



Project Implementation Report

(1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024)

Project Title:	Promoting cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship in SMEs for green jobs in Kazakhstan
GEF ID:	10458
UNIDO ID:	180111
GEF Replenishment Cycle:	GEF-7
Country(ies):	Kazakhstan
Region:	ECA - Europe and Central Asia
GEF Focal Area:	Climate Change
Integrated Approach Pilot (IAP) Programs¹:	n/a
Stand-alone / Child Project:	Child Project
Implementing Department/Division:	TCS/ECA/JET
Co-Implementing Agency:	n/a
Executing Agency:	Non-Commercial JSC International Green Technologies and Investment Projects Center (IGTIC)
Project Type:	Medium-Sized Project (MSP)
Project Duration:	60 months
Extension(s):	n/a
GEF Project Financing:	USD 1,775,000.00
Agency Fee:	USD 159,750.00
Co-financing Amount:	USD 24,400,000.00
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:	12/8/2021
UNIDO Approval Date:	12/15/2021
Actual Implementation Start:	12/31/2021
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June 2024:	USD 1,697,360.21
Mid-term Review (MTR) Date:	06/22/2024
Original Project Completion Date:	5/31/2026
Project Completion Date as reported in FY23:	12/31/2026
Current SAP Completion Date:	12/31/2026
Expected Project Completion Date:	12/31/2026

Expected Terminal Evaluation (TE) Date:	10/1/2025
Expected Financial Closure Date:	06/30/2027
UNIDO Project Manager²:	Olga Rataj

I. Brief description of project and status overview

Project Objective		
<p>The project entitled "Global Cleantech Innovation Programme in Kazakhstan - Promoting cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship in SMEs for green jobs in Kazakhstan" aims to support and nurture clean energy technology entrepreneurship and innovation. This project is developed as a child project of the GEF UNIDO Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP) Framework (GEF ID 10460).</p> <p>The objective of the project is to support sustainable and inclusive economic growth by strengthening regional innovation ecosystems that promote clean technology innovation and entrepreneurship in start-ups and SMEs. GCIP Kazakhstan has three components, in line with the GCIP Framework, which have been designed based on the current needs of developing countries, including Kazakhstan, as well as recommendations from the GEF's independent evaluation of GCIP conducted in 2018, and with feedback from the previous nine GCIP country projects implemented between 2013 and 2019.</p> <p>As part of the GCIP Framework, the GCIP Kazakhstan receives support from the GCIP global coordination child project (GEF ID: 10461), further referred to as GCIP Global. More specifically, it is supported by global project executing entities (global PEEs), including the Network for Global Innovation (NGIN), the Cleantech Group (CTG), the Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN), and UNIDO.</p> <p>In particular, the project will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transform early-stage innovative cleantech solutions into scalable enterprises; <p>The focus is on early-stage innovative cleantech solutions and provision of acceleration support related to entrepreneurship and business skills training. In addition, targeted technical assistance will be offered to the start-ups/SMEs that were accelerated and have traction and sales evidence, but which still need specialized enterprise growth support. Furthermore, a start-ups/SMEs in the expansion stage will receive tipping-point investment facilitation services to raise investment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Strengthen the capacities of cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem (CIEE) stakeholders and connect them; <p>Activities are designed to maximize the impact of GCIP by strengthening national cleantech ecosystems of GCIP partner countries, identifying synergies across national ecosystems, and connecting ecosystems for knowledge exchange and partnership building. At the national child project level, development of policies and regulations to promote cleantech innovation will be prioritized.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Engage with the GCIP global coordination child project to ensure programme coordination and coherence; <p>In order to maintain coherence and standards of GCIP execution across multiple countries, GCIP guidelines will be developed under the GCIP Global and disseminated as a tool for national child projects for adaptation and adoption.</p>		
Project Indicators		Expected at Endorsement/Approval stage
1	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO ₂ e)	135,000 (directly) and at 675,000 (indirectly)
2	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	Female:420 Male: 780 Total: 1200

Baseline

The core baseline assumptions regarding critical barriers within Kazakhstan are limited public awareness and knowledge of cleantech innovations and consequently lack of capacity of trained experts in clean technology as well as limited support services for access to markets and finance for entrepreneurs from early-stage to market-maturity. Regarding Kazakhstan’s ecosystem barriers encountered are suboptimal enabling policies and regulatory frameworks especially with regards to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship as well as well as lack of institutional coordination mechanism and weak linkages. Supporting Kazakhstan’s ambition to a low-carbon development trajectory requires targeted interventions by a) identifying, supporting, and empowering cleantech entrepreneurs through targeted technical assistance; b) harnessing national commitments towards clean tech through coordination support with policy-relevant recommendations and c) leveraging global networks and knowledge within Kazakhstan’s cleantech sector, such that Kazakhstan can leapfrog past the lessons learned within other countries. The project is therefore designed to directly address the barriers described to create an enabling environment and to promote clean energy technology innovations potentially resulting in advanced commercialisation support with market and finance linkages that span across borders.

Please refer to the explanatory note at the end of the document and select corresponding ratings for the current reporting period, i.e. FY24. Please also provide a short justification for the selected ratings for FY24.

In view of the GEF Secretariat’s intent to start following the ability of projects to adopt the concept of adaptive management¹, Agencies are expected to closely monitor changes that occur from year to year and demonstrate that they are not simply implementing plans but modifying them in response to developments and circumstances or understanding. In order to facilitate with this assessment, please introduce the ratings as reported in the previous reporting cycle, i.e. FY23, in the last column.

Overall Ratings ²	FY24	FY23
Global Environmental Objectives (GEOs) / Development Objectives (DOs) Rating	Satisfactory (S)	Satisfactory (S)
The rating will be maintained as Satisfactory as the project is on track to achieve most of its major global environmental objectives, and yields satisfactory global environmental benefits.		
Implementation Progress (IP) Rating	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Satisfactory (S)
The rating will be downgraded to Moderately Satisfactory since the project experienced a slowdown, caused by high turnover of PMU personnel. Therefore there is a slight delay with regards to implementation in compliance with the original plan.		
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate Risk (M)	Moderate Risk (M)
The overall risk rating was maintained at moderate risk as the above mentioned delays may also affect the available budget of the planned activities and impact achieving the project objective.		

¹ Adaptive management in the context of an intentional approach to decision-making and adjustments in response to new available information, evidence gathered from monitoring, evaluation or research, and experience acquired from implementation, to ensure that the goals of the activity are being reached efficiently

² Please refer to the explanatory note at the end of the document and assure that the indicated ratings correspond to the narrative of the report

II. Targeted results and progress to-date

Please describe the progress made in achieving the outputs against key performance indicator's targets in the project's **M&E Plan/Log-Frame at the time of CEO Endorsement/Approval**. Please expand the table as needed.

Project Strategy	KPIs/Indicators	Baseline	Target level	Progress to-date (cumulative)
Component 1: Transforming early-stage innovative cleantech solutions into commercial enterprises				
Outcome 1.1.1 The GCIP guidebooks are adapted for the GCIP Kazakhstan	number of suggestions for improvement of the GCIP guidebooks	0	5-10	Comments and recommendations are being collected for the Advanced Accelerator and the Post-Accelerator Guidebook.
	number of GCIP Kazakhstan gender-responsive guidebooks for Pre-Accelerator, Advanced Accelerator, and Post-Accelerator	0	4 (1 for Pre-Accelerator, Accelerator, Advanced Accelerator, and Post-Accelerator)	
	number of consultation sessions on GCIP Kazakhstan guidebooks with relevant CIEE stakeholders	0	2	The consultation sessions will be conducted upon having draft versions of national guidebooks and are planned for the 2nd half of the year 2024 (FY25).
	number of stakeholders with whom the GCIP Kazakhstan guidebooks shared	0	1000-1200 (at least 35% women)	After the completion of Activity 1.1.1.a and 1.1.1.b, the Guidebooks will be shared with the GCIP Kazakhstan stakeholders. The list of stakeholders includes national academy organizations, institutions, state authorities, SMEs, NGOs, business sector, financial institutions, and CIEE partners
	number of corporate partners with interest to participate in the National Innovation Challenge identified	0	3-7	PMU conducted the training workshop for national financial organizations on 8 December 2023. More than 60 participants from 20 corporate partners attended and were interested in further collaboration.
	Output 1.1.2 Pool of cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship experts (trainers, mentors, judges) is trained and certified to support the GCIP Kazakhstan Accelerator	number of suggestions for improvement of the GCIP cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship expert training and certification system	0	5-10
number of GCIP Kazakhstan cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship expert trainings and certification systems		0	3 (1 for trainers, 1 for mentors, 1 for judges)	During the reporting period a total of 2 trainings were provided: One Training for national judges was conducted on the 20 th of June by NGIN. 6 out of 16 judges are women (37,5%). One Training for mentors (1 cycle) was conducted on 12 October 2023 by NGIN and 14 mentors joined the online training. In 2024, GCIP Global (UNIDO) and NGIN conducted three training seminars for the trainers, mentors, and judges. Representatives from Kazakhstan participated in all three trainings.
number of trainings provided to experts		0		

