

**PROJECT DOCUMENT**

Republic of Moldova

**Project Title:** Resilient Communities through Women Empowerment, phase II**Project Number:****Implementing Partner:** United Nations Development Program – Republic of Moldova (UNDP)**Start Date:** July 2024 **End Date:** July 2028 **LPAC Meeting date:** 11 July 2024**Brief Description**

According to the vulnerability assessment methodology of ND-GAIN (World Bank, 2016), the Republic of Moldova is classified as the most climate-vulnerable country in Europe. The projected impact of climate change on social, economic, and environmental dimensions is expected to intensify in the medium and long term.<sup>1</sup>

The poverty rate in rural areas in 2019 was 34.5%, three times that in urban areas. A significant part of the rural population works in subsistence agriculture and risks falling below the poverty line, given the ongoing energy and security crisis and extreme climate-related events.

As in many developing countries, women in Moldova often bear the brunt of the impacts of climate change. The loss of crops and livelihoods resulting from climate-related disasters, combined with increased household and caregiving responsibilities, heightens women's vulnerability to climate change. Women-led households cannot always provide the resources and services needed to ensure water, food, and energy supply for their families. Moreover, the rural poor have limited knowledge of sustainable and environment-friendly agricultural and forestry practices that could strengthen communities and ecosystems and help them to adapt and build resilience.

Women in Moldova are also affected by labor migration if they are "left behind" by the migrating spouse. For women in rural areas, they then take on the de facto head of household role, which may include running a family farm. Outmigration from rural areas of mainly the working age population and declining fertility and birth rates have resulted in a greater share of older people residing in small towns and villages.

Older people who live in rural areas are at high risk of monetary poverty because of their dependence on agriculture and lower pensions, as well as poverty associated with limited infrastructure and services. Among village residents that are over the age of 75, women outnumber men by two to one. Older women in rural areas have a high degree of vulnerability and dependency, as result of their longer average lives, lower pensions and social vulnerability that comes with living alone. Rural areas, like the rest of the country, have diverse populations, and gender intersects with other personal identities or characteristics. The Government of the Republic of Moldova has reported on the fact that specific groups of women, including Roma women, women living with HIV and women with disabilities, have not benefited from the same advancements as others.<sup>2</sup>

Women need more support and encouragement to start businesses. Compared to men, women are more reluctant to initiate private enterprises. Given that on average, women possess fewer assets, financial resources and informal support, women entrepreneurs must rely on formal financial schemes, so are more willing to access the funding opportunities through different support programs and development projects. Time poverty severely limits women entrepreneurs. Due to care responsibilities, women are unable to put in more time to make sure their enterprises are well run. On average, a working week for women entrepreneurs is eight hours shorter than for men entrepreneurs. Women are less available to work in the evenings. Time poverty restricts the choices and flexibility of women entrepreneurs and makes them more reluctant to start or expand their enterprises.

Taken together, these factors have made women in Moldova increasingly poorer in recent years. The feminization of poverty – the increasing inequality in living standards between men and women due to a widening poverty gap – is an alarming trend that calls for urgent policy measures.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [https://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/nu-242-mm-2023\\_0.pdf](https://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/nu-242-mm-2023_0.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://moldova.un.org/en/192971-national-gender-profile-agriculture-and-rural-livelihoods>

<sup>3</sup> [https://moldova.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/ENG\\_Gender%20assessment%2028.04.pdf](https://moldova.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/ENG_Gender%20assessment%2028.04.pdf)

While the importance of integrating gender perspectives in climate and disaster reduction programs is generally recognized, the challenge lies in building capacities so that women, who are often more vulnerable to climate impacts than men, can also become agents of transformative change.

UNDP in Moldova plays a predominant role in working with the government in climate change and disaster risk reduction, providing policy planning assistance and guidance, and individual and institutional capacity development, and demonstrating innovative climate and disaster risk reduction solutions, in line with national and global goals, including the SDGs.

With this project, it is planned to address the multifaceted challenge of enhancing gender-responsive climate resilience in Moldova. This challenge is exacerbated by the need to integrate gender considerations into climate policies, empower women leaders, and promote climate-smart solutions for sustainable development.

When it comes to the socio-economic consequences of climate change, it's essential to recognize that women and men experience them differently, influenced by their assigned roles and responsibilities.

For example, loss of income rural women might affect women more strongly than men (especially single women or women who lead households), given their limited opportunities to migrate due to stereotypes prevalent in society.<sup>4</sup>

Gendered vulnerability to climate change in entrepreneurship is also conditioned by powerful informal institutions and socio-cultural norms at household, business, and community levels. These affect all aspects of women entrepreneurs' access to enabling conditions within the business environment by shaping the activities and resources that entrepreneurs, in different social contexts, are allowed, able, or expected to engage in and access. At household levels, the burden of caring for children, running internal family affairs, and meeting household livelihood needs, most often falls on women.

The advancement of gender equality in Moldova is hindered by the persistence of gender norms and subsequent gendered stereotypes. These norms are based on traditional models of how to be a "good" woman or girl and a "good" man or boy, societal expectations, each gender's expectations and support of each other, and their self-confidence to take on non-traditional roles. Traditional gender roles for both women and men limit their opportunities in personal and professional terms, lead to gender-based discrimination and gender-based violence and, finally, affect overall well-being. Often, these gender norms are perpetuated by families, educational institutions, communities, cultures, religious and political leaders, state policies, the private sector, and the media. Comprehensive and transformative gender policies and interventions that focus on diminishing patriarchal power and eliminating gender inequalities are needed.<sup>5</sup>

The new designed project is aligned with the national priorities and is conceptualised to respond to the above-mentioned needs and beyond. Adapting to climate change and taking measures to protect the environment are on the top of the agenda of national and local authorities in the Republic of Moldova, and are also foreseen in the Moldova 2030 National Strategy, by including a strategic objective related to ensuring the fundamental right to a healthy and safe environment<sup>6</sup>. As well it will contribute directly to the implementation of the national priorities set in the Government Programme on Gender Equality (2023 – 2027), where women economic empowerment is set as one of the priorities.<sup>7</sup> Further on, the project contributes to the country's energy-related objectives, which reside in enhancing domestic energy production and improving the energy affordability.

As a continuation of the Resilient Communities Project, phase I, UNDP Moldova intends: i) to enhance the understanding on climate change and gender empowerment matters, via synergetic engagement of public authorities from both national and local level; ii) to expand the pool of experts on gender&climate nexus through fellowship programmes, knowledge management portal etc. and with participation of the NGOs and, iii) to foster cooperation among the main local stakeholders – LPAs, community members and women-led businesses which all contribute to addressing the same priority issues identified in the Sustainable Energy and Climate Actions Plans (SECAPS);

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2016/30-Gender-migration-and-development-in-the-Republic-of-Moldova-2016-en.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> [https://eca.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20ECA/Attachments/Publications/2021/12/GEB\\_Moldova-min.pdf](https://eca.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20ECA/Attachments/Publications/2021/12/GEB_Moldova-min.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [https://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/strategia\\_moldova\\_2030\\_redactata\\_parl.pdf](https://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/strategia_moldova_2030_redactata_parl.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://social.gov.md/en/communication/press-news/the-programme-for-promoting-and-ensuring-equality-between-women-and-men-in-the-republic-of-moldova-for-the-years-2023-2027-approved-by-the-government/>

**Expected Results:**

The project envisions a transformed landscape where climate action and gender equality converge, resulting in stronger communities and enhanced climate resilience. This transformation is driven by a set of expected results:

**Outcome 1:** Capacities of national and local authorities to advance gender transformative climate change actions are enhanced. This result is achieved through mainstreaming climate and gender into policy frameworks and enabling multi-stakeholder engagement. It ensures that climate and gender considerations are integrated from national to local levels, fostering a comprehensive response to the challenge.

**Outcome 2:** National and local women's leadership in climate actions is expanded and advanced. The project achieves this by enabling education, capacity-building, and a gender-specific leadership fellowship program. Empowering women as leaders and change-makers in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts is key to fostering inclusive and sustainable development.

**Outcome 3:** Women led climate-smart solutions are identified, supported and replicated among women groups and target communities. The project supports the implementation of climate-smart activities in households and women-led agri-businesses, fostering sustainable practices and generating economic opportunities. These solutions are grounded in gender-sensitive approaches, enhancing women's resilience and community well-being.

**Outcome 4:** Women-led climate-smart solutions are disseminated, and societal awareness is raised. The project conducts information campaigns, contributes to development of the gender-sensitive climate change knowledge management portal, and ensures project visibility. By showcasing success stories and engaging multiple stakeholders, the project promotes a culture of climate awareness and gender-sensitive actions. These expected results collectively address the challenge by integrating gender considerations into policies, empowering women leaders, promoting sustainable practices, and raising climate awareness. Through these outcomes, the project catalyzes positive change, contributing to Moldova's journey towards climate resilience, gender equality, and sustainable development.


**Contributing Outcome (UNSDCF, CPD, RPD):**  
 Outcome 4. By 2027, institutions and all people of Moldova benefit from and contribute to green and resilient development, sustainable use of natural resources and effective gender-responsive climate change action and disaster risk management.

Indicative Output(s) with gender marker<sup>8</sup>:  
 Output 4.2. Public and private actors are enabled to implement efficient and innovative practices for sustainable natural resource use, climate resilience, low-emission, and green development

GEN: 3

Total resources required:	\$ 8,496,025	
Total resources allocated:	Sweden	SEK 53,000,000
	Norway	NOK 37,900,000
Unfunded:	n/a	

Agreed by (signatures):

<b>UNDP</b>
Daniela Gasparikova, UNDP Moldova Resident Representative
Print Name: 
Date:

<sup>8</sup> The Gender Marker measures how much a project invests in gender equality and women's empowerment. Select one for each output: GEN3 (Gender equality as a principle objective); GEN2 (Gender equality as a significant objective); GEN1 (Limited contribution to gender equality); GEN0 (No contribution to gender quality)

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

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AIPA	Agency for Agricultural Intervention and Payments
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BEI	Baseline Emission Inventory
COP	Community of Practice
DIM	Direct Implementation Modality
CoM	The Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy
RVA	Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
LPA	Local Public Authority
LPAC	Local Project Appraisal Committee
MAFI	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry
MLSF	Ministry of Labour, Social protection and Family
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NECP	Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan of the Republic of Moldova for the period 2025-2030
NDS	National Development Strategy 2030
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
PB	Project Board
PIMS	Project Information Management System
PM	Project Manager
PMT	Project Management Team
RDA	Regional Development Agency
SBAA	Standard Basic Assistance Agreement
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SECAP	Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan
TOR	Terms of References
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
US\$	United States Dollars
WB	World Bank

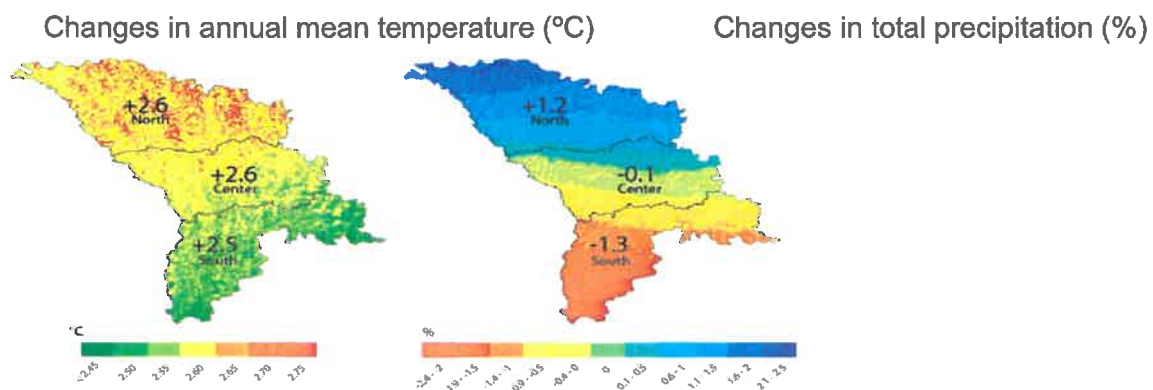
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## I. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

The Republic of Moldova, situated in Eastern Europe, spans 33,846 square kilometers. With a population of some 2.6 million in 2022<sup>9</sup>, Moldova shares borders with Romania and Ukraine. Categorized as a lower-middle-income economy, the services sector is the largest contributor to economic growth followed by agriculture and manufacturing, with the GDP per capita adjusted to Purchasing Power Parity equivalent to 73% of the world's average<sup>10</sup>. 57% of the population resides in rural areas, drawing sustenance and income from agriculture, which serves as the cornerstone of their livelihoods.<sup>11</sup> The war in Ukraine and the recent drought have brought significant challenges to the Moldovan economy. Trade disruptions, lower foreign inflows, and high inflation have a significant toll on private consumption (main component of GDP growth) and investment. During 2020-21 COVID-19 its GDP contracted -15%, rebounded subsequent year +18%, yet plunged in 2022 by -10% given the war, forecast points slow recovery in the subsequent years provided that the war does not escalate further.

Since the 1980s, the climate in the Republic of Moldova has been trending strongly towards conditions that are more arid, with the average temperature raise of 0.58°C per decade and with 2–3°C increase by 2050. Moldova is highly vulnerable to climate change and related disasters, with an average annual economic loss of 2.13% GDP. The total cost of inaction on climate adaptation is estimated at around 600 million US dollars, and this value is expected to more than double in real terms by 2050 to around 1.3 billion US dollars<sup>12</sup>.

Figure 1. Projected changes in temperature and precipitation in Moldova by 2050



Source: Collins et al. (2013)<sup>13</sup>

Climate change impacts in Moldova are evident across various sectors, presenting challenges that require proactive mitigation and adaptation strategies. Moldova is witnessing an increase in extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall, floods, and droughts disrupting livelihoods, damage infrastructure posing particularly risks to the vulnerable populations<sup>14</sup>.

Changing precipitation patterns and higher evaporation rates are contributing to water scarcity<sup>15</sup>. Altered growing seasons, irregular rainfall, and temperature fluctuations impact

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/moldova/overview>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/moldova>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.indexmundi.com/facts/moldova/indicator/SP.RUR.TOTL.ZS>

<sup>12</sup> Economic Assessment of Climate Adaptation Investment Needs in Moldova

<sup>13</sup> Collins et al. 2013. Long-term climate change: Projections, commitments and irreversibility. In: Climate change. The physical science basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. [Stocker TF et al. (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA

<sup>14</sup> European Space Agency's Climate Change Initiative

<sup>15</sup> Global Water Security & Sanitation Partnership (GWSP) reports

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crop yields and food security<sup>16</sup>. Vulnerable populations, including women led households, those providing care for children, elder, people with disabilities, women with disabilities, survivors of violence, elder women, children, and marginalized communities are disproportionately affected. Agriculture provides livelihood opportunities to more than half of the population, and the sector is technologically underdeveloped and not sufficiently sustainable and adapted to climate change risks. Subsistence-oriented farms and rural households are particularly vulnerable, because of a lack of means and resources for species diversification and issues of access to public subsidies and insurance services.

Gendered vulnerability to climate change in entrepreneurship is also conditioned by powerful informal institutions and socio-cultural norms at household, business and community levels. These affect all aspects of women entrepreneurs' access to enabling conditions within the business environment by shaping the activities and resources that entrepreneurs, in different social contexts, are allowed, able, or expected to engage in and access. At household levels, the burden of caring for children, running internal family affairs, and meeting household livelihood needs, most often falls on women.<sup>17</sup>

The climate change risks are affecting primarily the rural poor and especially women. Rural population is increasingly vulnerable to climate change impacts<sup>18</sup>, especially women and women-led households, who are not able to provide resources and services needed to ensure water, food and energy supply for their families<sup>19</sup>. Rural poor have limited knowledge regarding sustainable agricultural and forestry practices that would increase adaptation and resilience capacities of communities and ecosystems. Poverty rates register decreasing tendency, however COVID-19 and war periods coupled with the energy crises profile patterns of energy poverty and particularly with rural inhabitants, women are particularly affected by energy poverty. Women are at higher risk of poverty, 26.3% of women are in absolute poverty, while men at 23.6% and the highest rate of absolute poverty is registered in households with three and more children (36.9%)<sup>20</sup>. Women are more at risk of poverty including from: (i) lower employment of women, especially mothers with pre-school children, limiting career advancement, (ii) substantially lower assets and productive ownership accentuating financial deprivation, (iii) accentuating impact of climate change consequences on the women entrepreneurs.<sup>21</sup> The climate change adverse impacts deepen women vulnerabilities. Even if women's entrepreneurship has been on the rise lately, women continue to be a minority in the business community, only 34% of entrepreneurs are women.<sup>22</sup> The gap is given to limited access to resources and financial capital to start a business, barriers to accessing investment resources (such as credits and loans), discrimination practices and gender stereotypes. Evidence confirms the importance of control of business properties and household resources, including land and housing, for women's 'greater self-esteem, economic opportunities and decision-making power. Women's command over resources is still limited to only 14% of holdings with juridical status, while men owned all the rest: on average, male holders manage 1.21 hectares compared to 0.86 hectares managed by female holders<sup>23</sup>. As a result, women still face constraints in starting and developing enterprises that would increase their access to resources and economic opportunities.

The project's core objective is to continue to tackle the development challenge of enhancing women's economic empowerment in the context of climate change impacts in Moldova.

With an adapted approach and aiming at scaling up the good practices from the first phase of the project "Resilient Communities through women empowerment", the second phase of the Project is conceptualized to continue engaging local communities in participatory efforts for building their resilience by ensuring equal opportunities for women to have access to decision-making and

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<sup>16</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

<sup>17</sup> Kakota et al., 2011; UN Women, 2018)

<sup>18</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> National Communication under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

<sup>19</sup> Gender Equality Strategy of Moldova 2017-2021

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.undp.org/moldova/press-releases/profiling-poverty-beyond-income-shows-where-have-biggest-impact-world-crisis>

<sup>21</sup> [https://moldova.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/ENG\\_Gender%20assessment%2028.04.pdf](https://moldova.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/ENG_Gender%20assessment%2028.04.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> [https://moldova.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/ENG\\_Gender%20assessment%2028.04.pdf](https://moldova.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/ENG_Gender%20assessment%2028.04.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> National Bureau of Statistics, Women and Men in the Agriculture of Republic of Moldova

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different resources, thus making them more resilient to climate-related shocks. catalytic effect on the social and economic dimensions contributing to the reduction of poverty.

As a result of first phase, 130 women benefited from support to put in place climate resilient businesses, including at the household level, coupled with the knowledge on the climate smart-agricultural practices, and local climate smart plans where women had participated as active members of the society. Rural women have been empowered to take action in implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

It is worth to mention that approximately 30% of the supported initiatives focus on constructing greenhouses and implementing drip irrigation systems. These solutions are vital in the face of persistent droughts and the effects of climate change. Women have taken action out of sheer necessity, aiming to ensure the viability of their agricultural activities, food security, and additional income for their families. Initially, these projects provided direct material benefits. However, over time, they have proven to be more than that. Women gained confidence from successfully implementing their first projects, have found inspiration through exchanging best practices with other women, and are exhibiting now resilience amidst the current multiple crises.

The other 40% of projects initiated by women centered around beekeeping. In this area, women have demonstrated initiative and innovation to mitigate the impact of climate change. Various solutions have been implemented, including eco-friendly beehives resistant to extreme temperatures, apitherapy services, and expanding plantation areas to ensure healthy food for bees. The potential demonstrated by the women entrepreneurs was truly inspirational and motivational for other women and it is intended to bring it to a larger scale through High Level discussion, policy events and exchange visits.

One notable success story part also of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase is the economic initiative led by a women - craft cheese producer from Transnistria. Thanks to UNDP efforts, she now has access to renewable energy, enabling her to continue her business operations and thus being more resilient. This support has proven especially vital given the blackouts experienced in the Transnistria region over the past year during the attacks in the neighbouring Ukraine.

The beneficiary initially embarked on her economic venture out of the necessity to provide wholesome milk for her children. Over the years, this endeavour evolved into a family business with a dedicated focus on cheese production. As a result, the entire community now enjoys the benefits of nutritious products, and consumers come from both banks of the river.

This showcases the resourcefulness of women, not only as income generators but also as social cohesion builders. In the end, the beneficiary has effectively created bridges for interaction through the marketplace, fostering connections and community engagement that extend beyond geographical boundaries.

In the second phase, the approach is strongly linked with the UNDP Moldova Country Program where green development, climate change mitigation and adaptation is included as one of four main outcomes area. Additionally, the project is aligned with the new UNDP Gender Equality Strategy, in particular, Signature solution 3 which reiterates UNDP's mandate in helping partners promote both community-based models and state institutions that ensure that both women and men shape and benefit from solutions to climate change, environmental degradation and crises.

The intervention in this area is expected to have a catalytic effect on the social and economic dimensions contributing to the reduction of poverty and inequalities. Community resilience is highly interwoven with the country's natural ecosystems, and with local capacity to plan and implement climate-sensitive and environment friendly practices and inequalities.<sup>24</sup> [Local government capacity to plan for development and even to deliver the most basic local public services is extremely limited, particularly in the rural areas. This is due to the high territorial administrative fragmentation, leading to low institutional and fiscal capacity. There are 896 first level local governments for a total population of 2.5 million, out of which 980 thousand live in Chisinau and Balti. Ninety percent of territorial administrative units have less than 5000 inhabitants, while 35% have populations smaller than 1500. Women represent a good 40% in the elected local councils, but only 24% among](#)

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<sup>24</sup> <https://moldova.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-12/undp%20program.pdf>



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mayors<sup>25</sup>. A reform of the territorial administrative organization is needed to build a minimum capability of local authorities.

The results of previous Sweden-supported efforts in the area proved to have a valuable impact both on women and communities and through the new interventions it is proposed to facilitate the expansion of the current efforts to a higher level of impact and effectiveness.

This challenge is not isolated but interconnected as in the case of the first phase with national, regional, and global development priorities, making it a critical area of intervention now more than ever. The Eastern European region faces climate vulnerabilities, including Moldova. The project's focus on integrating gender and climate resilience aligns with regional agendas that aim to build adaptive capacities and reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts. The project directly supports several SDGs, including Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 13 (Climate Action), Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 2 (food security, sustainable agriculture). It also contributes to Goal 10 (Reduced Inequality) by targeting women, a marginalized group disproportionately affected by climate impacts.

Addressing inequalities is a key priority for the Republic of Moldova in this Decade of Action for the implementation of the nationalized 2030 Agenda commitments and achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Leaving no one behind is a key principle, an approach that is enshrined in the main strategic documents - the 2023 National Development Strategy Moldova 2030 and the EU-Moldova association agenda.

On top of that, Moldova's National Development Strategy 2030 (NDS) underscores the importance of gender equality and sustainable development. The project aligns with this priority by advancing women's economic empowerment through gender-responsive climate action, contributing to Moldova's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

According to the strategy - female entrepreneurship remains a national priority. "Actively supporting the entrepreneurship of young people and women, supporting the adoption of relevant innovations as widely as possible" is a national priority, as set out in the Objective #1 of the National Development Strategy "Moldova 2030"<sup>26</sup>. Also, in the Objective 1 is set as one of the priorities - "By 2030, to reduce by half the level of absolute poverty in all its dimensions". As one of the prioritised actions under the same objective is set to increase agricultural productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers by secure and equal access to inputs, knowledge, financial services and markets.

