactory completion of the report.

In general, UNDP shall not accept travel costs exceeding those of an economy class ticket. Should the Firm wish to travel on a higher class he/she should do so using their own resources.

In the event of unforeseeable travel not anticipated in this TOR, payment of travel costs including tickets, lodging and terminal expenses should be agreed upon between the respective business unit and the consultancy firm prior to travel and will be reimbursed.

Travel costs shall be reimbursed at actual but not exceeding the quotation from UNDP approved travel agent.

Professional Qualifications of the Successful Contractor and its key personnel

All potential companies/firms applying to carry out this work must be:

- Based in Afghanistan for at least 5 years.
- Able to establish a project team that is guided by specialists with proven expertise and at least 5 years' experience in Terminal/Mid-Term Evaluations in an international development context. These specialists do not need to be Afghan Nationals and can work as partners or sub-contractors to the Companies/NGO/CSO.
- Have a strong internal control system (financial and administration) for the implementation of projects.
- Must provide a project team that has proven communication and reporting skills and is able to coordinate and deliver work online.

The project team will comprise of the follow key members:

- Team Leaders (International)
- Evaluation Manager (National)
- Junior Evaluation Officer (National)

Applicants should provide a Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the key members of the proposed core project team. The CVs should include names, qualification, details of relevant experience, and capability and capacity to undertake the activities required in this ToR.

Key Competencies:

Evaluation Team Leader (International):

The Evaluation Team lead mainly responsible to examine all pertinent documentation thoroughly: This involves a detailed review of all relevant materials to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the project's scope, requirements, and context.

I. Academic Qualifications:

- A minimum of a master's degree or equivalent in Social Science, Economics, or any other related discipline.

II. Years of experience:

- At least 5 years of professional experience in monitoring and evaluation and programme evaluation experience in basic services, livelihood, social cohesion and justice and development programmes in developing countries, especially Afghanistan.
- Familiarity with international context and post-conflict/crises in developing societies
- Experience and knowledge of the socio-political context of Afghanistan and regions would be a strong asset.

- Excellent evaluation skills, quantitative and qualitative analysis (data analysis) and proven capacity to effectively analyse, and present data/information.
- The project mid-term review/evaluation experience with UNDP is highly desired.
- Sound understanding of the UN system and of UNDP's mandate and role.

III. Language:

- Excellent knowledge, both oral and written, of English with presentational capacities is required.

IV. Competencies:

Functional Competencies:

- Ability to work independently.
- Ability to perform tasks in a timely manner and produce quality final product.
- Strong interpersonal, communication and diplomacy skills.
- Openness to change and ability to receive and integrate feedback.

Corporate Competencies:

- Demonstrates integrity by modelling the UN's values and ethical standards.
- Promotes the vision, mission, and strategic goals of UNDP.
- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability.
- Treats all people fairly without favouritism.
- Fulfils all obligations to gender sensitivity.

Evaluation Officer (National):

I. Academic Qualifications:

- A minimum of a bachelor's degree or equivalent in International/Development Studies, Social Sciences, Economics, or any other related discipline.

II. Years of experience:

- At least 5 years of professional experience in the provision of monitoring and evaluation and programme evaluation experience in basic services, livelihood, social cohesion and justice and development programmes in developing countries. Evaluation experience in Afghanistan is an advantage.
- Excellent evaluation skills, quantitative and qualitative data analysis and proven capacity to effectively analyse, and present data/information.
- Experience in the result-based management, evaluation methodologies and programme/project monitoring approaches with development partners
- Evaluation experience with UNDP is highly desired.
- Sound understanding of the UN system and of UNDP's mandate and role.

III. Language:

- Fluency in English, Dari/Persian and Pashto is required.

IV. Competencies:

Functional Competencies:

- Ability to perform tasks in a timely manner and produce quality final product.
- Strong interpersonal, communication.
- Openness to change and ability to receive and integrate feedback.

08 Junior Evaluation Officers (National):

I. Academic Qualifications:

- A minimum of a bachelor's degree or equivalent in Social Science, Economics, or any other related discipline.

II. Years of experience:

- At least 3 years of professional experience in the provision of monitoring and evaluation and programme evaluation experience in basic services, livelihood, social cohesion and justice and development programmes in developing countries, especially Afghanistan.

III. Language:

- Dari/Persian and Pashto is required.

IV. Competencies:

Functional Competencies:

- Ability to perform tasks in a timely manner and produce quality final product.
- Strong interpersonal, communication.
- Openness to change and ability to receive and integrate feedback.

Implementation arrangements

The evaluation team will be working under the general guidance of the Senior Deputy Resident Representative for Programmes and overall coordination by the Evaluation Manager – UNDP Afghanistan's Head of Development Effectiveness Unit (DEU).

The ABADEI project team will be in touch with the MTE firm and help with the day-to-day coordination for MTE process with ABADEI project partners. The details of the implementation arrangement are described in Table 3.

The MTE firm will be briefed by the Evaluation Manager and ABADEI project team upon onboarding on the objectives, purpose, and output of the evaluation. An oral debriefing by the MTE firm on the proposed work plan and methodology will be done and approved prior to the commencement of the process.

The ABADEI MTE will remain fully independent and reports to Evaluation Manager. The MTE firm will maintain all the communication through the Evaluation Manager and the assigned ABADEI project team during the implementation of the evaluation.

The Evaluation Manager designated by the SDRRP will clear each step of the evaluation. The Evaluation report must meet the requirements from the Independent Evaluation Office's quality assessment criteria which will be provided as part of the inception meeting.

The Evaluation Team will arrange a final presentation with UNDP Afghanistan and/or the Evaluation Reference Group and feedback from participants, as well as the peer review will be incorporated in the final report.

It is understood that it may take at least two rounds of feedback before Evaluation Report is finalized and approved.

The final report will be signed off by Evaluation Manager. The below table further elaborates on the roles and responsibilities of the concerned parties:

Who (Responsible)	What (Responsibilities)
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Evaluation Manager (DEU Team Leader)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approves the Evaluation ToR • Assure smooth, quality, and independent implementation of the evaluation with needful guidance from UNDP's Senior Management. • Approve hiring of the evaluator by reviewing proposals and complete the recruitment process. • Ensure the independent implementation of the evaluation process. • Approve each step of the evaluation. • Supervise, guide, and provide feedback and comments to the evaluation consultants. • Ensure quality of the evaluation. • Ensure the Management Response and action plans are fully implemented
Programme Management Unit (PMU) /Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the ToR and provide inputs. • Support in hiring the consultants. • Provide necessary information and coordination with different stakeholders including donor communities. • Provide feedback and comments on the inception report and the draft evaluation report. • Prepare management response and action plan and follow up the implementation
DEU Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Evaluation ToR • Assist in hiring the Consultants. • Provide required information, furnishing documents for review to the consultant team. • Provide feedback and comments on the inception report and the draft evaluation report. • Review Management Response and action plan and follow up the implementation. • Update ERC and BRH Evaluation Tracker as the Evaluation processes • Logistic arrangements, such as for support in setting up stakeholder meetings, arranging field visits and coordinating with partners
Evaluation Consultants	<p>Team Lead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine all pertinent documentation thoroughly: This involves a detailed review of all relevant materials to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the project's scope, requirements, and context. • Create and present both a preliminary and a finalized inception report: Initially, draft an inception report outlining the project's objectives, methodology, and expected outcomes. • Uphold all ethical standards throughout the process: Maintain the highest ethical practices, ensuring integrity, confidentiality, and respect for all participants and stakeholders, conforming to the OECD Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation <p>Evaluation officer (under supervision of Team Lead):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform a comprehensive evaluation: Conduct an in-depth analysis of the project's implementation, measuring its performance against the established indicators and targets, as well as financial performance. • Formulate and deliver a preliminary evaluation report: Compile the findings from the evaluation into a draft report. • Arrange a meeting or consultation to deliberate on the preliminary findings: Organize a session with key stakeholders to discuss the draft report's findings, seeking input and consensus on the results and recommendations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate all received suggestions and critiques into the draft report: Refine the draft report by incorporating the feedback received, enhancing its accuracy and relevance. • Finalize and submit the report, ensuring it meets the highest standards of quality and efficacy: Produce a final evaluation report that reflects all the feedback and presents a clear, comprehensive, and actionable analysis of the project’s outcomes. • Convene a concluding debriefing session to review the evaluation outcomes: Hold a final meeting to present the report’s conclusions, discuss its implications, and consider future actions based on its recommendations. This session serves as a closure and reflection point for the project. <p>Junior Evaluation Officers (Under Supervision of Evaluation Officer and Team Lead):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct Physical site visits as agreed with the Project and Programme Team based on the selected sample. • Data Collection on the agreed questionnaires with UNDP <p>Each step is crucial for the integrity and success of the project evaluation process.</p>
Evaluation Reference Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Evaluation Reference Group comprised of Head of DEU, Head of PMU-PQA Team, Respective Programme Officers, and other relevant stakeholders, will provide advisory support and guidance to the evaluation process. • Review draft report and provide feedback. • Participate in debriefing session and provide suggestions

Evaluation ethics

The TOR should include an explicit statement that evaluations in UNDP will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the [UNEG ‘Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation’](#)

Standard text includes:

“This evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG ‘Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation.’ The firm must safeguard the rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees, and patterners through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing collection of data and reporting on data. The firm 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.”

Time frame for the Evaluation Process

The ABADEI Mid-term Evaluation will take 45 working days (as per the recommended plan) and include the following tasks and deliverables: inception report, data collection and analysis, draft report, and final report submission. The evaluation will adhere to a realistic and well-defined time frame that meets the needs of the evaluation reference group. The below matrix presents the timeframe vis-à-vis deliverables:

Time frame for the evaluation process

ACTIVITY	ESTIMATED # OF DAYS	DATE OF COMPLETION	PLACE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
Phase One: Desk review and inception report				
Meeting briefing with UNDP (ABADEI Project Manager)	1 day	At the time of contract signing 1 September 2024	UNDP or remote	ABADEI project team
Sharing of the relevant documentation with the evaluation team	-	At the time of contract signing 1 September 2024	Via email	ABADEI project team
Desk review, Evaluation design, methodology and updated workplan including the list of CSOs representatives to be interviewed	2 days	Within 3 days of contract signing 02 to 03 September 2024	Home- based	Evaluation team
Submission of the inception report (15 pages maximum)	-	Within 4 days of contract signing 02 to 05 September 2024	UNDP	Evaluation team
Comments and approval of inception report	2 days	Within 5 days of contract signing 04 to 05 September 2024	UNDP	ABADEI team & DEU and PQA teams
Phase Two: Data-collection mission				
MTE evaluation briefing and Data Collection	15 days	Within 25 days of contract signing 06 to 25 September 2024	In country With field visits	ABADEI project team to organize with Responsible Parties
Debriefing to ABADEI project team	1 days	30 September 2024	In country	Evaluation team
Phase Three: Evaluation report writing				
Preparation of draft evaluation report (50 pages maximum excluding annexes), executive summary (5 pages)	5 days	Within three weeks of the completion debriefing to UNDP ABADEI project team 01 October to 10 October 2024	Home- based	Evaluation team
Draft report submission	1 day	11 October 2024		Evaluation team
Review by the UNDP Evaluation Reference Group	4 working days		UNDP	Evaluation Reference Group
Consolidated UNDP comments to the draft report	3 days	Within four days of submission of the draft evaluation report 15 October 2024	UNDP	Evaluation team
Debriefing with UNDP	3 days	Within 1 week of receipt of comments 20 October 2024	In-Person/InCountry	Evaluation team and ABADEI project team
Finalization of the evaluation report incorporating additions and comments provided by project staff	3 days	Within 05 days of final debriefing / 25 October 2024	Home- based	Evaluation team
Submission of the final evaluation report to ABADEI project team (40-50 pages maximum excluding executive summary and annexes)	5 days	Within one week of final debriefing 31 October 2024	Home- based	Evaluation team
Estimated total days for the evaluation	45 days			

Documents to be included when submitting the proposals:

Interested consultancy firm must submit the following documents/information to demonstrate their qualifications in one single PDF document:

- Duly accomplished confirmation of Interest and Submission of Financial Proposal
- Personal CV or P11, indicating all experience from similar projects, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the candidate and at least three (3) professional references.

Technical Proposal:

- Brief description of why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment. A methodology, on how they will approach and complete the assignment and work plan as indicated above.