	number of participants per one expert training	0	10	In 2024, 14 experts reviewed and participated in the trainings. Those who were unable to participate online were provided with recordings of all the training sessions.
	share of women in expert training	0	at least 35%	14 mentors were trained at the online webinar on 12 October 2023. 11 startups participated in the National Academy training event held in Astana from 24 to 27 October. The total number of participants was 31 including startups, mentors, experts, PEE and PMU. In 2024, out of the total number of experts, specifically 17 individuals, four are women. However, by the end of 2024, an additional 20-25 experts will be recruited, with half of them being women. The target will be met by the end of the year.
	number of experts evaluated	0	30 (at least 35% women)	2023: At least 2 business mentors and 2 RE Mentors, Energy efficiency mentors and Waste management mentors are under process of hiring In 2023, 10 mentors and 2 business mentors and 2 RE Mentors, Energy efficiency mentors and Waste management mentors worked with teams participating in the acceleration cycle. The first membership of judges for Pre acceleration process are represented by the 15 organizations: The second membership of judges for Mocking Judge and 2nd Judge was identified including national and international consultants – experts engaged, PMU and IGTIPC who worked to evaluate startups for semifinalists and finalists. Total 10 Experts. Composition of Judges: Deputy head of of IGTIPC Technical consultant of GCIP KAZ Project Consultant on Energy Efficiency GCIP KAZ Project International Finance consultant GCIP KAZ Project Business consultant GCIP KAZ Project Head of Project implementation department IGTIPC National finance consultant GCIP KAZ Project International waste management consultant GCIP Project GCIP KAZ Project coordinator International expert on Renewable energy. For selecting finalists 5 experts were nominated as the Judge panel at the National Forum event held on 14 December 2023: 1. Deputy Chairman of the Board of IGTIPC 2. Acting Director of the Department of Climate Policy and Green Technologies of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan 3. Economist at the Office of the UN Permanent Coordinator in the Republic of Kazakhstan 4. Director of the Department of Strategic Development and International Cooperation of JSC "Kazakhstan Investment Corporation". 5. Manager of the Eurasian Development Bank Sustainable Development Directorate In 2024, for the second accelerator cycle, there will also be three rounds of judging, where we will adhere to the target that at least 35 percent of the judges will be women. Additionally, it is planned to hire six business mentors and five industry mentors to support startups during the second cycle of the acceleration program. A series of events will also be held to train trainers.

	number of experts accredited	0	15-30 (at least 35% women)	Accreditation of experts is planned in the 3 rd quarter of 2024.
Output 1.1.3 Three cycles of the annual competition-based GCIP Kazakhstan Accelerator conducted are	number of GCIP Kazakhstan Accelerator cycles conducted	0	1	In 2024, during the pre-acceleration phase, the project team enhanced collaboration with various initiatives, such as «Technovation» and the «Almaty Ecology Tech Challenge», as well as with multiple universities through the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. As a result, two online seminars were held for participants of these initiatives, with over 100 attendees, most of whom were students and high school seniors. The application deadline was initially set for May 31, but as this period coincides with the typical exam season for students, they formally requested an extension to June 15. After consulting with UNIDO, the project team agreed and extended the deadline to June 15. Consequently, 14 teams submitted applications to participate in the second acceleration cycle.
	number of GCIP Kazakhstan Pre-Accelerator participants	0	100-120	
	number of teams participating in the GCIP Kazakhstan Pre-Accelerator that apply for GCIP Kazakhstan Accelerator	0	30-40	
	number of GCIP Kazakhstan Accelerator cycles conducted	0	3	First GCIP Accelerator cycle was conducted from September to November 2023. The second cycle of the acceleration program is planned to be held in FY25.
	number of GCIP Kazakhstan Accelerator applicants	0	150-300 (at least 35% women)	In 2024, 142 applications were submitted for the acceleration program. Among them, 70 projects were founded by women entrepreneurs, which constitutes nearly half of the applicants.
	number of GCIP Kazakhstan Accelerator semi-finalists	0	60-75	In 2023 out of 45 startup teams participated in the training workshops and 22 startup teams were identified as semi-finalists.
	number of GCIP Kazakhstan Accelerator finalists	0	15-24	11 startup teams out of 22 startup teams were moved to final judging. Below is the list of startups: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SmartEnergyTree. 2. Konzh, 3. Zharkyn – Future Solar Plant 4. Breakthrough Alliance, 5. SAGI, 6. CTSolutions, 7. CryoAdsorbent, 8. IKEM, 9. Krintell 10. Ozen-M, 11. ReCompo,
	share of women among semi-finalists and finalists	0	at least 35%	Semi-finalists: 15 women and 47 men = 31% Finalists: 10 women – 27 men = 37%
	number of GCIP National Academies conducted	0	3	One National Academy of 1 st cycle was held on 24 – 27 October 2023 32 participants attended including 11 women (34%) The second cycle of the National Academy is scheduled to take place from July 28 to July 31.
	number of GCIP Kazakhstan Forums and regional brokerage events conducted	0	10-12 (3 GCIP Kazakhstan Forums and 7-9 regional brokerage events)	5 events were conducted, 3 regional brokerage events were held in the cities Astana, Almaty and Atyrau Astana – Inception Workshop. In Almaty 14 teams from the Southern cities participated and in Atyrau 6 teams mainly from Western part of Kazakhstan participated in the brokerage events. National Forum and Investor Connect were held in December 2023. From March 1 to March 27, 2024, six brokerage events were held in six different cities. Participants included scientific institutes, non-governmental organizations, industrial sectors, and potential startups. National project consultants also participated in the brokerage events.

	number of targeted gender-responsive outreach activities promoting the GCIP Kazakhstan Pre-Accelerator, Accelerator, GCIP National Academy, and GCIP Kazakhstan Forum	0	10-20	<p>Special Gender-responsive session was conducted during the Inception workshop (Technology brokerage event in Astana), where CEO of Technowomen gave a speech and shared information on women in technologies. More outreach measures are planned in the framework of National Academy, Accelerator, Investor Connect and GCIP Kazakhstan Forum.</p> <p>Special prize during the National Forum 2023 was awarded to Ms Asemgul Tuyakbayeva for Gender leadership.</p> <p>Ms. Tuyakbayeva led startup "SAGI" aimed to enhance waste utilization in cities of Kazakhstan.</p>
	number of panels at GCIP National Academy and GCIP Kazakhstan Forum focusing on women entrepreneurship	0	8-10	3 women led startups participated at the National Academy held on 24-27 October and 2 women led startups were selected as finalists and participated at the final pitching at the GCIP Kazakhstan Forum held on 14 December.
	number of partners involved that promote gender equality and women's empowerment	0	5-10	<p>Technowomen organization (it was involved in the Inception Workshop) presented an importance of women role and success stories with women lead projects.</p> <p>Technovation Kazakhstan is a global volunteer program for girls in the field of technology. We help schoolgirls become technology entrepreneurs and leaders, create and find creative solutions. Participation is 100% free.</p> <p>Gender specialist was hired and will start its work FY25.</p>
Output 1.2.1 Targeted business growth support services are provided to selected cleantech enterprises towards commercialization	number of enterprises provided with Advanced Accelerator support	0	9-15	<p>2024 was the first year in which post-acceleration and advanced support was provided for the 2023 graduates. A WhatsApp group was created for the graduates, where they could outline their needs, and our consultants offered advisory support based on the startups' requests. Consultants also conducted events on financial instruments and the latest trends in three technological areas. Additionally, the project team regularly informs about various events and programs in which the projects can also participate.</p>
	number of GCIP Kazakhstan Accelerator cycles conducted	0	3	
	number of enterprises participating in the GCIP Kazakhstan Post-Accelerator	0	30-45	
	number of GCIP Kazakhstan Post-Accelerator enterprises provided with needs-based support	0	15-25	
	number of enterprises provided with technology verification, product development and testing facility support	0	15-25	
	share of women entrepreneurs participating in the GCIP Kazakhstan Post-Accelerator	0	at least 35% in the first year and at least 40% in the second and third year	
	number of targeted support activities for products/services that promote gender equality and women's empowerment	0	3-5	
	number of targeted support activities for women entrepreneurs	0	3-5	
Output 1.2.2 Enterprises are connected to financing opportunities and provided with tipping-point investment facilitation support	number of Investor Connect events organized	0	6-10	<p>1 Investor meeting was conducted with ADB for 2 startups on 21 of November 2023.</p> <p>1 Investor Connect event conducted on 14 of December 2023.</p>
	number of financial institutions and funds with which contacts established	0	20-25	Contact with 25 organizations was established during workshop with Financial institutions and "National Forum & Investor" Connect event. It is planned to create channel in Telegram in 2024