According to the Objective #10, one of the national priorities envisages provision of a healthy and safe environment, with reference to ensuring resistance to climate change by reducing risks related to climate change. Integrating circular economy measures and principles into the processes production processes in the branches of the national economy is envisaged as a solution that will contribute to improving the quality of the environment and living standards of the population of the Republic of Moldova.<sup>27</sup>

### **Analysis of national policies**

Climate change is streamlined into the main strategic planning document of the country - the National Development Strategy "European Moldova 2030" (2022). Moldova approved in 2016 its Low Emissions Development Strategy for the year 2030. The National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan of the Republic of Moldova will outline the climate change mitigation in the sector until 2030 and 2050 horizontal. The Republic of Moldova is advancing in the second cycle of its National Adaptation Planning process (NAP2) and the National Climate Change Adaptation Programme until 2030 and the Action Plan for its implementation<sup>8</sup> was recently approved. Moldova is set, for the next years, to ensure the country's energy independence and the citizens' supply with accessible energy, both in terms of source and price. This goal is seen in the Concept of Moldova's Energy Strategy till

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<sup>25</sup><https://progen.md/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Raport-Alegeri-combinat.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> [https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/snd2030\\_objectiv1.pdf](https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/snd2030_objectiv1.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> [https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/snd2030\\_objectiv10.pdf](https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/snd2030_objectiv10.pdf)

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the 2050 year, approved by the State Chancellery – a document of policies, which establishes priorities in the energy sector by the middle of the 21st century (2022). The Republic of Moldova has signed and ratified all relevant international legal frameworks pertaining to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Also, Moldova's legislative and normative frameworks in support of gender equality and advancing women's empowerment is relatively strong. On top of that, the Republic of Moldova has developed a number of sectorial and cross-sectorial strategies, policies, concepts and related action plans that tackle environment, climate change and gender. The following are relevant for the purpose of this project:

*The Gender Equality Acceleration program in the Republic of Moldova 2023-2027*<sup>28</sup> - The program is oriented towards the implementation of Law no. 5/2006 on ensuring equal opportunities between women and men by applying a holistic approach to promote the gender equality principle. It is noted the need to increase the level of ambition of interventions in the field of gender equality, redefining a new paradigm of gender equality in the Republic of Moldova by reducing inequalities and implementing appropriate measures and ambitious. The special approach to women from vulnerable groups is an appropriate and necessary target for the new public policy document.

*The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2023-2030*<sup>29</sup> seeks to ensure the integration of adaptation measures into sectorial policies, in synergy with climate change adaptation policy documents, as well as in the field of disaster risk management. The Programme sets objectives aimed at increasing the climate resilience of six priority sectors: agriculture, health, transportation, energy, water, and the forestry sector, and is accompanied by an action plan for preventing and overcoming risks and vulnerabilities caused by climate change. In the agricultural sector, the promotion of drought-adapted species, as well as use of the anti-hail nets and measures that would protect crops during early frosts, will be encouraged.

*The National Environmental Strategy 2024-2030*<sup>30</sup>, is a sectoral strategy for environmental protection, climate change, and natural resources, which includes national objectives and priorities until the year 2030 in the following environmental sub-domains: environmental governance, prevention of environmental pollution, protection of atmospheric air, sustainable management and protection of water resources, soil resources, useful mineral resources, biodiversity and natural ecosystems (forests, wetlands, state protected natural areas, etc.), integrated waste and chemical substance management, biosecurity, ensuring integrated environmental monitoring, mitigation and adaptation to the effects of climate change, etc.

*The National Strategy on Agriculture and Rural Development for 2023 – 2030*<sup>31</sup> - aims at the development of a competitive agri-food sector, centered on value chains with increased potential, environmentally friendly and resilient to climate change, which strengthens food security and safety and ensures well-being and better living conditions in the countryside. The first objective calls for strengthening the potential of the primary agricultural sector and promoting smart, sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices through (i) the modernization of plant production sectors with an emphasis on obtaining products with high added value through the implementation of climate resilience technologies; (ii) the adoption of modern practices for efficient utilization and management of water resources and the expansion of irrigated areas to ensure climate resilience; and (iii) supporting the exploitation of renewable energy sources within agricultural holdings, including the use of plant and animal waste; The third Objective aims at supporting sustainable rural socioeconomic development through i) development and improvement of rural economic infrastructure related to agricultural holdings;

ii) the diversification of economic activities and quality services in the rural environment, with an emphasis on the development of rural tourism and agritourism, education services, veterinary medicine and the preservation of cultural heritage;

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<sup>28</sup> <https://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/1-mmmps.pdf>

<sup>29</sup> <https://moldova.un.org/en/243992-moldova-has-national-climate-change-adaptation-programme-developed-support-undp>

<sup>30</sup> <https://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/nu-85-mm-2024.pdf>

<sup>31</sup> [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=136318&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136318&lang=ro)

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However, there are different gaps in legislation related to interconnection of the gender-climate gender nexus and there is still place for improvement in this area in order to ensure women empowerment and equal access to different opportunities for both – men and women.

*The Public Administration Reform Strategy for 2023-2030* aims to increase the capacity of local public administration to deliver local public services, equitable and accessible for all, including the vulnerable. The institutional and administrative capacity of first level of local authorities will be increased by starting with a process of voluntary amalgamation, accompanied by local participation, increased transparency and local fiscal capacity and autonomy.

The project is addressing immediate cause of gender inequality that is the limited economic opportunities for women in climate-affected areas due to inadequate access to resources and markets. At the same time the project aims at addressing the following the underlying causes such as: (i) communities lack awareness of climate change impacts and gender-sensitive adaptation strategies, hampering preparedness, (ii) prevailing gender norms restrict women engagement and limit their participation to education and financial services, (iii) existing gender-responsive policies are not transposed in the context of the climate change and often face challenges in implementation, limiting their effectiveness.

The underlying root causes are: a) Socio-Economic Barriers of women's limited access to education, training, and finance curtails their engagement in climate-resilient entrepreneurship, b) Capacity Limitations of the decision-makers and stakeholders to integrate gender into climate policies and actions, hindering progress, and c) inadequate climate-resilient infrastructure impedes women's adaptive capacity and economic activities. Addressing these causes is pivotal for achieving sustainable poverty reduction, gender equality, and inclusive development in Moldova. It is worth noting that pre-existing gender inequalities in Moldova have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 and ongoing triple crisis (economic, energy and refugee crisis) resulting from the war in Ukraine

The **Theory of Change**, stemming from the problem tree analysis, outlines a strategic pathway to overcome these challenges and create lasting positive impacts on women's economic empowerment, resilience, and overall well-being.

The overall theory of change of the project is that,

If

- a) Capacities of the national and local authorities to advance gender transformative climate change actions enhanced, *including the capacity of local governments to serve their communities by planning for development, delivering public services and preparing for evolving needs*
- b) National and local women leadership in climate actions expanded and advanced and
- c) Women have adequate capacities to harness the economic potential of nature-based solutions without harm to the later, and
- d) Benefits of the women-led climate smart solutions demonstrated among women groups and in communities, and
- e) Climate smart solutions-led by women disseminated and societal awareness raised, and,
- f) there are demonstrated viable alternative livelihood practices and initiatives by rural women of Moldova,

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**then**

Then women will be empowered to lead climate change adaptation and communities will transform their beliefs and action towards gender equality and [sustainable livelihoods and living conditions in local communities](#)

**because**

the gender&climate nexus is well understood and there are effective and fair climate policies, programmes, finance and practical instruments for women to contribute to the climate resilience and mitigation efforts in their communities.

**PROJECT DOCUMENT**

Republic of Moldova

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## II. STRATEGY

The project objective is to ensure that the nexus between gender and climate is well understood and it advances the gender equality in Moldova. Thus, the next phase builds upon the foundation laid by the Project “Resilient communities through women empowerment” (ResCom Project) in building sustainable and inclusive resilient communities through empowering women to practice alternative livelihoods in the context of the climate change adverse impacts on rural households. The new phase brings up more collaboration and a more holistic systems perspective to local sustainable development, based on a systems-thinking, multi-stakeholder approach to identifying challenges and leverage points. As was mentioned during COP27 event, now it is imperative to “show case unity against an existential threat that we can only overcome through concerted action and effective implementation”. The last COP28 event also acknowledged the significant contributions and roles of all women in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programs

The additional national and local benefits that will be delivered primarily include the adoption of environment-friendly and climate adaptation practices with the women having the leadership role, that will reduce vulnerability of local agricultural communities to the impact of climate change, build capacity of local communities and local public sector entities to identify and assess climate risks, build community resilience and action to mitigate and manage such risks, to have an overview of environmental legislation to be implemented by the LPA. Thus, it is intended to support agri-producers and local stakeholders to jointly identify and grow climate-resilient opportunities that are profitable, scalable and deliver lasting social and environmental value.

The project’s overarching strategy is that women are economically empowered in the climate change affected communities via synergic actions: (i) Regional/local gendered climate change action plans/SECAPs elaborated and are consistent with the national policies; (ii) Targeted communities’ awareness on the climate change needs and effective gendered (gender-sensitive) actions is enhanced and women-led initiatives as important climate change resilient building assets recognized; (iii) Affirmative actions’ grants/projects supporting women-led climate change resilient investments, are enabled, and (iv) synergies for local economy benefits ensured. The project assumptions that national gendered (gender-sensitive) climate change policies in agriculture, rural development, energy, entrepreneurial support, financial institutions are elaborated and provide the supportive framework for the project actions. The project relies on the drivers of change such as the women-led climate entrepreneurship potential which should be regarded as an asset in implementing climate change adaptation while the existing decision-makers recognize and support the gender-responsive climate change initiatives at regional and community levels. The project is to support climate-smart agri-practices, animal husbandry, and other related activities that would contribute to food security and income generation regardless of the changes in the rainfall patterns and extreme weather events.

Explanations of the strategic actions:

*(i) Local gendered climate change action plans (SECAPs) are in place, consistent with national policies:* When regional and local action plans are aligned with national gendered climate change policies, they provide a structured framework for addressing climate change challenges at the community level. These action plans ensure that the unique vulnerabilities and capacities of women are considered in adaptation and mitigation strategies. As a result, targeted interventions are more effective and tailored to the specific needs of communities. Small and rural municipalities should play a crucial role in achieving the national climate and energy goals, but they do not have the basic capacities to engage. About 57% of Moldova population lives in rural areas. At the same time, rural areas, and small municipalities, are facing common challenges and obstacles in delivering the basic local services, planning and carrying through local social economic development, as well

as towards the implementation of policies and climate related interventions, such as lack of resources, both in terms of institutional capacities and internal expertise, budget available, capacity to engage relevant stakeholders and their communities. Several initiatives, to help small and rural municipalities to build up their institutional capacities, to integrate energy and climate action in their local social economic development plans and to further implement their SECAPs and Joint SECAPs.

*(ii) Awareness is raised on climate change needs and effective gendered actions, with recognition of women-led initiatives as climate change resiliency assets:*

Increased awareness within target communities about climate change risks and the role of gender-sensitive actions enhances local understanding and ownership of the issue. Recognizing women-led initiatives as valuable assets for climate change resilience motivates communities to support and amplify these initiatives. This recognition fosters an environment of collaboration, where women's contributions are acknowledged and integrated into community decision-making processes.

*(iii) Affirmative actions' grants/projects support women-led climate change resilient investments and facilitatory public facilities create synergizing in the community circuit economy:*

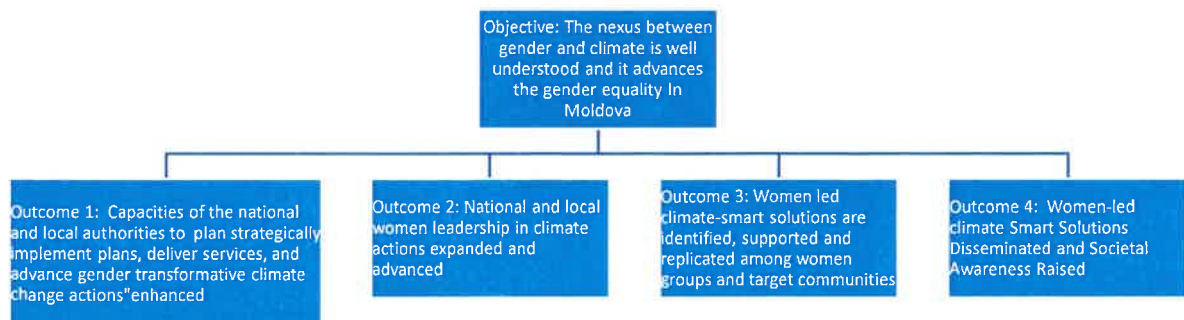
Affirmative actions, in the form of grants and projects, provide women with the resources and opportunities they need to implement climate change resilient investments. These investments not only enhance women's economic empowerment but also contribute to the overall resilience of the community. Facilitatory public facilities, such as community centers and resource hubs, create spaces for knowledge-sharing, skill-building, and networking among women entrepreneurs. This synergy in the community circuit economy amplifies the positive impact of women-led initiatives, generating a multiplier effect that benefits the entire community.

*(iv) Regional sector entrepreneurial associations integrate women-led supported activities:*

As regional sector entrepreneurial associations integrate women-led activities into their frameworks, they tap into the potential of gender-diverse contributions to sectoral growth. Integrating women's perspectives, innovations, and expertise enhances the overall effectiveness and sustainability of sectoral initiatives. This integration also reinforces the linkages between women-led climate entrepreneurship and broader economic development, fostering an environment where women's leadership is valued and recognized.

The project intends to achieve the objective through the four outcomes as presented in the Graph 2.1

Graph 2.1 Objectives, Outcomes



The project aims at overcoming and removing a number of development constraints and

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barriers. These are grouped by the corresponding outcomes that address them. Outcome 1 addresses the following constraints and barriers: Lack of capacities of regional/local decision-makers to plan for development, deliver services including gendered climate change strategies, Regional/local plans are not adequately supporting gendered climate change actions. Outcome 3 addresses the following constraints and barriers: Costly access to adaptation finance for women climate change adaptation entrepreneurs/ climate entrepreneurship, Community level women-led private sector actions are not synergized horizontally and vertically with the associations and Insufficient spread and dissemination of climate change adaptation practices in private sector in promoting climate adaptation. When we mention "vertically not synergized," we're referring to the limited communication between national and local levels on climate vulnerabilities, resulting in a gap between central decision-makers and local agricultural businesses. To address this, we aim to enhance vertical communication, ensuring that national policies and financial programs align with local needs for climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

On the other hand, "horizontally synergized" refers to cross-sectoral interaction at the local level among various stakeholders, including local authorities, agricultural producers, and public institutions. This collaborative approach intends at fostering the synergy and coordination locally, enabling more effective implementation of climate-related initiatives.

Outcome 4 addresses the following constraints and barriers: Communities' unawareness and insufficient pressure on regional/local decision-makers to act on climate change. Outcome 2 supports the change in strengthening the women leadership role in advancing climate change issues in the public sphere. We aim to involve proactive women who have been beneficiaries of ResCom phase 1 and have already implemented climate-smart solutions. These women can serve as inspirations for others, encouraging them to take the lead and pilot climate mitigation solutions to enhance the resilience of their businesses. Through peer-to-peer learning, women are more likely to gain the confidence to innovate and introduce new sustainable solutions – such as vertical farm, biomass heating system, drip irrigation system, etc.

Community awareness creates demand for decision-makers to adopt regional and local climate actions, aligning with national policies. This demand, fueled by an understanding of climate change's impact on vulnerable groups, including women, drives decision-makers to prioritize gender-sensitive climate resilience initiatives. This demand is bolstered by the demonstrated effectiveness of women-led projects in enhancing community resilience and sustainable development. When the above components and actions are executed in tandem, they contribute to a holistic and gender-responsive approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Empowering women through targeted interventions and recognizing their role as agents of change not only enhances their own resilience but also strengthens the overall fabric of their communities. Women's increased participation in decision-making, economic activities, and community initiatives creates a more inclusive and resilient response to climate change challenges. As women and their communities build their capacities, they are better equipped to navigate and adapt to climate change consequences, fostering sustainable development and well-being for all.

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### **III. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

The project four outcomes are:

- Outcome 1: Capacities of the local stakeholders to plan for development, deliver services including to advance gender transformative climate change actions enhanced and 70 % of target beneficiaries are aware on environment protection and climate resilience, green transition and role of women in this process in pilot communities as a result of project interventions (I1a);
- Outcome 2: National and local women leadership in climate actions expanded and advanced by conducting at least 3 Policy Dialogues Events with women leaders' presence and by key decision elaboration and adoption with women participation in

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correspondingly women leaders' public presence/exposure on climate change issues (I2a) and participation of women in climate changes discussions & key decisions (I2b);

- Outcome 3: Women led climate-smart solutions are identified, 100 % supported and replicated among women groups and target communities, via women-led, women-led entrepreneurship projects and LPAs (I3a), 10 environment friendly practices (I3b), and 10% increase in income generated by women-led households/businesses via climate resilient initiatives (I3c);
- Outcome 4: Women-led climate Smart Solutions Disseminated and Societal Awareness Raised by 100% codified project results, good practices and products (I4a).

UNDP will work with 25 target communities<sup>32</sup> – in both rural and urban areas, including some participating in the voluntary amalgamation process (around 70-75,000 persons comprising 20-25,000 households) involving implementation of community-based climate change adaptation initiatives in synergy with 80 women-led households adaptation practices and 20 women-led businesses climate change adaptations.

The selection process of the target localities will be put into practice in several distinctive steps aiming to ensure an effective identification of project beneficiaries and local development ideas. The list of selected localities will be endorsed by the Project Steering Committee based on the following minimum selection criteria:

- The expression of interest in elaboration and implementation of SECAPs ( Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans) to be submitted jointly by a local partnership, composed by local public authority, private sector from agriculture area, local community groups.
- Commitment to co-finance the potential interventions

Initial selection will be done based on submitted expression of interest, to be preceded by informative meeting with LPAs and other local actors. At the final stage, 25 target-municipalities will be selected by an Evaluation Committee and endorsed by the Project Board to be guided in SECAPs elaboration and later to receive financial assistance in the form of seed funding for implementation of an initiative included in the SECAPs.

This will increase their knowledge and skills for sustainable and resilient agriculture and forest practices, support income generation activities in the respective sectors, building their environmental management and adaptive capacities to climate change and supporting the environment-friendly and climate resilient income generation activities with the highest potential. The implemented activities at the community level will contribute to the improved environmental conditions, enhanced climate change ecosystem-based adaptation, disaster and climate risk management and creation of pre-requisites for sustainable and resilient alternative livelihoods. The replication potential of successful climate resilient practices of the pilot models and capacity development measures would indirectly benefit the entire population of these communities (200,000 persons) with further impacts on the other localities.

Project results framework is composed of the outcomes and the corresponding outputs presented in the Graph 3.1 (Results Framework) composed of 4 outcomes. The project strategy is translated through the outcomes and outputs to explain the achievement of the intended results.

**Outcome 1: Capacities of the national and local authorities to plan strategically, implement plans, deliver services, and advance gender transformative climate change action enhanced**

The Outcome 1 Capacities of the national and local authorities (including voluntary amalgamated) stakeholders to plan strategically, implement plans, deliver services, and to advance climate and gender nexus enhanced. This is to be achieved through two outputs:

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<sup>32</sup> Twenty localities will receive support from Swedish funds, while five localities will be supported by Norwegian funds.



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Output 1.1 Climate and gender mainstreamed into relevant local and national policy frameworks and strengthen local authorities, and

Output 1.2: Multi-stakeholder engagement on climate and gender policy processes enabled.

The high territorial administrative fragmentation is a root cause for the lack of capacity of local authorities. Any capacity building or strategic planning intervention in small, fragmented, and weak local governments will lack sustainability since there will be no real capacity to implement, and there will not be sufficient financial and infrastructure resources to continue any donor-initiated activity beyond the lifetime of the project. This is the case for practically all rural local governments.

Consequently, initiatives aimed at working with, or supporting, rural communities need to align with the government's efforts to create larger and more capable local communities, through the ongoing process of voluntary amalgamation.

The project will start with identifying, together with the State Chancellery, those clusters of communities which engage in the voluntary amalgamation process, and provide, or contribute to, the necessary support for the transformation. Under the Output 1.1, technical and financial assistance will be provided to identified clusters to facilitate smooth and successful amalgamation process, resulting in new local authorities responsive to the needs of the local population.

Under the Output 1.1, the project will assist with transposing the relevant national sectoral policies and regulations, where they exist and subject to evaluation, into the local levels strategies and plans. Further on, adequate complimentary district and local levels regulatory inputs will be integrated (Output 1.2)<sup>1</sup> thus ensuring a consistent top-down coherence of the policies elaborated for 25 target communities which will display gender mainstreamed SECAPs (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans)

The SECAPs represent an important tool and mechanism in Moldova's commitment towards implementation of the recently approved document - The Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) of the Republic of Moldova for the period 2025-2030.<sup>33</sup> The NECP addresses the 5 dimensions of the EU and Energy Union and pays a particular attention to the targets to be achieved by 2030, including the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, increase of energy production from renewable sources, promotion the energy efficiency, and strengthening of gas and power system interconnections.

The methodology for elaboration of SECAPs is developed by the EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy which is an initiative supported by the European Commission bringing together thousands of local governments that want to secure a better future for their citizens, including from Moldova. By joining the initiative, they voluntarily commit to implementing EU climate and energy objectives.

As per the Covenant of Mayors the development of local action plans should meet the following requirements:

- The SECAP shall be approved by the Municipal Council or equivalent body.
- The SECAP shall clearly specify the Covenant mitigation, adaptation and energy poverty commitments.
- The SECAP shall be based on the results of a comprehensive Baseline Emission Inventory (BEI) and Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessment(s) (RVAs).

For **mitigation**, the action plan shall cover the key sectors of activity (Municipal, Tertiary, Residential and Transport):

- o The Baseline Emission Inventory shall cover at least three out of four key sectors.
- o The mitigation actions shall cover at least two out of four key sectors.
- o The action plan shall list a set of actions aimed at reaching the identified mitigation target, including at least 3 Key Mitigation Actions.

For **adaptation**, the SECAP shall include at least one climate hazard and vulnerable sector, one adaptation goal, and list a set of actions aimed at reaching the identified adaptation goal(s), including at least 3 Key Adaptation Actions.

The multistakeholder engagement, Output 1.2, is complimentary to Output 1.1 and is critical as it

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<sup>33</sup> [https://particip.gov.md/ro/document/stages/\\*/11984](https://particip.gov.md/ro/document/stages/*/11984)

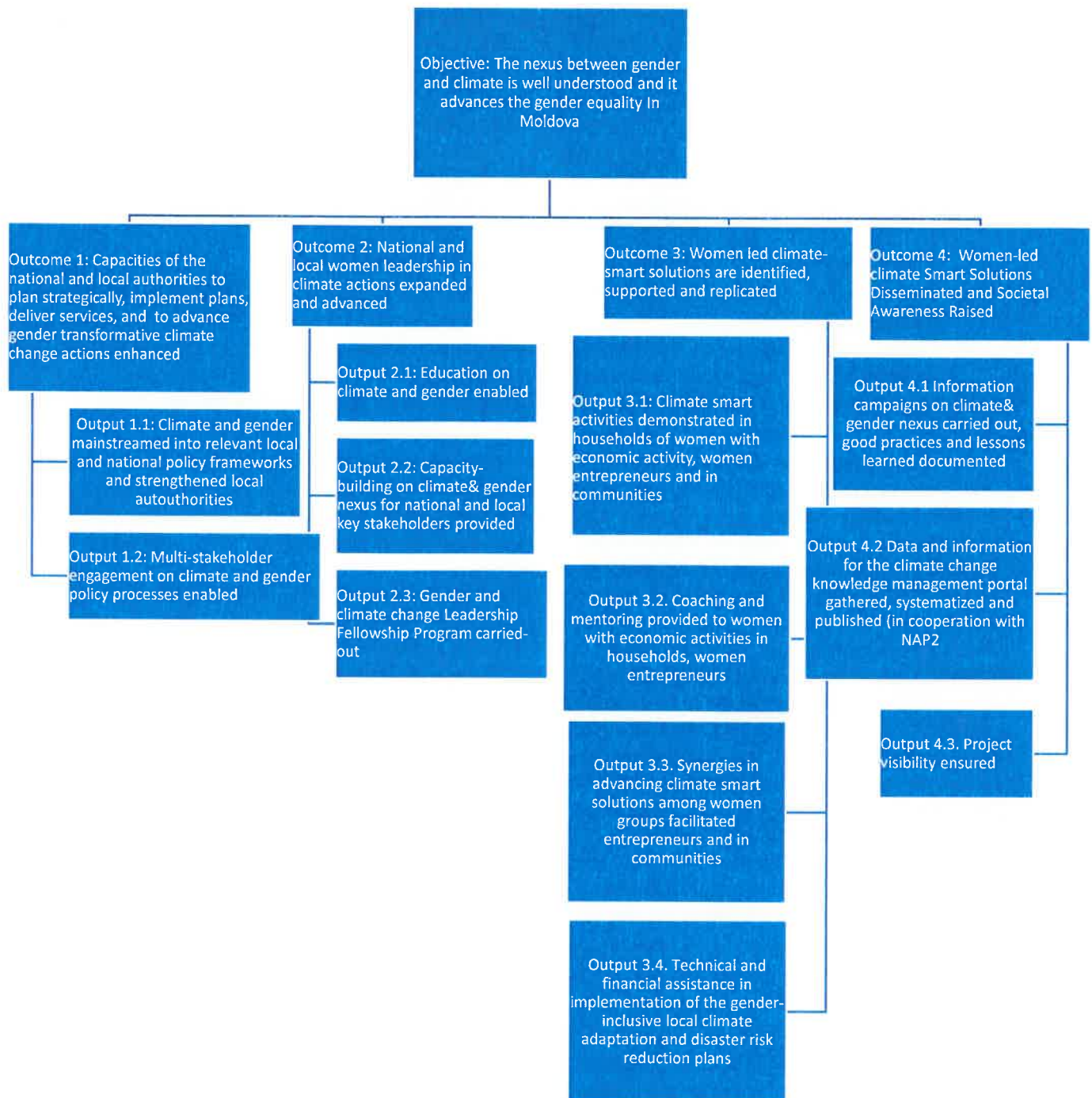
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facilitates the process of creating the adequate space of the decision-makers and stakeholders, including district/local private sector representatives and civil society/media actors, from all levels and from different sectors to convene, discuss the intended existed and intended to be created policy framework and cultivation of the different level championship for the change ensuring participation in the relevant policies processes, gender segregated.

