

Evaluation of the UNDA project

“Strengthening the National Capacities of Selected UNECE Countries for Evidence-Based Regulatory and Procedural Trade Policies to Achieve SDGs” (April 2021)

Final progress report as at 30 June 2022

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Target date	Status of implementation
1	The project will remain relevant as the three beneficiary countries continue their process of regulatory harmonization and expanding their network of global trade partners. UNECE could consider this model to be a pilot project that could be rolled out to other countries in future.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>a) The UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division has recently launched a similar project in Uzbekistan within the context of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) Project, “Transport and Trade Connectivity in the Age of Pandemics” (2020-2021). The project involves undertaking a study of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the country using UNECE survey-based evaluation methodology, which targets all supply chain actors (enterprises, freight forwarders and State agencies involved in supporting trade in goods). The results will be published in a comprehensive study that features detailed recommendations in the form of a time-bound action plan, which maps recommendation against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for guiding implementation facilitating monitoring and evaluation.</p>	<p>Project Manager implementing the respective segment of the UNDA Project “Transport and Trade Connectivity in the Age of Pandemics”</p>	<p>June 2022</p>	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>The study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Uzbekistan was launched in 2021. The key findings and recommendations were presented to the UNECE member States and various international stakeholders during the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (SCTCS) annual session in 27-28 June 2022. A high-level capital-based delegation headed by Mr. Abidov, Deputy Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan participated in person in the Committee meeting and commended the results of the study. A comprehensive study, providing detailed analysis, will be published during the third quarter of 2022.</p>

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		<p>b) The secretariat stands ready to carry out similar studies in response to beneficiary countries' demand and availability of XB resources.</p>			
2	<p>The gender-based work can be replicated in the UNECE region and in other regions. The national assessment surveys, female traders' questionnaires and COVID reports have a relevance which is universal.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>a) The study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Uzbekistan will feature a special focus on female-owned enterprises operating in strategic sectors identified in consultation with the Government.</p> <p>b) Within the context of UNDA "Global Initiative towards post-Covid-19 resurgence of the MSME sector" Project (2020-2021), the UNECE ECTD is carrying out two survey-based impact assessments (Republic of Armenia and Republic of Moldova) to trace the impact of COVID-19 on the end-to-end supply chains of female owned micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).</p> <p>c) The secretariat stands ready to replicate the gender-based work in additional countries in the UNECE region in response to beneficiary countries' demand and availability</p>	<p>Project Manager implementing the respective segment of the UNDA Project "Global Initiative towards post-Covid-19 resurgence of the MSME sector"</p>	<p>June 2022</p>	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>a) Following consultations with the Government, the study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Uzbekistan will not feature a special focus on female-owned enterprises. Such analysis will be carried out separately subject to the availability of funds, based on the findings and recommendations on the study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Uzbekistan.</p> <p>b) The survey-based assessments on the impact of COVID-19 on the end-to-end supply chains of female owned MSMEs in the Republic of Armenia and Republic of Moldova were completed in 2021. The key results and findings were presented to the UNECE member States and various international stakeholders during the SCTCS annual session in 27-28 June 2022. The assessments will be published during the first quarter of 2022, upon the completion of consultations with the respective Governments.</p>

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		<p>of XB resources. The secretariat stands ready to share the methodology for the gender-based work for entities ready to roll out similar work in other, non-UNECE regions.</p>			
3	<p>Further disseminate the results of assessments by translating the recommendations into national languages of the beneficiary countries.</p>	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>a) As this project has been completed, it would be difficult to translate the recommendations emerging from the assessments into the national languages of the beneficiary countries, owing to the lack of funds. This recommendation will be implemented in the future. The UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division will strive to secure enough resources for translating the recommendations from similar assessments during the fund-raising phase.</p> <p>b) A report summarizing the main findings emerging from the COVID-19 impact assessments carried out under this project (Republic of Armenia, Republic of Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Serbia) was prepared (in English and Russian)</p>	<p>Project Manager of the evaluation</p>	<p>June 2022</p>	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>a) A report summarizing the main findings emerging from the COVID-19 impact assessments carried out under this project (Republic of Armenia, Republic of Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Serbia) was published as part of the SCTCS official meeting documents (21-22 June 2021, Geneva and online) in English and Russian.</p> <p>b) The key findings and recommendations emerging from assessment study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Uzbekistan were published as part of official documents of the 2022 annual session of the SCTCS in English and Russian.</p> <p>c) The key findings and recommendations of the impact assessments of COVID-19 impact assessment targeting female owned MSMEs in the Republic of Armenia were published in English and Russian.</p>

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		<p>and will be presented to UNECE member States during the upcoming annual session of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (21-22 June 2021, Geneva and online).</p> <p>c) The study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Uzbekistan will be published in English and Russian.</p>			
4	Continue to provide high-level analysis of national responses to the COVID pandemic.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Uzbekistan will capture the impact of the pandemic on end-to-end supply chains. In so doing it will provide the beneficiary country a trusted, objective overview of multi-agency and cross-departmental issues, assisting individual ministries understand the factors impacting other government departments and help them understand how they can provide more consistent support to the trade sector.</p>	<p>Project Manager implementing the respective segment of the UNDA Project “Transport and Trade Connectivity in the Age of Pandemics”</p>	June 2022	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>The study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Uzbekistan assesses the impact of COVID-19 on the country’s end-to-end supply chains. The individual chapters feature dedicated subject areas, such as trade facilitation, technical barriers to trade, conformity assessment, with a particular focus on MSMEs, which, inter alia, highlight the way in which the pandemic influenced the State agencies’ capacity as well as the MSMEs’ participation in trade and long-term development prospects.</p>
5	UNECE has a role to play in providing Governments with the voice of the most vulnerable into the design of future projects.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>a) The study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Uzbekistan will feature a special focus on MSMEs.</p>	<p>Project Manager implementing the respective segment of the UNDA Project</p>	June 2022	<p>Implemented as of June 2022</p> <p>a) The study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Uzbekistan is based on a survey of 75 MSMEs from across the country.</p> <p>b) The COVID-19 impact assessments on Armenia and the Republic of Moldova focused on female-owned</p>

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		<p>b) In line with its mandate, beneficiary countries' demand and available XB resources, the secretariat will factor in the special needs of the most vulnerable (e.g. MSMEs, female-owned enterprises etc.) into the design of future projects.</p>	<p>“Transport and Trade Connectivity in the Age of Pandemics”</p>		<p>MSMEs, identified as a vulnerable group in both countries. In total, 155 female-owned MSMEs from Armenia and 101 female-owned MSMEs from the Republic of Moldova participated in the survey.</p>