**MINUTES OF THE LOCAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROJECT MEETING**

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| **Date:** | September 14, 2020 |
| **Time:** | 18:30-19:30 |
| **Venue:** | online, via ZOOM platform |
| **Participants:** | Mr. Yuriy Husev, Head of Kherson Oblast State Administration  Mr. Andriy Bohdanovych, Deputy Head of Kherson Oblast State Administration, Chair of the Working Group on development and implementation of the regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan  Ms. Olena Yakuba, Head of the Sector for Foreign Economic Activity and International Technical Assistance, Department of Economic Development of Kherson Oblast State Administration, Secretary of the Working Group on development and implementation of the regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan  Mr. Mustafa Sait-Ametov, Regional Development Programme Manager, UNDP  Mr. Maxym Savchenko, Regional Advisor on Socio-Economic Recovery, UNDP  Ms. Yana Zhambekova, Community Development Specialist, UNDP  Ms. Esma Umerova, Community Development Associate, UNDP  Ms. Oksana Vlasenko, Community Development Assistant, UNDP |

| **Discussion** |
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| **Mr. Yuriy Husev** welcomed the participants of the meeting and expressed his deep appreciation to UNDP for fruitful cooperation. |
| **Mr. Mustafa Sait-Ametov** has presented the current status of activities implemented as part of Local Socio-Economic Recovery (LSER) project piloted in Kherson Oblast. In particular the status of preparation of the SEIA report, and current stage of development of the regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan. |
| **Mr. Maxym Savchenko** updated the participants on the current status of preparation of the regional SEIA report. |
| **Mr. Mustafa Sait-Ametov** presented the preliminary results of the call for local initiatives aimed to address the COVID-19 socio-economic impact. Out of 61 received and evaluated applications, 10 were pre-selected and grouped in the following five initiatives recommended for support within the framework of LSER project:   1. Tourism infrastructure development and creation of new opportunities for the development of small and medium-sized businesses. 2. Social entrepreneurship development and creation of additional economic opportunities for women and youth. 3. Improved access to quality health care and rapid diagnosis for vulnerable groups. 4. Improved access to online education for vulnerable groups. 5. Improved access to quality administrative service for vulnerable groups and residents of remote settlements.   All five initiatives will be supported financially within LSER project and co-financed from the local budgets (at least 30% of local budgets cost-sharing will be provided). He also stressed that co-financing from the Oblast Budget would be extremely helpful to ensure the maximum positive effect of the supported initiatives. In addition, he mentioned that all relevant proposals, which have not been selected for support at this stage due to time constrains and budget limitations can be included in the oblast Response and Recovery Plan and recommended for financing from multiple sources, including the Oblast Budget. |
| **Mr. Yuriy Husev** confirmed that all the presented initiatives are relevant and fully supported by the Kherson Oblast State Administration. At the same time, he mentioned that due to financial difficulties faced by Kherson oblast, the selected initiatives cannot be supported from the Oblast Budget in 2020. Some funds for support to local initiatives addressing the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 can be allocated in the Oblast Budget in the next year, subject to approval by the Oblast Council. In addition, he has suggested to consider additional project for UNDP support in the future, which are important for the development of Kherson Oblast, namely:   * Creation of a Center of the expertise for newly created ATCs; * Provision of a mobile ASC (vehicle with special equipment) for Novotroitska ATC; * Remote medical assistance for Ukrainian population on temporarily occupied territory of Crimea; * Mobile library (an equipped vehicle) of modern publications for children. |

| **Decisions and next steps:** |
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| 1. By joint decision the five presented initiatives have been approved for implementation within current LSER project implemented by UNDP; 2. To ensure the implementation of selected local initiatives UNDP will develop a Procurement Plans and procure the items required for their implementation (within the limits available in the LSER project budget and with co-financing from local budgets); 3. Relevant local initiatives, which are submitted for co-financing and cannot be supported by UNDP within the current LSER project, will be included in the oblast COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan; 4. The Kherson Oblast State Administration will ensure allocation of funds for support to local initiatives addressing the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in the Oblast Budget for 2021 (subject to approval by the Kherson Oblast Council); 5. UNDP will consider the possibilities to support the mentioned additional initiatives and will inform the partners in Kherson Oblast State Administrations accordingly. For this UNDP will require additional information about the proposed projects. |

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| **Prepared by:** | | Oksana Vlasenko, Community Development Assistant |
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