The Outcome 1 Risks list potentially imply: (r1a) LPAs and targeted population recognize the importance of building inclusive resilient communities, (r1b) LPAs are open for review of the local development plans and acknowledge their role in transposing the National Energy and Climate Plan into local development plans, (r1.c) There is high interest from targeted women entrepreneurs in the capacity development programme. The likelihood as low and the importance as moderate of the identified list of risks that is evaluated based on the past experience in other regions and reviews of the positions of the relevant actors in the process of the elaboration of the project To mitigate the identified risks, the project built in the intervention activities to promote awareness on the climate change risks (Outcome 4), has extensive experience in prior engagement with these communities and district/local level authorities (including partnership agreements) as well with the private sector. These capabilities and actions are sufficient to mitigate the interplay of the identified risks. To address the output level assumptions, the project additionally will rely on Moldova's international obligations in climate change area and also make available financial instruments in the form of the grants for the communities.

The Outcome 1 envisages partnership agreements with the respective community authorities that will spell out all the conditions for the cooperation and reciprocal engagements. The project is also to enable the partnership cooperation with the corresponding central authorities at the time of the implementation that are responsible for the policy sectors of: Environment, Agriculture, Regional Development, Energy. Additionally, the project will include in the implementation Board some key related academic and policy entities. The project envisages also a Baseline survey to be carried out at the initial stage that is to identify perceptions, positions and mapping them. Also, at the end of the project the same survey should be conducted to evaluate the impact of the Project's intervention and the change in perceptions.

*Graph 3.1 Results Framework: Objectives, Outcomes, Outputs*



**Output 1.1: Climate and gender mainstreamed into relevant local and national policy frameworks and strengthened local public authorities**

**Activity 1.1.1. Participatory elaboration of district/community gender-sensitive SECAPs (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan)**

Activity 1.1.1 underscores our approach to driving meaningful change and supports achievement of the Output 1.1 transposing elaboration of 25 community level gender mainstreamed SECAPs elaborated according to best practice. This activity is designed to foster the integration of climate and gender considerations into the heart of policy frameworks, a key component of Outcome 1.

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A national open competition will be conducted to identify communities that are interested in receiving support for the development of their gender-sensitive Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs). As result, twenty-five (25) communities will be selected to benefit from participatory development or update of their community-level Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAPs), which shall serve as the cornerstones of our effort to achieve gender-responsive climate adaptation and mitigation. As part of the process various minority groups and schools/youth will also be included. Moreover, an intergenerational dialogue in the formulation of the local gender plans for climate change adaptation and resilience will be enabled.

*The competition will target three distinct groups of communities:*

- 1) Communities that have already created their SECAPs but require updates to incorporate a gender perspective.
- 2) Communities that have developed Climate Action Plans but need to enhance them with Sustainable Energy and gender-related elements.
- 3) Communities that currently lack SECAPs but are eager to initiate the development process.

Once the plans will be approved by the local councils, the communities will be invited to participate in the Call of Applications, envisaged under the Activity 3.1.2. to implement a range of SECAPs-related actions that directly contribute to building climate resilience and sustainable development. These actions encompass a diverse array of initiatives, from promoting energy efficiency to enhancing climate adaptation measures.

These SECAPs represent a tangible commitment to harmonize national policies with local contexts, ensuring that climate and gender considerations are seamlessly woven into the fabric of district and community development which includes a sound assessment of the local situation (based on the Baseline Emission Inventory (BEI) and a Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (RVA).

The process is marked by inclusivity and collaboration. Local Public Authorities (LPAs), communities, civil society representatives (local women leaders, experts, women led households, young women and men, etc.), and other key stakeholders are engaged in a collective effort to identify vulnerabilities, assess capacities, and co-create SECAPs that reflect the unique needs and strengths of each district and community.

For the elaboration of the SECAPs it is intended to engage the Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables, coordinator of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (CoM) from Moldova.

The Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables (AEER) have unique experience with supporting the LPAs in drafting of the SECAPs, therefore this project will partner with AEER to ensure that the advocacy and networking between various stakeholders involved in SECAP is ensured properly. The latest SECAP methodology requires a new dimension of energy poverty to be explored. However, the respective development challenge has not been put into practices yet in Moldova, and cooperation with AEER will support in defining it for further upscaling. As such, this set-up will enable UNDP to experiment with SECAPs development which includes the mitigation, adaptation and energy poverty dimensions all together. The criteria by which AEER is considered for this assignment is their technical capacity in the area of mitigation, adaptation and clear energy solutions, demonstrated networking capacity with central and local authorities, and capacities to leverage additional funding for subsequent implementation of SECAPs.

By harnessing a participatory approach, we empower stakeholders with agency, promoting ownership and a sense of shared responsibility in the plans concentrate on measures aimed at reducing GHG emissions (such as carbon dioxide) and the final energy consumption by the end users. It also includes adaptation actions in response to the impacts of climate change. The SECAPs should cover areas where local authorities can influence energy consumption in the long term (for example land use planning), encourage markets for energy efficient products and services (public procurement), and encourage changes in consumption patterns (by working with stakeholders and citizens). All these areas lie at the intersection of energy and gender equality. It's developed through a participatory process involving key stakeholders such as local authorities, communities, civil society groups, and business representatives. It is a comprehensive and localized strategy that forms a pivotal part of our project's approach to gender-sensitive climate adaptation and mitigation.

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It serves as a roadmap for communities, outlining specific actions to address the challenges posed by climate change while taking into account gender considerations. The communities will be supported to identify vulnerabilities, assess available resources and capacities, and formulate targeted initiatives tailored to the unique context of each district and community. Moreover, this plan shall incorporate gender aspects, recognizing the distinct roles, needs, and capacities of women and men in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. By integrating a gender lens, the SECAP will ensure that policies and actions are responsive to the diverse challenges faced by different population groups. It promotes women's active participation, empowers their leadership, and enhances their resilience against climate-related adversities.

We recognize the importance of multistakeholder engagement by bringing together different levels of government, relevant organizations, agencies and associations, as well as citizens for the purpose of accelerated joint action aimed at climate change mitigation and strengthening local capacities for adaptation to climate change. To solidify the success of this activity, municipal teams will be provided with computer equipment under **Activity 1.1.2 for monitoring and implementation of SECAPs**. In this way, it will be created conditions for presenting the data through the Covenant of Mayors reporting platform and by this to demonstrate the concrete impact of their activities on the territory, providing important feedback on the local activities. The 25 selected communities will be thoroughly guided in implementation of SECAPs and in collection of data and monitoring.

In partnership with the Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables, coordinator of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (CoM) from Moldova, the project will provide to the local authorities a harmonised data compilation and reporting framework, which is unique in Europe, and which assists them to follow a systemic climate and energy planning and monitoring at the local level. Developed with the support of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), based on the experience of practicing municipalities and regions with the intention to align with most common local methodologies, the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) template constitutes the standard reporting framework for Covenant Signatories. The SECAP template forms the skeleton of the individual action plans. The SECAP and its monitoring part allow LPAS to collect and analyse data in a structured and systematic manner, serve as a basis for good climate and energy management and for tracking progress in implementation.

Later on, the 25 LPAs will be encouraged to become signatories of Covenant of Mayors and by this to have access to reporting data via the Covenant of Mayors reporting platform which allows signatories to demonstrate the concrete impact of their actions on the ground. Also, as members, the LPAs will have access to EU fund for financing their action plans part of the SECAPs.

***Under Activity 1.1.3 it is envisaged to conduct gender analysis on mainstreaming the GE aspects in different sectors relevant to the project.*** The main findings resulted of the cross-sectorial analysis will serve as entry points for the next activity – ***Activity 1.1.4 Gender considerations mainstream as per identified gaps in the policies relevant to the project.*** There will be concluded a set of recommendations for legislative, policy, administrative and budgetary changes that align with and support to improve rural women's resilience to climate change, access to finance for women and different other benefits and instruments to enable an equal access to opportunities for women.

Activity 1.1.3 signifies a pivotal step in our project's pursuit of gender-responsive climate action. Aligned with Output 1.1's mission to weave climate and gender considerations into policy frameworks, this activity aims to enhance the effectiveness of national climate commitments while fostering gender equality.

By integrating gender into sectoral policies, we elevate climate action to a new level of inclusivity and responsiveness. This activity recognizes the transformative potential of gender-sensitive policies in addressing the multifaceted impacts of climate change. By ensuring that different policies reflect the distinct needs and capacities of women and men, we pave the way for more targeted and impactful climate solutions.

Moreover, the activity 1.1.3 is founded on the principles of inclusivity and collaboration. Through intergenerational dialogue, consultation, and engagement with key stakeholders, we seek to integrate gender considerations seamlessly into the core of the main documents that are co-related with the Project's objective. This process is rooted in our commitment to participatory

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decision-making, enabling women's voices to shape climate policy in ways that resonate with their realities.

By linking this activity to Output 1.1, which involves transposing gender considerations into policy frameworks, we amplify the impact of both efforts in promoting gender-sensitive climate adaptation and mitigation. Through the mainstreaming of gender into relevant national and local policies, we champion an approach that not only advances climate goals but also advances gender equality, driving meaningful and sustainable change.

Activities 1.1.5, 1.1.6 and 1.1.7 are aimed at building efficient, resilient and gender-responsive local governance processes and policies, by aligning with, and building on, the ongoing local government reform efforts. The project will build the capacities of the local authorities to elaborate policies and plans, monitor policy implementation, adapt local service provision to climate change and gender sensitivity.

Through Activity 1.1.5, the project will assist with the actual transformation processes of the local governments and provide technical assistance for the reorganization and institutional (organizational) integration of the current territorial administrative units into new, stronger and capable units. This process results in proposals for the new organizational structure of the new local public authority and service delivery arrangements for the amalgamated community. The participating communities and local authorities will elaborate, in a participatory manner, local socio-economic development plans integrating gender-sensitive SECAPs. The assistance will address the necessary human resource capacities and knowledge to include gender and climate change concerns in planning and service delivery.

The project assistance will incorporate strategic and policy support based on the best international practices, ensuring also that the national policies and legal frameworks facilitate and incentivize the local transformation (Activity 1.1.6).

In addition, the project will provide a series of capacity building activities (Activity 1.1.7) aimed at improving the knowledge and skills of the local officials to make services more accessible to all, -particularly women- and to adjust local service provision to gender and climate resilience solutions identified in the SECAPS. The capacity building activities will cover key areas of local governance, such as gender and climate change responsive budgeting, local participatory processes aimed at improving and adapting service provision, etc.

These tools and activities will jointly enhance the capacities of local public authorities to implement efficient, climate resilient, and gender-responsive governance.

## **Output 1.2. which focuses on enabling multi-stakeholder engagement on climate and gender policy processes, complements this endeavour.**

The participatory elaboration of community SECAPs stands as a concrete manifestation of our dedication to strengthening the climate and gender nexus.

### ***Activity 1.2.1. National high-level policy dialogues on climate and gender carried out***

Activity 1.2.1 encompasses the orchestration of national high-level policy dialogues on climate and gender, epitomizes our commitment to fostering transformative change at the crossroads of climate action and gender equality. It embodies dedication to creating a platform for robust dialogue, collaboration, and progress. This activity seeks to harness the power of discourse and collective wisdom to drive gender-responsive climate policies. By convening national high-level policy dialogues, the project creates an environment that encourages the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and experiences among diverse stakeholders. This dialogue serves as a nexus where policymakers, civil society representatives, women from various groups, experts, and private sector leaders converge to chart a course toward climate-resilient and gender-sensitive futures.

The activity implies annual National public events in the format of linking to the central authorities work and organize National Women's Forum for Climate Change Resilience to advocate with decision makers with the participation of national (sectoral: environment, energy, agriculture, regional development, social equality) decision makers representatives, district level and local

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communities' representatives, academia and expert community, businesses as well as international organisations who are also the partners of the project. Also, various national women networks will be engaged such as Women's Mayors Network/CALM, The Association of Women Entrepreneurs in Moldova (AFAM), the National Coalition "Life without domestic violence".

Activity 1.2.1 recognizes that meaningful change begins with shared understanding and collective ownership. Through these policy dialogues, we foster an atmosphere of inclusivity and mutual respect, where every voice is valued, and every perspective contributes to shaping policy directions. By enabling open discussions on the climate and gender nexus, we catalyse a dynamic process that informs and influences policy decisions. The discussions are to include the policy gaps issues, policy implementation and monitoring at all levels.

The anticipated outcome of this activity is twofold. Firstly, it is envisioned that national high-level policy dialogues will result in a national dialogue on gender equality and climate change, led by women's groups and advocates. Secondly, these dialogues will serve as catalysts for nurturing champions of gender-responsive climate action, further propagating a culture of active engagement and commitment to change.

Activity 1.2.1 advances this mission by providing a dedicated space for high-level conversations that amplify the voices of those advocating for gender-sensitive climate action and in particular women from the target communities in rural area. Through Activity 1.3.1, we affirm our belief in the power of dialogue as a driver of progress. By fostering an environment where diverse stakeholders collaborate, share insights, and collectively forge pathways forward, we strengthen the foundations of climate action rooted in gender equality. As we move forward, we are confident that national high-level policy dialogues will not only shape policy directions but also usher in a new era of concerted effort in achieving sustainable development that leaves no one behind.

#### ***Activity 1.2.2. New instruments for engagement on climate & gender nexus developed and promoted (gamification, etc)***

Activity 1.2.2, dedicated to the development and promotion of innovative engagement instruments for the climate and gender nexus, mirrors our commitment to embracing cutting-edge approaches that drive active participation and awareness. This activity revolves around the creation and utilization of novel tools and strategies to facilitate meaningful interactions around the climate and gender discourse, including using STEM model in schools and overall in the 25 target communities, including mentorship programs with other STEMminists, thus building local expertise among women. Recognizing the dynamic nature of today's communication landscape, Activity 1.2.2 introduces innovative engagement instruments such as gamification and other digital platforms. These instruments are designed to harness the power of technology and gamified approaches to capture attention, stimulate interest, and foster engagement.

By developing gamified experiences and other interactive tools, we unlock new avenues for stakeholders from diverse sectors to join the conversation. These instruments transform complex climate and gender narratives into accessible and engaging formats, promoting wider understanding and ownership. Through gamification, for instance, we infuse elements of competition, challenge, and reward into learning about climate and gender linkages, turning education into an immersive experience that resonates with participants.

Activity 1.2.2 serves a dual purpose. Firstly, it seeks to create a bridge between traditional and modern engagement methods, adapting to the evolving preferences of today's stakeholders. Secondly, by amplifying the reach and resonance of the climate and gender discourse, these instruments are instrumental in enhancing the effectiveness of multi-stakeholder engagement efforts, thus engaging society in inclusive manner, targeting groups formed by poor women and men to participate in the climate change tackling effort.

By linking Activity 1.2.2 to Output 1.2, we foster a synergistic relationship that underscores the importance of diverse and dynamic engagement. Just as Output 1.2 envisions multi-stakeholder engagement as an essential catalyst for policy processes, Activity 1.2.2 amplifies this engagement through innovative methods that resonate with today's digital-native audience. As we champion the climate and gender nexus, we recognize that innovation in engagement is pivotal to shaping a future where active participation drives informed decisions and transformative change.

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Under the Activity 1.2.3. a capacity building program on gender&climate legislation/capacity building programme for LPAs, business and community members is envisaged.

The target group is the community members from the competitively selected 20 target localities.

The capacity building programme foresees mentoring and coaching activities as wells as workshops, study visits intended to enhance the capacity of the community members to manage in a resilient manner the local natural capital.

## **Outcome 2: National and local women leadership in climate actions expanded and advanced**

Building upon the foundation set by Outcome 1, Outcome 2 focuses on the expansion and advancement of women's leadership in climate actions at both national and local levels. This objective is channelled through three interconnected outputs that collectively contribute to the elevation of women's role in driving climate resilience.

Output 2.1 underscores the importance of education as a catalyst for change. This output is designed to enable widespread understanding of the interplay between climate and gender. Through targeted educational initiatives, communities, stakeholders, and key decision-makers are empowered with the knowledge needed to champion gender-sensitive climate actions. By enhancing awareness and knowledge, Output 2.1 fosters an environment where gender-responsive climate actions become an inherent part of sustainable development strategies.

Complementing Output 2.1, Output 2.2 signifies the significance of capacity-building as an enabler of change. By providing tailored capacity-building opportunities, both national and local key stakeholders are equipped with the skills and expertise required to integrate gender considerations into climate policies and initiatives. This capacity-building approach ensures that decision-makers possess the tools needed to translate awareness into concrete action, fostering a collaborative environment for effective climate and gender nexus integration.

Output 2.3 introduces the innovative Gender and Climate Change Leadership Fellowship Program. This program serves as a cornerstone for women's leadership development, promoting their active engagement in shaping climate actions. By providing mentorship, networking opportunities, and skill enhancement, Output 2.3 nurtures a cohort of empowered women leaders who drive climate resilience at all levels. This output leverages the potential of women leaders as change agents and cultivates a pipeline of skilled individuals committed to advancing gender-sensitive climate initiatives.

However, Outcome 2 is not immune to potential risks. Two key risks have been identified: (r2a) the willingness of media to provide comprehensive coverage of climate change and gender issues and (r2b) the recognition by decision-makers of the pivotal role that gender-sensitive climate change plays in local resilient development. While these risks carry moderate importance, their likelihood is deemed low, informed by an understanding of media behaviour and stakeholder engagement.

To address these risks, the project has strategically integrated activities that promote media engagement and awareness (Outcome 4) while fostering strong partnerships with decision-makers through consistent dialogue. The project's past success in engaging media and decision-makers serves as a robust foundation for mitigation.

Assumptions underlying Outcome 2 are centred on interest and engagement. These assumptions include the willingness of Moldovan academia institutions to actively participate, women's and women's groups' interest in engaging with climate change issues, and their acknowledgment of their pivotal roles in climate resilience. By capitalizing on these assumptions, the project taps into existing motivations to catalyse women's leadership in climate actions.

As we embark on Outcome 2, our commitment to expanding women's leadership in climate actions is fortified by a holistic approach. Through educational initiatives, capacity-building, and the innovative Leadership Fellowship Program, Outcome 2 empowers women to step into leadership roles and drive transformative change in the climate arena.

### **Output 2.1. Education on climate and gender enabled**



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**Activity 2.1.1. Develop nationally adapted gender & climate training programme (including online option) with specialisation for policy specialists, civil servants, entrepreneurs.**

Activity 2.1.1 represents a pivotal step in achieving Outcome 2, which focuses on expanding and advancing national and local women leadership in climate actions. This activity is designed to create a comprehensive and nationally adapted gender and climate training program that caters to the specific needs and roles of policy specialists, civil servants, and entrepreneurs. By providing specialized training, this activity aims to enhance knowledge, build capacities, and foster a deep understanding of the gender and climate nexus. The elaboration of the educational program will be carried out in partnership with the internationally recognised expertise entities to be identified.

The development of this training program is aligned with the objectives of Output 2.1: Education on climate and gender enabled. The training content will be tailored to address the unique challenges, opportunities, and responsibilities faced by policy specialists, civil servants, and entrepreneurs in the context of gender-sensitive climate actions. Through this activity, we seek to empower participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to integrate gender considerations into climate policies, initiatives, and entrepreneurial endeavours.

The training program will be delivered through a multi-faceted approach that includes both in-person and online options. This flexibility ensures widespread accessibility and participation, catering to diverse learning preferences and geographical constraints. The online option, in particular, enables participants to engage with the training content at their own pace, fostering a culture of continuous learning and self-development.

The rationale behind Activity 2.1.1 is grounded in the understanding that effective gender-responsive climate actions require a solid foundation of knowledge and expertise. Policy specialists play a pivotal role in shaping climate policies, and civil servants are responsible for implementing these policies at various levels of government. Similarly, entrepreneurs contribute to sustainable development through innovative solutions. By equipping these stakeholders with a deep understanding of the gender and climate nexus, we enable them to make informed decisions that drive positive change.

**Activity 2.1.2 Capacity and institutional building program in gender and climate area for the Local Business Incubators**

To extend the dedicated capacity building program for local stakeholders it is planned to conduct an extensive capacity and institutional building program in gender and climate area for the Local Business Incubators –

Currently, the Business Incubator Network in Moldova (RIAM) is a collaboration platform among 12 local Business Incubators. RIAM promotes the crucial role of Business Incubators in national and international economic development. This network includes Incubators from Cahul, Călărași, Ceadr-Lunga, Cimișlia, Dubăsari, Leova, Nisporeni, Rezina, Sîngerei, Soroca, Ștefan-Vodă and Chisinau (newly created in 2024).

In addition to business incubation, which involves providing facilities for renting space to aspiring entrepreneurs, Incubators also offer a range of services to support existing businesses and the development of new ones. These services include Business Consultancy and Guidance; Access to Financing and Mentorship; Low-cost placement space; Administrative and technical services;

With this activity, it is intended to increase the capacities of the Incubators in order to be able to respond to the current multiple crisis and needs of the business sector by providing technical assistance in integrating climate and gender aspects into the consulting activities of Incubators. This would involve capacity building for staff to assist potential entrepreneurs in greening their businesses and implementing adaptive measures to climate change, organizing study visits in these specific areas for Incubator staff, and facilitating the integration of green and resilient practices for the businesses hosted by the Business Incubators. (Activity 2.1.2.a).

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In light of the climate and energy crisis, these institutions should be strengthened primarily to serve as multipliers for promoting green and resilient practices.

Therefore, their needs in this regard will be thoroughly assessed, and institutional support will be provided jointly based on the assessment in order to improve their institutional capacities. The top needs that will be covered from Project funds will be approved by the Project Board. (Activity 2.1.2.b).

These activities also align with the overarching Theory of Change, as it directly supports the causality and logic described earlier. By enhancing the capacities of policy specialists, civil servants, and entrepreneurs through gender and climate training, we create a ripple effect that leads to stronger integration of gender considerations in climate actions. This, in turn, contributes to the broader Outcome 2 of expanding and advancing national and local women leadership in climate actions.

As we embark on Activity 2.1.1 and Activity 2.1.2, the project is committed to fostering a culture of knowledge-sharing and collaboration. By empowering policy specialists, civil servants, and entrepreneurs with the tools to navigate the complex intersection of gender and climate, we are driving meaningful change at multiple levels of society. Through this activity, we contribute to the vision of a more gender-responsive and climate-resilient future for Moldova.

## **Output 2.2: Capacity-building on climate&gender nexus for national and local key stakeholders provided**

### ***Activity 2.2.1 Community of Practice on climate&gender issues established and operational***

Activity 2.2.1 is a cornerstone of our efforts to achieve Outcome 2, which centres on expanding and advancing women's leadership in climate actions at both national and local levels. This activity is strategically designed to foster collaboration, knowledge exchange, and capacity-building among stakeholders who are committed to integrating gender considerations into climate initiatives.

By establishing and operationalizing a vibrant Community of Practice (CoP) on climate and gender issues, we aim to create a dynamic platform that facilitates dialogue, learning, and innovation. This activity directly contributes to the objectives of Output 2.2: Capacity-building on climate&gender nexus for national and local key stakeholders provided.