The firm shall submit a price proposal as below:

- 1) Daily Fee: The firm shall propose a daily fee which should be inclusive of his/her professional fee, local communication cost and insurance (inclusive of medical evacuation). The number of working days for which the daily fee shall be payable under the contract is 21 working days.
- 2) The firm is NOT allowed to stay in a place of his choice other than the UNDSS approved places. The payment of accommodation shall be made directly by the Project.
- 3) Travel and Visa: The firm shall propose an estimated lump sum for home-Kabul-home travel and Afghanistan visa expenses. The ABADEI project will cover the cost of internal travel within Afghanistan.

The total professional fee shall be converted into a lump sum contract and payments under the contract shall be made on submission and acceptance of deliverables under the contract in accordance with the abovementioned schedule of payment. The total professional fee shall be converted into a lump sum contract and payments under the contract shall be made on submission and acceptance of deliverables under the contract in accordance with the abovementioned schedule of payment.

TOR annexes

Annexes can be used to provide additional detail about evaluation background and requirements to facilitate the work of evaluators. Some examples include:

- Evaluation Report Template – please see presented below.
- **Intervention results framework and theory of change.** Provides more detailed information on the intervention being evaluated.
- **Key partners.** A list of key ABADEI project implementing partners and other individuals who should be consulted, together with an indication of their affiliation and relevance for the evaluation and their contact information. This annex can also suggest sites to be visited.
- **Documents to be consulted.** A list of important documents and web pages that the evaluators should read at the outset of the evaluation and before finalizing the evaluation design and the inception report. This should be limited to the critical information that the evaluation team needs. Data sources and documents may include:
 - Project document (contribution agreement).

- Theory of change and results framework.
 - Programme and project quality assurance reports.
 - Annual workplans.
 - Activity designs.
 - Consolidated quarterly and annual reports.
 - Results-oriented monitoring report.
 - Highlights of project board meetings.
 - Technical/financial monitoring reports.
 - Project supported publications and IEC material.
 - GRM and SES Reports
 - Responsible parties
- **Evaluation matrix** (suggested as a deliverable to be included in the inception report). The evaluation matrix is a tool that evaluators create as map and reference in planning and conducting an evaluation. It also serves as a useful tool for summarizing and visually presenting the evaluation design and methodology for discussions with ABADEI project implementing partners. It details evaluation questions that the evaluation will answer, data sources, data collection, analysis tools or methods appropriate for each data source, and the standard or measure by which each question will be evaluated.
 - **Schedule of tasks, milestones, and deliverables.** Based on the time frame specified in the TOR, the evaluators present the detailed schedule.
 - **Required format for the evaluation report.** The final report must include, but not necessarily be limited to, the elements outlined in the quality criteria for evaluation reports.
 - **Code of conduct.** ABADEI project team should request each member of the evaluation team to read carefully, understand and sign the '[Code of Conduct for Evaluators in the United Nations system](#),' which may be made available as an attachment to the evaluation report.

Annex A: Evaluation Report Template

[United Nations Development Programme - Evaluation Guidelines \(undp.org\)](#)

SECTION 4 EVALUATION IMPLEMENTATION AND USE – Page 56

SECTION 6: CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT AND CONTRACT FORMS

1. GTC, Goods and Services, see the link: <https://popp.undp.org/document/general-terms-and-conditions-contracts-goods-andor-services>
2. Contract Face Sheet, see the link: <https://popp.undp.org/document/contract-face-sheet-goods-andor-services-goodsservices-forto-undp>

Annex II: List of references

List of References

1. **UN Strategic Framework for Afghanistan 2023–2025**
United Nations. (2023). *United Nations Strategic Framework for Afghanistan 2023–2025*.
2. **Transitional Country Programme Strategy (TCPS) for Afghanistan (2024–2025)**
UNDP Afghanistan. (2023). *Transitional Country Programme Strategy for Afghanistan (2024–2025)*.
3. **UNDP Afghanistan Country Programme Results Framework (CPRF) and Monitoring Framework**
UNDP Afghanistan. (2023). *Country Programme Results Framework (CPRF) & Monitoring Framework*.
4. **ABADEI 02 Midterm Review Report**
Premium Performance Consulting (PPC). (2024). *Midterm Review Report - ABADEI 02*.
5. **ABADEI 02 ProDoc**
UNDP Afghanistan. (2023). *ABADEI Programme Document (ProDoc)*.
6. **Progress Reports for ABADEI 02**
UNDP Afghanistan & Premium Performance Consulting (PPC). (2023). *ABADEI 02 Progress Reports*.
7. **UNDP Key Informant Interview Tracker**
UNDP Afghanistan. (2023). *UNDP ABADEI KII Tracker*.
8. **Gender and Inclusion Action Plans**
UNDP Afghanistan. (2023). *ABADEI Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Gender Integration into Infrastructure*.

Annex III: Evaluation Matrix

Criteria	Guiding Questions	Sub-questions	Data Source	Data Collection Method
Coherence	<p>4- Do synergies exist with other interventions carried out by UNDP as well as intervention partners and stakeholders including the donor?</p> <p>5- To what extent does ABADEI add value and avoid duplication in the given context?</p> <p>6- To what extent did the project implement the Afghanistan Coordination Group Principles?</p>	<p>How does ABADEI integrate with other similar initiatives? What are the overlaps and unique contributions?</p> <p>What unique contributions does ABADEI offer? How is redundancy minimized?</p> <p>How effectively were these principles integrated into project implementation?</p>	<p>Representatives from Implementing agencies, UN agencies</p> <p>Reports, Afghanistan Coordination Group Principles</p>	<p>KII</p> <p>Content analysis</p> <p>Desk review</p>
Relevance	<p>Review the progress against project outputs and contribution to outcome level results as defined in the project's ToC whether assumptions and risks remain valid. Identify any other intended or unintended, positive, or negative results.</p> <p>5. Are the project's strategies, design, and implementation arrangements relevant to the needs Afghanistan? To what extent did the ABADEI implementation strategy been</p>	<p>How well do the strategies align with local needs and priorities?</p>	<p>Report on the needs of Afghans, Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022, Afghanistan Humanitarian Response, Afghanistan Factsheet Report: Multi-sectoral needs assessment, UN Transitional Engagement Framework, the UNDP Transitional Country Programme Strategy (TCPRF) and UNDP Strategic Plan</p>	<p>Desk review</p> <p>Thematic analysis</p>

	<p>responsive to the needs and priorities of the humanitarian-development scenario in Afghanistan?</p> <p>6. To what extent does the project contribute to the Theory of Change (ToC) for the relevant country programme outcomes (UN Transitional Engagement Framework, the UNDP Transitional Country Programme Strategy (TCPRF) and UNDP Strategic Plan?</p> <p>7. To what extent were the overall design and approaches of the project relevant?</p> <p>8. To what extent did the project achieve its overall outputs? Are the project's contributions to outcomes clear?</p>	<p>How have strategies adapted to evolving needs and circumstances?</p> <p>Project implementation reports, meeting</p> <p>How well are the project's activities aligned with the ToC and contributing to broader program outcomes?</p> <p>How appropriate are the design and approaches given the local context? Are there aspects of the design that are particularly effective or ineffective?</p> <p>What outputs have been delivered, and how do these contribute to the intended outcomes?</p>	<p>Project beneficiaries</p> <p>ABADEI's staff</p>	<p>FGD</p> <p>KII</p>
Effectiveness	<p>Review project's technical as well as operational approaches, the regionality and deliverables, quality of results and their impact, alignment with national priorities and responding to the needs of</p>		<p>Project reports</p> <p>Project staff</p>	<p>Desk review Thematic analysis</p> <p>KII</p>

	<p>the CSOs; covering the results achieved, the partnerships established, as well as issues of capacity using following guiding questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. To what extent were project activities delivered effectively in terms of quality, quantity, and timing? And what are the project's greatest achievements? Why and what have been the supporting factors? How can the project build on or expand these achievements? 10. What are the key internal and external factors (success & failure factors) that have contributed, affected, or impeded the achievements, and how UNDP and the partners have managed these factors? 11. To what extent has the project's interventions carried out through Responsible Parties been effective in helping beneficiaries meet their basic human needs, improve livelihoods and strengthen resilience? 12. To what extent has the project management and implementation been participatory, flexible, adaptive, and responsive to the emerging needs and priorities of Afghanistan. 	<p>What are the quality metrics, how have they been achieved, and how does the timing align with planned schedules?</p> <p>What specific activities or outputs have been most successful? What factors contributed to these successes?</p> <p>What internal and external challenges were encountered and how were they addressed?</p> <p>How effective have the interventions been in achieving the intended impacts on beneficiaries' lives?</p>	<p>Beneficiaries</p>	<p>FGD Structured interviews</p> <p>Descriptive analysis</p>
<p>Efficiency</p>	<p>Efficiency of the project management structure and the added value of the</p>			

	<p>project's regional approach: review planning, management, monitoring, and quality assurance mechanisms for the delivery of the project interventions and the added value of the regionality of the project set up in the context of fiscal reform at national and subnational level using following questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Have resources (funds, human resources, time, expertise, etc.) been allocated strategically and utilized cost effectively to achieve outcomes? 10. Was the process of achieving results efficient? Were the resources effectively utilized? 11. To what extent has the project been effective in managing partnerships to enhance optimal results through building synergy with others in an efficient and cost-effective manner? 12. Did the project activities overlap, and duplicate other similar interventions funded nationally, and/or by other donors? 	<p>What resource allocation strategies were employed and how effective were they in achieving project outcomes?</p> <p>How were the resources managed and were there any inefficiencies in their use?</p> <p>How have partnerships contributed to the efficiency of the project? What synergies were created?</p> <p>What instances of overlap or duplication were there, and what measures were taken to mitigate such issues?</p>	<p>Project reports</p> <p>Project staff</p>	<p>Desk review Thematic analysis</p> <p>KII</p>
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<p>Sustainability</p>	<p>Sustainability of the project results and risks along with opportunities related to future interventions: review and assess if the current project setup has plans for future resource mobilization, synergy, long term partnership and / or considering institutionalization of the project impact for continued support after the project end using following questions.</p> <p>9. To what extent did the project's results contribute to long-term objectives?</p> <p>10. What were the major factors/risks which influenced or hampered the sustainability of results produced by the project? To what extent did the project manage these risks?</p> <p>11. 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?</p> <p>12. To what extent are lessons learned being documented by the project team and shared with appropriate parties who can learn from the project?</p>	<p>What sustainability measures are in place? How are risks managed to ensure long-term impact?</p> <p>What specific risks were identified and how were they addressed during project implementation?</p> <p>How effective were the strategies implemented to manage or mitigate the identified risks?</p> <p>What are the potential social or political challenges that could impact the</p>	<p>Project reports</p> <p>Project staff</p> <p>Beneficiaries</p>	<p>Desk review Thematic analysis</p> <p>KII</p> <p>FGD Structured interview Descriptive analysis</p>
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		sustainability of the project's outcomes?			
Likelihood of Impact	<p>9- To what extent is the project likely to contribute to improved economic condition of the target beneficiaries?</p> <p>10- What positive and/or negative changes are the beneficiaries experiencing because of their participation in ABADEI activities?</p> <p>11- Did the UNDP staff take timely measures for mitigating any unplanned negative impacts of the ABADEI project?</p> <p>12- To what extent the local communities benefited from the quick-impact projects implemented through ABADEI?</p>	<p>How have project interventions influenced the economic stability and growth of the beneficiaries?</p> <p>What specific impacts, both positive and negative, have been reported by beneficiaries?</p> <p>How effective were the mitigation strategies implemented to address unintended negative impacts?</p> <p>How significant have the improvements been in community welfare and infrastructure as a result of quick-impact projects?</p>	<p>Project reports</p> <p>Project staff</p> <p>Beneficiaries</p>	<p>Desk review</p> <p>KII</p> <p>FGD Structured interview</p>	<p>Thematic analysis</p> <p>Descriptive analysis</p>
Diversity and inclusion	<p>Sustainability and effectiveness of diversity and inclusion approach: review the project's approaches and strategies in integrating gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) in the countries, using following questions.</p> <p>9- To what extent did the project contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment? To what extent has the project</p>		<p>gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) policy, project reports</p> <p>Project staff</p> <p>Beneficiaries</p>	<p>Desk review</p> <p>KII</p> <p>FGD</p>	<p>Thematic analysis</p>

	<p>promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women? Were there any unintended effects?</p> <p>10- Did the results have a differentiated impact on women and other vulnerable groups?</p> <p>11- How can the project further broaden its contribution to enhancing diversity and inclusion?</p> <p>12- To what extent have local communities, women, youth, people with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups benefited from the project?</p>	<p>How have project activities specifically targeted and impacted women's rights and empowerment?</p> <p>What specific gender-focused outcomes have been realized? What unexpected outcomes have emerged?</p> <p>How do the impacts on women compare to those on other vulnerable groups, such as disabled persons or ethnic minorities?</p> <p>What strategies can be implemented to enhance the inclusivity and reach of the project benefits?</p>		Structured interview	Descriptive analysis
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Annex IV: Demographic Profile

Introduction

The demographic profile provides an overview of the respondents surveyed, offering critical insights into their geographic, social, and personal characteristics. This information ensures that the evaluation's findings are relevant to the target population and highlight any patterns or disparities that may influence the results. By analyzing the distribution of respondents by gender, age, region, and province, this section establishes the context for understanding the survey data and informs actionable recommendations.

