

## UNDP Management Response

### Sustainable Water Management in Rural Areas in Uzbekistan Component 2: Technical capacity Building

**Date:** 17 June 2021

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**Overall comments:**

Overall, the Component II: Technical Capacity Building initiative is considered very successful and appreciated by stakeholders and as a significant step towards implementing sustainable solutions in the region.

1. The support of the UNDP was seen as critical to the main achievements in implementing the project over the 2016-2020 period. The UNDP's work on building the relationships between stakeholders in the water sector was seen as the most successful of the pursued objectives. The main achievements identified in the evaluation's work were significant strengthening of capacity in the water sector. The political nature of the programme and delays challenged planning.

2. The procurement team used best practices to procure goods and services rapidly and competitively. Project plans were developed and implemented in ways that allowed for flexibility. The financial expenditures of the project were in accordance with the project documents. UN activities under the PPP are accepted by partners, stakeholders, and beneficiaries.

3. The technical capacity-building project was of high interest to the involved stakeholders to learn best practices to strengthen their abilities. The participants of all levels have been keen on following provided guidelines to ensure the best performance.

4. The project yielded measurable results for improvement of water system infrastructure. The primary users reported improvement in water-saving in their households. Implemented practices now provide good practice examples for regions with similar conditions.

5. While the project improved the gender equality situation in the country by promoting women's participation and engagement in the water sector, the project overall did not achieve the target of 30% of women involvement in technical capacity building - though a few organizations reported the required involvement numbers. The majority of organizations stated that the number of qualified women in technical roles is not enough in the sector, and that gender equality stays a target to be fulfilled in the future and will need long term commitment for promoting and conducting relevant education for women. It has been observed that the percentage of women in roles like accounting and finance in the water institutions is higher than the percentage in technical roles, which may be subject to classic role profiles, but may also be a result of specific working requirements that are conflicting with women's other responsibilities.

<b>Evaluation Recommendation 1:</b> Stakeholders stated a clear interest in upscaling the project results and expanding				
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implementation. Considering the project's success upscaling and/or implementation to other areas should therefore be considered.				
<b>Management Response:</b>	The recommendation accepted. The experience and knowledge gained during the implementation of the project will be taken into account in the formation and implementation of new projects in the field of the environment and the development of advisory services in agriculture. In particular, the AKIS project considers actions towards increasing the capacity of water managers, farmers, research institutes and specialists.			
<b>Key Action(s)</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Responsible Unit(s)</b>	<b>Tracking</b>	
			<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1.1. To link the project results and integrate its successful practices into Desira UAKIS project actions towards increasing the capacity of water managers, farmers, research institutes and specialists.	Dec 2021	ECAC	<b>Not started</b>	
<b>Evaluation Recommendation 2:</b> Project results should continue to be monitored to ensure that implemented practices are well sustained.				
<b>Management Response:</b>	The recommendation accepted. The project results will be tracked to the extent possible within other ongoing and upcoming initiatives of UNDP related to natural resources management. From the national partner (Ministry of Water Resources) side the monitoring is being executed by the Information Analytical Resource Center.			
<b>Key Action(s)</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Responsible Unit(s)</b>	<b>Tracking</b>	
			<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
2.1. To prepare at least one article jointly with the Ministry of Water Resources based on their monitoring outputs of the sustainability of the main project results.	Feb-Mar 2023	ECAC	<b>Not started</b>	
<b>Evaluation Recommendation 3:</b> Stakeholders participating in trainings reported that more applicable approaches would be welcome (for instance, field works, site visits, etc). This should be considered for future trainings and capacity building events.				
<b>Management Response:</b>	Partially agree. The project's training activities were implemented by applying "learning by doing" approach except specific trainings on information/knowledge transfer/exchange.			
<b>Key Action(s)</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Responsible Unit(s)</b>	<b>Tracking</b>	
			<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
3.1. While formulating a training program to stakeholders at the initial stage of the new AKIS project to integrate successful approaches and methods tested in the given project specific attention will be paid to planning "field days", local site visits to review demonstration plots, innovative practices, etc.	Dec 2021	ECAC	<b>Not started</b>	

<b>Evaluation Recommendation 4:</b> As the quality of provided training was assessed as high, it is recommended future trainings in a similar manner.				
<b>Management Response:</b>	The recommendation accepted. In its future programming UNDP will integrate the project's demonstrated approach in provision of training activities. UNDP assisted in formulation and adoption of the National Capacity Building Program adopted in March 2021. The Center for training and re-training of water managers and specialists at the TIIAME that responsible for implementation of the Program will be using for training the modules developed within the Water project. This will ensure sustainability of project's approach in capacity building.			
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking	
			Status	Comments
4.1. To integrate the project's demonstrated approach in a training course design and delivery methods to a new Uzbek Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation System (UAKIS) activity within the newly launching DESIRA UAKIS project.	Dec 2022	ECAC	Not started	
<b>Evaluation Recommendation 5:</b> The project brings a meaningful social effect/contribution, and as such is a good practice example for implementation of similar approaches in other areas with similar conditions.				
<b>Management Response:</b>	The recommendation accepted. In its future programming UNDP will continue to replicate and extend achieved results as well as fruitful approaches as piloted within the given project.			
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking	
			Status	Comments
5.1. To introduce the project's approaches in bringing social effects through improving the access to water into the technical assistance program of the UNDP/GEF Mountain Ecosystems project and other relevant interventions.	Mar 2022	ECAC	Not started	
<b>Evaluation Recommendation 6:</b> Project startup has been slow. Measures should be installed so that for future projects a faster project startup can be achieved.				
<b>Management Response:</b>	Partially agree. The delay in the start of the project was due to the need to allocate office space by the national partner that needed to be renovated. Recruitment of the project staff has taken longer than expected. UNDP has arranged measures in place to avoid such delays, however there are some activities beyond of the UNDP control.			

\* The implementation status is tracked in the ERC.