	number of gender-responsive awareness raising events for investor community	0	3-7	1 Technowomen organization (it was involved in the Inception Workshop) presented an importance of women role and success stories with women lead projects.
	number of investors (representatives of commercial banks, investment funds, public/private companies, as well as individuals, etc.) participating in the awareness raising events	0	15-35	A workshop with financial institutions identified 25 organizations. At least 40 participants took part in the event. Communication plan is in the process of development. the awareness raising events will be conducted in 2024
	share of women investors participating in the awareness raising events	0	at least 35%	
	number of trainings for local financial experts	0	3-5	Training workshop with Financial institutions conducted 8 December 2023.
	share of women financial experts participating in the trainings	0	at least 35%	40 participants took part in the event. 48% share of women financial experts participated in the training workshop.
	number of events organized/attended to encourage seed funding providers to participate in the GCIP Kazakhstan	0	3-5	5 events were organized: 3 brokerage events (Astana, Almaty and Atyrau) 1 National forum & Investor connect Event 1 Training session for Financial institutions was organized
	number of trainings on gender-lens investment or gender sensitization for investors	0	3-5	Trainings on gender-lens investment or gender sensitization for investors are planned for the 2nd and 3 rd quarter of 2024
Output 1.2.3 Mentoring and partnership support is provided to cleantech enterprises for global market expansion	number of GCIP Kazakhstan alumni nominated for support by the GCIP Global Accelerator	0	at least 35%	In 2024, four entrepreneur teams from Kazakhstan participated in the Global Cleantech Days, held in June in Vienna, Austria. Two of the projects were presented by women. One of these projects, Ozen-M, achieved second place at the global competitive pitching event. In June 2024, the Global Engagement track of work has been kicked off with the aim to deliver the Global Engagement Strategy and disseminate it through multi-stakeholder global engagement workshops till the end of 2024 (in FY25).
	share of women entrepreneurs nominated for support by the GCIP Global Accelerator	0	at least 35%	
	number of global engagement strategies	0	1	
	number of global engagement workshops	0	2	
	share of women among the workshop participants	0	at least 35%	
	number of targeted mentoring activities for women entrepreneurs	0	3-5	
Component 2: Cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem (CIEE) strengthening and connectivity				
Outcome 2.1.1: Institutional capacity building of the CIEE actors is conducted	number of analyses of Kazakhstan's CIEE	0	1	A preliminary analysis was conducted by the national consultant. The document was sent to the global partner CTG, the Ministry of Ecology, and all directly interested market stakeholders.
	number of tools for CIEE strengthening and connectivity	0	2	This work will be completed by the end of 2024 (in FY25).
	number of gender-responsive stakeholder engagement strategies and cleantech innovation cluster strategies	0	2 (1 engagement strategy and 1 cleantech innovation cluster strategy)	
	number of organized workshops on stakeholder's engagement	0	2	1 workshop (on the 4 th of July a workshop on capacity building and stakeholder engagement was carried out).
	number of facilitators trained	0	10	The facilitator training has been rescheduled to the second half of 2024.

	share of women participants trained as facilitators	0	at least 35% in the first year and at least 40% in the second and third year	
	number of capacity building events for selected stakeholders	0	1-3	A capacity building event took place on 4 th of July 2023. During the workshop, there were breakout rooms where stakeholders of GCIP Kazakhstan (JSC "Samruk Kazyna, JSC "Science Fund", Ministry of Energy, Eurasian National University named after Gumilyov, Qazinnovations) discussed 12 questions regarding CIEE. The 2nd workshop on Ecosystem Actor Engagement workshop was conducted on 11 October and the 3 rd workshop on Cluster Development Strategy was held on 31 October. Another workshop was conducted in Vienna in June 2024 as part of the Cleantech Days.
	number of participants in the stakeholder capacity building events	0	30-90	10 participants at the first workshop that took place on 4 th of July 2023. 10 participants attended the 2nd workshop held on 11 October and 3 participants were at the 3 rd workshop held in Vienna. 2 participants attended the workshop on ecosystem building in Vienna in June 2024.
	share of women participants in the stakeholder capacity building events	0	at least 35%	20% among the participants of the stakeholder capacity building event.
	number of stakeholders that completed the 'I- know-gender' training	0	500-700 (at least 35% women)	This work is planned for the 2nd half of 2024 in FY25.
	number of the gender-responsive Entrepreneurship Train-the-Trainer Programme cycles	0	2-4	
	number of university professors and teachers trained	0	15-20	
	number of women among the university professors and teachers trained	0	15-20	
Output 2.1.2 Cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship policies, regulations and recommendations are developed	number of gender-responsive recommendations for the cleantech, innovation, and entrepreneurship policy	0	40-50	In June 2024, collaboration began with CTG on two tracks: Ecosystem Baseline and Policy Localization. A series of online and offline webinars, site visits, and report preparations are planned to be completed by the end of 2024 (to be reported on in FY25).
	number of stakeholder engagement workshops	0	2	
	number of participants in the stakeholder engagement workshops	0	500-700	
	share of women participants in the stakeholder engagement workshops	0	At least 35%	
	number of gender-responsive roadmaps guiding implementation of the policy recommendations	0	1	
	number of policy clauses relating to gender equality	0	5	

Output 2.1.3 An inter-ministerial technical working group is established	number of inter-ministerial technical working groups established to facilitate the identification of possible compliance barriers for cleantech innovations and streamline the development of remedial solutions	0	1	An inter-ministerial technical working group is planned to be established in the 3rd quarter of 2024.
	number of organizations invited to the inter-ministerial technical working group that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women	0	3-5	Several organizations that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women are planned to be invited to the inter-ministerial technical working group in the 3rd quarter of 2024.
Component 3: Programme coordination and coherence				
Output 3.1.1 The GCIP internal guidelines for project management teams are adapted and implemented by the GCIP Kazakhstan	number of gender-responsive tools/books (with operational guidelines for the PMU)	0	1	The gender policy consultant prepared a presentation and report, which were provided to the startups and project team. Further work will be conducted by the end of 2024.
	number of sustainability and exit strategies	0	1	ToR for development of sustainability and exit strategies (including Greentech Hub business plan) is being prepared for further announcement. The business plan and exit strategy are planned to be developed in the 1st quarter of 2025.
Output 3.1.2 Programme-level knowledge management, communication and advocacy strategy is adapted and implemented by the GCIP Kazakhstan	number of GCIP Kazakhstan gender-responsive knowledge management, communication, and advocacy strategies	0	1	The gender policy consultant prepared a presentation and report, which were provided to the startups and project team. Further work will be conducted by the end of 2024.
	number briefing sessions, press releases, social media posts and adverts	0	200-300	35 press releases, that include social media posts, adverts, briefing sessions, articles, TV releases, presentations regarding GCIP Kazakhstan, were prepared and placed on websites, social and media chats, etc. In 2024, the role of public relations and information dissemination for the project was strengthened, resulting in a direct increase in the number of program applications and potential partners. A national PR consultant was specifically hired for this task, and they are currently managing three platforms: GCIP Global, the local center website, and all social media channels.
	number of memorandums of understanding (MoUs)/cooperation agreements	0	20-30	MoU between IGTIC and JSC "National Agency for Innovations Development "Qazinnovations" was prepared and submitted for consideration. Currently, one memorandum of understanding has been finalized, but it is planned to sign approximately ten more by the end of 2024.
	number of targeted communications to women	0	3-5	During the Inception workshop, the one session was specifically targeted at women.
Output 3.1.3 The GCIP Kazakhstan web platform is operated to maintain the GCIP community	number of GCIP Kazakhstan web platforms	0	1	GCIP.TECH/KAZAKHSTAN web platform was created and tested. The applications for GCIP Kazakhstan Accelerator were received through this web platform. The web platform will be modified in 2024.
	number of GCIP Kazakhstan alumni networks and associated web platforms	0	1	
	number of members in the GCIP Kazakhstan alumni network	0	90-105	
	share of members of the GCIP Kazakhstan alumni network that are women	0	At least 35%	
	number of alumni network chapter for women entrepreneurs established	0	1	
Output 3.2.1 The GCIP methodology for	number of trainings on the GCIP methodology for impact assessment	0	3	Training on Impact Hypothesis was carried out in May and June for PMU and applicants by UNIDO and Impact Forecast.