Key Highlights

1. **Total Respondents:**
 - The survey captured responses from **1,660 individuals**, representing a diverse population.
2. **Community Representation:**
 - Respondents hailed from **482 unique communities or villages**, showcasing extensive geographic coverage.
3. **Gender Distribution:**
 - **Female Respondents:** 976 (59%)
 - **Male Respondents:** 684 (41%)
4. **Age of Respondents:**
 - **Mean Age:** 32.6 years
 - **Age Range:** 14 to 99 years
 - **Median Age:** 30 years
5. **Regions:**
 - Respondents were distributed across multiple regions, with key concentrations in:
 - **Central:** Highest representation, including **Kabul** province.
 - **Eastern:** Significant contributions from **Nangarhar**.
6. **Provinces:**
 - Provinces with the highest respondent numbers include:
 - **Kabul:** Central region.
 - **Nangarhar:** Eastern region.

1. Geographic Representation:

- The survey's wide geographic reach, covering 16 out of 32 provinces and 482 communities, ensures robust representation from diverse areas. The concentration in central regions, especially Kabul indicates urban-centric insights but also reflects the higher proportion of the sample

2. Gender Balance:

- The survey achieved substantial participation from females, who make up **59% of respondents** compared to **41% male respondents**. This notable representation of females provides valuable insights, particularly into issues that may disproportionately affect women.

3. Age Dynamics:

- The age distribution highlights the inclusion of respondents across a broad age spectrum. The focus on younger and middle-aged groups (25th percentile: 23 years; 75th percentile: 40 years) suggests that insights are driven by economically and socially active age groups, which could be a key audience for targeted interventions.

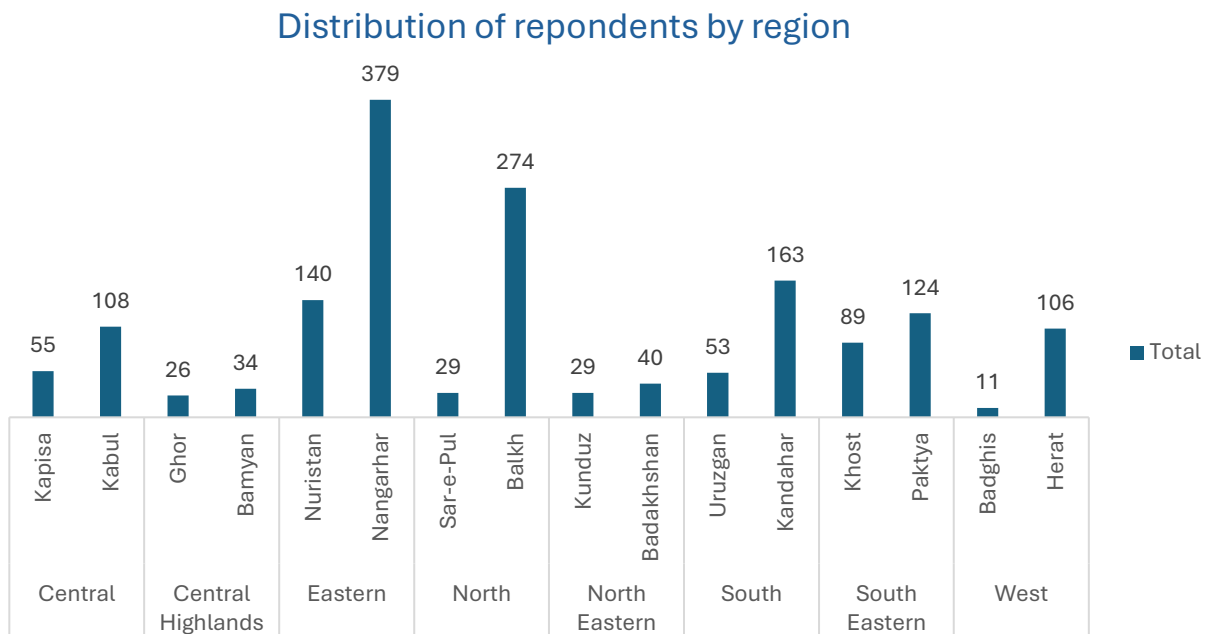


Figure 19: Distribution of respondents by region

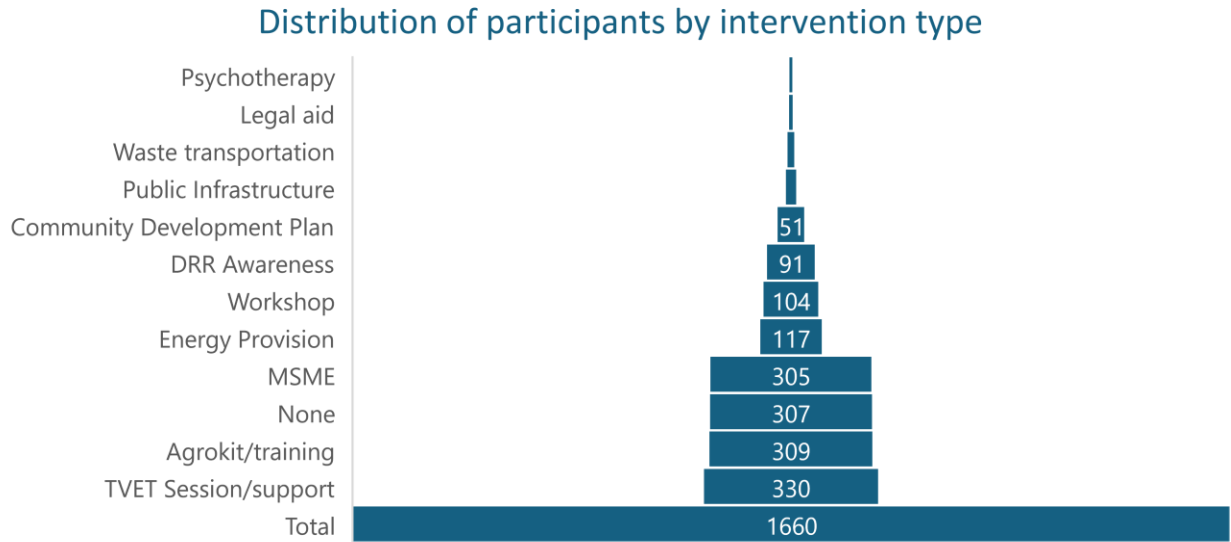


Figure 20: Distribution of participants by intervention type

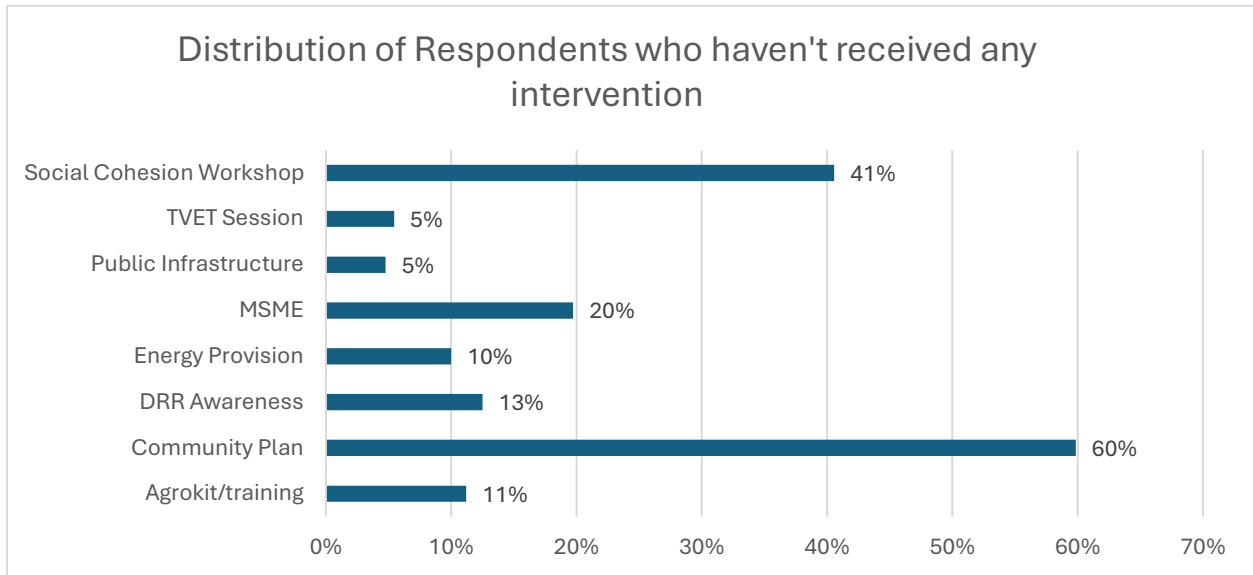


Figure 21: Distribution of Respondents who haven't received any intervention

Non-recipient identification might indicate that some beneficiaries were **partially involved** or did not directly engage in certain components of the interventions (e.g., attending only some training sessions or workshops).

Annex V: Summary of Effectiveness Analysis

Outputs	Activity results	Indicators	Baseline (2022)	Target	Year 1 Target	Year 1 Achievement	Effectiveness	Quality of Indicators (SMART)
Output 1: Essential services improved in the area of infrastructure, agriculture, health, education and energy.	1.1. Essential physical, critical infrastructure constructed, repaired, equipped and maintained, including infrastructure for water management, transportation, agriculture, health, education, basic services etc.	1.1.1. Number of Infrastructures constructed/ re constructed/rehabilitated/ repaired, equipped, disaggregated by type of infrastructure and location (wellbeing and social environmental safeguard standard met)	682	2000	429	523	Highly effective, achieving ~122% of the target.	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Clearly defined infrastructure types and household benefits. <input type="checkbox"/> Measurable: Both indicators have numerical targets. <input type="checkbox"/> Achievable: Partially. Infrastructure exceeded targets (122%), but household coverage was moderate (63% of target). <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant: Yes, critical for improving essential services. <input type="checkbox"/> Time-bound: Yes, tied to Year 1 targets.
		1.1.2. Number of households benefitting from improved infrastructure (including women headed immunocompromised and or disabled households)	495,673	1,200,000	300,000	189,941	Moderate, achieving ~63% of the target.	
		1.2: Provision of improved essential health	1.2.1 (a): Number of health care facilities equipped with materials and	53	300	100	10	Very low, achieving only 8% of the target.

	services (including women and girls accessing health care)	medical equipment						<input type="checkbox"/> Measurable: Yes, numerical targets are provided. <input type="checkbox"/> Achievable: No. Targets for both indicators were significantly underachieved (8% and 0.01%, respectively). <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant: Yes, vital for healthcare improvement. <input type="checkbox"/> Time-bound: Yes.
		1.2.1 (b). Number of individuals benefitting from medical materials and health care services, disaggregated by sex, age and location	285,671	1,220,406	400,000	No data		
	1.3. Provision of essential education services (Including gender integrated culturally sensitive TVET)	1.3.1. Number of individuals benefitting from project supported TVET and skilled education programmes, disaggregated by sex, age, location and duration	5,654	14,654	5,000	4499	Good, achieving ~90% of the target.	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Disaggregated by sex, age, location, and duration. <input type="checkbox"/> Measurable: Yes, numerical targets provided. <input type="checkbox"/> Achievable: Yes, with ~90% of the target achieved. <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant: Yes, addresses education needs. <input type="checkbox"/> Time-bound: Yes.
1.4: Provision of clean, renewable and alternate energy services, technologies and application	1.4.1: Number of basic facilities powered through renewable energy, disaggregated by type of facility (e.g health, education, sanitation) and location	38	1,000	400	153	Moderate, achieving ~38% of the target.	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Defined by facility type and household access. <input type="checkbox"/> Measurable: Yes, numerical targets are clear. <input type="checkbox"/> Achievable: Partially. Facility target achieved 38%; household target only ~6%.	

