|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **UNDP Management Response to Evaluation of the:** | **Healthier Kosovo** |
| Date:  | 12/27/2020 |
| Prepared by: | Shkipe Deda-Gjurgjiali | Position: | Portfolio Manager | Kosovo Unit/Bureau:  | Energy and Environment |
| Cleared by: | Click here to enter name. | Position: | Click here to enter position. | Kosovo Unit/Bureau: | Energy and Environment |
| Input into and update in ERC: | Anton Selitaj | Position: | Programme Associate | Kosovo Unit/Bureau: | Energy and Environment |

**Healthier Kosovo, final evaluation RECOMMENDATIONS**

|  |
| --- |
| **Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 1: Support government institutions for law enforcement with national and local level institutional governance in tackling air pollution** |
| **Management Response:**  UNDP will continue to build based on the best practices of the Healthier Kosovo project, and continue its efforts in reducing exposure to air pollution, as one of the main threats to the health of the Kosovo population. In the second phase, the project will focus in supporting Ministry of Health and Ministry of Economy and Environment on prevention of air pollution and its impact on health of population. | **Tracking\*** |
| **Key Action(s)**  | **Time Frame** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| Support the **Environmental Inspectorate** from the Ministry of Economy and Environment (MEE) with raising capacities, research, policy design and policy execution.  | 2021 - 2022  | Project | Click here to enter Comments. | To be initiated |

|  |
| --- |
| **Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 2: Support National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) meta data collection and statistical analysis by developing a software for disease classification and burden which can be interactive batched for policy making e.g. SPSS and HIS** |
| **Management Response:** The need for this software is to receive hospital admission data **only** related to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, that are sometimes influenced by air pollution. While the need for such data is real, it normally should have been solved by the Health Information System (HIS) which is a Kosovo wide network that so far has failed to function although many investments have been done by different parties over the years. While addressing this need, we will be cautious to make sure that such a software does not conflict with the existing infrastructure and scope of HIS itself. Healthier Kosovo, as a joint UN project between UNDP, UNV and WHO worked intensively to support the procurement of such software by IPH. Due to internal IPH policies, such support was not able to be carried out in the first phase. During Healthier Kosovo 2, we will explore other modalities to support the provision of such software (or explore other ways to collect hospital data related to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases) such as directly by WHO or through other UN agency mechanisms, if it does not conflict with the existing SISH structure. | **Tracking\*** |
| **Key Action(s)**  | **Time Frame** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| Carry out an assessment to see the best way to continuously provide access to such data for NIPH, while not being in conflict with existing structures and national policies. Depending on the findings, a tailored support might be provided as per recommendations of such an assessment. | 2021-2022 | Project | Click here to enter Comments. | To be initiated |
|  Advocate in donor health and a air quality group for concerted donor support to strengthening data systems. | 2021-2022 | UNDP | Click here to enter Comments. | To be initiated |

|  |
| --- |
| **Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 3:**  Support Hydrometeorological Institute of Kosovo (HMIK) for quantitative and qualitative data by developing a software for its MIS. |
| **Management Response:** UNDP will continue with the provision of further support in capacity building of Hydrometeorological Institute of Kosovo. UNDP will coordinate its activities with other stakeholders in Kosovo working in the sector of air pollution and Air Quality Management, MCC and JICA. | **Tracking\*** |
| **Key Action(s)**  | **Time Frame** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| Host quarterly Air Quality Donor Coordination Meetings | 2021 – 2022 | UNDP | First meeting held on 21.12.2020. RR highlighted in her opening remarks the importance of enhanced coordination and cooperation in addressing environmental problems in Kosovo. RR emphasized that COVID recovery is an opportunity for economic transformation. RR highlighted the efforts made under the joint UN project Healthier Kosovo in raising environmental awareness and identifying local solutions in addressing air pollution, and UN agencies commitment to continue working in this area.  | Ongoing |

|  |
| --- |
| **Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 4: Review Government policy decisions of year 2014 and year 2018 on creating environment health committee and address inaction of the HMIK** |
| **Management Response**: UNDP acknowledges the importantance toincrease support to the Environment and Health Committee (EHCo), so it becomes an active entity responsible for coordination in this area. During the implementation of the project there have been fundamental changes in central institutions three times. This factor impacted functionalization of the Committee. As an alternative, the Healthier Kosovo project team decided to continue working with key institutions and actors in the field of environment and health, including MoH, IPH, IHMK, Agency of Statistics, Municipalities of Obilic and Fushe Kosove, NGOs. With such attempts, we’ve managed to increase cross institutional cooperation and understanding of issues related to environmental health, which in itself was one of the objectives of the committee and is one of the areas that most needed to be improved in order to better address the issues of environmental health.  | **Tracking\*** |
| **Key Action(s)**  | **Time Frame** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| The project will continue to work with the same pool of actors throughout the second phase of the project in order to strengthen the Environment and Health Committee. | 2021-2022 | Project | Click here to enter Comments. | To be initiated |