The CoP will serve as a dedicated space where policy specialists, civil servants, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders can come together to share insights, experiences, and best practices

The project team will undertake call of expression of interest for establishment of a Community of Practice on Climate and Gender issues and following this a comprehensive assessment will be conducted in collaboration with relevant Ministries and national stakeholders to identify a suitable partner for conceptualizing, developing, and leading this Community of Practice (CoP). The selected partner organization could either be a National Non-profit Organization (NPO) or Gender Equality platform or an Academic Institution, think tank organisation pledging for gender equality.

This assessment process will involve evaluating potential partners based on various criteria such as their track record in the field, expertise in community engagement and capacity building, existing networks and resources, commitment to the objectives of the CoP, and their ability to mobilize stakeholders from diverse backgrounds.

Once the assessment is complete, the project team will engage in discussions with the identified candidates to further explore their suitability, clarify roles and responsibilities, and establish mutual expectations. The selected partner will play a crucial role in driving the activities of the CoP, facilitating knowledge exchange and collaboration among members, organizing events and capacity-building initiatives, and ensuring the sustainability of the initiative over time.

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Through interactive forums, workshops, webinars, and collaborative projects, participants will have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the gender and climate nexus and enhance their capacities to address these issues effectively.

This initiative is firmly grounded in the recognition that cross-sectoral collaboration and knowledge-sharing are essential for driving meaningful change. The CoP provides a unique avenue for stakeholders from different sectors to interact, learn from one another, and co-create solutions that transcend traditional boundaries. By breaking down silos and fostering a culture of interdisciplinary and intergenerational dialogue, we foster an environment where innovation thrives.

Activity 2.2.1 aligns seamlessly with the overall Theory of Change, specifically contributing to the causality and logic described earlier. By bringing together diverse stakeholders within a CoP, we create a mechanism for the exchange of ideas and the amplification of gender-responsive climate actions. As participants engage in mutual learning and explore innovative approaches, their collective efforts contribute to the broader Outcome 2 of expanding and advancing women's leadership in climate actions.

The establishment and operationalization of a Community of Practice underscore our commitment to sustained capacity-building and collaborative action. By creating a space that transcends organizational boundaries, we empower stakeholders to play an active role in shaping climate actions that are both inclusive and resilient. Through this activity, we are contributing to a future where the gender and climate nexus is understood, prioritized, and harnessed for the betterment of Moldovan communities.

### **Output 2.3: Gender and climate change Leadership Fellowship Program carried-out**

#### ***Activity 2.3.1 Call for papers and practices on climate and gender nexus launched and the best funded to enable research and development***

Activity 2.3.1 exemplifies our commitment to fostering gender-responsive climate leadership through research, innovation, and knowledge dissemination. This initiative contributes directly to achieving the goals of Output 2.3: Gender and climate change Leadership Fellowship Program carried out, which aims to empower women as leaders and change agents in the climate space.

The launch of a Call for Practices and Papers on the climate and gender nexus marks a significant step towards advancing our understanding of this critical intersection. As part of this activity, scholars, researchers, practitioners, and experts will be invited to elaborate research papers, pilot innovative practice in the gender-climate nexus area and to contribute their insights for a proper analysis on how climate change affect women in Moldova, the women's role in mitigation of the climate change's effects, opportunities to harness women's potential in implementation of climate resilient practices in Moldova. Also it will be piloted various practices, learning tools, community mobilization efforts.

As result, we seek to create a wealth of knowledge that informs evidence-based actions. This activity aligns with our Theory of Change, where enhanced knowledge drives improved policies and actions.

Through this initiative, we are creating a platform for cutting-edge research and innovative ideas that bridge the gender and climate divide. By encouraging the submission of research proposals, case studies of climate change issues in the key sectors such as environment, agriculture, regional development, energy, rural development with the women empowerment and gender disaggregated perspective. The activity aims to uncover untapped potential, identify best practices, and address knowledge gaps. The focus on funding the best proposals underscore our commitment to supporting and amplifying voices that contribute to transformative change.

The Call for Papers and Practices also aligns with the broader theme of multi-stakeholder engagement, central to Output 1.2: Multi-stakeholder engagement on climate and gender policy processes enabled. By inviting a diverse range of contributors, we create an inclusive space where different perspectives converge, fostering cross-fertilization of ideas and solutions. This collaborative approach is integral to achieving gender-responsive climate leadership, as outlined in Outcome 2.

By funding the best papers and practices, we provide an avenue for researchers and practitioners to delve deeper into the gender and climate nexus. This research serves as a foundation for advancing policies, practices, and interventions that are grounded in evidence and

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informed by gender considerations. The Gender and Climate Change Leadership Fellowship Program is enhanced through this research-driven approach, enabling fellows to engage with cutting-edge knowledge and integrate it into their leadership journeys.

Activity 2.3.1 is a testament to our commitment to continuous learning, innovation, and action. By catalysing research and development through this activity, we pave the way for a more nuanced understanding of the gender and climate nexus, driving positive change at both local and national levels. Through this initiative, we are shaping a future where leadership in climate action is informed, inclusive, and empowered by knowledge.

### ***Activity 2.3.2 Climate Activism via Community Fellowships***

Activity 2.3.2 embodies our commitment to fostering grassroots climate leadership through community engagement and empowerment. This initiative directly contributes to achieving the goals of Output 2.3: Gender and climate change Leadership Fellowship Program carried out, a cornerstone of Outcome 2: National and local women leadership in climate actions expanded and advanced.

The Climate Activism via Community Fellowships initiative recognizes the potential of individuals at the local level to become catalysts for change. Through this activity, we aim to engage 5 NGOs, including from Transnistria in identifying, nurture, and amplify the voices of community leaders who are dedicated to driving climate action. This resonates with our Theory of Change, which emphasizes the transformative impact of empowered individuals on their communities.

By awarding fellowships to passionate climate activists, we create a mechanism for capacity-building, networking, and collaboration. These fellowships serve as pathways for individuals to deepen their understanding of the gender and climate nexus, enhance their leadership skills, and develop practical strategies for fostering climate resilience within their communities.

The Community Fellowships are to be incorporated under a Grant Program for NGOs and are designed to be inclusive, targeting individuals from diverse backgrounds, including women, youth, and marginalized groups. By doing so, we ensure that the benefits of climate leadership are spread equitably across society. This aligns with the overarching theme of gender-responsive climate action, which is central to Output 2.3.

The initiative also speaks to the broader narrative of multi-stakeholder engagement, a key element of Output 1.2: Multi-stakeholder engagement on climate and gender policy processes enabled. By empowering local leaders, we amplify the collective voice of communities in policy dialogues and decision-making processes, thereby reinforcing the gender and climate nexus at all levels.

Activity 2.3.2 bridges the gap between theory and practice, enabling community leaders to translate knowledge into tangible action. Through mentorship, training, and access to resources, fellows are equipped with the tools they need to initiate climate projects, promote awareness, and drive behavioural change within their communities. This dynamic approach exemplifies our commitment to holistic and localized climate leadership.

The initiative also complements the Call for Papers and Practices activity (2.3.1) by fostering the application of research findings at the community level. As fellows engage with the latest research and innovations, they become agents of knowledge dissemination, ensuring that evidence-based solutions are integrated into their climate activism.

Activity 2.3.2 represents an investment in the power of individuals to spark change. By supporting community leaders through fellowships, we catalyse a ripple effect that extends far beyond the initial fellowship period. As fellows become advocates, educators, and change agents within their communities, they contribute to the overarching goal of Outcome 2: expanding and advancing women's leadership in climate actions at both the national and local levels. Through this initiative, we pave the way for a future where empowered individuals drive sustainable change, one community at a time.

### **Outcome 3: Women led climate-smart solutions are identified, supported and replicated among women groups and target communities**

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Outcome 3 marks a pivotal phase in our project, focusing on showcasing the tangible impact of climate smart solutions on women entrepreneurs, households, and communities. This outcome aligns perfectly with our overarching project goal of advancing gender-responsive climate entrepreneurship and resilience. By demonstrating the benefits of climate smart solutions, we aim to catalyse sustainable change and foster gender-responsive practices in the face of climate challenges.

On this outcome, we acknowledge and address a series of identified risks and assumptions. Our approach is rooted in the recognition that success hinges on the willingness of women entrepreneurs to actively engage in climate change initiatives. We assume that women entrepreneurs, who are central to our project, are enthusiastic about participating in activities that promote climate resilience and sustainability.

Moreover, we assume that there is a robust community-level outreach mechanism in place, enabling us to effectively disseminate information about the grants program. This outreach ensures that women entrepreneurs are well-informed and encouraged to participate, ensuring that they can take full advantage of the opportunities presented.

The project also relies on the assumption that the transfer of knowledge and technologies related to climate and environment-friendly practices is adequate. This enables women entrepreneurs to adopt practices that are not only innovative but also suited to their specific circumstances and land landscapes. We also assume that the promoted practices are compatible with the various land types, ensuring that women can successfully integrate these solutions into their economic activities.

Another key assumption is that women are open to demonstrating the additionally generated revenues resulting from the adoption of climate smart solutions. This economic incentive further encourages women to embrace sustainable practices, thereby contributing to Outcome 3's objective of showcasing the benefits of such solutions.

**Output 3.1: Climate Smart Activities Demonstrated in Households of Women with Economic Activity, Women Entrepreneurs, and in Communities.** Output 3.1 represents our commitment to bringing climate smart solutions to life within the contexts of households, women entrepreneurs, and communities. This output is a continuation of the Output 1.1, that refers to SECAPs elaboration and acts as a bridge between our overarching objectives and tangible, on-the-ground results. Thus, the grants schemes shall enable the community stakeholders to implement the commitment included in the participatory elaborated Climate Plans, and by this contribute to decarbonisation and increased resilience in their territory.

For the community projects - these can include the implementation of specific measures such as energy retrofits of public and residential buildings, modernization of public lighting, construction of embankments, construction of cycle paths and other measures. For the private sector – the financial support shall provide access to renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures and other solutions that can enable decarbonisation.

The grants would support green, climate-smart activities and will be conditional on considerations of: (i) alignment of the sub-projects with the local SECAP; (ii) synergetic approach with other financed sub-projects from the community; (iii) contribution to decarbonisation targets; (iv) demonstrated potential for the underlying investments to contribute to creating sustainable and replicable climate resilient practices.

By demonstrating climate smart activities in real-world settings, we aim to exhibit the positive impact these solutions have on women's economic activities, as well as on broader community development.

**Output 3.2: Coaching and Mentoring Provided to Women with Economic Activities in Households, Women Entrepreneurs, and in Communities to Carry Out Climate Smart Solutions and Energy Efficiency.** Output 3.2 encapsulates our strategy for ensuring that the benefits of climate smart solutions are effectively harnessed. Through coaching and mentoring, we provide women with the tools, knowledge, and guidance they need to successfully implement climate smart solutions. This output aligns perfectly with the project's holistic approach to empowerment, enabling women to drive change through practical action.

**Output 3.3: Synergies in Advancing Climate Smart Solutions among Women Groups Facilitated.** Output 3.3 underscores the importance of collaboration and synergy in driving

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sustainable change. This output recognizes that the collective efforts of women groups can amplify the impact of climate smart solutions. By facilitating the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and experiences among women groups, we foster an environment of shared learning and innovation, enhancing the overall effectiveness of climate smart initiatives.

By realizing the objectives outlined in Outputs 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, we contribute to Outcome 3's vision of demonstrating the benefits of climate smart solutions among women and communities. This outcome is a testament to our commitment to practical, impactful change, where women's empowerment and community resilience are at the forefront of our climate entrepreneurship journey.

### **Output 3.1: Climate smart activities demonstrated in households of women with economic activity, women entrepreneurs and in communities**

#### ***Activity 3.1.1. Conduct an outreach programme and support preparation of applications for climate smart financing provided by the project***

This activity is strategically designed to empower women to lead economic activities in households, women entrepreneurs, and communities, by providing them with the tools, resources, and guidance to access climate smart financing opportunities offered by the project.

Recognizing that effective climate smart solutions often require financial support; we acknowledge the importance of creating an enabling environment that facilitates access to funding. Through this activity, we aim to bridge the gap between the aspirations of women-led initiatives and the financial resources needed to bring them to fruition.

Our outreach programme plays a pivotal role in raising awareness among women with economic activities, women entrepreneurs, and communities about the available climate smart financing opportunities. Through online offline workshops, training sessions conducted in partnership with the regional Business Incubators in the North, Centre and South regions including the Territorial -Administrative Unit of Gagauzia and Transnistria and informational materials, it is intended to equip them with a comprehensive understanding of the application process, eligibility criteria, and the benefits of securing climate smart financing.

Furthermore, Activity 3.1.1 embodies our commitment to holistic support. Beyond awareness-building, we offer personalized assistance to women applicants, guiding them through the process of preparing and submitting applications. This support ensures that their proposals effectively capture the essence of their climate smart solutions and align with the project's objectives and local SECAPs.

By facilitating access to climate smart financing, we empower women-led initiatives to take meaningful steps toward implementing their climate-resilient projects. Activity 3.1.1 serves as a critical precursor, empowering women to secure the necessary financial resources to turn their ideas into reality.

Through our outreach efforts and personalized support, we aspire to nurture a culture of innovation and climate resilience within women-led initiatives. By providing them with the means to access financing, we acknowledge and amplify their potential as drivers of change. Activity 3.1.1 embodies our belief in the transformative power of women's leadership and innovation in tackling climate challenges. Through this activity, a special attention will be paid to support offered to empower women to take the next steps toward realizing their climate smart solutions, contributing to the resilience, sustainability, and prosperity of their households, businesses, and communities.

***Activity 3.1.2 Support financially 25 LPAs<sup>34</sup> through women engagement to implement SECAPs-related actions***, stands as a cornerstone in our efforts to translate the vision of Outcome 3 into concrete actions that demonstrate the benefits of climate smart solutions. This activity embodies our commitment to fostering sustainable change by providing direct financial support to local public authorities (LPAs) for the successful implementation of SECAPs-related actions.

It is proposed to provide financial support 25 communities selected to elaborate a SECAP for financing of a measure participatory established in the plan. [Twenty local communities will receive support from Swedish funds, while five newly amalgamated communities will be supported](#)

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<sup>34</sup> The support is envisaged to 20 new localities which did not benefited of grant support in phase I of ResCom project

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by Norwegian funds. The selection of the latter 5 amalgamated local communities will be conducted in the second part of 2025, with the financial support disbursed subsequently. The financial support (grants) will be structured such as to respond to the conditions created in the newly amalgamated communities.

Our approach is driven by the understanding that implementing climate smart solutions requires not only innovation and dedication but also the necessary financial resources. With this activity, we aim to bridge the gap between vision and action, ensuring that districts and LPAs have the financial means to bring their climate smart plans to life.

In line with Outcome 3, which focuses on demonstrating the benefits of climate smart solutions among women and communities, Activity 3.1.2 targets 25 LPAs. These local entities play a crucial role in translating national policies into localized actions that are contextually relevant and responsive to the unique needs of their communities.

By offering financial support, we enable these LPAs to implement a range of SECAPs-related actions that directly contribute to building climate resilience and sustainable development. These actions encompass a diverse array of initiatives, from promoting energy efficiency to enhancing climate adaptation measures. Each action is meticulously designed to align with the SECAPs, ensuring that they reflect the needs and priorities of the communities they serve.

This activity represents a strategic synergy between our project's objectives and the practical steps needed to realize them. It directly supports Output 3.1 by facilitating the implementation of climate smart activities in households of women with economic activity, women entrepreneurs, and communities. Through financial support, we empower the target LPAs to take the lead in showcasing the tangible benefits of climate smart solutions on the ground.

The grants would compensate LPAs up to 90% of incurred costs under a sub-project for eligible goods and works, with a maximum ceiling established at US\$ 40,000 per community.

Moreover, Activity 3.1.1 aligns with our overall project strategy of collaboration and partnership. By providing and the selected LPAs with the resources they need, we foster a sense of shared responsibility, ownership, and engagement. This collaborative approach ensures that the implementation of climate smart solutions is rooted in the realities of each district and community, maximizing the potential for sustainable impact.

***Activity 3.1.3. Support 80 projects for women with economic activities in households to implement climate smart solutions (aligned with the local SECAP)- 4 grants per Sweden-supported community.***

Activity 3.1.3 represents a pivotal step in realizing the objectives of Outcome 3 and translating Output 3.1 into impactful, actionable change on the ground. Through this activity, we are committed to fostering gender-responsive climate entrepreneurship at the grassroots level by directly supporting women with economic activities in households to implement climate smart solutions aligned with the local Sustainable Energy Climate Adaptation Plans (SECAPs).

Our approach acknowledges the crucial role that women play in household economies and their potential as agents of sustainable change. By providing 80 grants to women engaged in economic activities within households, we empower them to drive climate smart solutions that align with the broader objectives of the SECAPs. The maximum grant per beneficiary is set at \$6,000, contingent upon the beneficiary's commitment to provide 5% co-financing of the total grant. The grants provided through this activity are a tangible investment in the capabilities and innovation of women entrepreneurs. These grants enable women to embark on projects that promote energy efficiency, enhance climate adaptation, and contribute to sustainable livelihoods. By aligning their initiatives with the local SECAPs, women entrepreneurs ensure that their efforts resonate with the broader climate adaptation strategies and contribute to the resilience of their communities.

Activity 3.1.3 is an embodiment of our belief in the power of localized solutions. By supporting women entrepreneurs with targeted grants, we acknowledge the unique strengths and capacities they bring to the table. The grants serve as a catalyst for innovation, enabling women to explore new ways of integrating climate smart practices into their economic activities.

Through this activity, we strengthen the link between gender equality, economic empowerment, and climate resilience. The projects initiated by women entrepreneurs have the

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potential to yield multiple benefits – from reducing energy consumption and emissions to enhancing local economic development and creating green jobs.

Activity 3.1.3 is closely aligned with Output 3.1, which emphasizes the demonstration of climate smart activities in households of women with economic activities. By providing grants to women entrepreneurs, we are contributing to the realization of this output, creating a ripple effect that showcases the tangible benefits of climate smart solutions at the grassroots level.

***Activity 3.1.4. Support 25 projects initiated by women-led agri-businesses to implement climate smart solutions (aligned with local SECAP) – 1-2 grants per Sweden supported community.***

Activity 3.1.4 is a vital component of our commitment to realizing the objectives of Outcome 3 and translating the aspirations of Output 3.1 into tangible, on-the-ground impact. This activity is dedicated to empowering women-led agri-businesses by offering them targeted grants to implement climate smart solutions that align seamlessly with the local Sustainable Energy Climate Adaptation Plans (SECAPs).

In recognition of the pivotal role that agriculture plays in communities' economic well-being and environmental sustainability, we emphasize the significance of fostering climate resilience within agri-businesses. By providing 25 grants to women-led agri-businesses, we aim to enable these entrepreneurs to implement innovative and sustainable climate smart solutions.

This activity also aligns with the broader project strategy of fostering community engagement and ownership. By directly supporting women entrepreneurs, we empower them to take ownership of their projects and become champions of climate smart solutions within their communities. The grants not only provide financial resources but also signify recognition and trust in the expertise and potential of women entrepreneurs in implementation of climate change initiatives at the community level. The maximum grant per beneficiary is set at \$20,000, contingent upon the beneficiary's commitment to provide at least 10% co-financing of the grant.

These grants serve as catalysts for change, offering women-led agri-businesses the financial means to initiate projects that enhance energy efficiency, optimize resource utilization, and foster climate adaptation in agricultural practices. The alignment with local SECAPs ensures that the projects contribute to broader climate resilience strategies and promote sustainable development at the grassroots level.

Activity 3.1.4 embodies our belief in the transformative power of women-led initiatives. By supporting agri-businesses run by women entrepreneurs, we acknowledge their unique perspectives, innovation, and contributions to sustainable agriculture. The grants offer an opportunity for agri-businesses to explore and implement climate smart practices that not only enhance their own resilience but also contribute to the overall food security and economic well-being of their communities.

Furthermore, this activity underscores the importance of localized solutions. By offering grants to women-led agri-businesses, we empower them to play a pivotal role in driving climate smart agriculture that is tailored to the specific needs of their regions. These women entrepreneurs become agents of change, driving the adoption of innovative practices that enhance productivity, conserve resources, and mitigate climate risks.

Activity 3.1.4 is deeply aligned with Output 3.1, which aims to demonstrate climate smart activities within households and communities. By extending our support to women-led agri-businesses, we amplify the impact of climate smart solutions in the agriculture sector, contributing to both economic growth and environmental sustainability.

As we implement Activity 3.1.4, we prioritize the empowerment of women entrepreneurs, recognizing their potential as leaders of change. By providing grants that are strategically aligned with local SECAPs, we foster an environment where women-led agri-businesses thrive as champions of climate smart solutions. Through this activity, we lay the foundation for a more resilient and sustainable agricultural landscape, one that showcases the power of women in driving positive and lasting change.



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**Output 3.2. Coaching and mentoring provided to women with economic activities in households, women entrepreneurs and in communities to carry out climate smart solutions**

***Activity 3.2.1. Provide coaching and mentoring to the selected beneficiaries of the project to implement appropriately the selected climate smart solutions***

Activity 3.2.1 underscores our commitment to fostering the successful implementation of climate smart solutions and ensuring that the objectives of Outcome 3 and Output 3.2 are effectively realized. This activity serves as a cornerstone in our approach to supporting women with economic activities in households, women entrepreneurs, and communities in their journey towards implementing climate smart initiatives.

Activity 3.2.1 offers a comprehensive coaching and mentoring program to selected beneficiaries. By doing so, we intend to bridge the gap between planning and execution, enabling beneficiaries to navigate challenges and seize opportunities in their pursuit of climate resilience. The coaching and mentoring provided through this activity are tailored to the unique needs, capacities, and aspirations of the beneficiaries. We understand that each climate smart solution requires a nuanced approach, and our mentors work closely with beneficiaries to develop customized strategies for successful implementation.

Our mentoring program covers a wide range of topics, including practically useful technologies to be used by women-led entrepreneurship, resource allocation, marketing of services, and community engagement. Through one-on-one sessions, workshops, and peer learning platforms, beneficiaries gain insights and expertise that are critical for turning their ideas into impactful actions on the ground.

Moreover, this activity is deeply aligned with Output 3.2, which centres on equipping women with economic activities in households, women entrepreneurs, and communities with the skills and knowledge to effectively carry out their climate smart solutions. Activity 3.2.1 adds a layer of hands-on support, guiding beneficiaries through the practical aspects of implementation.

By fostering a culture of learning and collaboration, we envision beneficiaries not only successfully implementing their climate smart initiatives but also becoming ambassadors of change within their communities. Activity 3.2.1 recognizes the value of experiential learning, empowering beneficiaries to adapt and innovate as they navigate the dynamic landscape of climate resilience.

Through this activity, we seek to amplify the impact of Outcome 3, wherein the benefits of climate smart solutions are demonstrated among women groups and in communities. By ensuring the successful implementation of selected initiatives, we contribute to building climate resilience, improving livelihoods, and enhancing the sustainability of communities.

As we progress through Activity 3.2.1, we envision a network of empowered beneficiaries who not only overcome challenges but also leverage their experiences to inspire and empower others. By receiving tailored coaching and mentoring, beneficiaries are better equipped to navigate hurdles and capitalize on opportunities, turning their climate smart solutions into catalysts for positive change.

**Output 3.3. Synergies in advancing climate smart solutions among various stakeholders and women groups facilitated**

***Activity 3.3.1. Identify and enable development of cooperatives in the agricultural, social and energy sector (3 in total)***

Activity 3.3.1 marks our commitment to cultivating synergies and advancing climate smart solutions among women groups, in alignment with the objectives of Outcome 3 and Output 3.3.

This activity builds upon the foundation laid by the previous stage of the ResCom 1 project, leveraging lessons learned and experiences gained to foster cooperative development across agricultural, social, and energy sectors.

The establishment of cooperatives holds immense potential for catalysing collaborative efforts, pooling resources, and amplifying the impact of climate smart solutions. Through this activity, we aim to identify and facilitate the development of three cooperatives—one each in the agricultural, social, and energy sectors.

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Drawing from the knowledge and networks established in ResCom 1, Activity 3.3.1 embarks on a comprehensive process of identifying suitable candidates for cooperative formation.

It is intended to work with beneficiaries supported in the framework of ResCom 1 and to guide them to joint their efforts and create cooperatives for a better institutionalisation of their activity and for expanding their access to the markets.