	s supported and sustained	1.4.2. Number of households who gained access to clean and affordable energy (including women headed immunocompromised and or disabled households)	67,074	150,000	50,000	2847	Very low, achieving only ~6% of the target.	<input type="checkbox"/> Relevant: Yes, focuses on energy access. <input type="checkbox"/> Time-bound: Yes.
Output 2: Local economies improved through gender responsive community based livelihoods	2.1 Households in high-poverty and high insecurity areas provided with Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) / Temporary Basic Income (TBI)	2.1.1 Number of households provided with unconditional cash transfer (UCT) to meet basic needs, disaggregated by female-headed households and households with people with disabilities	20,504	30,000	10,000	25000	Exceptionally effective, exceeding the target by 150%.	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Clearly identifies cash transfers for basic needs. <input type="checkbox"/> Measurable: Yes, numerical targets. <input type="checkbox"/> Achievable: Yes, exceeded the target (150%). <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant: Yes, crucial for economic relief. <input type="checkbox"/> Time-bound: Yes.
	2.2: Local-level livelihoods and economies sustained through Cash- for - Work (CfW) including women and girls,	2.2.1. Number of laborers benefitting from cash- for- work (CfW) schemes (wellbeing and social environmental safeguard standard met)	204,599	500,000	150,000	19285	Low, achieving ~13% of the target.	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Clearly identifies laborers involved in schemes. <input type="checkbox"/> Measurable: Yes, numerical targets. <input type="checkbox"/> Achievable: No, only ~13% of the target was achieved. <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant: Yes, essential for livelihood sustainability. <input type="checkbox"/> Time-bound: Yes.

	vulnerable groups accessing CFW)							
	2.3. Local private sector development through technical and financial support to informal and formal businesses, including assisting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to access and/or expand to new market areas, support to local traders, to women-led businesses and community-led social enterprises (Cash for	2.3.1 Number of MSMEs benefitting from technical and financial support, disaggregated by female-led MSMEs (including minority under represented women, women-at risk, GBV victims, and persons with disabilities)	34,000	90,000	30,000	7259	Low, achieving ~24% of the target	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Yes, disaggregated by type of MSME. <input type="checkbox"/> Measurable: Yes, numerical targets provided. <input type="checkbox"/> Achievable: No, with only ~24% of the target achieved. <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant: Yes, supports private sector development. <input type="checkbox"/> Time-bound: Yes.

	Markets CfM)							
	2.4. Cross-border trade and access to the market supported (including women led-businesses)	2.4.1. Number of cross border trades established by ABADEI supported SMEs/MSME (disaggregated by women/men-led SMEs)	0	2	To be determined	Not implemented	None, as these were not planned or implemented.	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific: No, lacks detail on trade types or mechanisms. <input type="checkbox"/> Measurable: No, not implemented or tracked in Year 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Achievable: No, as it was not implemented. <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant: Yes, supports economic recovery. <input type="checkbox"/> Time-bound: No, as no timeframe was specified.
	2.5. Access to finance and Digital Solutions supported and sustained.	2.5.1: Number of business operationalized/ extended their scope of business and continue operations for more than six months beyond ABADEI support	0	25,000	To be determined	Not implemented	None, as this activity was not planned or implemented.	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Partially. Indicators lack clarity on types of businesses and solutions. <input type="checkbox"/> Measurable: No, not implemented in Year 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Achievable: No, not applicable. <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant: Yes, important for long-term economic support.
		2.5.2: Number of digital solutions established to support MSMEs. (by location)	1	1	To be determined	Not implemented	None, as this activity was not planned or implemented.	<input type="checkbox"/> Time-bound: No.

Output 3: Local communities' resilience capacity enhanced to better respond and adapt to the disaster and climate - induced risks.	3.1. Essential food security and regenerative agriculture infrastructure, inputs and services supported.	3.1.1 Number of farmers benefitting from agricultural inputs, assets and training, disaggregated by sex and location (Ensuring the social and environmental safeguard standard)	24,300	30,000	10,000	5788	Moderate, achieving ~58% of the target.	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Yes, disaggregated by sex and location. <input type="checkbox"/> Measurable: Yes, numerical targets provided. <input type="checkbox"/> Achievable: Partially, with ~58% of the target achieved. <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant: Yes, supports food security. <input type="checkbox"/> Time-bound: Yes.
	3.2: Community preparedness and resilience for disasters and climate change improved	3.2.1 Number of individuals who acquired knowledge and skills on disaster risk reduction/management and climate resilience, and adaptation, disaggregated by sex and location	11,727	36,000	12,000	1677	Very low, achieving ~14% of the target	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Yes, disaggregated by sex and location. <input type="checkbox"/> Measurable: Yes, numerical targets provided. <input type="checkbox"/> Achievable: No, with ~14% of the target achieved. <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant: Yes, critical for disaster resilience. <input type="checkbox"/> Time-bound: Yes.
	3.3 Water security and access enhanced through climate-smart systems.	3.3.1 Number of climate smart water supply networks/schemes established. (Ensuring the social and environmental safeguard standard)	177	30	10	10	Fully effective, achieving 100%.	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Yes, defines water systems. <input type="checkbox"/> Measurable: Yes, numerical targets. <input type="checkbox"/> Achievable: Yes, 100% of the target achieved. <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant: Yes, ensures water security. <input type="checkbox"/> Time-bound: Yes.
	3.4 Natural ecosystem restoration and management	3.4.1 Hectares of land rehabilitated to absorb environmental stress and	473	300	125	780	Highly effective, exceeding the target by 624%.	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Yes, focused on ecosystem restoration. <input type="checkbox"/> Measurable: Yes.

	nt supported.	climate shocks (by location and ensuring the social and environmental safeguard standard)						<input type="checkbox"/> Achievable: Yes, exceeded the target by 624%. <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant: Yes, crucial for climate resilience. <input type="checkbox"/> Time-bound: Yes.
Output 4: Communities' capacity, Ownership, and engagement improved for better social cohesion.	4.1. Communities for peace well being, civic engagement and social cohesion reinforced	4.1.1 Number of individuals with better awareness about social cohesion, conflict prevention disaggregated by sex, types of structures engaged and and duration of the invention)	524,444	700,000	200,000	5537	Very low, achieving ~2.8% of the target.	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Yes, clear focus on awareness and prevention. <input type="checkbox"/> Measurable: Yes, numerical values provided. <input type="checkbox"/> Achievable: No, with low achievement (~2.8% of target). <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant: Yes, aligns with community engagement. <input type="checkbox"/> Time-bound: Yes, linked to Year 1.
	4.2. Improved gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) programmes and protection services for women and girls integrated and implemented in ABADEI.	4.2.1 Number of women/girls benefitting from measures addressing gender-based violence (GBV), including psychosocial including temporary economic survival support	642	2000	1250	1889	Exceeded the target by 51%.	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Yes, focuses on GBV measures. <input type="checkbox"/> Measurable: Yes, numerical targets provided. <input type="checkbox"/> Achievable: Yes, exceeded Year 1 target by 51%. <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant: Yes, addresses gender equality and protection. <input type="checkbox"/> Time-bound: Yes.

4.3. Rights-based access to justice, including gender justice, human rights and human security fostered	4.3.1 Number of individuals benefitting from project supported legal aid services, disaggregated by sex, age and location	1226	2000	1000	3372	Highly effective, exceeding the target by 237%.	Specific: Yes, focuses on access to justice. Measurable: Yes, numerical data provided. Achievable: Yes, exceeded Year 1 target by 237%. Relevant: Yes, supports vulnerable populations. Time-bound: Yes.
4.4. Community led local recovery plans, social cohesion and resilience programs identified and implemented	4.4.1 Number of community development plans developed, or updated, (including highlighting the vulnerabilities, natural disaster-prone areas, natural resources, social economic indicators and future development opportunities, etc.	441	340	75	231	Highly effective, exceeding the target by 308%.	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Yes, focuses on plans and program implementation. <input type="checkbox"/> Measurable: Yes, numerical targets defined. <input type="checkbox"/> Achievable: Partially, plans exceeded targets (308%), but programs met only 60%. <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant: Yes, critical for community resilience. <input type="checkbox"/> Time-bound: Yes.
	4.4.2 Number of social cohesion programmes carried out by community networks/structures (location, time duration, types of intervention)	0	50	10	6	Moderate, achieving ~60% of the target.	

	4.5 Regional strategies for eight regions of Afghanistan designed and developed	4.5.1 Number of regional strategies developed to integrate population projections and resource needs	4	4	4	Not implemented	None, as this activity was not implemented.	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Yes, focuses on regional strategies. <input type="checkbox"/> Measurable: Yes, with clear targets. <input type="checkbox"/> Achievable: No, not implemented in Year 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant: Yes, vital for regional planning. <input type="checkbox"/> Time-bound: Partially, Year 1 progress absent.
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Annex IV – Data Collection Tools

Beneficiary Survey (Remote)

Introduction: Hello my name is I work for PPC. I am here on behalf of UNDP to assess the progress and performance of the ABADEI 2.0 project midway through its implementation. We evaluate the effectiveness of interventions, the extent to which the project's objectives are being met, and the challenges faced during execution.

Do you give me your consent to start the interview

1. Yes --→ Proceed
2. No --→ stop the interview and thank her/him

Demographic Information

D1	GPS	
D2	Date:	Time:
D3	Enumerators name	Text:
D4	Region	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Central 2. CentralHighland 3. Eastern 4. NorthEastern 5. Northern 6. SouthEastern 7. Southern 8. Western
D5	Province	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kabul 2. Kapisa 3. Bamyán 4. Ghor 5. Nangarhar 6. Nuristan 7. Badakhshan 8. Kunduz 9. Balkh 10. Sar-e-Pul 11. Khost 12. Paktya 13. Kandahar 14. Uruzgan 15. Badghis 16. Hirat
D6	District	Select from the list
D7	Village/community	Select from the list
D8	NGO Partner	Select from the list
D9	UID/Project ID	Select from the list

D10	Respondent's name	Text:
D11	Age	Number:
D12	Sex	1. Male 2. female
D13	Status	1. IDP 2. Returnee 3. Host Community
D14	Education	3. Bachelor and above 4. Diploma 5. 12th grade 6. Below 12 grade 7. No education
D15	Respondent's contact number	Phone number:
	Category	1- Education 2- Energy 3- Infrastructure 4- Livelihood 5- Cash for work 6- Agriculture 7- Disaster Risk Reduction 8- Social Cohesion 9- Community Development Plan 10- Gender 11- Justice
	Intervention	1.1. TVET Session/support 2.1. Energy Provision 3.1. Public Infrastructure 4.1. MSME 5.1. Waste transportation 6.1. Agrokit/training 7.1. DRR Awareness 8.1. Workshop 9.1. Community Development Plan 10.1. Psychotherapy 11.1. Legal aid
	Type	1.1.1. Training 2.1.1. Solar systems to facilities 2.1.2. Solar kits to households 3.1.1. Transition shelters 4.1.1. MSME 5.1.1. Labour 6.1.1. Kit/training 7.1.1. Training/kit 8.1.1. Workshop 9.1.1. Training 10.1.1. Session 11.1.1. Session
D16	1.1.1. Education – TVET Session/support - Training	Indicator 1.3.1 – TVET and Skilled Education
	What type of training did you participate in?	1. Digital Database 2. Confectionery 3. Embroidery 4. strap knitting 5. embroidery

		6. Baluch/weaving 7. Tailoring 8. GraphWeaving 9. HandbagMaking 10. GandAfghani 11. Carpet Weaving 12. Wool pinning 13. Chapan Weaving 14. Livestock Management 15. IT Essentials 16. Handicrafts 17. Dry Fruit Processing 18. Animal Husbandry 19. Food Processing 20. Engraving 21. Gilam Weaving Soap Making
	How long did the training last?	# of days
	Did the training improve your skills?	1. Yes No
	Have you been able to find a job or earn income using the skills from the training?	1. Yes No
	Did you receive any kits?	1. Yes No
	How satisfied are you with the training program?	1. Very satisfied 2. Satisfied 3. Neutral 4. Dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied.
	What is the reason you chose this option	Text:
	Do you participate in community kitchen?	1. Yes 2. No
	Do you believe the community kitchen initiative has empowered women in your community?	1. Yes 2. No
	Have the community kitchens improved social interactions within your community?	1. Yes 2. No
	Has the community kitchen helped improve food access in your area?	1. Yes 2. No
	Did the community kitchen initiative provide temporary job opportunities for people in your community?	1. Yes 2. No
	Were there challenges related to women's participation in the community kitchens due to cultural norms?	1. Yes 2. No
	Do you think the community kitchen initiative can continue without external funding?	1. Yes 2. No
	Are you satisfied with the overall results of the community kitchen initiative in your community?	1. Yes 2. No
	2.1.1. Energy - Energy Provision - Solar systems to facilities	Indicator 1.4.1 Renewable Energy - Facility
	What services are provided at this facility?	1. Healthcare 2. Education 3. Livelihood