impact assessment is adapted and applied	number of participants in trainings on the GCIP methodology for impact assessment	0	30-90	10
	share of women participants in trainings on the GCIP methodology for impact assessment	0	At least 35%	Approx. 20%
	number of GCIP Kazakhstan impact reports	0	4-5	To be prepared by the end of 2024 (FY25)
Output 3.2.2 Project activities are tracked and reported based on the GCIP monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework, as well as an external mid-term review is conducted	number of GCIP Kazakhstan monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plans	0	1	On the 30-31 st May and 6-7 th June PMU Operational Guidelines Workshop was conducted for PMU by UNIDO. The objective of the workshop sessions was to prepare national M&E plans in accordance with UNIDO's forms. A national Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan was prepared and adopted.
	number of project progress reports	0	6	1
	number of external mid-term review reports	0	1	To conduct the mid-term review in June, Dr. Joyce Miller visited Kazakhstan and spent a week in two cities: Almaty and Astana. During her visit, she conducted a series of interviews with all stakeholders. The report will be ready in the third quarter of 2024.
	number of reviews of the Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan	0	3	A review will be conducted in 1 st quarter 2025
Output 3.2.3 External terminal evaluation is conducted	number of external terminal evaluation reports	0	1	Terminal evaluation report will be prepared in 2025 at the end of the GCIP Kazakhstan project implementation.

III. Project Risk Management

1. Please indicate the overall project-level risks and the related risk management measures: (i) as identified in the CEO Endorsement document, and (ii) progress to-date. Please expand the table as needed.

	(i) Risks at CEO stage/new risk	Rating		(i) Mitigation measures	(ii) Progress to-date	New defined risk ^[1]
		(i) Risk level last PIR report	(i) Risk level now			
1	Institutional Risk – Lack of absorptive capacity by the national counterpart	Low	High	Capacity building of the IGTC will be an ongoing process throughout the project implementation period to ensure that staff is comprehensively trained and sustainability of the programme is ensured.	Throughout the implementation of the project up to the present moment, the project team and its structure have changed several times, with staff turnover being one of the key issues of this project. This has led to challenges in transferring institutional knowledge effectively. It is proposed to change some aspects of working with consultants and structuring the project team, as well as reallocating funds for the implementation of these tasks. All these issues are planned to be addressed at an extraordinary Project Steering Committee meeting in 2024.	
2	Institutional Risk – Insufficient administrative and organizational capacity of the IGTC for successful execution of the project	Low	High	An organizational assessment (a micro assessment under the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers framework) was conducted during the PPG phase to evaluate potential execution risks. The results showed the risks to be low in all areas under consideration.	Throughout the implementation of the project up to the present moment, the project team and its structure have changed several times, with staff turnover being one of the key issues of this project. This has led to challenges in transferring institutional knowledge effectively. It is proposed to change some aspects of working with consultants and structuring the project team, as well as reallocating funds for the implementation of these tasks. All these issues are planned to be addressed at an extraordinary Project Steering Committee meeting in 2024.	
3	Institutional Risk – Insufficient technical capacity of the IGTC for successful execution of the project	Low	Medium	The IGTC was nominated by the GEF OFP in consultation with key stakeholders as the most appropriate national agency to execute the project, and therefore it is assumed that it has the pertinent mandate and technical capacity for successful achievement of the project objective and associated outputs and activities.	The IGTC is the most suitable organization for implementing this project. However, since the IGTC operates within the quasi-government sector, the processes of hiring and organizing events are complicated by local laws and regulations, such as procurement rules and employee hiring procedures.	
4	Institutional Risk – Lack of effective coordination	Low	Low	Proper coordination will be ensured through the	Project Steering committee established in the beginning of the project. The second PSC meeting was held on 14 December 2023	

	between various project partners			establishment of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and ad-hoc working groups will be formed if necessary.	and the third PSC meeting was held on 10 May 2024. An interministerial technical working group is under the process of establishment. Project partners participated in the events of projects (National forum, Investor connect, Interagency meetings). Current status is low.
5	Operational Risk – On-going global restrictions due to global shocks (eg. COVID-19)	Medium	Low	In case of travel and/or group meeting restrictions, the GCIP Kazakhstan trainings and meetings/events will be organized on-line.	On 5 th of May 2023, the World Health Organization declared that COVID-19 pandemic is over. The project team monitors the situation and the progress of the disease in order to transfer the main activities to an online format in case of exacerbation.
6	Sustainability Risk – Lack of ownership of project results and inability to source funding to continue the activities in the medium and long term	Low	Low	A GCIP Kazakhstan sustainability and exit strategy will be developed based on a framework delivered by the GCIP Global, and it will among others include specific considerations related to a formal project closure process (based on targets achieved by the GCIP Kazakhstan) and long-term sustainability of the achieved results.	Exit strategy is under development on the meetings of project experts. Project team internally discussing measures to create ecosystem on cleantech development. Project's Policy expert is working to create ecosystem and concept of how project will create national system
7	Political Risk – Lack of political support to mainstream innovative cleantech	Low	Low	The project is supported by the Government of Kazakhstan, and different ministries have been involved in the design of the project.	During the PSC meeting the representative the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ministry of Industry and Infrastructure Development and other stakeholders confirmed the relevance of the project goals to the national highest priorities. National priorities become greener than ever, Low carbon strategies is still under development and government deciding pathways. Project is a part of necessary actions to develop low carbon pathways.
8	Market Risk – Lack of interest by entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to participate in the GCIP Kazakhstan	Medium	Low	Outreach and communications activities will be a key component of the GCIP Kazakhstan in the lead-up to the opening of application process and throughout the	In the second year of project implementation, information dissemination about the project was strengthened, and partnerships with various associations led to an increase in applications for the 2024 acceleration program and a general rise in collaboration requests from different stakeholders.

				<p>project to attract entrepreneurs, potential sponsors and partners, and mentors and judges. More specifically, the GCIP Kazakhstan knowledge management, communication, and advocacy strategy will be developed to guide these efforts.</p>	
9	<p>Market Risk – Failure of businesses supported by GCIP Kazakhstan</p>	Medium	Low	<p>The GCIP guidebooks (for Pre-Accelerator, Accelerator, Advanced Accelerator, and Post-Accelerator) will be comprehensive documents that articulate the GCIP approach to promoting cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship in developing countries. As such, they will help ensure that the businesses supported have real market potential. In particular, the GCIP Kazakhstan guidebooks will define eligibility requirements and selection criteria for the participants.</p>	<p>Currently, the project team is working on adapting all the guidelines. Once completed, the documents will be sent to all stakeholders, with whom all suggestions and comments will be addressed.</p>
10	<p>Financing Risks – Incentive and financial support system are insufficient</p>	Low	Medium	<p>The outreach and communications activities will be targeted at, among others, financing institutions, venture capitalists, and angel investors. Moreover, the strong GCIP brand, and the direct involvement of renowned global PEEs are expected to build confidence of national and international financiers. The PSC will include at least one representative of a financing institution or an investor.</p>	<p>Although various government support measures exist and the venture market is actively developing in Kazakhstan, there is low engagement specifically in the field of clean technologies.</p>

