



Project Implementation Report

(1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023)

Project Title:	Regional Demonstration Project for Coordinated Management of ODS and POPs Disposal in Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Armenia
GEF ID:	5300
UNIDO ID:	150105
GEF Replenishment Cycle:	GEF-5
Country(ies):	Regional (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine)
Region:	ECA - Europe and Central Asia
GEF Focal Area:	Multifocal Area (MFA)
Integrated Approach Pilot (IAP) Programs¹:	N/A
Stand-alone / Child Project:	Stand-alone
Implementing Department/Division:	ENV / MPD
Co-Implementing Agency:	N/A
Executing Agency(ies):	The national executing partners are the Government focal points in each country, namely the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Environment Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Ministry of Natural Protection of the Republic of Armenia.
Project Type:	Full-Sized Project (FSP)
Project Duration:	60 months
Extension(s):	1 extension for 36 months (as recommended by the Midterm Review report and endorsed by the national executing partners)
GEF Project Financing:	USD 18,000,000
Agency Fee:	USD 1,620,000
Co-financing Amount:	USD 74,500,000
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:	5/1/2017
UNIDO Approval Date:	5/15/2017
Actual Implementation Start:	6/22/2017
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June 2023:	USD 14,554,724.57

¹ Only for GEF-6 projects, if applicable

Mid-term Review (MTR) Date:	5/31/2022
Original Project Completion Date:	6/30/2022
Project Completion Date as reported in FY22:	6/22/2025
Current SAP Completion Date:	6/22/2025
Expected Project Completion Date:	6/22/2025
Expected Terminal Evaluation (TE) Date:	7/1/2025
Expected Financial Closure Date:	11/30/2025
UNIDO Project Manager²:	Yury Sorokin

I. Brief description of project and status overview

Project Objective		
<p><i>The Regional Demonstration Project for Coordinated Management of ODS and POPs Disposal in Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Armenia will demonstrate environmentally sound collection and destruction of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) stocks. This demonstration project will assist the countries involved in meeting their obligations under the Montreal Protocol and the Stockholm Convention and establish local capacities for destruction of ODS and some POPs substances. Through the demonstration activities, the project aims to destroy a minimum of 11,700 tons of PCB-containing waste, 418 tons of extracted ODS. It will introduce regulatory reforms in Armenia, Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan and strengthen national capacity in identifying, assessing, managing, and treating such wastes in an environmentally sustainable manner.</i></p>		
GEF Focal Area	Project Core Indicators	Expected at CEO Endorsement
Phase out POPs and reduce POPs releases	Quantifiable and verifiable tons of POPs eliminated or reduced	The Project aims to destroy a minimum of 11,700 MT of PCBs
Phase out ODS and reduce ODS releases	Countries have phased out Ozone Depleting Substances and replace them with zero ODP, low GWP alternatives	The Project aims to destroy 418 MT of ODS

Baseline
<p><i>There is a significant gap in the project countries with regards to the management of ODS banks and the collection, recovery and destruction of ODS from end of life equipment. The countries do not have a suitable system in place for the collection and storage of end-of-life refrigerant gases, or equipment containing ODS and deliberate venting of refrigerants is commonplace due to lack of awareness or limited regulatory enforcement. Additionally, in relation to the control of POPs; the NIPs of the target countries indicate that considerable action is required for the countries to meet the requirements of the Stockholm Convention.</i></p> <p><i>Currently, refrigerators and other ODS containing equipment are sent to landfill and POPs are simply abandoned in inappropriate storage conditions or burned in poorly controlled incinerators creating pollution and human health risks. Without GEF intervention this situation is unlikely to change. GEF funding is needed for the provision of necessary equipment for ODS and POPs destruction, the development of national waste disposal plans and building long-term national capacity for the management of ODS and POPs.</i></p>