		4. Other
	Have you noticed any improvements in the services provided at this facility since the solar energy system was installed?	1. Yes 2. No
	If No, what is the reason?	Text:
	How has the availability of renewable energy affected the quality of services at the facility	1. Reliable lighting and power reliability 2. Increased Operational Hours 3. Enhanced Medical Equipment Functionality 4. Reduction in Operational Costs 5. Improved Cold Chain Management Other
	Are there any challenges or interruptions in the services provided due to power issues at the facility?	1. Yes No
	How satisfied are you with the current level of services at this facility after the renewable energy system installation?	1. Very satisfied 2. Satisfied 3. Neutral 4. Dissatisfied 5. Very Dissatisfied.
	What is the reason you chose this option	Text:
	2.1.2. Energy - Energy Provision - Solar systems to households	Indicator 1.4.2 Clean and affordable Energy - Households
	Is this a women-headed household?	1. Yes No
	Is there any person with disability living?	1. Yes 1. No
	Is there a person with chronic disease?	1. Yes No
	Has your household received access to solar energy or other renewable energy systems?	1. Yes 1. No
	What was the main source of energy in your household before receiving the solar system?	1. Firewood 2. Animal dung 3. Coal 4. Candles 5. Electricity (inconsistent supply) 6. LPG 7. No consistent energy source 1. Other
	has the new energy system improved your daily life?	1. Yes 1. No
	If Yes, how has the new energy system improved your daily life?	1. Improved lighting for extended hours of activity (e.g., studying, working). 2. Reduced reliance on costly or hazardous fuels (e.g., kerosene, firewood). 3. More reliable power for household appliances (e.g., phone charging, radios). 4. Better indoor air quality by reducing smoke from traditional energy sources. 5. Improved safety at night due to better lighting. 6. Extended operating hours for home-based businesses or productive work. 7. Other
	If no, what is the reason?	1. Text:
	Has the clean energy system reduced health issues	1. Yes No

	Has the clean energy system led to any cost savings in your household?	1. Yes 1. No
	How satisfied are you with the clean energy system?	1. Very satisfied 2. Satisfied 3. Neutral 4. Dissatisfied 5. Very Dissatisfied
1	3.1.2. Infrastructure – Public Infrastructure – Transition Shelters	Indicator 1.1.2 – households benefitting from improved infrastructure
2	Have you received any transitional shelters	2. Yes No
3	How many shelters have you received?	Amount
4	How long have you been living in the transitional shelter?	2. Less than 6 months 3. 6-12 months More than 1 year
5	How relevant do you think the transitional shelter is to your current needs?	2. Highly Relevant 3. Somewhat Relevant Not Relevant
6	Was the assistance provided at the right time to meet your needs?	2. Yes, to a full extent 3. Yes, to some extent No
7	How would you rate the quality of the shelter?	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor
8	Does the shelter provide adequate protection from weather conditions?	2. Yes No
9	If no, please specify the issues: _	
10	Do you feel safe and secure in the shelter?	2. Yes No
11	If no, please describe your concerns: _	
12	Do you have access to the following services? (Select all that apply)	1. Water supply 2. Sanitation facilities 3. Health services 4. Educational services Market/shops
	How would you rate the quality of these services?	1. Excellent 2. Good 3. Fair 4. Poor
13	Have you received any additional support services (e.g., food, clothing) since moving into the shelter?	1. Yes 2. No
14	How has living in the shelter impacted your life?	1. Improved significantly 2. Improved somewhat 3. No change 4. Worsened
15	Has the shelter enabled you to pursue livelihood opportunities (e.g., work, education)?	1. Yes 2. No
16	What are the main challenges you have faced while living in the shelter?	1. Lack of space 2. Poor infrastructure 3. Inadequate services (e.g., water, sanitation) 4. Security concerns 5. Other: _____

17	What improvements would you recommend for the transitional shelter program?	
18	How satisfied are you with the overall shelter assistance you received?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very satisfied 2. Satisfied 3. Neutral 4. Dissatisfied 5. Very Dissatisfied.
19	4.1.1. Livelihood - MSME	Indicator 2.3.1 – MSMEs benefiting from technical and financial support and Indicator 2.1.1. – Unconditional Cash Transfer
20	What is the name of your MSME?	Name:
21	How many employees are employed in your business?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Male: #..... 2. Female: # Total: #.....
22	Is your business female-led?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes No
23	Do you identify as a member of any vulnerable groups? (Tick all that apply)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minority underrepresented women 2. Women-at-risk 3. GBV victims 4. Persons with disabilities None of the above
24	What type of support did you receive from the project?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Financial support 3. Technical support (e.g., training) Both
25	If financial support, how much funds have you received?	Amount:
26	Was the financial assistance provided in the form of a loan, a grant?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Loan Grant
27	What was the primary purpose of the financial assistance you received?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Business expansion 2. Purchase of equipment 3. Operational expenses Other (Please specify)
	How has the financial support impacted your business?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased production capacity 2. Improved product or service quality 3. Expanded business operations (e.g., opened a new branch, increased service offerings) 4. Increased sales and revenue 5. Helped purchase new equipment or tools 6. Hired more staff or created new job opportunities 7. Improved cash flow or financial stability 8. Allowed participation in new markets (local or international) 9. Enhanced ability to manage operational costs 10. Enabled business recovery after a financial setback No significant impact yet
28	Did you or any of your employees participate in any vocational training programs supported by the ABADEI project?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes No
29	If yes, how many employees were trained?	#:.....
30	What types of training did you or your employees receive? (Select all that apply)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Business management 2. Financial management 3. Technical skills related to production (e.g., tailoring, dairy production) Other (Please specify)

31	Did the training help improve your business operations?	1. Yes No
32	Please explain how the training impacted your business	1. Improved Business Management 2. Increased Productivity 3. Enhanced Financial Management 4. Improved Product Quality 5. Expanded Market Reach 6. Increased Employee Skills 7. Boosted Innovation 8. No Significant Impact 9. Other (specify)
33	Did the ABADEI project help you create new jobs in your business?	1. Yes 2. No
34	How many of the new jobs created were held by women?	#:.....
	Has your business seen an increase in sales or production as a result of the support from the ABADEI project?	1. Yes 2. No
	If yes, please describe the increase in percentage	%
	Overall, how satisfied are you with the support provided by the ABADEI project?	1. Very satisfied 2. Satisfied 3. Neutral 4. Dissatisfied 5. Very dissatisfied
	Do you participate in community kitchen?	1. Yes 2. No
	Do you believe the community kitchen initiative has empowered women in your community?	1. Yes 2. No
	Have the community kitchens improved social interactions within your community?	1. Yes 2. No
	Has the community kitchen helped improve food access in your area?	1. Yes 2. No
	Did the community kitchen initiative provide temporary job opportunities for people in your community?	1. Yes 2. No
	Were there challenges related to women's participation in the community kitchens due to cultural norms?	1. Yes 2. No
	Do you think the community kitchen initiative can continue without external funding?	1. Yes 2. No
	Are you satisfied with the overall results of the community kitchen initiative in your community?	1. Yes 2. No
	5.1.1. Cash for work – Waste transport - Labour	Indicator 2.2.1. – Cash for Work
55	Did you participate in the cash-for-work (CfW) scheme?	1. Yes 2. No
56	What type of work did you perform in the CfW scheme? (e.g., construction, infrastructure repair)	1. Skilled laborer 2. Unskilled laborer
57	How much cash did you receive from your participation in the CfW scheme?	Amount:
58	How did you use the cash transfer?	1. Food and groceries 2. Healthcare (e.g., medicines, medical treatments) 3. Shelter (e.g., rent, home repairs) 4. Education (e.g., school fees, supplies)

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Clothing and household items 6. Business or livelihood investment 7. Debt repayment 8. Savings 9. Transport 10. Other (please specify)
59	Were the working conditions safe and fair?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No
60	If no, why?	
61	Did the CfW scheme provide adequate tools and resources to complete the work?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No
62	Were there any environmental issues addressed during your work (e.g., waste management and recycling, pollution reduction)?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No
63	Did the project supervisors ensure that social safeguards (e.g., gender equity, safe working conditions) were followed?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No
64	How satisfied are you with the cash for work?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very satisfied 2. Satisfied 3. Neutral 4. Dissatisfied 5. Very Dissatisfied
65	6.1.1. Agriculture – Agrokit – Kit/training	Indicator 3.1.1 – Farmers benefiting from agricultural inputs
66	Have you received agricultural inputs or assets?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No
67	What type of agricultural inputs or assets did you receive?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Micro-greenhouses 2. Drip irrigation kits 3. Gardening tools, vegetable seeds, and fertilizers 4. livestock 5. other (specify)
68	Did you face any challenges in receiving the inputs or assets?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No
69	If yes, what were these challenges?	Text:
70	How satisfied are you with the inputs and assets provided?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very satisfied 2. Satisfied 3. Neutral 4. Dissatisfied 5. Very dissatisfied
71	Did you participate in any training sessions?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes No
72	What specific skills did you learn during the training? (more than one option)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weed management 2. Pre-harvest and post-harvest management 3. Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) 4. Integrated pest management (IPM) 5. Soil fertility management 6. Nursery management 7. Seed production 8. Economic issues 9. Climate change 10. Disease management 11. Water management and irrigation systems 12. Mulching practice 13. Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) 14. Pre- and post-planting practices

		15. Nursery management 16. Seed production 17. Soil fertility management 18. Weed management 19. Water management and irrigation systems 20. Disease management 21. Mulching practices 22. Socio-economics Other
73	Did you face any challenges in receiving the training?	1. Yes 2. No
74	If yes, what were these challenges?	Text:
75	How satisfied are you with the trainings provided?	1. Very satisfied 2. Satisfied 3. Neutral 4. Dissatisfied 5. Very dissatisfied
76	7.1.1. Disaster Risk Reduction – Awareness – training	Indicator 3.2.1. DRR
	Did you receive any training?	1. Yes 2. No
77	What type of training did you attend?	3. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 4. Climate Resilience and Adaptation
78	How long was the training program? (In days)	Days:
79	What specific skills did you learn during the training?	Text:
80	How confident are you in applying the skills learned?	1. Very Confident 2. Confident 3. Neutral 4. Not confident
81	Have you been involved in any disaster risk reduction activities in your community since the training?	1. Yes 2. No
82	How do you plan to apply the knowledge and skills learned to improve climate resilience in your community?	Text:
	9.1.1. Social cohesion - workshop	Indicator 4.1.1 Social Cohesion
120	What is your role or affiliation with the community	1. community leader 2. youth member 3. Other
121	What type of intervention did you participate in?	1. Social cohesion training 2. Conflict prevention workshop 3. Consultation session or meeting 4. Community Kitchen 5. Other (specify)
122	How long did the intervention last?	Days:
123	Before the intervention, how much did you know about social cohesion and conflict prevention from the scale of 1 to 5, 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest	<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3 <input type="radio"/> 4 <input type="radio"/> 5
124	After the intervention, how much has your awareness of social cohesion and conflict prevention improved from the scale of 1 to 5, 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest	<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3 <input type="radio"/> 4 <input type="radio"/> 5

125	How likely are you to apply what you've learned in your community?	1. Very likely 2. Somewhat likely 3. Not likely
	9.1.1. community development plan	Indicator 4.4.1 – Community Development Plan
126	Did you receive any training on how to develop community plans?	1. Yes 2. No
127	Do you think the community development plan addresses the key needs of your community?	1. Yes 2. No
128	Has the implementation of the community development plan improved services in your community (e.g., infrastructure, education, health)?	1. Yes 2. No
129	Do you believe the community development plan has helped your community become more resilient to challenges (e.g., disasters, economic difficulties)?	1. Yes 2. No
130	Do you think the initiatives in the community development plan can be sustained without external support?	1. Yes 2. No
131	Did the community development plan consider the specific needs of women in your community?	1. Yes 2. No
132	Are you satisfied with how the community development plan was developed?	1. Very satisfied 2. Satisfied 3. Neutral 4. Dissatisfied 5. Very dissatisfied
133	10.1.1. Gender – Psychotherapy - Session	Indicator 4.2.1 - GBV
134	What type of GBV-related support did you receive?	1. Psychosocial counselling 2. Temporary economic survival support 3. Both
135	How long have you been receiving psychosocial or economic support? (in months)	Months:
136	How would you rate the effectiveness of the psychosocial support in improving your well-being? (Scale: 1-5)	○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5
137	How has the economic survival support helped improve your financial situation? (Open-ended)	Text:
138	11.1.1. Justice – legal aid - session	Indicator 4.3.1 – legal aid
139	What type of legal aid service did you receive?	1. legal advice 2. representation 3. mediation 4. Other
140	When did you receive the service?	Date:
141	Did the legal aid service help resolve your legal issue?	1. Yes 2. No
142	How satisfied are you with the legal aid service provided?	1. Very satisfied 2. Satisfied 3. Neutral 4. Dissatisfied 5. Very dissatisfied

In-person Interview

Introduction: Hello my name is I work for PPC. I am here on behalf of UNDP to assess the progress and performance of the ABADEI 2.0 project midway through its implementation. We evaluate the effectiveness of interventions, the extent to which the project's objectives are being met, and the challenges faced during execution.