We seek to bring together women entrepreneurs, community leaders, and stakeholders who share common goals and visions for climate resilience. The activity strives to create a type of local circuit climate resilient community-based economy.

The cooperative development process entails a series of capacity-building initiatives, including training sessions, workshops, and peer learning opportunities. These efforts are tailored to empower cooperative members with the skills needed to collaboratively design and implement climate smart solutions. By fostering a sense of ownership and shared responsibility, we envision cooperatives becoming hubs of innovation, knowledge-sharing, and collective action.

Furthermore, this activity resonates with Output 3.3, which revolves around facilitating synergies in advancing climate smart solutions among women groups. Activity 3.3.1 goes beyond individual initiatives and seeks to create an ecosystem of cooperation; wherein diverse sectors converge to address complex climate challenges holistically.

As cooperatives take shape and members engage in collaborative endeavours, the impact reverberates across agricultural, social, and energy sectors. Beneficiaries gain access to a supportive network, resource sharing, and market access, all of which contribute to the sustainability and scalability of their climate smart initiatives.

By grounding this activity in the experience and knowledge accumulated during the ResCom 1 project, we bridge past successes with future aspirations. The cooperative model ensures that beneficiaries not only harness the power of collective action but also become agents of transformation within their communities.

Through Activity 3.3.1, we envision a landscape where cooperatives emerge as beacons of change, exemplifying the potential of collaboration and collective resilience. These cooperatives are poised to serve as models of community-driven solutions, demonstrating how diverse sectors can unite to address climate challenges, promote gender equality, and drive sustainable development. It is planned to identify and facilitate the development of cooperatives across the agricultural, social, and energy sectors. Each cooperative will receive financial assistance of \$40,000 USD, with a total of three cooperatives being supported. A facilitation process will be launched in order to map potential of cooperatives creation; besides this, the Project will analyse and the legal framework in this area and depending on the need, policy support shall be provided.

***Activity 3.3.2. Harness the potential of the climate resilient practices (ResCom1) in a synergetic manner and through facilitation of the access to the markets. (3 communities at least)***

Activity 3.3.2 reflects our commitment to unlocking the potential of climate resilient practices developed under ResCom1 and leveraging them for enhanced impact, in alignment with Outcome 3 and Output 3.3. This activity seeks to amplify the reach and viability of these practices by fostering market access opportunities for at least three communities. Building upon the foundations established in ResCom1, Activity 3.3.2 takes a proactive approach to advancing climate smart solutions. The aim is twofold: firstly, to ensure the continuation and growth of climate resilient practices, and secondly, to facilitate avenues for these practices to generate economic benefits by accessing wider markets. The selection of the communities are to be done based on the following criteria: cooperation at community level by key stakeholders (local authorities, private sector, civil society), elements of climate resilient circular economy present, etc

Through a strategic and participatory process, shall be identified at least three communities supported in ResCom 1 with existing climate resilient practices that hold potential for market integration.

The support provided under this activity is intended to:

- Identify 3 localities out of 30 communities supported in the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the project where is potential of synergies between community project and agri-producers project and bring it to the next level
- Conduct assessment and discussions on implementing of a new project that will jointly include all partners/beneficiaries for developing local infrastructure that will facilitate the local economic development and access to the markets
- Financing 3 next-level synergetic projects, 40, 000 USD each for development of green infrastructure with benefits for both – LPAs and agri-producers from the locality.

These practices might range from sustainable agriculture techniques to energy-efficient solutions and innovative social initiatives. By carefully selecting these practices, we aim to showcase the diversity and adaptability of climate resilient solutions across sectors.

Once identified, Activity 3.3.2 embarks on a multifaceted journey. This involves capacity-building sessions for community members to enhance their understanding of market dynamics, value chain linkages, and marketing strategies. We collaborate with local experts and industry partners to ensure that beneficiaries gain the knowledge and skills needed to effectively position their climate resilient products and services in the market.

Moreover, the activity capitalizes on synergies created by cooperative development (Activity 3.3.1) to amplify the impact of market access. Cooperatives provide a platform for collective marketing, enabling communities to present their products and services in a unified manner that resonates with consumers, businesses, and stakeholders.

In line with Output 3.3, Activity 3.3.2 drives the facilitation of synergies among women groups, reinforcing the understanding that collective action not only bolsters resilience but also enhances economic opportunities. As communities harness the potential of their climate resilient practices, they tap into markets that recognize and value sustainable and gender-sensitive solutions.

This activity also aligns with the broader objective of Outcome 3—demonstrating the benefits of climate smart solutions among women groups and in communities. By facilitating market access for these solutions, we contribute to the sustainable economic empowerment of women and their communities, creating a pathway for long-term resilience and prosperity. Through this activity, we illuminate the potential for climate solutions not only to safeguard against environmental threats but also to empower women and communities to thrive in the face of change.

### ***Activity 3.3.3 Support for operationalization of Energy communities as per last amendments of the Law on renewable energy***

As part of ResCom 1, it has been conducted local consultations with local authorities and local business representatives. The insights gathered from the consultations, with a focus on piloting renewable energy solutions at the local level through engagement with municipalities, community members, and local businesses served as recommendations for elaboration of the secondary legislation in energy communities' area in Moldova. Also, a potential mechanism for developing a business case for Moldovan energy communities, where feasible, based on the feedback obtained during the consultations, it expected to be conceptualised.

In light of this, in next phase it is proposed to pilot the first energy communities' models by providing financial and technical assistance. The energy communities represent a much-awaited solution by local and national authorities for cutting down the costs for energy and also for building their energy resilience.

As target group shall be engaged localities already engaged in implementing energy efficient solutions and opened to move to the next level by cooperating with other local stakeholders.

This support entails mapping the potential for cooperation, facilitating the intermunicipal collaboration, where needed in the context of Local Public Administration reform, conducting feasibility and cost-benefits assessments, developing the operational business model, and establishing the mechanism for energy communities. It is planned to explore and prepare for

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establishment of 2 energy cooperatives, with a total budget of 250,000 USD per project. Given the high interest of the Government of Moldova in piloting the first energy communities as soon as possible, this activity will be implemented in close collaboration with another UNDP-implemented project, with funding from Denmark, “Greening the future, advancing rights and stability: Spurring an inclusive and green transition with responsive governance in the Eastern Neighbourhood region”. Further on, following the piloting phase, which will create an enabling environment for the energy communities in Moldova, the funding provided by the EU for the ongoing Project “Enabling an inclusive green transition in Moldova” will be explored for scaling up and institutionalizing a potential Energy Communities Support Programme within the relevant national institution, potentially the National Center for Sustainable Energy under the Ministry of Energy. Operationalization of the energy communities in Moldova is taking place under the leadership of the Ministry of Energy and a dedicated Working Group has been established to ensure synergies and avoid potential overlaps. The USAID MESA Project and DENA are part of the respective Working Group.

### ***Output 3.4 Technical and financial assistance in implementation of the gender-inclusive local climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction plans***

*Activity 3.4.1 Prioritisation and financing of the gender-inclusive local climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction actions in 12 localities, beneficiaries of ResCom 1.*

As part of ResCom, phase I, it was provided dedicated support for elaboration of gender-inclusive local climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction plans. As result, twelve (12) localities succeeded to integrate gender dimensions in environment and climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction Local Plans. (Filipeni (Leova), Nișcani (Călărași), Tuzara (Călărași), Borogani (Leova), Tigheci (Leova)

Dezghingea (UTAG), Cișmichioi (UTAG), Sîrma (Leova), Pârjolteni (Călărași), Bravicea (Călărași), Bașcalia (Basarabasca), Ciorești (Nisporeni).

The plans have been participatory developed, with women playing a vital role in their formulation, in acknowledgment of the fact that involving women in climate decision-making processes create more holistic and effective strategies.

As a follow up of this effort it is proposed to work closely with these authorities for updating the plans in the current context and identify most urgent actions to be put in place in the context of the climate and energy crisis.

As result of project proposals collection, 12 projects should be financed with a grant amount to 30 000 USD per locality. The project shall correspond to the gender sensitive local climate plan and shall be gender sensitive and should contribute in building to community resilience to extreme weather events and co-financed with at least 10% of the provided grant.

### **Outcome 4: Climate smart solutions disseminated, and societal awareness raised**

Outcome 4 underscores our commitment to broadening the reach and impact of climate smart solutions, in alignment with our overarching goal of enhancing resilience and gender equality. Through three strategic outputs—4.1, 4.2, and 4.3—this outcome embodies our drive to foster widespread understanding, collaboration, and visibility, contributing to a more climate-resilient and gender-responsive society.

Output 4.1: Information Campaigns on Climate & Gender Nexus. Output 4.1 embodies our strategy to harness the power of information campaigns as a catalyst for societal transformation. By conducting targeted campaigns on the climate and gender nexus, we strive to raise awareness, stimulate conversations, and inspire action at various levels. These campaigns serve as platforms to showcase the success stories of women-led initiatives, underscoring their pivotal role in climate resilience and sustainable development. Through multimedia channels, public events, and community engagement, we amplify the voices of women and their communities, shedding light on

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their innovative approaches and contributions. Concurrently, we document the valuable lessons learned and best practices derived from these initiatives. By illuminating the intersection of climate change and gender, Output 4.1 fosters an environment where knowledge-sharing and awareness-raising become driving forces for change.

Output 4.2: Climate Change Knowledge Management Portal. In a world awash with information, Output 4.2 stands as a beacon of reliable and accessible knowledge. The establishment of a climate change knowledge management portal serves as a repository for critical data, insights, and resources, all meticulously gathered and systematized. This portal, developed in cooperation with the NAP2 Project where this project comes with data and tools generated during implementation, ensures that up-to-date and relevant information on climate change, gender considerations, and resilient practices is at the fingertips of decision-makers, practitioners, researchers, and the public. By fostering collaboration, Output 4.2 advances our goal of informed decision-making, robust policy formulation, and effective implementation of climate and gender-responsive initiatives. Through this portal, we bridge the gap between knowledge and action, enabling stakeholders to navigate the complex landscape of climate resilience with precision and insight.

Output 4.3: Project Visibility Ensured. The significance of our efforts lies not only in the actions themselves but in the recognition and engagement they inspire. Output 4.3 focuses on ensuring the visibility and impact of our project on multiple fronts. By actively collaborating with environmental NGOs, media outlets, and the expert community, we expand the sphere of influence for our initiatives. We leverage these partnerships to highlight the achievements, innovations, and milestones reached through our project's interventions. Through strategic communication, dissemination of success stories, and engagement with key stakeholders, we cultivate a narrative that resonates with audiences at local, national, and global levels. The objective is clear: to elevate the visibility of gender-sensitive climate smart solutions, catalysing interest, support, and replication. Output 4.3 serves as a commitment to transparency, collaboration, and the overarching principle that societal awareness is a potent catalyst for sustainable change.

In conclusion, Outcome 4, reinforced by Outputs 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3, epitomizes our holistic approach to climate resilience and gender equality. Through strategic information campaigns, a knowledge management portal, and project visibility efforts, we amplify the impact of our interventions. As we drive forward, we recognize that true transformation requires not only tangible solutions but also a shared understanding and collective action. Outcome 4 embodies this ethos—raising awareness, fostering collaboration, and disseminating knowledge to build a resilient future where the intersection of climate and gender is at the heart of our journey toward sustainability.

#### **Output 4.1 Information campaigns on climate&gender nexus carried out, good practices and lessons learned documented**

##### ***Activity 4.1.1. Develop and publish promotional materials, video spots, etc to advance climate&gender nexus***

Activity 4.1.1 is a pivotal step in our endeavour to promote the vital connection between climate and gender. Through the development and publication of engaging and informative promotional materials, including video spots, infographics, and multimedia content, we are poised to amplify the awareness and understanding of the climate and gender nexus.

This activity reflects our commitment to harnessing the power of visual and easily accessible mediums to convey complex concepts and insights. The objective is to bridge the gap between specialized knowledge and broader audiences, fostering a more inclusive and informed public discourse on the intricate interplay of climate change and gender dynamics.

By creating visually appealing materials that highlight success stories, demonstrate the impact of women-led initiatives, and underscore the critical role of gender-responsive strategies, Activity 4.1.1 taps into the potential of storytelling to evoke empathy, inspire action, and drive change. These materials will not only showcase the achievements of our project but also shed light on the broader significance of climate smart solutions in enhancing resilience and equality.

Through partnerships with media outlets, social media platforms, and community networks, we will strategically disseminate these promotional materials, ensuring broad exposure and

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engagement. By leveraging the appeal of visual content and narratives, we aim to spark conversations, engage diverse audiences, and encourage collective action for a more climate-resilient and gender-equal world.

In synergy with Output 4.1, which encompasses a broader information campaign on the climate and gender nexus, Activity 4.1.1 serves as a tangible embodiment of our commitment to raising awareness and fostering societal change. Through compelling visuals and narratives, we aim to leave an indelible mark on public consciousness, making the climate and gender nexus a central part of the discourse around sustainability and resilience.

#### ***Activity 4.1.2. Summer camps carried out to prepare the next generation of leaders to act on climate change actions***

Activity 4.1.2 represents a forward-looking approach to nurturing the future stewards of climate action – the next generation of leaders targeting both – boys and girls. By organizing and conducting summer camps, we are actively investing in empowering young people with the knowledge, skills, and passion to drive climate change actions in their communities and beyond.

This activity embodies our commitment to capacity-building from an early stage, recognizing that the seeds of leadership and resilience must be sown in the fertile ground of young minds. The summer camps provide a dynamic platform for experiential learning, collaboration, and empowerment. Through a carefully designed curriculum, these camps will engage participants in hands-on activities, workshops, discussions, and interactive sessions that expose them to the intricacies of climate change challenges and the gender dimensions within.

The summer camps are more than just educational events – they are transformative experiences that foster a sense of agency and urgency among young women. Participants will be inspired to explore innovative solutions, challenge established norms, and collaborate across boundaries. These camps will serve as incubators for bold ideas, fostering a sense of camaraderie and solidarity among future leaders who share a common vision of a more sustainable and equitable world.

By targeting young women, Activity 4.1.2 also ensures the longevity of our project's impact. As these empowered participants transition from camp attendees to community leaders, they will carry forward the knowledge and values instilled during the camps, catalysing climate action in their spheres of influence.

In harmony with Output 4.1, which emphasizes information campaigns and the documentation of good practices, Activity 4.1.2 focuses on the human aspect – the cultivation of a generation of women who are not only informed but also inspired and equipped to lead change. By creating a supportive and dynamic environment where young women can explore, learn, and collaborate, we are sowing the seeds of lasting transformation and ensuring that the climate and gender nexus remains a priority for generations to come.

#### ***Activity 4.1.3. Collect the lessons learned for stakeholders communication and future relevant projects***

Activity 4.1.3 marks a strategic effort to capture and distil the valuable insights gained throughout the project's journey. By systematically collecting lessons learned, we aim to enhance stakeholder communication, promote accountability, and lay the groundwork for future projects in the realm of climate change and gender empowerment.

Lessons learned are the building blocks of improvement and innovation. Through careful reflection and analysis, we can uncover the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges that have shaped our project's trajectory. By documenting these insights, we empower ourselves to make informed decisions, adjust strategies, and amplify successes while addressing shortcomings.

This activity is closely aligned with Output 4.1, which emphasizes information campaigns and the documentation of good practices. Activity 4.1.3 complements this output by focusing on the internal learning process. It involves systematic data collection, structured analysis, and clear documentation of key takeaways from various project components. These insights will be synthesized into accessible formats, fostering transparent communication with stakeholders.

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The benefits of lessons learned collection are manifold. First, it facilitates open dialogue with our project partners, beneficiaries, and collaborators, fostering a culture of continuous improvement. Second, it supports accountability by providing evidence-based insights into our achievements, challenges, and strategies for overcoming obstacles. Third, it serves as a knowledge base that can inform the design and implementation of future projects, ensuring a legacy of informed decision-making and building on past successes.

By nurturing a culture of reflection and learning, Activity 4.1.3 contributes to the larger goal of enhancing societal awareness and disseminating climate-smart solutions. It embodies our commitment to transparency, collaboration, and adaptability, fostering an environment where the lessons we learn today drive the positive change we seek tomorrow.

#### ***Output 4.2 Data and information for the climate change knowledge management portal gathered, systematised and published***

##### ***Activity 4.2.1. Develop the climate&gender module on the climate change knowledge management portal***

Activity 4.2.1 underscores our commitment to enhancing knowledge sharing and promoting a comprehensive understanding of the climate and gender nexus. This activity aligns with Output 4.2, which focuses on gathering, systematizing, and publishing data and information related to climate change. In this context, we are dedicated to the creation of a specialized Climate & Gender Module within the larger Climate Change Knowledge Management Portal.

The Climate Change Knowledge Management Portal serves as a central hub for accessing information, resources, and insights related to climate change adaptation and mitigation. By developing the Climate & Gender Module, we enrich this portal with a dedicated space that highlights the critical intersection between climate action and gender equality. This module will act as a reservoir of knowledge, offering a wide range of resources, research findings, case studies, best practices, and policy guidelines.

This activity serves a dual purpose. Firstly, it empowers stakeholders, from policymakers to practitioners and beyond, with a specialized repository of information that illuminates the unique challenges, opportunities, and contributions of gender-sensitive climate action. Secondly, it contributes to Output 4.2 by systematically organizing and disseminating data and information. The Climate & Gender Module will ensure that relevant stakeholders can easily access and navigate resources that foster a holistic understanding of the climate and gender nexus.

The module's development will be marked by rigorous research, collaboration with experts, and engagement with practitioners. It will curate and present knowledge in accessible formats, ensuring that the content caters to various audiences. Whether policymakers seeking evidence-based solutions, activists advocating for gender-responsive policies, or academics conducting research, the Climate & Gender Module will cater to diverse needs.

By establishing a dedicated space within the portal, Activity 4.2.1 creates a lasting legacy of informed decision-making, fostering the integration of gender-sensitive approaches into climate policies and actions. As we develop this module, we elevate the visibility and importance of the climate and gender nexus, fostering a more equitable and resilient future for all.

##### ***Activity 4.2.2. Prepare the data and information to be incorporated into the climate change knowledge management portal***

Activity 4.2.2 reflects our dedication to curating, organizing, and delivering comprehensive data and information to empower stakeholders with valuable insights into the climate and gender nexus. This activity directly aligns with Output 4.2, which focuses on gathering, systematizing, and publishing data and information related to climate change. In the context of this activity, we are committed to the meticulous preparation of content that will enrich the Climate Change Knowledge Management Portal.

The Climate Change Knowledge Management Portal serves as a hub for accessing a wealth of knowledge, resources, and expertise pertaining to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

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Activity 4.2.2 is designed to ensure that the data and information incorporated into the portal are accurate, up-to-date, and relevant to the intersection of climate action and gender equality.

Through this activity, we engage in a systematic process of collecting and collating data from various sources. This includes research studies, reports, case studies, success stories, policy documents, and more. The collected data are then reviewed, analysed, and organized to ensure they contribute to a coherent narrative that underscores the significance of gender-sensitive approaches to climate change. This content preparation process is marked by rigorous fact-checking, quality assurance, and a commitment to presenting information in accessible formats.

The data and information prepared through Activity 4.2.2 will enrich the Climate & Gender Module within the larger portal, aligning with our goal to foster a deeper understanding of the climate and gender nexus. This information will cater to diverse stakeholders, including policymakers, researchers, practitioners, activists, and educators. By ensuring the availability of reliable and well-organized content, we enable informed decision-making, policy formulation, and action planning.

As we prepare the data and information, we are acutely aware of the importance of accuracy and relevance. Our commitment to transparency and credibility guides this process, as we strive to provide stakeholders with resources that align with the best available knowledge. Through Activity 4.2.2, we contribute to building a repository of insights that will contribute to advancing gender-responsive climate policies and actions, fostering sustainable development, and promoting a more equitable future.

### **Output 4.3. Project visibility ensured**

#### ***Output 4.3.1. Implement the Communication Strategy of the project***

Activity 4.3.1 underscores our proactive approach to engaging stakeholders and disseminating knowledge, aligning with Output 4.2, which centers on the collection and dissemination of data and information through the Climate Change Knowledge Management Portal. As we work toward enhancing societal awareness and understanding of the climate and gender nexus, Activity 4.3.1 focuses on the implementation of the Communication Strategy developed for the project.

Our Communication Strategy serves as a dynamic framework that guides our efforts to effectively share project outcomes, insights, and messages with a wide range of stakeholders. Through this activity, we harness diverse communication channels, tools, and techniques to amplify our project's impact and foster a broader understanding of the critical intersection between climate change and gender.

Activity 4.3.1 involves the strategic dissemination of project achievements, lessons learned, and good practices through various communication channels. This includes traditional media outlets, such as newspapers, television, and radio, as well as digital platforms, including social media, websites, and online forums. By leveraging a mix of communication approaches, we ensure that our messages reach different segments of society, from policymakers and experts to local communities and youth.

The implementation of the Communication Strategy is marked by a commitment to clarity, accessibility, and relevance. We tailor our messages to resonate with diverse audiences, addressing their unique needs, interests, and concerns. The strategy outlines key milestones, events, and activities that warrant communication, ensuring that stakeholders are informed in real-time about project developments.

Additionally, Activity 4.3.1 extends our efforts beyond mere dissemination. It fosters engagement, interaction, and dialogue among stakeholders, encouraging them to actively participate in discussions and debates surrounding climate change and gender issues. Through webinars, workshops, seminars, and other interactive events, we create spaces for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and co-learning, further enriching the public discourse on the topic.

As we implement the Communication Strategy, we remain responsive to feedback and adapt our communication approaches to best serve our target audiences. This iterative process ensures that our messages are impactful, resonating with stakeholders and driving positive change. Through Activity 4.3.1, we contribute to the project's overarching goal of disseminating climate-smart



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solutions, raising societal awareness, and fostering a collective commitment to gender-responsive climate action.

### ***Resources Required to Achieve the Expected Results:***

The successful implementation of the Project, with its extensive scope and Action Plan, necessitates a robust management structure that can efficiently handle operational tasks. Additionally, effective collaboration with national and local stakeholders demands dedicated attention from Project staff. To ensure the attainment of our objectives, we will supplement the Project team's expertise with additional international, national and local experts, as well as specific contractual services. The proposed Project team structure has been designed to encompass all intervention areas across the four Outcomes.

To support the various Project activities, funding will be required for office rent and utility costs, equipment, software, maintenance, communication, and internet services. The Project will operate on an activity-based budget, with a big part of the budget allocated as non-cash support to local stakeholders, including local public authorities, women entrepreneurs, and women engaged in economic activities at the household level. This support aims to facilitate the implementation of energy and climate adaptation solutions, part of the participatory elaborated SECAPs.

In pursuit of cost-effectiveness, UNDP will collaborate with and build upon existing initiatives focused on adaptation measures and support to agricultural producers, whenever feasible.

### **Digital Solutions;**

The project recognizes the transformative potential of digital technologies to enhance engagement, knowledge dissemination, and coordination among beneficiaries and partners. Our approach to embedding digital solutions is strategic and aims to leverage technology to address the identified development challenges effectively. Here's how the project will utilize digital technologies to improve the experiences of target beneficiaries and partners while addressing the gender-responsive climate action challenge:

- **Digital Knowledge Dissemination:** The project will contribute to development of the Climate Change Knowledge Management Portal (Output 4.2) as a one-stop shop hub for sharing information, resources, and tools related to gender-sensitive climate action. This digital platform will enable beneficiaries, partners, and stakeholders to access up-to-date climate and gender information, best practices, case studies, and guidance materials. It will enhance learning and capacity-building, ensuring that valuable knowledge reaches a wider audience in a convenient and timely manner.
- **Online Training and Capacity-Building:** Activity 2.1.1 involves developing a nationally adapted gender and climate training program, including an online option. This initiative leverages digital technology to offer training to a wider audience, reaching individuals across diverse geographic areas. Online training modules can be accessed at the participants' convenience, enhancing flexibility and accessibility for busy professionals, policy specialists, civil servants, and entrepreneurs.
- **Community of Practice and Networking:** Activity 2.2.1 establishes a Community of Practice on climate and gender issues. This digital platform enables remote collaboration, information exchange, and networking among stakeholders. Through discussion forums, webinars, and virtual meetings, partners can connect, share experiences, and learn from one another's initiatives, amplifying collective efforts and knowledge sharing.
- **Virtual Fellowships and Collaboration:** Activity 2.3.2 introduces Climate Activism via Community Fellowships, facilitated through digital platforms. Virtual engagement allows fellows to collaborate and receive mentorship remotely, leveraging technology to foster connections and empower women leaders in climate action across various regions.