² Person responsible for report content

Overall Ratings ³	FY23	FY22
Global Environmental Objectives (GEOs) / Development Objectives (DOs) Rating	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)
<p><i>In 2021, the Project was on target to achieve the planned objectives, with all project components completed in Armenia, all investment activities completed for Kazakhstan and the majority of investment activities (circa 80%) completed for Belarus. The investment activities were partially completed in Ukraine (50%) however, the remaining equipment cannot be procured for both political reasons (no formal extension of the project in Ukraine) and technical reasons (no shipment or insurance to conflict zones).</i></p> <p><i>The political situation that escalated in the region posed significant challenges in implementation and resulted in a request from the Government of Ukraine to modify the project on political grounds (declining to participate in a project with the Government of Belarus).</i></p> <p><i>As this is a regional project, the Government of Ukraine has been informed that it is not possible to change the geographical scope of the project or make any other major changes to the project without the endorsement of the Regional Project Steering Committee. There are significant concerns that the Global Environmental Objectives of the project cannot be fully achieved if the target countries cannot work together.</i></p> <p><i>Notwithstanding, given the achievements of the project to date, from a technical perspective, the target countries have obtained the required technical support and infrastructure and are still in a position to meet their compliance commitments under the Montreal protocol and Stockholm Convention set by the project.</i></p>		
Implementation Progress (IP) Rating	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)
<p><i>Implementation progress was in line with the activities set out in the Project Results Framework, outlined in the Project Document at CEO Endorsement, however given the conflict in the region, there is significant concern that the objectives of the project cannot be fully achieved. Though the national executing entities requested to extend the project, the recommended course of action is to terminate the project as a whole and return the remaining funds to the GEF.</i></p>		
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate Risk (M)	Moderate Risk (M)
<p><i>The risk rating increased in FY22 and FY23 given the political situation that escalated in Belarus and Ukraine, which posed challenges in implementation and uncertainty regarding the outcomes of the project in these two countries.</i></p>		

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 in FY23
Component 1 – National regulatory framework for ODS and PCB/POPs management and disposal				
Outcome 1.1: Relevant regulations and instructions in each country developed to allow enforcement of POPs and ODS waste disposal in order to meet relevant obligations				
Output 1.1.1: Revised national policies, regulations and guidelines on PCB/POPs and ODS	New or revised national policies, regulations and	Local legislation does not specifically mention ODS, PCB and POPs especially in	Existing legislation in the project target countries on ODS and POPs disposal	Implementation built on the legislative activities carried out in the previous years of the project.

³ 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

waste disposal developed	guidelines issued on: PCB/POPs contaminated sites management issues; and PCB/POPs monitoring and reporting, ODS-based refrigeration appliances collection	terms of their destruction in the project target countries	in comparison with EU directives analysed	<p>The project component in Armenia was completed and all legislative documents developed for PCB management were submitted and shared amongst the participating countries, including the “Rulebook on Management of PCBs, Equipment and Waste Containing PCBs”, “Maintenance Guidelines for PCBs and Potential PCBs holders” and “Polychlorinated Biphenyls Inspection Checklist”.</p> <p>In Belarus, the draft Technical Code on BAT for waste treatment and the draft Technical Code on BAT for waste incineration were approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection.</p> <p>In Kazakhstan, the project beneficiary is working to ensure that a solid regulatory framework for ODS management, including ODS recovery, handling, testing and disposal is in place and that the proposed ODS/POPs co-disposal facility meets these requirements.</p> <p>In Ukraine, The bill “On waste management”, drafted with support from project experts, remains under consideration of the Parliament. No further guidance on the legislative activities has been received from the Ministry of Environmental Protection.</p>
Output 1.1.2: A new regulatory mechanism on various aspects of ODS/PCB/POPs disposal in the project target countries developed	A modern regulatory system established for the management, control and disposal of ODS and PCB and POPs waste	<p>i) No refrigerators collection fee is introduced;</p> <p>ii) No producer responsibility program except Belarus is introduced</p> <p>iii) Waste disposal fee is not introduced</p> <p>iv) No interest of cement kilns in ODS/PCB/POP destruction</p>	A relevant policy enforcement strategy based on the EU directives in each country developed	<p>Proposals for the adoption of regulatory instruments in the project target countries on ODS and POPs disposal were included in the above-mentioned legislative proposals submitted to the responsible bodies.</p> <p>At the regional level, no further inputs or guidance was received from the target countries on the proposed ‘Guidance Document on the Coordinated Management of ODS and POPs, to develop a holistic framework for the management, treatment and disposal of ODS and POPs.</p>
Output 1.1.3: Adequate financial models to ensure long-term sustainability of the sub-regional centers developed	Economic and market based incentives for collection, transportation, storage and final destruction of ODS and PCB/POP waste developed	International standards are not applied in the project target countries	Within 12 months of the start-up of project implementation financial plans on ODS and PCB/POP disposal in the project target countries prepared	The working agreements signed with the project recipients in the target countries include the development of comprehensive national waste systems, to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project activities.
Output 1.1.4: Qualified sampling and analytical capability in the region for characterizing PCB and POPs wastes and assessment of PCB and	A set of measures for national laboratories in strengthening their capacity	Local legislation does not specifically mention ODS, PCB and POPs especially in terms of their destruction in the	Availability of PCBs screening kits for detection of PCB levels in transformer oil and	The project recipients in the target countries were selected on the basis of pre-existing sampling and analytical capability or access to qualified services.