11	Social and Gender Risks	Low	Low	<p>To ensure gender inclusiveness of all project activities, UNIDO methodology for gender assessment and gender responsive communication showing the benefits of gender equality for both women and men will be applied. To mainstream women and youth entrepreneurship, adequate and gender responsive communication strategy will be implemented and sensitization workshops will be organized. A full gender analysis was carried out and its recommendations were incorporated into the project design.</p>	<p>PMU is monitoring the gender equality and women involvement in the project activities during all scheduled events: (1) Pre-acceleration; (2) Application call; (3) creation jury committee; (4) PSC membership; (5) gender balanced participation in National Academy and National Forum events. In the results, receiving 31 - 34% of women-led entrepreneurship development. Gender prize is established to support gender leadership.</p>
12	Climate Change Risks	Low	Low	<p>The climate change it is not likely to have severe impacts on this project, with an exception for cleantech innovation dependent on biomass or water supplies. To safeguard against climate change risks, the screening of technologies to be supported by the GCIP Kazakhstan will include an assessment of the climate risks with a time horizon of 30 years, and where a risk is identified it will be necessary for the entrepreneur to propose suitable adaptation or management measures. The GIZ's Climate Expert Tool could be used as a tool available to entrepreneurs in that context.</p>	<p>Project is working with similar international and national projects Climate change risk is not applicable to GCIP Kazakhstan project.</p>
13	Environmental Risks	Medium	Medium	<p>It is recognized that some technologies</p>	<p>The Project hired social environmental experts to analyse potential environmental</p>

				that could potentially be supported by the GCIP Kazakhstan, such as the use of block chain, could lead to major GHG emissions, unless powered entirely by renewable energy. Similarly, technologies related to energy storage can have harmful environmental impacts if not managed effectively. Therefore, any cleantech innovation supported by the GCIP Kazakhstan will need to meet strict environmental screening criteria. In addition, an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) was prepared (Annex P) to mitigate the environmental (and social) risks.	risks of the projects. GCIP Global with Impact Forecast provided Impact trainings on how to quantify their impact and value environmental risks for PMU and the entrepreneur teams.	
14	Financing Risks – Inappropriate spending of funds	Low	High	Creation of separate consolidate funds where UNIDO will have an access for monitoring.	Due to the incomplete utilization of the project's budget for the first year, many tasks were reallocated to project activities for 2024 and 2025 without using the funds. Consequently, it is necessary to ensure that the funding process and planning remain as flexible as possible.	
15	Technical expertise is not readily available due to the pandemic	Low	Low	Necessary efforts will be made to identify alternative technical experts in case it is required. Planning will be flexible enough to reschedule activities onsite that require specific expertise.	The risk is low and could be removed since pandemic is over.	
16	Possible re-instatement of COVID-19 containment measures limits available capacity or effectiveness of project execution/	Medium	Low	The capacity of stakeholders, and especially the beneficiaries, for remote work and online interactions will be strengthened by securing access to commercially available conferencing systems. The current design of the curriculum for	The risk is low and could be removed since pandemic is over.	

				entrepreneurs is based on online interactions and deliverables, using webinars and web platforms, and therefore COVID-19 is not expected to pose a significant risk to the conduct of the acceleration cycles.	
17	Some project supporters, co-financiers or beneficiaries may not be able to continue with project execution/implementation	Low	Medium	The situation will be closely monitored in order to find alternate supporters or co-financiers, or to readjust the list of beneficiaries if needed.	PMU is monitoring and searching new investors and co-financiers, and hold meetings with potential local and foreign PMU conducted the training workshop for national financial organizations on 8 December 2023. More than 60 participants from 20 corporate partners attended and interested to further collaboration. National forum and invest connect events (14 December 2023) attracted national corporate sector of Kazakhstan and national partners.
18	Price increases for procurement of goods/services	Medium	Medium	The project team will undertake efforts needed to find alternative providers and make sure that competitive pricing is obtained.	The annual inflation rate in Kazakhstan eased slightly to 8.4% in June 2024, reaching July 2021 level and will be further monitored. The procurement procedures are based on the lowest price, in addition to meeting qualification requirements. The PEE is actively involved in the project implementation, providing technical support including office space and equipment.
19	New business opportunities created in response to COVID-19 related restrictions and measures	Low	Low	Response to COVID-19 restrictions, such as remote working arrangements and no-contact business modalities will require solutions that can be turned into new business models. These opportunities will be analyzed at the national level and shared with the GCIP Kazakhstan entrepreneurs. Examples of former GCIP alumni responding to new business opportunities by providing innovative solutions during the pandemic are summarized here: https://www.unido.org/stories/c	The risk is no longer relevant since all pandemic-related measures have been lifted.

			leantech-innovators-take-covid-19.	
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2. If the project received a **sub-optimal risk rating (H, S)** in the previous reporting period, please state the **actions taken** since then to mitigate the relevant risks and improve the related risk rating. Please also elaborate on reasons that may have impeded any of the sub-optimal risk ratings from improving in the current reporting cycle; please indicate actions planned for the next reporting cycle to remediate this.

N.A.

3. Please clarify if the project is facing delays and is expected to request an **extension**.

N.A.

4. Please provide the **main findings and recommendations of completed MTR**, and elaborate on any actions taken towards the recommendations included in the report.

The Project's MTR has been initiated in June 2024 and a field mission by the evaluator was conducted from 22 June to 28 June 2024 to review and adjust project implementation and to provide all project stakeholders assurance of progress and proper use of funds The main findings and recommendations of the completed MTR will be reported in the next PIR.

IV. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

1. As part of the requirements for **projects from GEF-6 onwards**, and based on the screening as per the UNIDO Environmental and Social Safeguards Policies and Procedures (ESSPP), which category is the project?

Category A project

Category B project

Category C project

(By selecting Category C, I confirm that the E&S risks of the project have not escalated to Category A or B).

	E&S risk	Mitigation measures undertaken during the reporting period	Monitoring methods and procedures used in the reporting period
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(i) Risks identified in ESMP at time of CEO Endorsement	Increasing GHG emissions from cleantech supported (e.g. blockchain, land use change)	Every application for support from the GCIP Kazakhstan Accelerator and Post-Accelerator will be assessed against strict E&S screening criteria. The E&S assessment will be conducted by an E&S expert. Where necessary, the entrepreneurs will be offered guidance on how to maximize the net positive impacts of their cleantech (i.e. to minimize the negative impacts and maximize the positive impacts). In the case of negative impacts, mitigation measures will need to be proposed by the entrepreneurs. If the mitigation measures are assessed as insufficient by the E&S expert, the cleantech will not be supported by GCIP Kazakhstan. The GIZ's Climate Expert Tool could be used by entrepreneurs to assess the environmental impacts and explore mitigation options	All 62 cleantech startup semi-finalists completed the Impact Hypothesis Tool, and no unintended harmful environmental impacts from the cleantech innovation were identified.
	Unintended harmful environmental impacts from hazardous materials used in cleantech (e.g. due to mining, manufacturing, decommissioning of batteries/PV)		
	Unintended pollution/waste disposal from cleantech supported		
	Entrepreneurs lack the capacity/awareness to properly identify and mitigate the E&S risks related to their cleantech	Inclusion of E&S impact assessment in the training modules. The GCIP Kazakhstan experts (trainers, mentors, judges) will be trained by E&S experts on the E&S impact assessment and will then provide appropriate mentoring and training to entrepreneurs.	And impact and E&S assessment training was provided as part of the Accelerator webinars on 20 and 22 November 2023.
	Cleantech innovations do not deliver the pledged impacts	Impact monitoring: there will be an ongoing monitoring of impacts by entrepreneurs, and the monitoring results will be verified by GCIP Kazakhstan experts.	The finalists, including the winners teams, have completed the Impact Hypothesis calculation and have identified the impacts of their respective products or services accordingly.

	<p>Entrepreneurs do not comply with national regulations on product safety, working conditions, and health and safety at workplace</p>	<p>Strict E&S screening criteria for cleantech will be applied. Every application accepted for the GCIP Kazakhstan Accelerator and Post-Accelerator will need to meet strict E&S screening criteria, including requirements defined in national regulations. Experts (acquainted with national regulations) will provide entrepreneurs with relevant guidance throughout the project implementation.</p>	<p>Also, during the 2024 Accelerator applications cycle, the environmental and social impact criteria during pre-screening were evaluated with the Impact tool.</p>
	<p>Low participation rates of women and youth</p>	<p>Gender mainstreaming and social safeguarding will be applied. There will be gender-responsive communications activities, and outreach will be targeted at the women and youth. Also, specific targets for women participation will be set and special prizes for women and youth will be considered. Details are provided in the Gender Analysis Report.</p>	<p>The designated Gender consultant provided training on applying a gender lens into the accelerator program, while also disseminating guiding notes on gender responsiveness for the entrepreneur teams and also the PMU.</p>
	<p>Increase in carbon emissions due to travel, meetings, training and events</p>	<p>Advice and training will be provided to all stakeholders on how to minimize their carbon footprints. Also, the use of public transport will be promoted, and environmentally friendly venues will be selected. Where possible, physical meetings will be replaced with webinars.</p>	<p>IGTIC is conducting webinars on different aspects of lowering carbon emissions such as “ESG – new paradigm of the developing of financial market”, “Climate optimized agriculture”, etc. for relevant stakeholders and IGTIC’s employees. Pre-acceleration, Acceleration, webinars, trainings are conducted online during the execution of the GCIP-Kazakhstan which means that there is no carbon footprint. Brokerage events and National Academy were conducted in a hybrid format.</p>

	Climate change risks that may affect the entrepreneurs supported	Strict E&S screening criteria for cleantech supported will be applied, including assessment of climate risks with a time horizon of 30 years. Every application for support from the GCIP Kazakhstan Accelerator and Post-Accelerator will be assessed against strict E&S screening criteria, including e.g. possible impacts of climate change on the entrepreneurs, e.g. due to a reduction in bioenergy or water sources, logistic disturbances, increased utility prices and costs of insurance, etc. The entrepreneurs will be supported in the development of appropriate climate change adaptation strategies for their businesses.	The PMU jointly keep track on the progress of each semi-finalists through the submission of worksheets, mentor reports, and participation to the program to identify climate change risks that may affect the entrepreneurs.
(ii) New risks identified during project implementation	n/a		

V. Stakeholder Engagement

1. Using the previous reporting period as a basis, please provide information on **progress, challenges and outcomes** regarding engagement of stakeholders in the project (based on the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent document submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval).