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- Online Application Support: Activity 3.1.1 involves conducting an outreach program to support the preparation of applications for climate-smart financing. The project can use digital tools, such as webinars and online guides, to assist potential beneficiaries in understanding the application process and preparing strong applications for climate financing.
  - Digital Visibility and Promotion: Activity 4.1.1 focuses on developing and publishing promotional materials, including video spots. These materials can be disseminated through various digital channels, such as social media, websites, and online platforms. Digital promotion amplifies the reach and impact of awareness campaigns, effectively engaging a broader audience.
  - Data Collection and Analysis: Activity 4.2.2 involves preparing data and information for incorporation into the climate change knowledge management portal. Digital tools can streamline data collection, organization, and analysis, enhancing the efficiency of reporting and knowledge dissemination.
  - Online Engagement Surveys: The project can utilize digital surveys to assess beneficiary satisfaction, measure the effectiveness of capacity-building initiatives, and gather feedback on the project's impact. Online surveys provide an efficient way to collect and analyze data, aiding in evidence-based decision-making.

Overall, by strategically incorporating digital technologies into various project activities, we aim to enhance access, engagement, learning, collaboration, and information dissemination. These digital solutions align with the project's objectives of empowering women, strengthening communities, and advancing gender-responsive climate actions while embracing the opportunities provided by the digital era.

### **Knowledge:**

The project's commitment to knowledge generation and sharing is a central pillar of our approach. Beyond evaluations, the project will produce a range of valuable knowledge products aimed at disseminating insights, good practices, and lessons learned. These knowledge products are designed to contribute to a broader understanding of the climate and gender nexus, fostering informed decision-making and empowering stakeholders across sectors. The project envisions several specific knowledge products:

- Publications: The project will compile its findings, case studies, and best practices into various publications, such as research reports, policy briefs, and academic papers. These publications will provide in-depth insights into the project's activities, outcomes, and their implications for gender-responsive climate action.
- Climate Change Knowledge Management Portal: Output 4.2 centers on developing and populating a Climate Change Knowledge Management Portal. This online platform will serve as a repository of data, information, and resources related to the climate and gender nexus. It will host a variety of knowledge products, including reports, articles, infographics, videos, and interactive tools, making them easily accessible to a wide range of stakeholders.
- Media Products: The project will leverage media products, including videos, podcasts, and infographics, to present complex concepts and findings in engaging formats. These products will help translate technical knowledge into easily digestible content that resonates with various audiences, promoting wider awareness and understanding.
- Curriculum and Training Materials: The project will develop training materials and curriculum on gender-sensitive climate action, including modules for educational institutions, training programs, and capacity-building initiatives. These resources will empower individuals and organizations to integrate gender-responsive approaches into their climate initiatives.
- Best Practices Compilation: As part of Activity 4.1.1, lessons learned, and best practices will be collected from project interventions and stakeholders. These insights will be synthesized into a compilation, highlighting successful strategies and approaches that can guide future climate and gender initiatives.

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To ensure visibility and accessibility of generated knowledge and lessons learned, the project will implement a comprehensive visibility strategy:

- **Online Platforms:** The Climate Change Knowledge Management Portal will be a central hub for knowledge dissemination. It will feature user-friendly navigation, search functionalities, and interactive elements to engage visitors.
- **Social Media and Digital Campaigns:** The project will employ social media platforms to share knowledge products, updates, and insights. Regular posts, infographics, and videos will be used to engage audiences and drive discussions.
- **Workshops and Webinars:** The project will organize workshops, webinars, and seminars to present and discuss knowledge products. These events will facilitate direct engagement with stakeholders, fostering dialogue and deeper understanding.
- **Partnerships and Collaboration:** The project will collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including governmental agencies, NGOs, academia, and media outlets. By engaging in partnerships, the project will tap into existing networks to amplify the visibility of its knowledge products.
- **Traditional Media:** The project will leverage traditional media channels, such as press releases and interviews, to reach broader audiences and communicate key messages to a wider public.

By employing these strategies, the project aims to ensure that the knowledge products and lessons learned are disseminated widely, benefiting a diverse range of stakeholders and contributing to informed decision-making and action in the realm of climate and gender.

**Sustainability and Scaling Up:** Describe how the project will use relevant national systems and specify the transition arrangement to sustain and/or scale-up results, as relevant. Describe how national capacities will be strengthened and monitored as relevant, and how national ownership will be ensured.

Sustainability and scaling up are integral considerations for the project, reflecting our commitment to ensuring long-term impact and the continuation of positive outcomes beyond the project's duration. The project's approach is rooted in leveraging relevant national systems, building capacities, and fostering a sense of ownership among national stakeholders. Our strategy for sustainability and scaling up is as follows:

- **Integration into National Policies and Plans:** The project aligns with existing national policies and strategies related to climate change, gender equality, and sustainable development. By embedding our interventions within the existing policy framework, we ensure continuity and alignment with national priorities beyond the project's timeline.
- **Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening:** Through various activities, such as capacity-building workshops and training programs (as outlined in Outputs 2.2 and 2.3), the project aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of national and local stakeholders. By building their capacities to understand and implement gender-responsive climate action, we contribute to the development of a knowledgeable and empowered workforce.
- **Institutionalization of Processes:** The project's approach involves engaging with national and local authorities, academia, civil society, and the private sector. This engagement fosters collaboration and helps integrate gender-sensitive climate actions into the regular practices and processes of these institutions.
- **Climate Change Knowledge Management Portal:** The creation of the Climate Change Knowledge Management Portal (Output 4.2) serves as a digital platform for knowledge sharing and capacity-building. As a sustainable resource, the portal will continue to disseminate information, support learning, and facilitate ongoing dialogue after the project concludes.
- **Partnerships and Networks:** Collaborating with governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, and media outlets establishes a network of stakeholders invested in gender-responsive climate action. These partnerships lay the foundation for continued cooperation, knowledge exchange, and collective efforts beyond the project's lifetime.

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- **Transition Arrangement and Handover:** The project will work closely with relevant national authorities to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities and ownership of key project components. This includes handing over the operation and maintenance of initiatives such as the Climate Change Knowledge Management Portal and any established cooperative structures to appropriate national entities.
  - **Monitoring and Evaluation:** A robust monitoring and evaluation system will track progress, outcomes, and impacts of the project's interventions. This information will not only guide project implementation but also contribute to learning and adaptive management. Sharing evaluation findings with national stakeholders fosters accountability and encourages ongoing improvements in project strategies and outcomes.
  - **Documentation and Learning:** The project will compile lessons learned, best practices, and challenges encountered throughout its implementation. This documentation will be shared widely with national stakeholders, enabling them to draw insights from the project's experiences and apply them to their own initiatives.

In summary, the project's approach to sustainability and scaling up involves aligning with national policies, building capacities, institutionalizing practices, fostering partnerships, and creating sustainable knowledge-sharing platforms. By working closely with national entities, the project ensures that its outcomes are integrated into existing systems and practices, contributing to lasting impacts and a resilient foundation for gender-responsive climate action.

**PROJECT DOCUMENT**  
Republic of Moldova

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#### **IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

The strategy of the project has been designed to achieve maximum results with available resources through a combination of approaches that leverage good practices and lessons learned from similar contexts. The selected pathway is the most efficient and effective option due to its focus on holistic engagement, participatory processes, and synergistic partnerships. Here's how the project aims to deliver cost efficiency and effectiveness:

i) Using the Theory of Change Analysis:

The theory of change analysis has been integral in shaping the project's approach to achieving maximum results. By identifying key causal pathways and understanding the interplay between inputs, outputs, and outcomes, the project optimizes resource allocation. For instance, outcomes such as enhanced capacities of national and local authorities (Outcome 1) and expanded national and local women leadership (Outcome 2) rely on outputs that concurrently strengthen policy frameworks, foster multi-stakeholder engagement, and provide targeted capacity-building. This integrated approach ensures that investments generate multi-dimensional impacts and outcomes that are interconnected, leading to synergistic effects and avoiding duplication of efforts.

ii) Portfolio Management Approach:

The project embraces a portfolio management approach to enhance cost efficiency and learning. Activities such as Capacity Building (Outcome 2) and Climate Smart Solutions Dissemination (Outcome 4) have cross-cutting benefits and can be leveraged across multiple outcomes. For example, digital tools developed under Outcome 4 can also enhance capacity-building efforts under Outcome 2. By identifying and capitalizing on these interlinkages, the project maximizes resources and creates a multiplier effect. Partnerships with other initiatives and projects amplify efficiency, with potential to share resources, expertise, and lessons learned.

iii) Joint Operations and Collaborations:

The project recognizes the value of joint operations and collaborations with other partners to optimize resources and enhance effectiveness. By aligning monitoring and evaluation processes with relevant stakeholders and partners, the project avoids duplication of efforts and promotes shared learning. Collaborative procurement and knowledge sharing enable the project to tap into existing networks and capacities, leading to efficient resource utilization and quicker implementation. This collaborative approach enhances the overall impact while reducing costs and redundancies.

The project's pathway was selected as the most efficient and effective option due to its synergistic approach that combines different strategies to deliver maximum results with available resources. By integrating activities across outcomes, embracing partnerships, and leveraging digital solutions, the project's approach ensures that each action has a ripple effect, contributing to multiple objectives simultaneously. Lessons learned from similar initiatives in Moldova and other contexts have reinforced the importance of an integrated, collaborative, and innovative approach that optimizes resources and generates sustainable impacts.

#### **Project Management**

UNDP Moldova will be responsible for the Project administration including organizing implementation of its activities, procurement of goods and services, recruitment of project personnel and national and international consultants, connecting to national and international expertise and knowledge networks etc., in order to ensure the timely and expedient implementation of Project's activities, including the provision of continuous feedback and information sharing among stakeholders.

The management of the Project will be performed by a dedicated Project Manager who will be assisted by the Project implementation team. The Project Manager will be responsible for the management and coordination of all Project Activities and will be charged to the Project budget. The

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Project team will comprise of full-time dedicated staff and part-time specialized staff to technically contribute to various components and activities.

**Project Manager** - responsible to plan, oversee and ensure that the Project is producing the expected results at the right time, to the right standards of quality and within the allotted budget and to maintain close coordination with project partners, ensure synergies, avoid overlaps in project implementation, collaborate with other donors working in the same area, provide information relevant to the project. The Project Manager will be charged 100% to the Project Budget.

**Project Analyst/officer (Capacity building and outreach)**- responsible for implementation of the Activities under the Outcome 1 and Outcome 2 and maintain close coordination with project partners, ensure synergies, avoid overlaps in project implementation, provide information relevant to the project, support with M&E. The Project Officer will be charged 100% to the Project budget.

**Project Analyst/Officer (Environment)**– responsible for implementation of the Activities under the Outcome 2 and Outcome 3 and maintain close coordination with project partners, ensure synergies, avoid overlaps in project implementation, provide information relevant to the project. The Project Officer will be charged 100% to the Project budget.

**Project Analyst/Officer (Energy)**– responsible for implementation of the Activities under the Outcome 1 and Outcome 3 and maintain close coordination with project partners, ensure synergies, avoid overlaps in project implementation, provide information relevant to the project. The Project Officer will be charged 100% to the Project budget.

**Project Specialist (Local Public Administration Reform)** - responsible for providing strategic advice and policy support for the implementation of the activities under Outcome 1, aimed at strengthening the capacities of local authorities to develop, monitor, and adapt policies and local strategic plans. The Project Specialist will be charged 50% of the Project budget.

**Two Project Associates** -responsible for performing financial, administrative and procurement duties related to the implementation of the Project activities. The Project Associates will be charged 50% to the Project budget (Norway) and 50% to the Project Budget (Sweden)

**1 Project Assistant** -responsible for performing administrative and logistics duties related to the implementation of the Action activities. The Assistant will be charged 100% to the Project budget.

**Communication Analyst**, responsible for ensuring the fulfilment of the communication and visibility activities related to the Action and for preparation, implementation and oversight of the communication and visibility activities of the Action and assuring that all activities including the outreach and awareness-raising activities adhere to and are fully aligned with the visibility needs and interests of Sweden. The Communication officer will be charged 100% to the Project budget.

**Driver Clerk**, responsible for assisting in the effective and efficient management of the project through a range of actions, including driving and administrative support management. The driver clerk will be charged 100% to the project budget.

Project Assurance is a key element of the PRINCE2 project management method, upon which the Project Management Arrangements are based. 'Assurance' is essentially an independent audit function, whereby the Project Board can monitor progress against agreed work plans.

Specific 'Assurance' tasks are to:

- Ensure that risks and issues are properly managed and monitored, and that the logs are regularly updated;
- Ensure that Project Progress/Financial Reports are prepared and submitted on time, and according to standards in terms of format and content quality and submitted to the Project Board.

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Quality assurance is required for all UNDP Project and projects, regardless of their budget, size, location, duration, characteristics, context and circumstances. The UNDP Internal Control Framework (ICF) covers key control factors such as planning, monitoring, communication, policies, procedures, segregation of duties, individual authorities and accountabilities that combined, inter alia:

- Safeguard assets from inappropriate use and loss from fraud and errors,
- Help ensure the quality of internal and external reporting, through the maintenance of proper records and information flow; and,
- Facilitate compliance with applicable laws, regulations and policies.

Segregation of duties and control ensure that risks are mitigated and managed and provides clear accountability and appropriate management arrangements.

Services provided by the UNDP Moldova Country Office (CO) staff for the implementation of the Project include specific tasks related to activities under this Project that require higher level of quality assurance, monitoring and control in processing for finance, procurement, human resources, administration, travel, assets management etc.

In addition to the above-mentioned Project team, the following staff from the UNDP CO is envisaged to provide its support, to ensure the quality assurance and enable implementation of the Project's activities:

- **Programme Analyst** (Environment, Climate and Energy Cluster) is responsible for technical quality assurance of the project implementation and will be charged through direct project costs for the time spent directly attributable to the implementation of the Action, not exceeding 20% of the working time.
- **Programme Associate** ensures Action support and quality assurance for reporting and monitoring and will be charged through direct project costs for the time spent directly attributable to the implementation of the Action, not exceeding 15% of the working time.
- **NPSA 9 Gender Analyst** provides support and quality assurance to Project team on mainstreaming gender across all areas of work on a shared basis with other UNDP projects.

Expertise of Short-term consultants will be sought to advice and support the implementation, as required, included but not limited to communication expert, IT specialist, etc and other short term technical consultants required for the overall implementation of the project activities.

Additionally, national and international consultants/companies will be subcontracted to support smooth implementation and coordination of the project activities, such as Climate and gender mainstreamed into relevant local and national policy frameworks, Participatory elaboration of community gender-sensitive SECAPs, implementation of Climate smart activities for women with economic activity, women entrepreneurs and in communities, development of a nationally-adapted gender & climate training programme and information campaigns on climate&gender nexus.

During the implementation, synergies and linkages with other ongoing projects, in particular in the areas of climate change and women empowerment implemented by UNDP will be maintained and strengthened.

The Project management team will ensure results-based project management and successful implementation of the Action within the 48 months Project period, close monitoring and evaluation of progress, observance of procedures, transparency and efficient use of funds, quality of works, and involvement of local and regional stakeholders and beneficiary communities in the decision-making processes.

Other Project office costs that will be incurred as part of the Direct Management and Implementation of the Project and that can be traced and attributed directly to the management of the Project's activities, are foreseen as follows:

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- Subsistence costs for missions/travel for staff and other persons directly assigned to the operations of the Project office.
  - Travel costs for staff and other persons (international and local) directly assigned to the operations of the Project office. The local transportation costs for Project staff and experts to/from regions (rent of car/or bus/taxi);
  - UNDP costs for maintenance of vehicle, procurement of computers and IT equipment (notebook, monitor, ups, equipment for presentations (TV/projector) and other office equipment, accessories and software), IT spare parts and supplies, other equipment (Mobile phones for staff/experts/consultants, Kitchen appliances etc., composing the UNDP Project office.
  - Costs for the UNDP office (in Chisinau) are reflected in Outcome 4. Multi-year Work Plan. including, vehicles maintenance costs, office rent, consumables – office supplies, other services (public cloud computing subscription, Zoom license, DocuSign services, tel/fx, internet, electricity/ maintenance/repairs etc.);

The project audit will be conducted in compliance with the UN internal policy on audit and as per the Third-party Cost-sharing Agreement between the SIDA, Norway and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



## V. RESULTS FRAMEWORK

### Intended Outcome as stated in the UNSDCF/Country [or Regional] Programme Results and Resource Framework:

Outcome 4: By 2027, institutions and all people of Moldova benefit from and contribute to green and resilient development, sustainable use of natural resources and effective gender responsive climate change action and disaster risk management

- A) Greenhouse gas emissions reduced at national level -12.161 MT CO2 eq
- C) Share of land area covered by forest and forest vegetation (%) – 15%

### Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme [or Regional] Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets:

#### OUTCOME 1. Structural transformation accelerated, particularly green, inclusive, and digital transitions

1. International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems  
Baseline: 13,972.7 million/ constant 2018 US dollars (2018); Target: By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology

#### Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan:

- 6.1 Country-led measures implemented to achieve inclusive economies and to advance economic empowerment of women in all their diversity, including in crisis contexts
- c) ensure women's economic security and empowerment in crisis contexts, including through economic recovery plans

#### Project title and Quantum Project Number: Resilient Communities through Women Empowerment-2

Outcomes/outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Target Y1	Target Y2	Target Y3	Target Y4	End of Project Target	Source of verification	Assumption
Outcome 1: Capacities of the national and local authorities to plan strategically, implement plans, deliver services, advance gender transformative climate change actions enhanced	I1a Level of awareness on Gender transformative change interventions in pilot communities as a result of project interventions	TBD based on the finding of the baseline study				70 %	70% of the target beneficiaries are aware on Gender transformative climate change interventions	Questionnaire-based survey carried out by the project as part of the Baseline and Endline study	r1a. LPAs and targeted population recognize the importance of building inclusive resilient communities through green transition and women empowerment

Outcomes/outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Target Y1	Target Y2	Target Y3	Target Y4	End of Project Target	Source verification	Assumption
	I1b No. of LPAs that developed and apply SECAPs with integrated gender aspects	68 <sup>35</sup>	15 <sup>36</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	83, including 20 community LPAs generated SECAPs endorsed in the framework of ResCom projects	PMU Reports on approval of SECAPs	r1b. The LPAs are open for review of the local development plans and acknowledge their role in implementation of SECAPs
	I1c Level of engagement of women/ men/ LPAs representatives in climate resilient practices as result of the needs-based capacity development programme of the project	TBD based on the finding of the baseline study					70% of the target beneficiaries (more than 50% women) are engaged in gender-sensitive climate resilient, green transition practices	Questionnaire-based survey carried out by the project as part of the Baseline and Endline study	r1c. There is high interest from targeted women entrepreneurs and LPAs in the capacity development programme and engagement in gender-climate resilient practices
<b><u>OUTPUTS</u></b>									

<sup>35</sup> The Baseline of 68 SECAPs is referring to the SECAPs elaborated by the Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy in Republic of Moldova.

<sup>36</sup> The set target is 15 new localities supported to elaborate SECAPs from scratch, while other 5 localities would be supported to update their SECAPs

Outcomes/outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Target Y1	Target Y2	Target Y3	Target Y4	End of Project Target	Source of verification	Assumption
Output 1.1: Climate and gender mainstreamed into relevant local and national policy frameworks and strengthened local authorities	12.1 No of LPAs are able to integrate gender dimensions into local climate strategic plans.	12 <sup>37</sup>	12	n/a	n/a	n/a	37, including 25 LPAs enabled in the framework of ResCom projects	Local development plans Websites of the pilot LPAs Minutes from the meetings with LPAs PMU Reports	a2.1. There is high buy-in from the LPAs towards project activities The LPAs acknowledge the importance of the environment and climate change in the local resilient development
Output 1.2: Multi-stakeholder engagement on climate and gender policy processes enabled	12.2 Number of policy recommendations or other central government actions actively promoted in these fora	0		3	3		6	Events records, Decision-makers contributions of Websites of authorities from the Minutes from the meetings with decision-makers PMU Reports	a2.2 International and European obligations towards decision-makers engagements The decision-makers acknowledge the importance of the environment and climate change in the local resilient development

<sup>37</sup> The baseline is established based on the # of localities supported in the framework of ResCom 1.

Outcomes/outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Target Y1	Target Y2	Target Y3	Target Y4	End of Project Target	Source of verification	Assumption
Outcome 2: National and local women leadership in climate actions expanded and advanced	I2a Women leaders public presence/exposure on climate change issues	limited	n/a/	n/a	n/a	at least 10 success stories on women leaders engaged in climate change discussions	10 success stories	Public Agenda women presence; Expert opinion on women role in climate issues;	r2a Media willingness of coverage of climate change issues
<b><u>OUTPUTS</u></b>									
Output 2.1: Education on climate and gender enabled	I2.1 a Number of participants from various groups in capacity building activities, gender segregated	limited	0	100	100	50	at least 250 beneficiaries of the curricula on climate&gender nexus, including 50 % women	List of participants; Built-in statistics of participation (gender-desegregated); PMU reports/records	a2.1a Interest from Moldovan academia institutions to participate
	I2.1 b Capacity/knowledge enabled.	TBD				50 % increased	Capacity and knowledge increase by 50 % after the training program is carried out	Capacity/knowledge measures through pre and post training questionnaires.	A.2.1b Interest from local and national stakeholders in education on climate and gender
	I 2.1. c Number of Business Incubators benefiting of capacity building and institutional support in gender&climate area	0		12			12	Needs assessment report Approval and delivery of dedicated support for Business	a.2.1.c Regional Business Incubators willing to benefit of capacity building and institutional

Outcomes/outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Target Y1	Target Y2	Target Y3	Target Y4	End of Project Target	Source of verification	Assumption
								Incubators in gender&climate area	support in gender&climate area
Output 2.2: Capacity-building on climate&gender nexus for national and local key stakeholders provided	I2.2 Number of members engaged in the Community of practice on climate&gender issues	0	10	10	10	10	at least 40 members of Community practice, including 50 % women	List of participants; Built-in statistics of participation (gender-desegregated); PMU reports/records	a2.2 Women and women's groups interested to participate on climate change issues and acknowledge their roles
Output 2.3: Gender and climate change Leadership Fellowship Program carried-out	I2.3 a. Number of climate change women champions present in public sphere	uncertain		50	50		at least 100 with public statements in regional media	Women leadership actions records in media, public records; expert reviews/opinions; PMU reports/records;	a2.3a Women and men interested to participate on climate change issues and acknowledge their roles
	I 2.3 b Number of climate change activists engaged in community fellowships	uncertain	0	4	4		At least 8 persons engaged in community fellowships	Fellowships reports	a.2.3b Activists interested to participate on climate change issues

Outcomes/outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Target Y1	Target Y2	Target Y3	Target Y4	End of Project Target	Source of verification	Assumption
Outcome 3: Women led climate-smart solutions are identified, supported and replicated among women groups and target communities	I3a Extend to which the project's grant programme for implementing SECAPs actions is advancing (women, women entrepreneurs and LPAs)	0%	50 %	50%	N/a	n/a	100%	Project files; PMU reports/records;	r3a Women entrepreneurs interested to participate on climate change issues; There is high community-level outreach to disseminate information on the grants programme
	I3b Extend to which GHG emissions is reduced as a result of climate smart solutions	data not available	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Achieving a decrease of at least 10% compared to the period prior to the implementation of climate-smart solutions.	Project Grant applications; PMU reports/records;	r3c GHG emissions is reduced as a result of climate smart solutions implemented by women
<b><u>OUTPUTS</u></b>									