Do you give me your consent to start the interview

3. Yes --→ Proceed
4. No --→ stop the interview and thank her/him

Demographic Information

D1	GPS	
D2	Date:	Time:
D3	Enumerators name	Text:
D4	Region	9. Central 10. CentralHighland 11. Eastern 12. NorthEastern 13. Northern 14. SouthEastern 15. Southern 16. Western
D5	Province	17. Kabul 18. Kapisa 19. Bamyán 20. Ghor 21. Nangarhar 22. Nuristan 23. Badakhshan 24. Kunduz 25. Balkh 26. Sar-e-Pul 27. Khost 28. Paktya 29. Kandahar 30. Uruzgan 31. Badghis 32. Hirat
D6	District	Select from the list
D7	Village/community	Select from the list
D8	NGO Partner	Select from the list
D9	UID/Project ID	Select from the list
D10	Respondent type	1- Community member (primary respondent)

		2- Community mobilizer 3- Direct beneficiary
	Respondent's name	Text:
	Age	Number:
	Sex	8. Male 9. female
	Status	4. IDP 5. Returnee 6. Host Community
	Education	1. Bachelor and above 2. Diploma 10. 12th grade 11. Below 12 grade 12. No education
D11	Category	12- Education 13- Energy 14- Infrastructure
D11.1	Intervention	1.2. TVET Establishment 2.2. Energy Provision 3.2. Productive Facility 3.3. Public Infrastructure
D11.1.1	Type	1.2.1. Establishment 2.2.1. Solar 2.2.2. Hydro 3.1.1. Community Productive Centre 3.1.2. CK Green house 3.1.3. Food Processing Center 3.2.1. Market Place 3.2.2. Aqueduct 3.2.3. BoundaryWall(school) 3.2.4. Bridge 3.2.5. Canal 3.2.6. Canal Intake 3.2.7. Check Dam 3.2.8. Climate Smart Water Supply Networks 3.2.9. Cut Off Wall 3.2.10. Flood Wall 3.2.11. Hospital WASH 3.2.12. Irrigation Pipe Scheme 3.2.13. Karez 3.2.14. Protection Wall 3.2.15. Protection Wall (school) 3.2.16. Super Passage 3.2.17. Syphon 3.2.18. Transitional Shelter 3.2.19. Water Reservoir 3.2.20. Water Shed 3.2.21. Water Supply System

		3.2.22. Weir
	Education – TVET establishment	Indicaor: 1.3.1 TVET and skilled education programs
1	Have you participated in any training since April 2023?	1. Yes 2. No
2	What type of training did you participate in?	22. Digital Database 23. Confectionery 24. Embroidery 25. strap knitting 26. embroidery 27. Baluch/weaving 28. Tailoring 29. GraphWeaving 30. HandbagMaking 31. GandAfghani 32. Carpet Weaving 33. Wool pinning 34. Chapan Weaving 35. Livestock Management 36. IT Essentials 37. Handicrafts 38. Dry Fruit Processing 39. Animal Husbandry 40. Food Processing 41. Engraving 42. Gilam Weaving 43. Soap Making 44. Other
3	How long did the training last?	# of days
4	Did the training improve your skills?	2. Yes No
5	Have you been able to find a job or earn income using the skills from the training?	2. Yes No
6	Did you receive any kits?	2. Yes No
7	How satisfied are you with the training program?	5. Very satisfied 6. Satisfied 7. Neutral 8. Dissatisfied 9. Very Dissatisfied.
8	What is the reason you chose this option	Text:
9	what are the challenges that you have faced in this TVET establishment, if any?	Text:
	Energy – Energy Provision – Solar and Hydro	Indicator 1.4.1 – Renewable Energy
10	What services are provided at this facility?	5. Healthcare 6. Education 7. Livelihood 8. Training 9. Sanitation 10. Other

11	Have you noticed any improvements in the services provided at this facility since the solar energy system was installed?	3. Yes 4. No
12	If No, what is the reason?	Text:
13	How has the availability of renewable energy affected the quality of services at the facility?	1. Powering equipment 2. Refrigeration 3. Lighting 4. reliable power for income-generating activities 5. sustainable business operations 6. Powers tools and machinery necessary for daily operations 7. Reduces business expenses through lower energy costs 8. providing continuous access to clean water 9. Reduces costs related to fuel 10. Other
14	Are there any challenges or interruptions in the services provided due to power issues at the facility?	2. Yes 3. No
15	How satisfied are you with the current level of services at this facility after the renewable energy system installation?	6. Very satisfied 7. Satisfied 8. Neutral 9. Dissatisfied 10. Very Dissatisfied.
16	What is the reason you chose this option	Text:
	Community Productive Centre (CPC)	Indicator 1.1.1 Infrastructures constructed/reconstructed
17	Are you participating in the CPC programs?	1. Yes 2. No
18	How long have you been associated with the CPC?	1. Less than 6 months 2. 6-12 months 3. More than 1 year
19	Which activities are you engaged in? (Select all that apply)	1. Production/Manufacturing (e.g., tailoring, handicrafts) 2. Agricultural Processing 3. Training and Skill Development 4. Other: _____
20	How frequently do you participate in CPC activities?	1. Daily 2. Weekly 3. Monthly
21	How satisfied are you with the opportunities provided by the CPC?	1. Very satisfied 2. Satisfied 3. Neutral 4. Dissatisfied 5. ery Dissatisfied.
22	Has your income improved as a result of CPC participation?	1. Yes 2. No 3. Somewhat
23	What new skills have you learned at the CPC?	1. Production/Manufacturing Skills 2. Business Management 3. Market Linkage and Networking 4. Other: _____
24	Do you feel empowered to start or improve your own business because of the CPC?	1. Yes 2. No 3. Somewhat

25	Do you have access to local or external markets to sell your products?	1. Yes 2. No 3. Somewhat
26	How do you rate the equipment and tools provided by the CPC?	1. Excellent 2. Good 3. Fair 4. Poor
27	Are there any challenges with the availability or functionality of equipment?	1. Yes 2. No If yes, please pecify: _____
28	What are your suggestions for improving the CPC's activities or operations?	Text:
	CK Greenhouse	Indicator 1.1.1 Infrastructures constructed/reconstructed
29	Are you participating in the CK Greenhouse programs?	1. Yes 2. No
30	How long have you been involved with the CK Greenhouse program?	1. Less than 6 months 2. 6-12 months 3. More than 1 year
31	What activities are you engaged in through the CK Greenhouse? (Select all that apply)	1. Growing vegetables and herbs 2. Kitchen gardening 3. Seed and crop management 4. Marketing surplus produce 5. Other: _____
32	How frequently do you engage in greenhouse-related activities?	1. Daily 2. Weekly 3. Monthly
33	Have you received training on greenhouse operations and crop management?	1. Yes 2. No
34	Has the greenhouse helped improve your household's food security?	
35	Do you face any challenges in maintaining the greenhouse?	1. Yes 2. No If yes, please specify: _____
36	Final comments	
	Food Processing Center	Indicator 1.1.1 Infrastructures constructed/reconstructed
37	How long have you been involved with the Food Processing Center?	1. Less than 6 months 2. 6-12 months 3. More than 1 year
38	Have you received training in food processing techniques?	1. Yes 2. No
39	What type of training have you received? (Select all that apply)	1. Pickling and Jam Production 2. Packaging and Labeling 3. Food Safety and Hygiene Practices 4. Marketing and Business Development
40	Have you received any equipment from ABADEI since April 2023	1. Yes 2. No
41	How do you rate the quality of equipment?	1. Excellent 2. Good 3. Fair 4. Poor
42	Has the center helped you generate additional income?	1. Yes 2. No
43	If yes, approximately how much?	Amount in AFN:

44	What products have you processed at the center? (Select all that apply)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pickles 2. Jams and Preserves 3. Dried Fruits 4. Other: _____
45	What challenges have you faced while working at the center?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of Equipment or Tools 2. Limited Market Access 3. Insufficient Training Opportunities 4. Other: _____
46	Final comments	
	Public Infrastructure	Indicator 1.1.2 – households benefitting from improved infrastructure
47	When was this infrastructure constructed/reconstructed?	Month/Year
48	How long have you been residing in this area?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Less than 6 months 2. 6-12 months 3. More than 1 year
49	How frequently do you use the improved infrastructure?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daily 2. Weekly 3. Monthly
50	How has the improved infrastructure impacted your daily life?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Significantly Improved 2. Moderately Improved 3. No Impact 4. Worsened
51	What changes have you noticed in your household or community due to the improved infrastructure?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better Access to Services (e.g., health, education) 2. Increased Income or Employment Opportunities 3. Improved Safety and Mobility 4. Better Health and Sanitation Conditions
52	Has the infrastructure improvement helped reduce any challenges your community faced?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No
53	If yes, what challenges?	Text:
54	How satisfied are you with the quality of the improved infrastructure?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very satisfied 2. Satisfied 3. Neutral 4. Dissatisfied 5. Very Dissatisfied.
55	Have you experienced any challenges with the infrastructure after the improvements?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No
56	If yes, please specify	Text:
57	Were you or other community members involved in the planning or implementation of the project?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No
58	Do you think the infrastructure will be maintained and continue to benefit the community?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No
59	If no, what concerns do you have?	
60	Final comments	

Direct Observation Checklist

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evaluate the effectiveness of interventions, the extent to which the project's objectives are being met, and the challenges faced during execution.

Demographic Information

D1	GPS	
D2	Date:	Time:
D3	Enumerators name	Text:
D4	Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Central 18. CentralHighland 19. Eastern 20. NorthEastern 21. Northern 22. SouthEastern 23. Southern 24. Western
D5	Province	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 33. Kabul 34. Kapisa 35. Bamyan 36. Ghor 37. Nangarhar 38. Nuristan 39. Badakhshan 40. Kunduz 41. Balkh 42. Sar-e-Pul 43. Khost 44. Paktya 45. Kandahar 46. Uruzgan 47. Badghis 48. Hirat
D6	District	Select from the list
D7	Village/community	Select from the list
D8	NGO Partner	Select from the list
D9	UID	Select from the list
D10	Respondent type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4- Community member (primary respondent) 5- Imam Masjed 6- Community mobilizer
D11	Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15- Education 16- Energy 17- Infrastructure
D11.1	Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.3. TVET Establishment 2.3. Energy Provision 3.4. Productive Facility 3.5. Public Infrastructure
D11.1.1	Type	1.3.1. Establishment

		2.3.1. Solar 2.3.2. Hydro 3.1.1. Community Productive Centre 3.1.2. CK Green house 3.1.3. Food Processing Center 3.2.1. Market Place 3.2.2. Aqueduct 3.2.3. BoundaryWall(school) 3.2.23. Bridge 3.2.24. Canal 3.2.25. Canal Intake 3.2.26. Check Dam 3.2.27. Climate Smart Water Supply Networks 3.2.28. Cut Off Wall 3.2.29. Flood Wall 3.2.30. Hospital WASH 3.2.31. Irrigation Pipe Scheme 3.2.32. Karez 3.2.33. Protection Wall 3.2.34. Protection Wall (school) 3.2.35. Super Passage 3.2.36. Syphon 3.2.37. Transitional Shelter 3.2.38. Water Reservoir 3.2.39. Water Shed 3.2.40. Water Supply System 3.2.41. Weir
D12	Take pictures of the infrastructure	The pictures from different angles should be Geo-tagged and infrastructures' names
	Education – TVET establishment	Indicator: 1.3.1 TVET and skilled education programs
1	Does this establishment exist?	1. Yes 2. No
2	TVET Establishment Name:	
3	Who is using this establishment?	1. Women 2. Youth 3. Other
4	Is any training being provided during the observation?	1. Yes 2. No
5	What type of training is being provided during the observation?	Training name:
6	Number of enrolled participants (check the attendance sheet)	#:
7	Number of present participants (head count)	1. Male: 2. Female:
8	Participants are actively attending sessions	1. Yes 2. No