POPs content strengthened	in PCB/POPs analyses developed	project target countries	measuring devices for POPs assessment in the national laboratories analyzed and if necessary	
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Component 2 – Waste management and disposal subnetworks in the project target countries including ODS and POPs waste collection, storage, transportation and final destruction linked into the regional network

Outcome 2.1: In country capability in identifying, collecting, and transporting POPs and ODS waste (refrigeration appliances) to specified recycling and destruction locations

Output 2.1.1: ODS, POPs waste for disposal at the sub-regional disposal centers assessed	The national reports on POPs and PCBs waste revised, ODS banks analyzed to estimate the scope of disposal operations	No data is available on ODS banks in the project target countries. The inventory on POPs and OPs are permanently updated	Strengthening national waste management equipped with secure storage and basic infrastructure to allow introduction of new technologies	Collection of data on national POPs and ODS banks completed in all project target countries.
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Output 2.1.2: National ODS and POPs disposal plans developed	National plans with targeted figures of ODS and POPs quantities to be disposed of developed	No ODS disposal plans available. The NIPs on POPs phase-out based on the establishment of incineration facilities funded by IOs only	Long-term site management plans for remediation of the dumpsites and for refrigerator recycling and ODS destruction in the project target countries prepared	Data collection for national ODS and POPs disposal plans completed for Belarus, pending for Ukraine and Kazakhstan. The national project teams are coordinating with other development agencies to obtain data on the current and potential types and volumes of POPs and ODS, and the current and potential types and volumes of hazardous waste that can be destroyed jointly with POPs or ODS.
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Output 2.1.3: Three national ODS and POPs collection, transportation and disposal centers including infrastructure, control and reporting systems established	Sub-regional ODS and POPs collection, transportation and disposal centers in the project target countries established	No ODS or POPs autonomous destruction centers are available in the CEIT countries including the project target countries	Implementation of centers design, operational procedures and a conformance with national legislation	Selection of project beneficiaries completed in all project target countries. Working agreement signed with project beneficiaries in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, to ensure the timely implementation of the project activities.
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Outcome 2.2: Potential for coordinated management of refrigerator recycling and ODS and POPs waste disposal among the countries within the region