|  |
| --- |
| **Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 5: Review and support implementation of municipal plans for environment and waste management. Municipal plans of FushëKosova/Kosovo Polje and Obiliq/c are not updated due to lack of financial resources**  |
| **Management Response:** This is a very relevant and important point. The programme and project team will start reviewing the municipal plans in both municipalities and will also consult with other international actors likely to continue their interventions in similar sectors and geographic areas, to ensure inter-project coherence and synergy.  | **Tracking\*** |
| **Key Action(s)**  | **Time Frame** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| The Programme and Project team will support Fushë Kosova/Kosovo Polje and Obiliq/c municipalities to develop the municipal plans for air pollution reduction. | 2021- 2022 | UNDP | Click here to enter Comments. | To be initiated |
| Click here to enter Key Action(s). |  | Choose an item. | Click here to enter Comments. | To be initiated |

|  |
| --- |
| **Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 6: a) As CSOs cooperation with municipalities has been successful on raising their concerns about environment and waste management, the project is recommended to consider raising the capacities of local municipalities on waste management; b) CSO trainings on watchdog functions and public participation efforts to be focused on rights, citizen’s charter, environmental and health audits, research practices, community mobilization, awareness campaigns; c) CSOs grants for those in particular located in different municipalities that would help them display watchdog skills and/or public participation efforts in one or multiple environmental topics. Furthermore, it would also complement the trainings that the CSOs have been part of thus far, and the suggested future training modules** |
| **Management Response:**  UNDP is committed to increase the voice of the people to demand accountability from public institutions who are responsible to deliver on their strategic objectives in regard to reduction of environmental pollution. Building on its long-term experience with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) - globally and regionally - UNDP will continue to work closely with CSOs to strengthen their ‘watchdog’ function to put pressure towards public institutions and represent the needs of communities. In addition, youth engagement activities with adequate gender mainstreaming, provided opportunities for community members top become active agents in addressing the problems caused by environmental pollution, in line with project’s targets set originally. Moreover, five small grants will be awarded to local environmental CSOs, for lobbying and advocating on environment and health issues.Click here to enter text. | **Tracking\*** |
| **Key Action(s)**  | **Time Frame** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Comments** | **Status** |
|  This recommendation has been incorporated in the activities of Healthier Kosovo 2 | 2021 - 2022 | Programme | Click here to enter Comments. | To be initiated |

|  |
| --- |
| **Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 7: Continue with existing #ecokosovo campaign by developing new ways to engage the public, inform them and have them join a sustainable lifestyle for a cleaner environment** |
| **Management Response:**  The new phase of the project will focus on innovative environmental campaigning for an increased environmental awareness among the general population. The new phase will enable the existing #ecokosovo campaign by developing new ways to engage the public, inform them and have them join a sustainable lifestyle for a cleaner environment and cleaner air. In the new phase, the awareness raising campaign will also have new timely elements related to deforestation/biodiversity and zoonotic diseases, and climate change and health. | **Tracking\*** |
| **Key Action(s)**  | **Time Frame** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Comments** | **Status** |
|  This recommendation has been incorporated in the activities of Healthier Kosovo 2  | 2021-2022 | UNDP | Click here to enter Comments. | To be initiated |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 8: Decrease air pollution in targeted municipalities through implementing human centered design and co-designing prototype solutions that reduce air pollution** |
| **Management Response:** Building up on the successful implementation of innovative initiatives (prototypes) which created a venue for communities to voice their concerns about environmental impact on health through utilization of human centered design and co-design techniques and enabled communities and local institutions to be part of the solutions and to contribute to environmental protection and decreasing of the air pollution. In In the second phase of the project **(Healthier Kosovo2)** which was endorsed by the donor, the programme has foreseen the implementation of three prototype solutions in the targeted municipalities which will further contribute to the reduction of air-pollution and will increase the engagement of communities and local institutors in tackling this threat.  | **Tracking\*** |
| **Key Action(s)**  | **Time Frame** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| Based on the evaluation recommendation, the programme has designed targeted activities and included three prototype solutions to be implemented in the Healthier Kosovo 2 project, this will further contribute to the reduction of air-pollution in targeted municipalities and will increase the engagement of communities and local institutors in tackling this threat.  | December 2021-2022 | Project | Click here to enter Comments. | To be initiated |

|  |
| --- |
| **Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 9: Address household air pollution by raising institutional knowledge and capacity (through assessments, trainings), and through awareness raising campaigns with focus on women and the most vulnerable.**  |
| **Management Response:** Healthier Kosovo project has already started supporting IPH on assessing indoor air pollution. This first began with measuring such indicators in schools, and it was made possible through project’s support which included trainings, methodologies, and procuring of samplers and sensors necessary for such measurements. In the Healthier Kosovo 2, it was envisioned from the beginning to address this issue more head on. Specifically, activities will be undertaken to understand better the sources of indoor pollution, types of pollutants most present, and raising awareness of steps households can undertake to create safer and healthier indoor environments. | **Tracking\*** |
| **Key Action(s)**  | **Time Frame** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| The Healthier Kosovo 2 has incorporated: a) workshops on household air pollution and related health threats and WHO tools; b) Studies/assessments to better understand the sources and types of indoor AP; c) awareness raising on steps needed to decrease exposure | 2021-2022 | Project | Click here to enter Comments. | To be initiated |