		3. Partially Yes
9	Training environment is clean and organized	1. Yes 2. No 3. Partially Yes
10	Sufficient training materials and equipment are available	1. Yes 2. No 3. Partially Yes
11	Facilities are accessible to both men and women	1. Yes 2. No 3. Partially Yes
12	Safety measures and first-aid kits are present	1. Yes 2. No 3. Partially Yes
13	Feedback mechanisms for participants are available	1. Yes 2. No
14	Final comment	Text:
	Energy – Energy Provision – Solar and Hydro	Indicator 1.4.1 – Renewable Energy
15	Does the renewable energy exist?	1. Yes 2. No
16	Is the renewable energy system operational at the facility?	1. Yes 2. No
17	What type of facility is being powered?	1. Health center 2. School 3. Community productive center 4. MSME 5. Community water supply 6. Market place 7. Community Kitchen 8. Other
18	What is the capacity of the solar energy system installed (in kW)	kW:
19	Is the system being used regularly to power the facility's services	1. Yes 2. No
20	Are there any visible signs of maintenance needs or technical issues with the solar energy system?	1. Yes 2. No
21	How is the renewable energy system contributing to the facility's operations?	11. Powering equipment 12. Refrigeration 13. Lighting 14. reliable power for income-generating activities 15. sustainable business operations 16. Powers tools and machinery necessary for daily operations 17. Reduces business expenses through lower energy costs 18. providing continuous access to clean water 19. Reduces costs related to fuel 20. Other
22	Final comments	Text
	Community Productive Centre	Indicator 1.1.1 Infrastructures constructed/reconstructed
23	Does the center exist	1. Yes 2. No
	When was this center established?	Month/Year
24	Is the center functional and accessible to community members?	1. Yes 2. No

25	are adequate space and equipment available for productive activities?	1. Yes 2. No
26	Are safety and security measures in place (e.g., fire extinguishers, first aid kit)?	1. Yes 2. No
27	Are women and vulnerable groups actively participating in activities	
28	Are regular attendance and participation records maintained?	
29	Final Comments	Text
	CK Greenhouse	Indicator 1.1.1 Infrastructures constructed/reconstructed
30	Does the CK Greenhouse exist?	1. Yes 2. No
31	The greenhouse structure is well-maintained and functional	1. Yes 2. Partially Yes 3. No
32	Drip irrigation systems are installed and operational	1. Yes 2. Partially Yes 3. No
33	Appropriate tools and seeds are available	1. Yes 2. Partially Yes 3. No
34	Farmers/participants are trained in greenhouse operations	1. Yes 2. Partially Yes 3. No
35	Proper maintenance practices are followed (e.g., cleaning, watering)	1. Yes 2. Partially Yes 3. No
36	Vegetables/plants are growing well inside the greenhouse	1. Yes 2. Partially Yes 3. No
37	Participants report improved food security	1. Yes 2. Partially Yes 3. No
38	Surplus produce is used for income generation	1. Yes 2. Partially Yes 3. No
39	Final comments	Text
	Food Processing Center	Indicator 1.1.1 Infrastructures constructed/reconstructed
40	Does this center exist?	1. Yes 2. No
41	The processing facility is operational and well-maintained	1. Yes 2. Partially Yes 3. No
42	Equipment for food processing (e.g., pickling, jam-making tools) is available and functional	1. Yes 2. Partially Yes 3. No
43	Proper hygiene and sanitation practices are followed	1. Yes 2. Partially Yes 3. No

44	Participants receive technical training on food processing	1. Yes 2. Partially Yes 3. No
45	Women-led groups are actively involved in processing activities	1. Yes 2. Partially Yes 3. No
46	Final comments	Texts
	Public Infrastructure	Indicator 1.1.1 Infrastructures constructed/reconstructed
47	Is this infrastructure existing?	1. Yes No
48	What is the status of the infrastructure?	1. Fully constructed/reconstructed 2. In progress Not started yet
49	When did it start?	Date:
50	When did it end?	Date:
51	When will it end?	Date:
52	Is the infrastructure operational?	1. Yes No
53	Are there signs of proper waste management around the infrastructure?	1. Yes 2. No N/A
54	Are there any environmental risks observed (e.g., erosion, flooding risk, pollution)?	1. Yes 2. No N/A
55	Does the infrastructure meet community needs (e.g., water access, health, or safety)?	1. Yes 2. No N/A
56	Is the infrastructure being used by community members, particularly women, disabled, and other vulnerable groups?	1. Yes 2. No N/A
57	Does the infrastructure have features that ensure accessibility for people with disabilities (e.g., ramps, wide paths)?	1. Yes 2. No N/A
58	Final comment	

1. FGD Guide for AgroKit

Introduction

- **Welcome and Introduction:** Welcome participants and introduce the purpose of discussing the AgroKit intervention.
- **Icebreaker Question:** Please share your experiences with using the AgroKit. How has it changed your agricultural practices?

Relevance

- **Main Question:** Did the AgroKit intervention meet the agricultural needs of your community?
 - **Sub-Questions:**
 - Did the AgroKit help solve key agricultural challenges in your community?
 - **Probe:** Can you share specific challenges it addressed?
 - Do you feel the AgroKit aligns well with your traditional farming practices?
 - **Probe:** Were there any features or tools in the kit that felt unnecessary or difficult to use?

- Were community members involved in the selection or design of AgroKit components?
 - **Probe:** How were you or others engaged in this process?

Effectiveness

- **Main Question:** Has the AgroKit improved agricultural productivity and income in your community?
 - **Sub-Questions:**
 - What specific improvements have you seen in crop yields or farm productivity?
 - **Probe:** Can you quantify any increase in output?
 - Has using the AgroKit changed your farming income or reduced costs?
 - **Probe:** How has your income or financial situation changed?
 - Do you feel better prepared for environmental challenges due to the AgroKit?
 - **Probe:** Can you share examples of such challenges and how the AgroKit helped?

Sustainability

- **Main Question:** Are there any issues that might impact the long-term success of the AgroKit?
 - **Sub-Questions:**
 - Have you noticed any maintenance or access challenges with the AgroKit tools?
 - **Probe:** Are there resources available to maintain the kit over time?
 - Are local traditions, customs, or practices supportive of the AgroKit's continued use?
 - **Probe:** Do any community practices conflict with its adoption?
 - What could help ensure the AgroKit's sustained use and effectiveness?
 - **Probe:** Are there suggestions you have for improvements?

Likelihood of Impact

- **Main Question:** Did the AgroKit create any unexpected challenges or issues, and how were they resolved?
 - **Sub-Questions:**
 - Were there any problems that arose due to using the AgroKit?
 - **Probe:** Can you provide examples?
 - How responsive were project staff in addressing these challenges?
 - **Probe:** Did you feel your concerns were taken seriously and resolved promptly?

Diversity and Inclusion

- **Main Question:** How inclusive was the AgroKit intervention for all community members?
 - **Sub-Questions:**
 - Did women, youth, or people with disabilities in your community participate in using the AgroKit?
 - **Probe:** Were there any groups left out, and why?
 - How could the AgroKit project ensure broader inclusion and participation?
 - **Probe:** Are there any particular changes you would suggest?

Key Informant Interview Guide

Instructions: this is the main KII guide and will be adjusted based on the key informant

Coherence

EQ 1: Do synergies exist with other interventions carried out by UNDP as well as intervention partners and stakeholders including the donor?

- 1.1 How does this project coordinate with other interventions carried out by UNDP in the same regions or sectors?
- 1.2 What mechanisms are in place to ensure alignment between the project's activities and those of intervention partners and stakeholders?
- 1.3 How have synergies with intervention partners and donors contributed to the overall success of the project?
- 1.4 What challenges, if any, have emerged in creating or maintaining synergies with UNDP, partners, and stakeholders?
- 1.5 Can you identify any specific outcomes that were made possible or improved as a result of these synergies?

EQ 2: To what extent does ABADDEI add value and avoid duplication in the given context?

- 2.1 What specific activities or strategies have been employed to ensure ABADDEI adds value to the community?
- 2.2 How does ABADDEI differentiate itself from other similar programs in the region?
- 2.3 What measures are in place to identify and prevent duplication of efforts with other ongoing interventions?
- 2.4 How do stakeholders perceive the added value of ABADDEI in addressing the community's needs?
- 2.5 Can you provide examples where ABADDEI successfully avoided overlap with other projects or organizations?

EQ 3. To what extent did the project implement the Afghanistan Coordination Group Principles?

- 3.1 What steps were taken to align ABADDEI's interventions with the Afghanistan Coordination Group Principles?
- 3.2 How did the project ensure that these principles were adhered to during implementation?
- 3.3 Were there any challenges in implementing these principles? If so, how were they addressed?
- 3.4 How do you assess the impact of implementing these principles on project outcomes?
- 3.5 Can you identify any areas where further alignment with these principles could improve the project?

Relevance

EQ 1. To what extent were the overall design and approaches of the project relevant?

- 1.1 How well did the project's design align with the needs of the target beneficiaries?
- 1.2 Were there any significant gaps in the project's design in addressing the core issues in the region?
- 1.3 How adaptable was the project design to the changing political, economic, or social contexts in Afghanistan?
- 1.4 How did the beneficiaries and local stakeholders perceive the relevance of the project approaches?
- 1.5 Can you provide specific examples where the project's design proved particularly effective or ineffective?

EQ 2. To what extent did the project achieve its overall outputs? Are the project's contributions to outcomes clear?

- 2.1 What are the key outputs that the project has delivered so far?
- 2.2 How did these outputs contribute to the intended outcomes of the project?
- 2.3 Were there any delays or challenges in achieving the planned outputs? If so, what caused them?
- 2.4 How do stakeholders and beneficiaries view the project's contributions to its stated goals?
- 2.5 Can you identify any areas where the project's contributions to outcomes were unclear or insufficient?

Effectiveness

EQ 1. To what extent were project activities delivered effectively in terms of quality, quantity, and timing? And what are the project's greatest achievements? Why and what have been the supporting factors? How can the project build on or expand these achievements?

- 1.1 How would you assess the quality of the project activities delivered to beneficiaries?
- 1.2 Were project activities delivered on schedule and in the planned quantity?
- 1.3 What were the most notable achievements of the project, and what factors contributed to these successes?
- 1.4 What challenges were encountered in achieving timely and high-quality delivery of activities, and how were they addressed?

1.5 What opportunities exist for scaling or expanding upon these achievements in future phases of the project?

2. What are the key internal and external factors (success & failure factors) that have contributed, affected, or impeded the achievements, and how have UNDP and the partners managed these factors?

- 2.1 What internal project management practices contributed to the success or failure of the project?
- 2.2 Were there any external factors (political, economic, social) that impacted the project's ability to achieve its goals?
- 2.3 How effectively did UNDP and its partners respond to challenges during project implementation?
- 2.4 What lessons can be learned from the way internal and external factors were managed?
- 2.5 Can any improvements be made to the way these factors are managed in future projects?

3. To what extent have the project's interventions carried out through Responsible Parties been effective in helping beneficiaries meet their basic human needs, improve livelihoods, and strengthen resilience?

- 3.1 How well did the interventions implemented by Responsible Parties meet the basic needs of the beneficiaries?
- 3.2 How did these interventions contribute to improving livelihoods and strengthening resilience among the targeted populations?
- 3.3 Were there any gaps in service delivery by Responsible Parties, and if so, how were they addressed?
- 3.4 How did the beneficiaries perceive the effectiveness of these interventions?
- 3.5 What mechanisms were in place to monitor and ensure the quality of services delivered by Responsible Parties?

4. To what extent has the project management and implementation been participatory, flexible, adaptive, and responsive to the emerging needs and priorities of Afghanistan?

- 4.1 How was the project able to adapt to changing political and social conditions in Afghanistan?
- 4.2 Were beneficiaries and stakeholders involved in the planning and decision-making processes of the project?
- 4.3 How did the project management adjust its strategies to remain relevant to the emerging needs of the community?
- 4.4 What were the main factors that contributed to the project's flexibility and adaptability?
- 4.5 Can you provide examples where the project demonstrated responsiveness to immediate community priorities?

Efficiency

EQ 1. Have resources (funds, human resources, time, expertise, etc.) been allocated strategically and utilized cost-effectively to achieve outcomes?

- 1.1 How was resource allocation planned at the beginning of the project?
- 1.2 Were there any challenges in distributing resources effectively? If so, how were they addressed?
- 1.3 What specific strategies were implemented to ensure cost-effectiveness in resource usage?