The main project stakeholders and executing partners, as outlined in the Stakeholder Section of the CEO document, include the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources (MoEco), the Ministry of Energy (MoE), the Ministry of Industry and Infrastructural Development (MIID), Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry (MDDIAI), the Ministry of National Economy (MNE), the Non-Commercial JSC International Green Technologies and Investment Projects Center (IGTIC), the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs "Atameken", the JSC Science Fund, the QazAngels Business Angels Club, the Tech Garden, the Aldina Capital, the QazTech Ventures, the Zerde National Info communication Holding, the Astana Hub International IT and Startup Hub, the JSC Center for Engineering and Technology Transfer, the Nazarbayev University and NURIS (Nazarbayev University Research and Innovation System), the EPR Operator LLP, the ABC-I2BF Seed Fund, the JSC Astana Innovations, the Samruk Kazyna Invest LLP, the Foundation of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan - El basy, the Association of Businesswomen of Kazakhstan, the Council of Business Women, the Women in Energy Club (WEC), the Business Association of Women Entrepreneurs "Asia", the Green Women and other Development Partners

such as UN Women Kazakhstan.

The Project's Steering Committee was established in April 2023 and comprises multiple key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources as the PSC chair, a representative from the Ministry of Industry and Infrastructure Development, a representative of the JSC "Science Fund", a representative from the JSC "Science Foundation", a representative from the JSC "Kazakhstan Center for Modernization and Development of housing and communal Services, a representative from the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of the Republic of Kazakhstan "Atameken", a representative from the NPO «TechnoWomen and the PMU as the secretariat.

Progress, challenges and outcomes regarding engagement of project stakeholders during the reporting period:

1) During the reporting period, two Project Steering Committee meetings (in December 2023 and May 2024) were held to track the progress of the project implementation, and to provide strategic oversight and advisory inputs on the way forward. In the December meeting, the annual report for 2023 and the work plan for 2024 were preliminarily approved, along with the plan for brokerage events in the country's regions and the project's operational aspects. Within the PSC meeting in May the new project budget for 2024 was approved. In addition, the members equally approved the grant payment of the national accelerator winners, and the list of startup teams that would attend the GCIP Global Forum, the Cleantech Days in June 2024 in Vienna. The PSC equally reviewed the collaboration with the ALMAT ECOLOGY TECH CHALLENGE and addressed the complaint from one of the 2023 entrepreneur participants.

2) The PMU is working with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Digital Development and Innovation to promote GCIP's Global Innovation Index.

3) Bilateral meetings with the international financial organizations and national private investment companies were held in the second half of 2023 to explore further investment opportunities for promising startup projects. This was also reinforced during the organized training for financial organizations.

4) In 2024, the role of interaction with key project stakeholders was strengthened through active collaboration with the Ministry of Digital Development and ongoing collaborations with the Astana International Financial Centre, including one of its bodies, the Green Finance Center, QazPatent, the Science Fund, and Qazinnovations. For the second acceleration cycle, planned collaborations include the Kazakhstan Association of Regional Environmental Initiatives, ECOJER, QazAngels, and the Qaztech Technology Alliance.

5) In addition, as part of the project stakeholder consultations during the MTR field mission, the following stakeholders were engaged: PSC members of the Science Fund and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Department of Climate Policy and Green Technology; a total of seven national consultants and mentors; the winning teams of the 2023 accelerator cohort, CryoAdsorbent and ReCompo; and various ecosystem partners. These partners included (i) Tech Garden Cluster Fund "Park of Innovative Technologies," part of the country's industrial and innovative development, (ii) MOST, the first private ecosystem for startups and venture investors in Central Asia, (iii) Qazinnovations, which participates in the formation of initiatives under the implementation of technological policy, provision of innovative grants, and support for business incubators and innovative infrastructure development, (iv) Astana Hub, the largest international technology park for IT startups in Central Asia, (v) Qazpatent Intellectual Property Office, and (vi) the Science Fund, which assists scientific and technical activities through the implementation of research and experimental design developments.

2. Please provide any feedback submitted by national counterparts, GEF OFP, co-financiers, and other partners/stakeholders of the project (e.g. private sector, CSOs, NGOs, etc.).

No progress to report during FY24.

3. Please provide any **relevant stakeholder consultation** documents.

- 10458_PIR_2024_Kazakhstan_PSC_Meeting_Minutes - April

- 10458_PIR_2024_Kazakhstan_PSC Meeting Minutes - December
-

VI. Gender Mainstreaming

1. Using the previous reporting period as a basis, please report on the **progress achieved on implementing gender-responsive measures and using gender-sensitive indicators**, as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval (in the project results framework, gender action plan or equivalent),.

- As previously reported, out of the 161 applications and shortlisted semi-finalists the share was 35.5% female led. Among the 11 Finalists that were selected, the share of women was at 37%.
- A dedicated Award nomination on "Women Leadership on Innovations and Entrepreneurship" was introduced during the National Forum in 2023.
- Moreover, the hired gender policy consultant prepared a presentation and report, which was shared with the PMU and entrepreneur teams. Further implementation work on gender-responsive measures will be conducted by the end of 2024 (in FY25).

VII. Knowledge Management and Communication

1. Using the previous reporting period as a basis, please elaborate on any **knowledge management and communication activities / products**, as documented at CEO Endorsement / Approval.

During the reporting period, a total of 40 publications "promoting GCIP Kazakhstan" were released on local media, journals, social media and National TV.

- Still in FY23 but published only afterwards, there was one article titled "Launch of GCIP-Kazakhstan. Accelerating innovation and entrepreneurship in the field of clean technologies" published (<https://qazaqgreen.com/en/journal-qazaqgreen/green-finance/1218/>) in the journal "Qazaq Green" with the overall objective to promote and GCIP Project among current and potential stakeholders.
- The GCIP Kazakhstan page has been created within the GCIP global website (<https://gcip.tech/country/kazakhstan/>)
- In August 2023, an article entitled "GCIP-Kazakhstan: why is it important to develop green ecosystems" was prepared and published on the IGTIPC website.
- In October 2023, within another episode of the "Business Morning" program, Ms Gulmira Sergazina, former National coordinator of the GCIP-Kazakhstan project, as well as Saulet Sakenov, former national technical consultant of the GCIP-Kazakhstan project, spoke about the mission of the project. Media coverage can be accessed via the links: <https://businessfm.kz/podcasts/business-morning/gcip-kazakhstan-pochemu-vazhno-razvivat-zelenye-ekosistemy> and also via <https://www.instagram.com/p/Cy3Lf4OoWTv/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>
- In December 2023, a news story was also published on national television following the results of the National Forum and Investor Connect 2023: <https://youtu.be/bEghbyYzDQM?t=823> (until 14:54) and a press-release on National forum results was published in three languages on the IGTIPC website.

2. Please list any **relevant knowledge management and communication mechanisms / tools** that the project has generated.

- 10458_2024_PIR_GCIP Kazakhstan_KNM and communication activities

VIII. Implementation progress

1. Using the previous reporting period as a basis, please provide information on **progress, challenges and outcomes achieved/observed** with regards to project implementation.

The Project Executing Agreement (PEA) was duly countersigned on 14 November 2022, and the IGTIC as the PMU for the GCIP Kazakhstan project had prepared the annual work plan, budget and procurement plan of the project within the given timeframe of 60 days after the signed PEA.