Output 2.2.1: A regional ODS and POPs pesticide waste stocks database designed	Guidance documentation on the regional database on ODS and POPs pesticide stocks	No activities in the project target countries on regional disposal of ODS or PCB/POPs waste pesticides	The availability of the regional database would allow the regional network to plan the project waste	Project website, including a knowledge management platform and waste database, was developed. In addition to serving as a knowledge resource for counterparts to share documents and exchange lessons learned, the website will serve as a basis for the waste stocks database.
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Output 2.2.2: A framework for regional cooperation for ODS appliances recycling, ODS and POPs disposal among the project target countries developed	A new set of regulatory instruments for regional cooperation adopted	No regional cooperation on POPs disposal among the project target countries and in the region in the past	Agreements among stakeholders on the content of the regional framework cooperation made	A written framework for regional cooperation on ODS and POPs disposal among the project target countries is under preparation, however, it is unclear if this will be endorsed by all target countries, considering the current conflict.
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Component 3 – ODS extraction during refrigeration appliances recycling, and subsequent destruction of ODS at the established national facilities

Outcome 3.1: In country capacity in establishing refrigeration appliances recycling facilities for ODS extraction and their consequent destruction

Output 3.1.1: Advanced technology options for refrigeration appliances recycling and ODS destruction	Feasible local refrigerators and air-conditioners recycling and ODS destruction options	There exists manual cutting of refrigerator carcasses (ODS are evacuated into atmosphere); no recycling facilities in the project target countries available	A refrigerators and airconditioners recycling facility selected including carcasses shredding and automatic ODS extraction and filtration	Technologies assessed and procurement of equipment completed.
Output 3.1.2: Construction, installation and commission of a refrigeration appliances recycling facilities for ODS extraction in the project target countries performed	Refrigeration appliances recycling facility in the project target countries established. Site preparation arrangements for hosting the required technology completed	No ODS extraction from refrigerator appliances are made; no refrigerators and air-conditioners are recycled in the project target countries	National capacities in refrigeration appliances recycling	Construction of the refrigeration appliances recycling facility completed in Ukraine. Installation and commissioning pending in Kazakhstan.
Output 3.1.3: An estimated 400,000 units of EOL refrigerators and air conditioners collected and recycled	800,000 pieces of refrigerators recycled, an estimate of 248 tons of ODS extracted and disposed of	No refrigerators and air-conditioners are recycled in the project target countries	A national capacity in place in the project target relative to EOL refrigerator and air conditioners recycling	This will take place once the installation of the equipment is finalized.
Output 3.1.4: An estimated 418 tons of extracted ODS destroyed	Annual quantities of ODS extracted from refrigerator appliances in the project target countries destroyed	No ODS extraction from the refrigeration appliances in the project target countries available	800,000 pieces of old refrigerators recycled and approx. 248 tons of ODS destroyed in Phase I	This will take place once the installation of the equipment is finalized.

Component 4 – Environmentally Sound Management and destruction of PCB contaminated equipment and POPs pesticide waste stockpiles

Outcome 4.1: In country capacity for destroying PCB containing equipment and POPs contaminated pesticide waste at the established national ODS, PCB/POPs destruction facilities

Output 4.1.1: Advanced technology options for treatment and disposal methods of PCB and POPs destruction assessed	Selection of feasible local PCB and POPs waste pesticide destruction technology meeting the EU requirements	No treatment and disposal of PCB and POPs waste pesticides techniques applied in the project target countries	Assessment of BAT technologies for PCB and POPs destruction and selection of appropriate one	Decision on destruction technologies for ODS, POPs/PCBs reached in all countries.
Output 4.1.2: A national plan for PCB-containing transformer oil decontaminated and pure PCB destruction in the project target countries developed	A national facility for environmental sound disposal of PCB-containing equipment including their handling, disposal and occupational and environmental safety measures and transformer	No PCB decontamination or destruction facility is yet available in the project target countries; current transformer and capacitor management practices allow for further cross-contamination of	Start-up of annual PCB destruction in the project target countries	The establishment of the national facilities for ODS, POPs and PCB destruction is well advanced in Belarus and Kazakhstan. The final decision on destruction technologies for ODS, POPs/PCBs disposal pending for Ukraine. The current conflict has made progress in this area difficult.