- 1.4 How were funds tracked and monitored to ensure they were used for the intended outcomes?
- 1.5 Can you provide examples where strategic resource allocation led to significant project outcomes?

EQ 2. Was the process of achieving results efficient? Were the resources effectively utilized?

- 2.1 How well were the planned activities executed in terms of timeliness and quality?
- 2.2 Were there any delays or resource shortages that impacted the achievement of results?
- 2.3 How did the team ensure resources were used efficiently throughout the project lifecycle?
- 2.4 What measures were in place to monitor the efficiency of resource utilization?
- 2.5 How could the efficiency of resource utilization be improved in future projects?

EQ 3. To what extent has the project been effective in managing partnerships to enhance optimal results through building synergy with others in an efficient and cost-effective manner?

- 3.1 How were partnerships established and managed throughout the project?
- 3.2 In what ways did the partnerships contribute to building synergies and optimizing project outcomes?
- 3.3 Were there any challenges in coordinating with partners? How were these challenges managed?
- 3.4 How did partners contribute to cost-effective implementation of project activities?
- 3.5 How can the management of partnerships be improved for future projects?

EQ 4. Did the project activities overlap and duplicate other similar interventions funded nationally, and/or by other donors?

- 4.1 Were there any instances of overlapping activities with other projects or interventions?
- 4.2 How did the team ensure that project activities were distinct from other donor-funded programs?
- 4.3 What measures were taken to avoid duplication of efforts at the national level?
- 4.4 Were there any coordination efforts with other donors to ensure complementarity rather than duplication?
- 4.5 Can you provide examples where overlaps were identified and how they were addressed?

Sustainability

EQ 1. What were the major factors/risks which influenced or hampered the sustainability of results produced by the project? To what extent did the project manage these risks?

- 1.1 What key risks were identified during the project that threatened the sustainability of results?
- 1.2 How did the project team **address or mitigate these risks** to ensure long-term sustainability?
- 1.3 Were there any external factors (such as political instability or economic downturn) that significantly impacted the project's sustainability?
- 1.4 How did stakeholders, including local authorities or beneficiaries, contribute to managing these risks?
- 1.5 What measures were put in place to ensure that the project's results could be sustained after project completion?

EQ 2. Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize the sustainability of project outputs and the project's contributions to country programme outputs and outcomes?

- 2.1 How has the current social and political climate affected the project's sustainability?
- 2.2 Are there any ongoing political developments that could undermine the success of the project's outputs?
- 2.3 What specific social risks (e.g., cultural resistance, community dynamics) have posed a challenge to the project's sustainability?
- 2.4 How has the project adapted to changes in political or social contexts to maintain its relevance and effectiveness?
- 2.5 Can you provide examples of how political or social risks were mitigated during project implementation?

EQ 3. To what extent are lessons learned being documented by the project team and shared with appropriate parties who can learn from the project?

- 3.1 What systems are in place to capture and document lessons learned throughout the project?
- 3.2 How has the project team ensured that lessons learned are shared with relevant stakeholders, including donors, partners, and beneficiaries?
- 3.3 Can you provide examples of key lessons learned that have influenced ongoing or future project activities?
- 3.4 How often does the project team review and reflect on the lessons learned during project implementation?
- 3.5 How are these lessons integrated into future planning and decision-making processes for similar projects?

Likelihood of Impact

EQ 1. To what extent is the project likely to contribute to improved economic conditions of the target beneficiaries?

- 1.1 How have the project interventions addressed the economic challenges faced by the beneficiaries?
- 1.2 What indicators are being used to measure the economic improvements among the target population?
- 1.3 Are there any examples of beneficiaries who have experienced notable economic changes since participating in the project?
- 1.4 How sustainable are the economic gains made by the beneficiaries through the project?
- 1.5 What additional measures could be implemented to further enhance the project's economic impact?

EQ 2. What positive and/or negative changes are the beneficiaries experiencing because of their participation in ABADEI activities?

- 2.1 What have been the most significant positive changes experienced by the beneficiaries as a result of the project?
- 2.2 Have there been any unintended negative consequences for beneficiaries, and if so, what are they?
- 2.3 How do beneficiaries perceive their overall experience with the project, both in terms of positive and negative impacts?
- 2.4 What steps has the project taken to amplify the positive impacts and mitigate the negative ones?
- 2.5 Can beneficiaries provide examples of how their participation has improved their quality of life?

EQ 3. Did the UNDP staff take timely measures for mitigating any unplanned negative impacts of the ABADEI project?

- 3.1 What unplanned negative impacts were identified during the project?
- 3.2 How did the UNDP staff respond to these negative impacts, and were the responses timely?
- 3.3 What specific mitigation strategies were employed to address the unplanned impacts?
- 3.4 How did the beneficiaries respond to the mitigation measures taken by the UNDP staff?
- 3.5 Were there any gaps in the mitigation process, and how could they be addressed in future interventions?

EQ 4. To what extent have local communities benefited from the quick-impact projects implemented through ABADEI?

- 4.1 What specific quick-impact projects were implemented, and what were their objectives?
- 4.2 How did the quick-impact projects address the immediate needs of the local communities?
- 4.3 Can you provide examples of tangible benefits that local communities have experienced as a result of these projects?
- 4.4 Were there any challenges in delivering these quick-impact projects, and how were they addressed?
- 4.5 How sustainable are the benefits provided by the quick-impact projects in the long term?

Diversity and inclusion

EQ 1. To what extent did the project contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment? To what extent has the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women? Were there any unintended effects?

- 1.1 What specific activities were implemented to promote gender equality and women's empowerment?
- 1.2 How have women's roles or participation in the community changed as a result of the project?
- 1.3 Were there any challenges or barriers to achieving gender equality through the project?
- 1.4 Have there been any unintended negative effects on women or gender dynamics as a result of the project?

- 1.5 How do women beneficiaries perceive the overall impact of the project on their empowerment?

EQ 2. Did the results have a differentiated impact on women and other vulnerable groups?

- 2.1 How did the project outcomes differ for women, youth, and other vulnerable groups (e.g., people with disabilities)?
- 2.2 Were there any specific strategies used to ensure that vulnerable groups were adequately supported?
- 2.3 What feedback have you received from vulnerable groups regarding the project's impact on their lives?
- 2.4 Did any challenges arise in delivering targeted interventions to these groups?
- 2.5 How can the project improve its approach to supporting vulnerable groups in future phases?

EQ 3. How can the project further broaden its contribution to enhancing diversity and inclusion?

- 3.1 What steps have been taken to promote diversity and inclusion within the project?
- 3.2 What areas could be expanded to ensure more inclusive participation and benefits across different demographic groups?
- 3.3 How can the project engage underrepresented or marginalized groups more effectively?
- 3.4 What role do local stakeholders play in fostering inclusion within the project?
- 3.5 Can you provide examples of successful inclusion practices that can be replicated in future initiatives?

EQ 4. To what extent have local communities, women, youth, people with disabilities, and other disadvantaged groups benefited from the project?

- 4.1 What specific benefits have been provided to local communities, especially women, youth, and people with disabilities?
- 4.2 How have these benefits contributed to improving the quality of life for disadvantaged groups?
- 4.3 Were there any challenges in reaching out to or engaging these groups in project activities?
- 4.4 What feedback have you received from these groups regarding their experience with the project?
- 4.5 How can the project further ensure that the benefits provided are sustainable and inclusive of all community members?

Annex V: List of Key Informants

No	Name of the Interviewee	Gender	Email	Name of the Organization	Designation/Unit
1	Stephen Rodriques	Male	stephen.rodriques@undp.org mohammadyaqoob.rokini@undp.org	UNDP	Resident Representative
2	Doel Mukerjee	Female	doel.mukerjee@undp.org mohammadyaqoob.rokini@undp.org	UNDP	Deputy Resident Representative - Programme
3	Anisha Thapa	Female	anisha.thapa@undp.org	UNDP	Programme Specialist, Head of Programme Quality Assurance (PQA) Team
4	Merita Jorgo (Head of IRMU) and Dirk Stoelhorst (Risk Management Specialist)	Female	merita.jorgo@undp.org dirk.stoelhorst@undp.org	UNDP	Risk Management Specialist, Integrated Risk Management Unit
5	Maria Luisa Isabel Jolongbayan	Female	luisa.jolongbayan@undp.org	UNDP	Development Effectiveness Specialist, Development Effectiveness Unit (DEU)
6	Arvind Kumar	Male	arvind.kumar@undp.org	UNDP	Project Manager (current)
7	Area Manager - Center - Firuz	Male	firuz.saidkhadzhaev@undp.org	UNDP	Regional Area Managers
8	Area Manager - South - James	Male	james.handina@undp.org	UNDP	Regional Area Managers
9	Area Manager - West - Francesca	Female	francesca.cozzarini@undp.org	UNDP	Regional Area Managers
10	Area Manager - East - Anatoly	Male	anatoly.balovnev@undp.org	UNDP	Regional Area Managers

11	Josephine Kalinauckas	Female	Josephine.KALINAUCKAS@eeas.europa.eu	Donors	ABADEI Donors/EU
12	Goj - Ikuma San (Second Secretary, Economic Cooperation Section) Kanaoka Hiraoka (First Secretary, Economic Cooperation Section)	Female	kanako.hiraoka@mofa.go.jp Ikuma.masuda@mofa.go.jp	Donors	ABADEI Donors
13	JICA Yuki Daizumoto	Female	Daizumoto.Yuki2@jica.go.jp	Donors	ABADEI Donors
14	STFA Wadzi	Female	wadzanayi.mushandikwa@undp.org	Donors	ABADEI Donors
15	Madhavan Ati	Male	madhavan.ati@brac.net	Partners	BRAC
16	Abdul Latif	Male	Abdul.Latif@care.org	Partners	CARE
17	IRW	Male	Rahmatullah.khugiani@islamic-relief.org.af Zulqarnain.Baloch@irworldwide.org	Partners	ABADEI Partners
18	Aklima Jesmin	Female	jesmin.aklima@undp.org	UNDP	Gender

Annex IV: Signed Ethical Pledge



ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATION

PLEDGE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT IN EVALUATION



By signing this pledge, I hereby commit to discussing and applying the UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation and to adopting the associated ethical behaviours.



INTEGRITY

I will actively adhere to the moral values and professional standards of evaluation practice as outlined in the UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation and following the values of the United Nations. Specifically, I will be:

- **Honest and truthful** in my communication and actions.
- **Professional**, engaging in credible and trustworthy behaviour, alongside competence, commitment and ongoing reflective practice.
- **Independent, impartial and incorruptible**.



ACCOUNTABILITY

I will be answerable for all decisions made and actions taken and responsible for honouring commitments, without qualification or exception; I will report potential or actual harms observed. Specifically, I will be:

- **Transparent regarding evaluation** purpose and actions taken, establishing trust and increasing accountability for performance to the public, particularly those populations affected by the evaluation.
- **Responsive** as questions or events arise, adapting plans as required and referring to appropriate channels where corruption, fraud, sexual exploitation or abuse or other misconduct or waste of resources is identified.
- **Responsible** for meeting the evaluation purpose and for actions taken and for ensuring redress and recognition as needed.



RESPECT

I will engage with all stakeholders of an evaluation in a way that honours their dignity, well-being, personal agency and characteristics. Specifically, I will ensure:

- **Access** to the evaluation process and products by all relevant stakeholders – whether powerless or powerful – with due attention to factors that could impede access such as sex, gender, race, language, country of origin, LGBTQ status, age, background, religion, ethnicity and ability.
- **Meaningful participation and equitable treatment** of all relevant stakeholders in the evaluation processes, from design to dissemination. This includes engaging various stakeholders, particularly affected people, so they can actively inform the evaluation approach and products rather than being solely a subject of data collection.
- **Fair representation** of different voices and perspectives in evaluation products (reports, webinars, etc.).



BENEFACTANCE

I will strive to do good for people and planet while minimizing harm arising from evaluation as an intervention. Specifically, I will ensure:

- **Explicit and ongoing consideration** of risks and benefits from evaluation processes.
- **Maximum benefits** at systemic (including environmental), organizational and programmatic levels.
- **No harm**. I will not proceed where harm cannot be mitigated.
- **Evaluation makes an overall positive contribution** to human and natural systems and the mission of the United Nations.

I commit to playing my part in ensuring that evaluations are conducted according to the Charter of the United Nations and the ethical requirements laid down above and contained within the UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation. When this is not possible, I will report the situation to my supervisor, designated focal points or channels and will actively seek an appropriate response.

Dr Robina Shaheen

21 October 2024

(Signature and Date)



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20.Oct.2024

(Signature and Date)