During the reporting period, the following progress and outcomes have been achieved with regards to project implementation:

Component 1:

- Activities with regards to Kazakhstan's first acceleration cycle:
 - Applications call & Shortlisting: Both activities were held during the previous FY (FY23) but worthwhile mentioning that a total of 161 applications were received, out of which 45 were selected as semifinalists. However, not all entrepreneur teams participated in the webinars and Project events and therefore the final cohort of semifinalists is 22 entrepreneurs.
 - A total of 14 mentors (women 14%) including 2 business and 2 RE specialized mentors were trained.
 - NA for cohort 2: The National Academy of 2nd cycle was held from in October 2023 in Astana and attended by 11 entrepreneur Teams. It offered the selected semi-finalists intensive training sessions and practical workshops, all under the guidance of the recruited mentors and NGIN trainers.
 - Webinars: A total of 20 GCIP webinars were organized between July and November 2023 for a cohort of 22 semi-finalists.
 - 2 Investor Connect meetings were conducted, 1 in November 2023 and one other 1 Investor Connect in December 2023
 - 2 Rounds of Judging have been conducted: Mock or First Round judging was conducted by 10 judges of the various industry areas in November 2023 and second Round judging (final judging) was conducted in December 2023 comprising 5 judges and selecting the 5 winner teams.
 - The National Forum 2023 and 1 Investor Connect event were held together with the Final Judging in December 2023.
 - Award nomination on *Women Leadership on Innovations and Entrepreneurship* was identified for startups winner teams at the National Forum 2023 in December 2023.
 - Participation of 4 winner teams at the Cleantech Days in Vienna in June 2024.
- Activities with regards to Kazakhstan's second acceleration cycle:
 - Applications call was launched in April and closed in May 2024 with 142 applications received (70 applications from women-led teams).
 - More than 250 applicants from SMEs were consulted by the PMU via phone, email, WhatsApp during the application call and pre-Acceleration phase.
 - 17 mentors were trained with 4 being women.
 - For the second cycle, PR consultants were hired and enhanced information dissemination, leading to increased media coverage and a larger number of applications.
 - Following collaboration with initiatives such as Technovation Girls, there has been significant interest from high school students and university students for the 2nd accelerator cycle in 2024, where an application deadline extension was requested, as the original deadline of May 30 was inconvenient due to exams
 - The shortlisting of the semi-finalists and Round 1 judging is currently ongoing.

Component 2:

- Participation in Kazakhstan's Ecosystem workshops:
 - Capacity Building for Cleantech Innovation Entrepreneurship Ecosystems in July 2023.
 - Policy Strategy for Cleantech Innovation Entrepreneurship Ecosystems in August 2023.

- Cleantech Ecosystem Actor Engagement Workshop in October 2023.
- Cluster Development Workshop in October 2023.
- Ecosystem Building Workshop in June 2024.
- National Policy Localization Workshops in Kazakhstan will have two work streams by focusing on 1) Ecosystem Building and 2) Policy Localization.
 - A coordination meeting was held in May 2024;
 - Both work stream workshops (online and in person) are scheduled in FY25 (throughout August to December 2024).

Component 3:

- 2 Monitoring & Evaluation reports submitted to UNIDO (December 2023 and June 2024)
- Capacity building activities for the PEE on sustainability, collaboration and strengthening of skills, through attending the following initiatives:
 - Applying Gender Lens for the Accelerator Program in August 2023, provided by UNIDO (GCIP Global)
 - A three-member team consisting of 2 PMU representatives represented Kazakhstan at the Cleantech Days 2023 in Vienna and attended the operational trainings on Advanced and Post acceleration and Impact data interpretation, provided by NGIN and Impact Forecast in October 2023
 - Sustainability webinar on the Impact Calculation Tool, provided by UNIDO (GCIP Global) and Impact Forecast in November 2023
 - PMU Recap 2023 Feedback session on what went well and wrong, provided by UNIDO (GCIP Global) in February 2024
 - GCIP Accelerator Training: Branding, Communication & Outreach Planning, provided by UNIDO (GCIP Global) in February 2024
 - GCIP Accelerator Training Session: Applicant & Mentor Engagement, Recruitment and Selection provided by NGIN in February 2024
 - GCIP Accelerator Training Session: Mentor Roles, Training & Management by NGIN in February 2024
 - GCIP Training Session: National Academies, Training Webinars and Business Clinics provided by NGIN in February 2024
 - GCIP Training Session: Judging (Mock, Rounds 2&3), National Awards and Alumni Support provided by NGIN in February 2024
 - GCIP Training Session: Post Accelerator Support Activities provided by NGIN in March 2024
 - GCIP Training Session: The Advanced Acceleration provided by NGIN in March 2024
 - GCIP Train-the-Trainer Session provided by NGIN in March 2024
 - GCIP Impact Hypothesis Webinar provided by Impact Forecast in May 2024
 - A six-member team consisting of 2 PMU (and 4 startups) represented Kazakhstan at the Cleantech Days 2024 and attended the GCIP evaluation process for PMU Teams as well as the Operational Meeting on Post Acceleration Support provided by Caprese SRL and NGIN in June 2024.
 - GCIP PMU and Jury Training on Impact Hypothesis applicant screening process by Impact Forecast in June 2024.

During the reporting period, the following **challenges** have been encountered with regards to project implementation:

- 1) Complaint about Final judging results by dissatisfied entrepreneur

After the National Forum 2023, "Alliance of Breakthrough innovation" an official complaint was filed to (i) the PEE "International Center for Green Technologies and Investment Projects", (ii) the state institution "Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan", as well as to (iii) the specialized inter-district Administrative Court of Astana city on challenging the results of the final judging round of the 2023 accelerator competition, dated December 14, 2023. The complaint forced a repeat of the competition. On 7th June 2024 the court ruled in favor of IGTIC and MENR that the competition was conducted fairly and objectively, leading to the dismissal of the complaint case. As a consequence, during the second accelerator cycle (the 2024 cycle) there will be increased documentation control for all decisions made by the project team, including agreements with the jury, participants in the acceleration program, and other experts and stakeholders.

2) Coordination difficulties with all hired consultants have been observed. Due to the institutional risks as described in Section III regarding the high staff turnover in the PMU, it is proposed to change some aspects of working with consultants and structuring the project team, as well as reallocating funds for the implementation of these tasks. All these issues are planned to be addressed at an extraordinary Project Steering Committee meeting to be held in 2024 (FY25).

2. Please briefly elaborate on any **minor amendments**³ to the approved project that may have been introduced during the implementation period or indicate as not applicable (NA).

Please tick each category for which a change has occurred and provide a description of the change in the related textbox. You may attach supporting documentation, as appropriate.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Results Framework	NA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Components and Cost	NA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Institutional and Implementation Arrangements	NA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Financial Management	Due to the unutilized budget from the first year of the project, the remaining amount has been reallocated to project related tasks for the years 2024 and 2025.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Implementation Schedule	NA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Executing Entity	NA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Executing Entity Category	NA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor Project Objective Change	NA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Safeguards	NA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Risk Analysis	NA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase of GEF Project Financing Up to 5%	NA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Co-Financing	NA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Location of Project Activities	NA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Others	NA

3. Please provide progress related to the **financial implementation** of the project.

³ As described in Annex 9 of the *GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines*, **minor amendments** are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5%.

	GRANT DELIVERY REPORT	Grant:	200004692	Grant Status:	Authority to implement	Grant Validity:	31.12.2021 - 31.12.2026
		Sponsor:	400150 - GEF - Global Environment Facility	Currency:	USD	Reporting Period:	31.12.2021 - 30.06.2024
		Other Reference:	10458-UNIDO-PJ-MS-GR-1	Fund:	GF	Prepared on:	29.07.2024
Project	Project Description	Country	Region	Project Manager		Project Validity	
180111	GLOBAL CLEANTECH INNOVATION PROGRAMME IN KAZAKHSTAN - PROMOTING CLEANTECH INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES FOR GREEN JOBS IN KAZAKHSTAN	Kazakhstan	Europe	Olga Rataj		26.02.2019 - 16.12.2026	