Outcomes/outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Target Y1	Target Y2	Target Y3	Target Y4	End of Project Target	Source of verification	Assumption
Output 3.1: Climate smart activities demonstrated in households of women with economic activity, women entrepreneurs and in communities	I.3.1a Number of women benefiting from implemented community grants with project financing	0	0	15000	15000		30000	M&E Reports, Progress Reports, Business Plans, Monitoring reports, Final reports	a.3.1a Women and LPAs are willing to apply and maintain climate and environment-friendly practices
	I.3.1b Number of household women who improved their resilience due to climate change adaptation/mitigation activities	0	0	20	60		80	M&E Reports, Progress Reports, Business Plans, Monitoring reports, Final reports	A.3.1.b Women and LPAs are willing to apply and maintain climate and environment-friendly practices
Output 3.2: Coaching and mentoring provided to women with economic activities in households, women entrepreneurs and in communities to carry out climate smart solutions	I.3.1c Number of women entrepreneurs benefiting from modernised equipment due to climate change adaptation/mitigation activities	0	0	10	15		25	M&E Reports, Progress Reports, Business Plans, Monitoring reports, Final reports	a.3.1c Rural women willing to pilot climate change adaptation/mitigation activities
	I 3.2 No of women supported to implement appropriately the selected climate smart solutions	0	50	50	55	0	105	M&E Reports, Progress Reports, Business Plans, Monitoring reports, Final reports	a.3.2 Women and LPAs are willing to apply and maintain climate and environment-friendly practices

Outcomes/outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Target Y1	Target Y2	Target Y3	Target Y4	End of Project Target	Source of verification	Assumption
Output 3.3. in advancing climate smart solutions among women groups facilitated	3.3 Number of cooperatives supported and operationalised	Data not available	Potential for cooperatives assessed	People demonstrate their willingness to embark on cooperatives	The needs for the cooperatives are available	The mechanism for operationalisation of the cooperatives is available	At least 3 cooperatives in place	M&E Reports, Progress Reports, Business Plans, Monitoring reports, Final reports	a.3.3 Local business and community members are willing to join their efforts for development of their economic activity
Output 3.4 Technical and financial assistance in implementation of the gender-inclusive local climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction plans	3.4 Number of LPAS benefiting of support for gender climate actions implementation	0	6	6			At least 12 project supported	M&E Reports, Progress Reports, Business Plans, Monitoring reports, Final reports	a.3.4 LPAs engaged in implementing and maintaining gender mainstreamed climate practices
Output 4: Women-led climate Smart Solutions Disseminated and Societal Awareness Raised	14a Extend to which the projects results, good practices and products are codified	n/a	20%	30%	50%		100% codified	Communication, outreach and replication strategies evaluations Video spots, mass-media monitoring reports, surveys Good-practices reviews by experts Websites of media, project partners PMU records	r4a Climate change expert community, including decision-makers is open for collaboration in dissemination of good practices;
<b><u>OUTPUTS</u></b>									



Outcomes/outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Target Y1	Target Y2	Target Y3	Target Y4	End of Project Target	Source verification	Assumption
Output 4.1 Information campaigns on climate&gender nexus carried out, good practices and lessons learned documented	14.1 Number of national events besides the ones part of the project where the climate change & gender nexus good practices promoted widely based on lessons learned	n/a	3	3	3	3	the participation in at least 12 events for promotion the climate change & gender nexus good practices	Communication, outreach, and replication strategies evaluations Video spots, mass-interviews, mass-media monitoring reports, surveys Success stories feedback	a4a The environmental NGOs/ forums, media, expert community is open for collaboration;
Output 4.2 Data and information for the climate change knowledge management portal gathered, systematised and published (in cooperation with NAP2 Project)	14.2 Public availability and use of beneficiaries of knowledge portal	n/a	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd	fully available, specialised media/sources of information	Communication, outreach and replication strategies evaluations Video spots, mass-interviews, mass-media monitoring reports, surveys Success stories feedback	a4b The environmental NGOs/ groups, media, expert community is open for collaboration;
Output 4.3. Project visibility ensured	14.3 Number of visibility actions undertaken	n/a	15	15	15	15	60 visibility actions organised	Communication, outreach and replication strategies evaluations Video spots, mass-interviews, mass-media monitoring reports, surveys Success stories feedback	a4c The environmental NGOs/ groups, media, expert community is open for collaboration;

## VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the following monitoring and evaluation plans:

### Monitoring Plan

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action
Track progress	Progress data against the results indicators in the RRF will be collected and analyzed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs.	Quarterly, or in the frequency required for each indicator.	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.
Monitor and Manage Risk	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log. This includes monitoring measures and plans that may have been required as per UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk.	Quarterly	Risks are identified by project management and actions are taken to manage risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken.
Learn	Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.	At least annually	Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions.
Annual Project Quality Assurance	The quality of the project will be assessed against UNDP's quality standards to identify project strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision making to improve the project.	Annually	Areas of strength and weakness will be reviewed by project management and used to inform decisions to improve project performance.
Review and Make Course Corrections	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making.	At least annually	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed by the project board and used to make course corrections.
Project Report	A progress report will be presented to the Project Board and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk log with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.	Annually, and at the end of the project (final report)	
Project Review (Project Board)	The project's governance mechanism (i.e., project board) will hold regular project reviews to assess the performance	The Project Board will meet one time	Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed by

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action
	of the project and review the Multi-Year Work Plan to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the project. In the project's final year, the Project Board shall hold an end-of-project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences.	annually at minimum.	the project board and management actions agreed to address the issues identified.

Evaluation Plan

Evaluation Title	Planned Completion Date	Cost
Final Evaluation	2028	30,000USD

VII. MULTI-YEAR WORK PLAN

Annex A

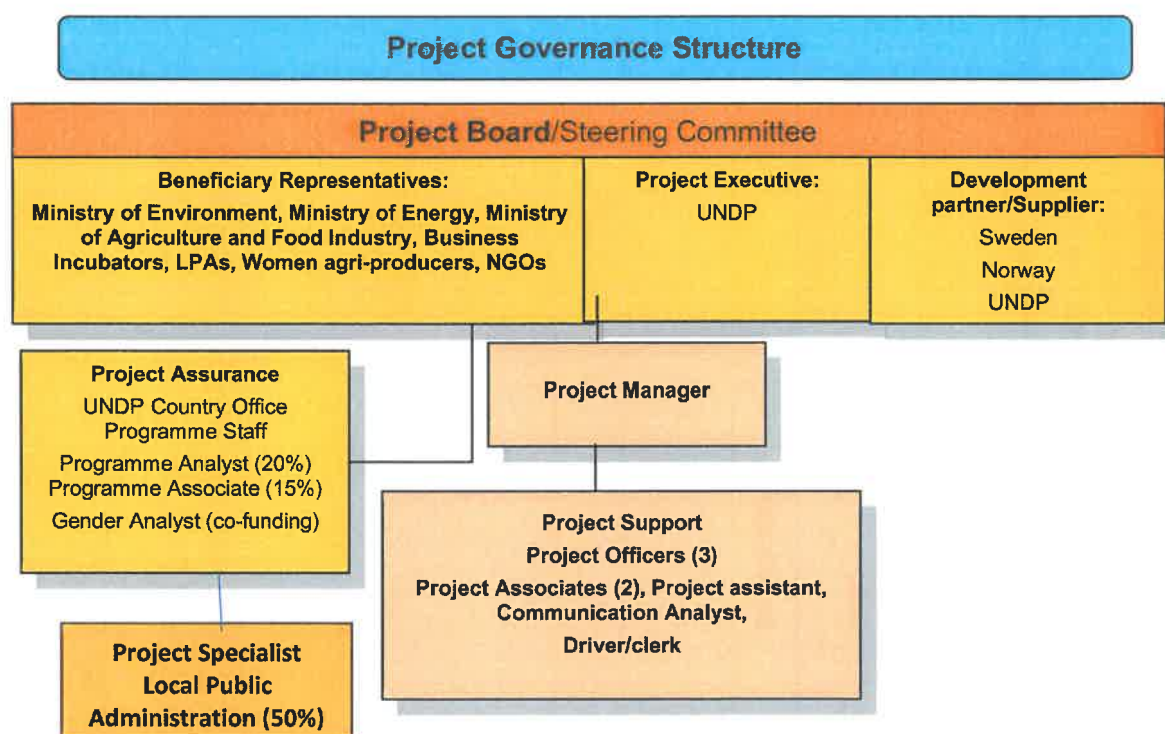
## VIII. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The project will be implemented following UNDP's direct implementation modality, due to the involvement of two or more government/subgovernment entities<sup>38</sup>.

UNDP Country Office in Moldova (UNDP CO) will be the Implementing Partner. As such, it will bear the overall accountability for delivering the programme in accordance with its applicable regulations, rules, policies and procedures, as outlined in [FRM Financial Management and Implementation Modality Direct Implementation Modality 1.docx \(live.com\) here](#).

The Implementing Partner is responsible and accountable for managing this project, including the monitoring and evaluation of project interventions, achieving project outcomes, and for the effective use of UNDP resources. UNDP is responsible for:

- Approving and signing the multiyear workplan;
- Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year



### *Project governance structure*

The **Project Board** will provide overall guidance for the project, while UNDP will ensure adherence to the DIM guidelines and ensure compliance with UNDP policies and procedures. The Project Board is responsible for making decision by consensus. If a consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the final decision shall rest with the UNDP representative on the Project Board. It is required that as per internationally recognized professional standards and principles of sound governance, conflicts of interest affecting board members in performing their duties must be formally disclosed if not avoidable. Where a board member has a specific personal conflict of interest with a

<sup>38</sup> [Select Implementing Partners | United Nations Development Programme \(undp.org\)](#)

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given matter before the board, he/she must recuse oneself from their participation in a decision. No board member can vote or deliberate on a question in which he/she has a direct personal or pecuniary interest not common to other members of the board.

The Project Board will include representation by the Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Ministry of Environment, NGO representatives, UNDP and the donors- Sweden Embassy and Norway (Royal Norwegian Embassy Office and/or Norad). The final composition of the Board will be decided during the Local Project Appraisal Committee.

The Project Board will meet one time annually at minimum.

The Project Board will be responsible for approving annual work plans, assessing progress, discussing lessons learned, and taking decisions on proposals and recommendations presented by any of its members. It shall discuss and decide upon specific Project implementation issues, ensuring optimal transformation of activities into outputs through appropriate monitoring and evaluation actions pertaining to the relevance, performance, and progress towards each outcome, and ensuring continuous and effective communication and coordination between the Project and its beneficiaries. The Project Board will also provide a forum for sharing the key results of the Programme, as well as discussing changes or challenges in the sector and proposing solutions.

**Specific Responsibilities of the Project Board:**

- ◆ Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints, and promote gender equality and social inclusion (LNOB) in the project implementation;
- ◆ Review project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including standard quality assurance checks, progress reports, risk logs, spot checks/audit reports and the combined delivery report;
- ◆ Address any high-level project issues as raised by the project manager and project assurance;
- ◆ Provide guidance on emerging and/or pressing project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks (including ensuring compliance with UNDP’s Social and Environmental Standards, Fraud/corruption, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment);
- ◆ Agree or decide on project manager’s tolerances as required, within the parameters set by UNDP (Manage Change in the PPM) and the donor, and provide direction and decisions for exceptional situations when the project manager’s tolerances are exceeded;
- ◆ Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP and the donor;
- ◆ Agree or decide on a project suspension or cancellation, if required;
  
- ◆ Provide high-level direction and recommendations to the project management unit to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans.
- ◆ Receive and address project level grievance, including overseeing whatever specific compliance and stakeholder response (or grievance) mechanisms have been put in place so that individuals and communities potentially affected by the project have access to effective mechanisms and procedures for raising concerns about the social and environmental performance of the project<sup>2</sup>.
- ◆ Engage in the low value grant selection process where there is no Grant Selection Committee, as guided by the Low Value Grants – UNDP Operational Guide.

The composition of the Project Board will include the following roles:

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**Executive:** The Executive represents ownership of the project and will chair the Project Board. For this project, which is under DIM Modality, the Executive is: *UNDP* represented by the Country Office management (RR/DRR).

**Development partner/Supplier:** The Development partner/Supplier represents the interests of the parties concerned which provide funding, strategic guidance and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development partner representative is UNDP RRs or DRR. Other funding partners can also join - Sweden and Norway.

**Beneficiary Representatives:** The Beneficiary Representatives is an individual or group of individuals representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the Board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often representatives from civil society, industry associations, community groups or other government entities benefiting from the project can fulfil this role. There can be multiple beneficiary representatives in a Project Board. For this project, the Beneficiaries of the project are Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Business Incubators, LPAs, Women agri-producers, NGOs.

**Project Manager:** The Project Manager (PM) is the senior most representative of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and is responsible for the overall management of the project on behalf of the Implementing Partner, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, consultants and sub-contractors. The project manager typically presents key deliverables and documents to the Board for review and approval, including progress reports, annual work plans, adjustments to tolerance levels and risk logs.

A designated representative of the PMU is expected to attend all board meetings and present the required progress reports and other documentation needed to support board processes as a non-voting representative.

## **Project Assurance**

Project assurance is the responsibility of each Project Board member; however, UNDP has a distinct assurance role for all UNDP projects in carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. UNDP performs quality assurance and supports the Project Board and Project Management Unit by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions, including applying UNDP's social and environmental management system to ensure the SES are applied through the project cycle. The Project Board cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the project manager. Project assurance is totally independent of project execution.

A designated representative of UNDP playing the project assurance role is expected to attend all Project Board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. It should be noted that while in certain cases UNDP's project assurance role across the project may encompass activities happening at several levels (e.g. global, regional), at least one UNDP representative playing that function must, as part of their duties, specifically attend board meetings and provide board members with the required documentation required to perform their duties.

The UNDP representative playing the main project assurance function is the assigned Programme Analyst of Energy, Environment and Climate Change Cluster.

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## IX. LEGAL CONTEXT

This project will be implemented by UNDP (“Implementing Partner”) in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures only to the extent that they do not contravene the principles of the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP. Where the financial governance of an Implementing Partner does not provide the required guidance to ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition, the financial governance of UNDP shall apply.

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## X. RISK MANAGEMENT

### *UNDP (DIM)*

1. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will comply with the policies, procedures and practices of the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS.)
2. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the [project funds]<sup>39</sup> [UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document]<sup>40</sup> are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via [http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq\\_sanctions\\_list.shtml](http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq_sanctions_list.shtml). This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.
3. Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (<http://www.undp.org/ses>) and related Accountability Mechanism (<http://www.undp.org/secu-srm>).
4. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.
5. In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, UNDP as the Implementing Partner will handle any sexual exploitation and abuse (“SEA”) and sexual harassment (“SH”) allegations in accordance with its regulations, rules, policies and procedures.
6. All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.
7. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will ensure that the following obligations are binding on each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient:
  - a. Consistent with the Article III of the SBAA [*for the Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document*], the responsibility for the safety and security of each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient and its personnel and property, and of UNDP’s property in such responsible party’s, subcontractor’s and sub-recipient’s custody, rests with such responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient. To this end, each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient shall:

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<sup>39</sup> To be used where UNDP is the Implementing Partner

<sup>40</sup> To be used where the UN, a UN fund/programme or a specialized agency is the Implementing Partner

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- i. put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
  - ii. assume all risks and liabilities related to such responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.
- b. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's obligations under this Project Document.
  - c. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient (each a "sub-party" and together "sub-parties") acknowledges and agrees that UNDP will not tolerate sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse of anyone by the sub-parties, and other entities involved in Project implementation, either as contractors or subcontractors and their personnel, and any individuals performing services for them under the Project Document.
    - (a) In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, each sub-party shall comply with the standards of conduct set forth in the Secretary General's Bulletin ST/SGB/2003/13 of 9 October 2003, concerning "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse" ("SEA").
    - (b) Moreover, and without limitation to the application of other regulations, rules, policies and procedures bearing upon the performance of the activities under this Project Document, in the implementation of activities, each sub-party, shall not engage in any form of sexual harassment ("SH"). SH is defined as any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation, when such conduct interferes with work, is made a condition of employment or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment. SH may occur in the workplace or in connection with work. While typically involving a pattern of conduct, SH may take the form of a single incident. In assessing the reasonableness of expectations or perceptions, the perspective of the person who is the target of the conduct shall be considered.
  - d. In the performance of the activities under this Project Document, each sub-party shall (with respect to its own activities), and shall require from its sub-parties (with respect to their activities) that they, have minimum standards and procedures in place, or a plan to develop and/or improve such standards and procedures in order to be able to take effective preventive and investigative action. These should include: policies on sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse; policies on whistleblowing/protection against retaliation; and complaints, disciplinary and investigative mechanisms. In line with this, sub-parties will and will require that their respective sub-parties will take all appropriate measures to:
    - (i) Prevent its employees, agents or any other persons engaged to perform any services under this Project Document, from engaging in SH or SEA;
    - (ii) Offer employees and associated personnel training on prevention and response to SH and SEA, where sub-parties have not put in place its own training regarding the prevention of SH and SEA, sub-parties may use the training material available at UNDP;
    - (iii) Report and monitor allegations of SH and SEA of which any of the sub-parties have been informed or have otherwise become aware, and status thereof;
    - (iv) Refer victims/survivors of SH and SEA to safe and confidential victim assistance; and
    - (v) Promptly and confidentially record and investigate any allegations credible enough to warrant an investigation of SH or SEA. Each sub-party shall advise UNDP of any such allegations received and investigations being conducted by itself or any of its sub-parties with respect to their activities under the Project Document, and shall keep UNDP informed during the investigation by it or any of such sub-parties, to the extent that such notification (i) does not jeopardize the conduct of the investigation, including but not limited to the safety or security of persons, and/or (ii) is not in contravention of any laws applicable to it. Following the investigation, the relevant sub-party shall advise UNDP of any actions taken by it or any of the other entities further to the investigation.
  - e. Each sub-party shall establish that it has complied with the foregoing, to the satisfaction of UNDP, when requested by UNDP or any party acting on its behalf to provide such confirmation. Failure of the relevant sub-party to comply of the foregoing, as determined by UNDP, shall be considered grounds for suspension or termination of the Project.



Multi-Year Budget - Collated Sweden+Norway		PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Accounts	Account Description	Total Budget SIDA, USD	Total Budget Norway, USD	Planned Budget by Year				Implementing Partner	
EXPECTED OUTPUTS	Year 1/2024-2025 SIDA +Norway						Year 2/2025-2026 SIDA+Norway	Year 3/2026-2027 SIDA+Norway	Year 4/2027-2028 SIDA+(Norway - 6 months of 2027)			
<p><b>OUTCOME 1: Capacities of the national and local authorities to plan strategically, implement plans, deliver services, and to advance climate and gender nexus enhanced</b></p>	Output 1.1 Climate and gender mainstreamed into relevant local and national policy frameworks through:											
	1.1.0 Baseline and Endline study on the level of awareness on gender sensitive climate change adaptation measures in target localities	72100	Contractual services	50,000	-	25,000	-	-	-	25,000	-	25,000
	1.1.1 Participatory elaboration of community gender-sensitive SECAPs (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan) by engaging society in inclusive manner, targeting groups formed by poor women and men to participate in	72600	LVGR	150,000	-	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	-	-	-
		71300	Local Consultants	38,000	-	19,000	19,000	-	-	-	-	-
		75700	Events (workshops, roundtables, trainings)	9,940	20,000	19,940	10,000	-	-	-	-	-
	1.1.2 Technical and operational assistance for monitoring and implementation of SECAPs	72800	Procurement of IT equipment and supplies for 20 localities	40,000	10,000	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1.1.3 Conduct gender analysis on mainstreaming the GE aspects in the sectors relevant for the project	71300	Local Consultants	10,000	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1.1.4 Gender considerations mainstream as per identified gaps	71300	Local Consultants	32,000	-	5,000	7,000	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
	1.1.5. Provision of technical support and expertise to advance efficient, resilient and gender-responsive local governance processes and policies	71300	Local Consultants	-	309,600	86,400	86,400	86,400	-	-	-	86,400
	1.1.6. Strategic and policy support to enhance local governance frameworks and practices	71200	International Consultants	-	301,000	84,000	84,000	84,000	-	-	-	84,000
	1.1.7. Conduct capacity-building activities for local public a	72100	Contractual services	-	124,900	34,900	30,000	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
	Output 1.2. Multi-stakeholder engagement on climate and gender policy processes enabled through:											
	1.2.1. National high-level policy dialogues on climate and gender carried out	75700	Events (workshops, roundtables, trainings)	75,000	-	20,000	25,000	-	-	-	-	30,000
	1.2.2. Innovative instruments for engagement on climate&gender nexus developed and promoted	75700	Events (workshops, roundtables, trainings)	45,000	-	15,000	15,000	-	-	-	-	15,000
	1.2.3. Carry-out capacity building program on gender&climate legislation/study visits for LPAs, bussines and community members	75700	Events (workshops, roundtables, trainings)	60,000	20,000	30,000	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
		64300		12,749	19,888	6,456	11,660	7,260	-	-	-	7,260
	<b>DPC (2.5%) Output 1</b>			<b>522,689</b>	<b>815,388</b>	<b>264,696</b>	<b>478,060</b>	<b>297,660</b>	<b>297,660</b>	<b>297,660</b>	<b>297,660</b>	<b>297,660</b>
Output 2.1: Education on climate and gender enabled												
<p><b>OUTCOME 2. : National and local women leadership in climate actions expanded and advanced</b></p>	2.1.1. Develop nationally-adapted gender & climate training programme (including online option) with specialisation for policy specialists, civil servants, entrepreneurs	71200	International Consultants	60,000	20,000	10,000	30,000	10,000	-	-	30,000	
	2.1.2 a Conduct a Capacity building program in gender and climate area for the Local Business Incubators	72100	Contractual services	30,000	50,000	25,000	55,000	-	-	-	20,000	
	2.1.2. b Provide Institutional support for the Local Business Incubators	72100	Contractual services for provision of non-cash support	-	320,000	-	150,000	150,000	-	-	-	
	Output 2.2: Capacity-building on climate&gender nexus for national and local key stakeholders provided											
2.2.1 Establish and ensure functionality of a Community of Practice on climate&gender issues	72100	Contractual services/international consultant	80,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	20,000	-	-	-	20,000	

Output 2.3: Gender and climate change Leadership Fellowship Program carried-out										
2.3.1	Conduct a Call for papers on climate and gender nexus launched and the best funded to enable research and development	71300	Internship stipend	20,000	-	20,000	-	20,000	-	-
2.3.2	Enhance Gender- Climate Activism via Community Fellowships hosted by NGOs	72600	Law value grant agreements for 1 NGO	40,000	10,000	30,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	1,750
		64300		5,750	10,500	7,875	5,000	1,750		
DPC (2.5%) Outcome 2				235,750	430,500	66,625	322,875	205,000		71,750
Sub-Total Outcome 2										
Output 3.1: Climate smart activities demonstrated in households of women with economic activity, women entrepreneurs and in communities										
3.1.1	Conduct an outreach programme and support preparation of applications for climate smart financing provided by the project	71300	Local Consultants	20,000	-	20,000	-	-	-	-
3.1.2	a Support financially 25 LPAs to implement SECAPs-related actions (aligned with the local SECAP)	72100	Contractual services companies/grants (25 LPs x 40,000 USD)	800,000	200,000	200,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
3.1.2	b Management of the assistance for 25 LPAs to implement SECAPs-related actions	72100	Contractual services-companies	100,000	40,000	40,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
3.1.3	a Support for 80 women with economic activities in households to implement climate smart solutions (aligned with the local SECAP)	72100	Contractual services-companies/grants (80 projects x 6,000 USD)	480,000	-	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	80,000
3.1.3	b Management of assistance provided to 80 women with economic activities in households to implement climate smart solutions (aligned with the local SECAP)	72100	Contractual services-companies	80,000	-	30,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	10,000
3.1.4	a Support to 25 women-led agri-businesses to implement climate smart solutions (aligned with local SECAP)	72100	Contractual services-companies/grants (25 projects x 20,000 USD)	500,000	-	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	-
3.1.4	b Management of the assistance provided to 25 women-led agri-businesses to implement climate smart solutions (aligned with local SECAP)	72100	Contractual services-companies	80,000	-	50,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	-
Output 3.2: Coaching and mentoring provided to women with economic activities in households, women entrepreneurs and in communities to carry out climate smart solutions										
3.2.1	Provide coaching and mentoring to the selected beneficiaries of the project to implement appropriately the selected climate smart solutions	71300	Local Consultants	30,000	-	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	-
Output 3.3: Synergies in advancing climate smart solutions among women groups facilitated										
3.3.1	a Support for enabling development of cooperatives in the agricultural, social and energy sector (3 in total)	71300	Local Consultants/contractual services	60,000	-	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000
3.3.1	b Financial support for development of cooperatives in the agricultural, social and energy sector (3 projects X 40,000 USD)	72100	Contractual services-companies	120,000	-	-	80,000	80,000	80,000	40,000
3.3.2	a Support for 3 localities (beneficiaries for ResCom1) to implement climate resilient solutions in a synergistic manner and through facilitation of the access to the markets	71300	Local Consultants/contractual services	50,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
3.3.2	b Financial support provided to 3 localities (beneficiaries for ResCom1) to implement synergistic climate resilient solutions	72100	Contractual services/3 cooperatives supported X 40,000 USD	120,000	-	80,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
3.3.3	Support for operationalization of Energy communities as per last amendments of the Law on renewable energy	72100	Contractual services-companies	-	500,000	100,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	150,000
Output 3.4: Technical and financial assistance in implementation of the gender-inclusive local climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction plans										
OUTCOME 3: Women led climate-smart solutions are identified, supported and replicated among women groups and target communities										
UNDP										





# UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Template

The completed template, constitutes the Social and Environmental Screening Report.

## Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	Resilient communities through women's empowerment, phase 2
2. Project Number (i.e. UNDP Quantum)	tbd
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Republic of Moldova
4. Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Design
5. Date	1 June 2024

## Part A. Integrating Programming Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

**QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Programming Principles in Order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?**

**Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams the human rights-based approach**

The project, designed to enhance gender-responsive climate resilience in Moldova, embodies a human rights-based approach (HRBA) principle by prioritizing the rights and needs of all individuals, particularly the most vulnerable, in addressing climate change challenges.

At its core, the HRBA principle ensures that every person has the right to live a dignified life, free from discrimination and with access to essential resources and opportunities. In the context of climate change, this means recognizing that climate impacts disproportionately affect certain groups, such as women, the elderly, and those living in rural areas, and therefore, efforts to address these impacts must prioritize their rights and needs.

By integrating gender considerations into policy frameworks, the project ensures that women's rights are recognized and protected in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. This includes empowering women leaders to actively participate in decision-making processes related to climate action, thereby promoting their right to participation and representation.

Furthermore, the project aims to identify and support women-led climate-smart solutions, acknowledging the agency and innovation of women in addressing climate challenges. By doing so, it not only promotes gender equality but also upholds the right to development, as women are given opportunities to contribute to sustainable practices and economic empowerment.

Additionally, raising societal awareness through information campaigns and knowledge management initiatives aligns with the HRBA principle of transparency and accountability. By ensuring that communities are informed about climate risks and opportunities, the project fosters a culture of inclusivity and participation, where individuals can exercise their right to access information and engage in decision-making processes that affect them.

Overall, the project's approach reflects a commitment to human rights principles by centering the rights and needs of individuals, particularly those who are most marginalized, in efforts to build climate resilience and promote sustainable development in Moldova. Through its comprehensive and inclusive strategies, the project seeks to empower individuals to realize their rights and contribute to a more just and equitable society.

### ***Briefly describe in the space below how the project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment***

The project, while poised to make significant strides in improving gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of climate change, recognizes the ongoing challenges faced by women in Moldova. Despite gender equality being on the national agenda for many years, women still encounter significant barriers to empowerment.

For instance, women are under-represented in various sectors, with only one in four business managers being women. Additionally, the employment rate of women is lower than that of men, despite women comprising a slightly higher proportion of the total population. In agriculture, where a significant portion of the population is engaged, women are still underrepresented as heads of agricultural holdings, with only 36% being women.

Moreover, traditional gender roles often confine women to the roles of family caretakers and housekeepers, limiting their participation in economic and public life.

Therefore, the project fully focuses on advancing gender equality and empowering women as agents of change and leaders in development processes. It aligns closely with the current National Gender Equality Strategy of the Republic of Moldova, aiming to address these challenges by targeting women household owners and agri-producers for support through capacity development programs and grants.

Furthermore, the project seeks to ensure the active participation of women in decision-making processes at the community level by predominantly involving women in development of the SECAPs. By empowering women to take ownership and initiative in community development, the project aims to challenge traditional gender norms and promote women's leadership.

By enhancing the understanding of climate change and gender empowerment matters among national and local authorities, the project lays the groundwork for more gender-responsive policies and interventions. This increased awareness can lead to the integration of gender considerations into policy frameworks, ensuring that women's voices and needs are recognized and addressed in climate action plans.

Moreover, the project's focus on expanding the pool of experts on the gender and climate nexus through fellowship programs and knowledge management initiatives creates opportunities for women to become leaders and experts in climate-related fields. By providing education, capacity-building, and leadership

training tailored to women's needs, the project empowers women to take on leadership roles in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, thereby challenging traditional gender norms and stereotypes.

Additionally, by identifying and supporting women-led climate-smart solutions, the project fosters economic opportunities for women in sustainable agriculture and other climate-resilient sectors. Through targeted support for women entrepreneurs and women-led agri-businesses, the project enables women to generate income, build resilience to climate change, and contribute to community development.

Furthermore, the project's emphasis on raising societal awareness and disseminating success stories of women-led climate initiatives can help challenge gender stereotypes and norms, promoting a culture of gender equality and inclusion. By showcasing the achievements of women leaders and entrepreneurs in climate action, the project inspires other women and girls to pursue non-traditional roles and aspirations, thus fostering a more equitable society.

In sum, the project's holistic approach to integrating gender perspectives into climate policies, empowering women leaders, and promoting women-led climate solutions holds great promise for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in Moldova. Through its multi-faceted strategies, the project aims to create an enabling environment where women can thrive, contribute meaningfully to climate resilience efforts, and realize their full potential.

### ***Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams sustainability and resilience***

The project takes a comprehensive approach to mainstreaming sustainability and resilience by integrating these principles into all aspects of its design and implementation.

- 1. Climate-Resilient Practices:** The project focuses on identifying and supporting climate-smart solutions, particularly those led by women, in areas such as agriculture and community development. By promoting sustainable agricultural practices that enhance resilience to climate change, such as diversified cropping systems, water conservation, and soil management techniques, the project ensures that communities are better equipped to withstand the impacts of climate variability and extreme weather events.
- 2. Capacity Building and Education:** Through capacity-building programs and knowledge management initiatives, the project enhances the understanding of climate change and gender empowerment among national and local authorities, women leaders, and community members. By equipping individuals with the knowledge and skills to adapt to and mitigate climate change, the project fosters a culture of sustainability and resilience at both the institutional and community levels.
- 3. Gender-Responsive Policies:** By mainstreaming gender considerations into climate policies and frameworks, the project ensures that responses to climate change are equitable and inclusive. Recognizing that women often bear the brunt of climate impacts, the project advocates for policies that address the unique vulnerabilities and needs of women, thereby promoting resilience and sustainability in the face of climate change.
- 4. Community Engagement and Empowerment:** The project empowers women and communities to take ownership of climate resilience initiatives through participatory approaches and community-based decision-making processes. By involving women in the design, implementation, and monitoring of climate resilience projects, the project ensures that interventions are contextually relevant and sustainable, building the resilience of communities from the ground up.
- 5. Knowledge Sharing and Dissemination:** Through information campaigns, knowledge management portals, and capacity-building activities, the project facilitates the sharing of best practices and lessons learned in climate resilience and gender equality. By disseminating success stories and showcasing the benefits of sustainable and gender-responsive approaches to climate action, the project inspires others to adopt similar practices, thereby fostering a culture of sustainability and resilience across the country.

Overall, by mainstreaming sustainability and resilience principles into its activities, the project not only strengthens the capacity of communities to adapt to climate change but also promotes gender equality and women's empowerment in the process. By integrating these principles into policy, practice, and community engagement, the project contributes to building a more sustainable and resilient future for Moldova.

**Briefly describe in the space below how the project strengthens accountability to stakeholders**

As part of UNDP's quality assurance role, UNDP requires adherence to the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards ("SES")<sup>1</sup> for project activities implemented using funds channelled through UNDP's accounts. The SES objectives are to: (i) strengthen the social and environmental outcomes of programmes and Projects; (ii) avoid adverse impacts to people and the environment; (iii) minimize, mitigate, and manage adverse impacts where avoidance is not possible; (iv) strengthen UNDP and partner capacities for managing social and environmental risks; and (v) ensure full and effective stakeholder engagement, including through a mechanism to respond to complaints from project-affected people.

The Standards are underpinned by an Accountability Mechanism with two key functions:

- A Stakeholder Response Mechanism that ensures individuals, peoples, and communities affected by UNDP projects have access to appropriate procedures for hearing and addressing project-related grievances; and,
- A Compliance Review process to respond to claims that UNDP is not in compliance with UNDP's social and environmental policies.

The proposal will not support activities that do not comply with national law and obligations under international law, whichever is the higher standard. In the framework of this proposal support will be provided to the Government of Moldova to adhere to their human rights obligations and empower individuals and groups, to realize their rights and to ensure that they fully participate in implementation of the project proposal.

**Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks**

**QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks?**

*Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.*

**QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks?**

*Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 5*

**QUESTION 6: Describe the assessment and management measures for each risk rated Moderate, Substantial or High**

<sup>1</sup> "Environmental and Social Standards" as approved by UNDP's Organizational Performance Group in June 2014 and effective starting January 1, 2015.



<b>Risk Description</b> <b>(broken down by event, cause, impact)</b>	<b>Impact and Likelihood (1-5)</b>	<b>Significance (Low, Moderate, Substantial, High)</b>	<b>Comments (optional)</b>	<b>Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High</b>
<p>Risk 1: (P.2): There is a risk that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project.</p>	<p>I: 3 P: 4</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>Limitations exist in the capacities of local public authorities and community members to access and implement successfully the grants provided by the project.</p>	<p>The project will carry capacity development programme for all target groups LPAs, women headed households and women agri-producers including CBOs in strengthening the knowledge and skills in climate resilient livelihoods, conservation agriculture and relevant technologies, sustainable forest and pasture management and use, as well as of the water resources and others as identified by the capacity needs assessment and to access and implement successfully the grants provided by the project. With acquired knowledge and skills, the LPAs and community members should be able to put in place and maintain resilient income generation activities/businesses.</p>
<p>Risk 2: (P.13): Potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups, could potentially be excluded from fully participating in decisions that may affect them</p>	<p>I = 2 L = 1</p>	<p><b>Low</b></p>	<p>Limitations may exist in the capacities of local stakeholders, in particular poor and vulnerable women groups, to participate effectively in decision making that can affect them</p>	<p>To mitigate the social risk of potentially excluding marginalized stakeholders from fully participating in project decisions, the project will undertake a comprehensive approach. This includes conducting a stakeholder analysis to identify marginalized groups, establishing inclusive decision-making mechanisms, providing capacity-building support, ensuring accessible communication channels, implementing tailored outreach and consultation efforts, and establishing regular feedback mechanisms.</p>
<p>Risk 3: Standard 1 (Q1.6): With afforestation activities, there is a risk of potential introducing invasive alien species</p>	<p>I: 2 P: 4</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>The Project will promote through community projects the extension of the forests on degraded lands and landslides</p>	<p>The extension of the forests on degraded lands and landslides will contribute to enhanced climate change ecosystem-based adaptation, disaster and climate risk management and creation of pre-requisites for resilient alternative livelihoods. To mitigate the risk of introducing invasive alien species through afforestation activities, the project will prioritize the use of native tree species, conduct thorough site assessments and planning jointly with the relevant national authorities</p>

<p>Risk 4: Standard 1 (Q1.8): The Project involves afforestation on degraded lands and landslides in which community harvesting of forest resources occurs</p>	<p>I: 2 P: 5</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>The project will promote afforestation on degraded lands and landslides. Use of forest resources is practiced in the entire country.</p>	<p>(ICAS), and engage local communities in awareness-raising and stewardship efforts.</p> <p>Afforestation activities will be designed to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services of degraded areas. In addition, the Project will provide trainings for alternative income generation and sustainable forest practices (supporting the change of current collection techniques of forestry products such as seeds, medicinal plants, fruits, mushrooms and berries). In the Republic of Moldova, the State Ecological Inspectorate, which performs the state ecological expertise and control, cooperates with Agency Moldsilva on identifying and preventing forest contraventions. LPAs also have the responsibility of controls according the order no. 50 of 03.21.2011 "Regarding the control of the condition of forest belts and forestland managed by local public authorities"</p>
<p>Risk 5: (Q3.2./Q3.5/Q.8.2.) Construction activities will require use of fuels and other hazardous materials, generate noise and air emissions, and generate inert wastes.</p>	<p>I = 2 P = 4</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>The project might finance small scale construction works, such as PVs installation, river bank rehabilitation, etc.</p>	<p>All physical works will be screened and where potential risks are identified a site-specific management plan prepared. Where required by host country law an EIA approval will be secured, as well as any other permits governing pollution prevention such as permits to discharge or dispose of wastes. Effective management measures are available to reduce risks to acceptable levels. UNDP Moldova Country Office has in place procurement process that require contractors to implement environmental, health, and safety management procedures to address site-specific conditions of approval, country law, and UNDP standards. UNDP activities, and those of any organizations contracted by UNDP, will implement and adhere to all UNDP country office security and safe work practices. Project activities controlled by government entities will adhere to government safety standards and protocols.</p>

<p>Risk 6. (Q7.6.) Construction activities will expose workers to occupational hazards. workers and communities to health and safety risks including motor vehicle accidents.</p>	<p>I = 3 P = 3</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>Contractors hired to undertake construction works may not implement sufficient worker health and safety procedures or measures to protect the public from safety risks.</p>	<p>These risks, including traffic safety and worker health and safety, are well known and effective management measures are available to reduce risks to acceptable levels. UNDP Country Office has put in place safe work and personal security practices for their operations in Moldova based on the minimum requirements for UN operations globally. UNDP activities, and those of any organizations contracted by UNDP, will implement and adhere to all UNDP country office security and safe work practices. Project activities controlled by government entities will adhere to government safety standards and protocols.</p> <p>Contractors will be required to implement mitigation measures assigned to contractor as specified in the site specific ESIA, permits and approvals, and UNDPs standard terms and conditions for contractors.</p>
<p><b>QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?</b></p>				
		<p><i>Low Risk</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	
		<p><i>Moderate Risk</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The overall risk of the project is moderate. Most of the anticipated social and environmental risks will be localised and activities undertaken at a small to moderate scale. The identified risks can be addressed through application of best practices, mitigation measures and stakeholder engagement during implementation. .</p>
		<p><i>Substantial Risk</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	
		<p><i>High Risk</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p><b>QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that apply)</b></p>				
<p>Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk projects</p>				
<p><i>Is assessment required? (check if "yes")</i></p>			<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>Status?</b> <i>(completed, planned)</i></p>

	<p><i>if yes, indicate overall type and status</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Targeted assessment(s)</p> <p>ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment)</p>	<p>Site-specific ESIA might be required as per the national requirements</p>
	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>SESA (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment)</p>	
	<p><b>Are management plans required? (check if "yes")</b></p> <p><i>If yes, indicate overall type</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Targeted management plans (e.g. Gender Action Plan, Emergency Response Plan, Waste Management Plan, others)</p> <p>ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan which may include range of targeted plans)</p> <p>ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework)</p>	
	<p><b>Based on identified risks, which Principles/Project-level Standards triggered?</b></p>		<p><b>Comments (not required)</b></p>	
	<p><b>Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind</b></p> <p><b>Human Rights</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>		<p>There is a risk that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project, therefore the project has identified above the mitigation measures</p>

	<p><b>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</b></p> <p><b>Accountability</b></p> <p><b>1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</b></p> <p><b>2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks</b></p> <p><b>3. Community Health, Safety and Security</b></p> <p><b>4. Cultural Heritage</b></p> <p><b>5. Displacement and Resettlement</b></p> <p><b>6. Indigenous Peoples</b></p> <p><b>7. Labour and Working Conditions</b></p> <p><b>8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>X</b></p> <p><b>X</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>X</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>X</b></p> <p><b>X</b></p>	<p>Potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups, could potentially be excluded from fully participating in decisions that may affect them. The project proposes above relevant response actions.</p> <p>With afforestation activities, there is a risk of potential introducing invasive alien species. The project proposes above relevant response actions.</p> <p>Construction activities include potential health and safety risks for workers and for host communities.</p> <p>Construction activities will expose workers to occupational hazards. workers and communities to health and safety risks including motor vehicle accidents.</p> <p>Project activities involving construction have potential to result in spills of contaminating material such as fuel, nuisance noise, and soil erosion. Given the expected scope and scale these potential effects can be effectively managed using well known mitigation and management practices. The project does not entail significant use of natural resources.</p>
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**Final Sign Off**

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
Silvia Pana-Carp, Programme Analyst	1 June 2024	UNDP staff member responsible for the project, typically a UNDP Programme Officer. Final signature confirms they have "checked" to ensure that the SESP is adequately conducted.

<p>Inga Podoroghin Programme Specialist</p>	<p>1 June 2024</p>	<p>UNDP senior manager, typically the UNDP Deputy Country Director (DCD), Country Director (CD), Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), or Resident Representative (RR). The QA Approver cannot also be the QA Assessor. Final signature confirms they have "cleared" the SESP prior to submittal to the PAC.</p>
<p>Andrea Cuzyova, Deputy Resident Representative</p>	<p>1 June 2024</p>	<p>UNDP chair of the PAC. In some cases PAC Chair may also be the QA Approver. Final signature confirms that the SESP was considered as part of the project appraisal and considered in recommendations of the PAC.</p>

SESP Attachment 1. Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

<b>Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks</b>	
<b>INSTRUCTIONS:</b> The risk screening checklist will assist in answering Questions 2-6 of the Screening Template. Answers to the checklist questions help to (1) identify potential risks, (2) determine the overall risk categorization of the project, and (3) determine required level of assessment and management measures. Refer to the <a href="#">SES toolkit</a> for further guidance on addressing screening questions.	
<b>Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind</b>	<b>Answer (Yes/No)</b>
<b>Human Rights</b>	
P.1 Have local communities or individuals raised human rights concerns regarding the project (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	No
P.2 Is there a risk that duty-bearers (e.g. government agencies) do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the project?	Yes
P.3 Is there a risk that rights-holders (e.g. project-affected persons) do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	No
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
P.4 adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	No
P.5 inequitable or discriminatory impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities? <sup>2</sup>	No
P.6 restrictions in availability, quality of and/or access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities?	No
P.7 exacerbation of conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	No
<b>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</b>	
P.8 Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the project, (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	No
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
P.9 adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	No

<sup>2</sup> Prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, sex, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, political or other opinion, national or social or geographical origin, property, birth or other status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority. References to "women and men" or similar is understood to include women and men, boys and girls, and other groups discriminated against based on their gender identities, such as transgender and transsexual people.

P.10	reproducing discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	No
P.11	limitations on women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services? <i>For example, activities that could lead to natural resources degradation or depletion in communities who depend on these resources for their livelihoods and well being</i>	No
P.12	exacerbation of risks of gender-based violence? <i>For example, through the influx of workers to a community, changes in community and household power dynamics, increased exposure to unsafe public places and/or transport, etc.</i>	No
<b>Sustainability and Resilience:</b> Screening questions regarding risks associated with sustainability and resilience are encompassed by the Standard-specific questions below		
<b>Accountability</b>		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
P.13	exclusion of any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups and excluded individuals (including persons with disabilities), from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	Yes
P.14	grievances or objections from potentially affected stakeholders?	No
P.15	risks of retaliation or reprisals against stakeholders who express concerns or grievances, or who seek to participate in or to obtain information on the project?	No
<b>Project-Level Standards</b>		
<b>Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</b>		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
1.1	adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services? <i>For example, through habitat loss, conversion or degradation, fragmentation, hydrological changes</i>	No
1.2	activities within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including (but not limited to) legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?	No
1.3	changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods? (Note: if restrictions and/or limitations of access to lands would apply, refer to Standard 5)	No
1.4	risks to endangered species (e.g. reduction, encroachment on habitat)?	Yes
1.5	exacerbation of illegal wildlife trade?	No



1.6	introduction of invasive alien species?	Yes
1.7	adverse impacts on soils?	No
1.8	harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	Yes
1.9	significant agricultural production?	No
1.10	animal husbandry or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	No
1.11	significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? <i>For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction</i>	No
1.12	handling or utilization of genetically modified organisms/living modified organisms? <sup>3</sup>	No
1.13	utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development) <sup>4</sup>	No
1.14	adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	No
<b>Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks</b>		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
2.1	areas subject to hazards such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, severe winds, storm surges, tsunami or volcanic eruptions?	No
2.2	outputs and outcomes sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change or disasters? <i>For example, through increased precipitation, drought, temperature, salinity, extreme events, earthquakes</i>	No
2.3	increases in vulnerability to climate change impacts or disaster risks now or in the future (also known as maladaptive or negative coping practices)? <i>For example, changes to land use planning may encourage further development of floodplains, potentially increasing the population's vulnerability to climate change, specifically flooding</i>	No
2.4	increases of greenhouse gas emissions, black carbon emissions or other drivers of climate change?	No
<b>Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security</b>		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
3.1	construction and/or infrastructure development (e.g. roads, buildings, dams)? (Note: the GEF does not finance projects that would involve the construction or rehabilitation of large or complex dams)	No
3.2	air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, injuries, physical hazards, poor surface water quality due to runoff, erosion, sanitation?	Yes

<sup>3</sup> See the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and its [Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#).

<sup>4</sup> See the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and its [Nagoya Protocol](#) on access and benefit sharing from use of genetic resources.

3.3	harm or losses due to failure of structural elements of the project (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)?	No
3.4	risks of water-borne or other vector-borne diseases (e.g. temporary breeding habitats), communicable and noncommunicable diseases, nutritional disorders, mental health?	No
3.5	transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	Yes
3.6	adverse impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem services relevant to communities' health (e.g. food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)?	No
3.7	influx of project workers to project areas?	No
3.8	engagement of security personnel to protect facilities and property or to support project activities?	No
<b>Standard 4: Cultural Heritage</b>		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
4.1	activities adjacent to or within a Cultural Heritage site?	No
4.2	significant excavations, demolitions, movement of earth, flooding or other environmental changes?	
4.3	adverse impacts to sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	No
4.4	alterations to landscapes and natural features with cultural significance?	No
4.5	utilization of tangible and/or intangible forms (e.g. practices, traditional knowledge) of Cultural Heritage for commercial or other purposes?	No
<b>Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement</b>		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
5.1	temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement (including people without legally recognizable claims to land)?	No
5.2	economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions – even in the absence of physical relocation)?	No
5.3	risk of forced evictions? <sup>5</sup>	No
5.4	impacts on or changes to land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	No
<b>Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples</b>		

<sup>5</sup> Forced eviction is defined here as the permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection. Forced evictions constitute gross violations of a range of internationally recognized human rights.

<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
6.1	areas where indigenous peoples are present (including project area of influence)?	n/a
6.2	activities located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	n/a
6.3	impacts (positive or negative) to the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, whether the project is located within or outside of the lands and territories inhabited by the affected peoples, or whether the indigenous peoples are recognized as indigenous peoples by the country in question)?  <i>If the answer to screening question 6.3 is "yes", then the potential risk impacts are considered significant and the project would be categorized as either Substantial Risk or High Risk</i>	n/a
6.4	the absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of achieving FPIC on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned?	n/a
6.5	the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	n/a
6.6	forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources?  <i>Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Standard 5 above</i>	n/a
6.7	adverse impacts on the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	n/a
6.8	risks to the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	n/a
6.9	impacts on the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?  <i>Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Standard 4 above.</i>	n/a
<b>Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions</b>		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to: (note: applies to project and contractor workers)</i>		
7.1	working conditions that do not meet national labour laws and international commitments?	No
7.2	working conditions that may deny freedom of association and collective bargaining?	No
7.3	use of child labour?	No
7.4	use of forced labour?	No
7.5	discriminatory working conditions and/or lack of equal opportunity?	No

7.6	occupational health and safety risks due to physical, chemical, biological and psychosocial hazards (including violence and harassment) throughout the project life-cycle?	Yes
<b>Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</b>		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
8.1	the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	No
8.2	the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	Yes
8.3	the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous materials and/or chemicals?	No
8.4	the use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs? <i>For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the <a href="#">Montreal Protocol</a>, <a href="#">Minamata Convention</a>, <a href="#">Basel Convention</a>, <a href="#">Rotterdam Convention</a>, <a href="#">Stockholm Convention</a></i>	No
8.5	the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	No
8.6	significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	No