	Description	Released Budget Current Year (a)	Obligations Current Year (b)	Disbursements Current Year (c)	Expenditures Current Year (d=b+c)	Total Agreement Budget (e)	Released Budget (f)	Obligations + Disbursements (g)	Funds Available* (h=f-g)	Support Cost (i)	Total Expenditures (j=g+i)
180111											
180111-1-01-01	1.1 Enterprise acceleration	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
2100	Contractual Services	8,810.00	6,545.00	25,340.00	31,885.00	0.00	0.00	73,075.00	(73,075.00)	0.00	73,075.00
9300	Support Cost IDC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,576.75	6,576.75
180111-1-01-01	Total	8,810.00	6,545.00	25,340.00	31,885.00	0.00	0.00	73,075.00	(73,075.00)	6,576.75	79,651.75
180111-1-01-02	1.2 Investment facilitation	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
2100	Contractual Services	20,000.00	39,560.00	0.00	39,560.00	0.00	0.00	39,560.00	(39,560.00)	0.00	39,560.00
9300	Support Cost IDC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,560.40	3,560.40
180111-1-01-02	Total	20,000.00	39,560.00	0.00	39,560.00	0.00	0.00	39,560.00	(39,560.00)	3,560.40	43,120.40
180111-1-02-01	2.1 Policy Framework strengthened	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
2100	Contractual Services	10,000.00	24,080.00	0.00	24,080.00	0.00	0.00	24,080.00	(24,080.00)	0.00	24,080.00
9300	Support Cost IDC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,167.20	2,167.20
180111-1-02-01	Total	10,000.00	24,080.00	0.00	24,080.00	0.00	0.00	24,080.00	(24,080.00)	2,167.20	26,247.20
180111-1-03-01	3.1 Standards and programmatic coherence	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
2100	Contractual Services	20,000.00	68,800.00	0.00	68,800.00	0.00	0.00	68,800.00	(68,800.00)	0.00	68,800.00
9300	Support Cost IDC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,192.00	6,192.00
180111-1-03-01	Total	20,000.00	68,800.00	0.00	68,800.00	0.00	0.00	68,800.00	(68,800.00)	6,192.00	74,992.00
180111-1-03-04	3.2 Impact Monitoring & Reporting	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
2100	Contractual Services	6,685.00	39,560.00	0.00	39,560.00	0.00	0.00	39,560.00	(39,560.00)	0.00	39,560.00
9300	Support Cost IDC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,560.40	3,560.40
180111-1-03-04	Total	6,685.00	39,560.00	0.00	39,560.00	0.00	0.00	39,560.00	(39,560.00)	3,560.40	43,120.40

* Does not include Unapproved Obligations

The above statement has been certified electronically by the designated officials in UNIDO's Financial Services.

	GRANT DELIVERY REPORT	Grant:	200004692	Grant Status:	Authority to implement	Grant Validity:	31.12.2021 - 31.12.2026
		Sponsor:	400150 - GEF - Global Environment Facility	Currency:	USD	Reporting Period:	31.12.2021 - 30.06.2024
		Other Reference:	10458-UNIDO-PJ-MS-GR-1	Fund:	GF	Prepared on:	29.07.2024
Project	Project Description	Country	Region	Project Manager		Project Validity	
180111	GLOBAL CLEANTECH INNOVATION PROGRAMME IN KAZAKHSTAN - PROMOTING CLEANTECH INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES FOR GREEN JOBS IN KAZAKHSTAN	Kazakhstan	Europe	Olga Rataj		26.02.2019 - 16.12.2026	

	Description	Released Budget Current Year (a)	Obligations Current Year (b)	Disbursements Current Year (c)	Expenditures Current Year (d=b+c)	Total Agreement Budget (e)	Released Budget (f)	Obligations + Disbursements (g)	Funds Available* (h=f-g)	Support Cost (i)	Total Expenditures (j=g+i)
180111-1-53-01	M&E	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
1100	Staff & Intern Consultants	0.00	9,481.05	3,343.15	12,824.20	0.00	0.00	12,824.20	(12,824.20)	0.00	12,824.20
1500	Local Travel	0.00	3,712.40	2,063.61	5,776.01	0.00	0.00	5,776.01	(5,776.01)	0.00	5,776.01
9300	Support Cost IDC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,674.04	1,674.04
180111-1-53-01	Total	0.00	13,193.45	5,406.76	18,600.21	0.00	0.00	18,600.21	(18,600.21)	1,674.04	20,274.25
180111	Total	65,495.00	191,738.45	30,746.76	222,465.21	0.00	0.00	263,675.21	(263,675.21)	23,730.79	287,406.00
200004692	USD Total	65,495.00	191,738.45	30,746.76	222,465.21	0.00	0.00	263,675.21	(263,675.21)	23,730.79	287,406.00

* Does not include Unapproved Obligations

The above statement has been certified electronically by the designated officials in UNIDO's Financial Services.

Regarding further supporting documents related to the financial implementation of the project, a financial Report from the PEE, detailing the annual expenditures plan has been attached.

Attachment: 10458_2024_PIR_Kazakhstan_Attachment 1

It is worth noting that difficulties arose while completing the Financial Project Report. All operations for the implementation of project tasks are paid in the national currency, Kazakhstani Tenge. Changes in the dollar-tenge exchange rate during the reporting period also need to be considered.

As for the current status of funds mobilization activities there will be an update provided in the next PIR. The Project's MTR has been initiated in June 2024 and a field mission by the evaluator was conducted from 22 June to 28 June 2024 to review and adjust project implementation and to provide all project stakeholders assurance of progress and proper use of funds.

IX. Work Plan and Budget

1. Please provide **an updated project work plan and budget** for the remaining duration of the project, as per last approved project extension. Please expand/modify the table as needed.

Regarding an updated project work plan and budget, kindly find as attached.

Attachment: 10458_2024_PIR_Kazakhstan_Attachment 1

X. Synergies

1. **Synergies** achieved:

As reported in the previous PIR, international gender consultant has been successfully hired, marking the commencement of the gender responsive related work on both the GCIP-Kazakhstan and Readiness-2 projects. With an augmented budget, these projects have been strategically aligned to capitalize on synergies and enhance their impact.

Collaboration with International partners: The GCIP - Kazakhstan project held a meeting with the UN Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan in order to introduce the UN Kazakhstan office to the project and further achieve greater synergy with other ongoing UN projects in Kazakhstan. The UN Office in Kazakhstan took an active part in the National Forum on December 14, 2023.

Moreover, another possible synergy was with the representatives from the Asian Development Bank, which held a meeting with the GCIP Kazakhstan startups and provided tailored guidance and recommendations on how to improve some aspects of their business models to be more aligned with international finance standards.

3. **Stories to be shared** (Optional)

During the Cleantech Days events, in June 2024, the entrepreneurs from Kazakhstan have achieved significant success with regards to the global competitive pitching events:

Cleantech Days 2024:

2 Kazakh entrepreneur teams ReCompo and Ozen-M were among the Top 6 Performers and Ozen-M secured the second place.

I. GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location and Activity Description
Astana	51.169392	71.449074	1526273	Main project activities (Pre-Accelerator, Accelerator, Post-Accelerator, Advanced Accelerator) as well as regional technology brokerage and Investor Connect events.

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions is taking place as appropriate.

GCIP Kazakhstan:
location of
main project
activities/events

GCIP Kazakhstan:
location of
the regional
technology
brokerage and
Investor Connect
events



EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. **Timing & duration:** Each report covers a twelve-month period, i.e. 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024.
2. **Responsibility:** The responsibility for preparing the report lies with the project manager in consultation with the Division Chief and Director.
3. **Evaluation:** For the report to be used effectively as a tool for annual self-evaluation, project counterparts need to be fully involved. The (main) counterpart can provide any additional information considered essential, including a simple rating of project progress.
4. **Results-based management:** The annual project/programme progress reports are required by the RBM programme component focal points to obtain information on outcomes observed.

Global Environmental Objectives (GEOs) / Development Objectives (DOs) ratings	
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Project is expected to achieve or exceed <u>all</u> its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”.
Satisfactory (S)	Project is expected to <u>achieve most</u> of its <u>major</u> global environmental objectives, and yields satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings.
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Project is expected to <u>achieve most</u> of its major <u>relevant</u> objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modes overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve some of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environmental benefits.
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Project is expected to achieve <u>some</u> of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to <u>achieve only some</u> of its major global environmental objectives.
Unsatisfactory (U)	Project is expected <u>not</u> to achieve <u>most</u> of its major global environmental objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits.
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, <u>any</u> of its major global environmental objectives with no worthwhile benefits.

Implementation Progress (IP)	
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of <u>all</u> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be presented as “good practice”.
Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of <u>most</u> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only few that are subject to remedial action.
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of <u>some</u> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action.
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Implementation of <u>some</u> components is <u>not</u> in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action.
Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of <u>most</u> components in <u>not</u> in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of <u>none</u> of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.
Risk ratings	
Risk ratings will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale:	
High Risk (H)	There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
Substantial Risk (S)	There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face substantial risks.
Moderate Risk (M)	There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only moderate risk.
Low Risk (L)	There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only low risks.