	cases cleaning established in each country	PCB free equipment; no PCB-contaminated oil from transformer parts removed		
Output 4.1.3: A national facility for ODS and POPs contaminated pesticides destruction in the project target countries established	A national facility for environmentally sound disposal of POP waste pesticides including their handling, disposal and occupational and environmental safety measures	Through the POPs waste management projects funded by the GEF a certain quantity of POPs waste is destroyed abroad; no long-term capacity in POPs waste disposal established in the project target countries	Annual POPs waste pesticides destruction and later on OPs waste in selected countries	The establishment of the national facilities for ODS and POPs-contaminated pesticides destruction is well advanced in Belarus and Kazakhstan. The procurement process for the equipment for ODS, POPs/PCBs disposal is still ongoing / on hold in Ukraine.
Output 4.1.4:PCB-containing waste and POPs disposed	11,700 tonnes of PCB containing waste, other POPs and pesticides destroyed	Not all electrical transformers and capacitors containing PCB - contaminated oil stockpiled. Not all POPs contaminated pesticides buried at the dumpsites in selected countries	Getting down to annual planning and disposal of PCB and POPs waste in selected countries	This will take place once the installation of the equipment is finalized.

Component 5 – Project monitoring and Evaluation

Outcome 5.1: Project results monitored and evaluated effectively and “best practices” in the region and “lessons learned” during the project implementation disseminated

Output 5.1.1:Country level and regional monitoring and evaluation plans developed and implemented, reports published	Project implementation follows the annual work plans and budget	Baseline indicators are assessed and documented at project start-up	Monitoring and evaluation team established in due time. Country level and regional monitoring and evaluation plans developed and implemented, reports published	Project implementation follows the annual work plans and budget, including monitoring and evaluation activities.
Output 5.1.2:Mid-term and final evaluation constructed	Project implementation follows the annual work plans and budget	Baseline indicators are assessed and documented at project start-up	Monitoring and evaluation team established in due time. Country level and regional monitoring and evaluation plans developed and implemented, reports published	The mid-term evaluation was successfully completed in May 2022. The recommendation was to extend the project duration by 3 years.

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	(i) Risk level	(i) Risk level FY 23	(i) Mitigation measures	(ii) Progress to-date	New defined risk ⁴
1	Government at national, provincial, and local levels, as appropriate would not endorse and adopt the required standards, guidelines and specifications according to the project timeline	Modest risk (M)	Modest risk (M)	#1 Ensure laws, regulations, standards, guidelines and specifications are practical and enforceable and support with institutional capacity building and training	The proposed modifications to national policies were developed by national experts, in close cooperation with the line Ministries in the target countries and consultations with Government representatives are ongoing, to encourage their adoption.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Co-financing will not reach the target level	Modest risk (M)	Low risk (L)	Seeking additional funds/donors or lowering the targeted amount of old refrigeration appliances for recycling, targeted amounts of extracted ODS and POPs/PCB contaminated waste for their disposal. While there will be safe storage available, the final decisions will be made by the Project Steering Committee. Policy incentives to be provided for potential investors.	Consultations with private sector representatives in the target countries are ongoing to gauge the potential for additional investment. To date significant co-financing has been raised.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Disposal technology not meeting performance requirements, resulting in unacceptably high emissions of dioxin/furan and other toxic chemicals	Low risk (L)	Low risk (L)	Selection of proven technology and equipment from recognized suppliers, provision of adequate training, and active supervision of the operation of disposal facilities will mitigate this risk	Detailed assessments of commercially available technologies for the destruction of POPs and ODS were conducted, resulting in recommendations to support the selection of applicable technologies for the ODS/POPs co-destruction centres in the target countries.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Delays in project implementation and low quality performance	Low risk (L)	Modest risk (M)	Carefully selected success indicators and the adaptive monitoring practice will enable timely implementation and high quality results	National monitoring and evaluation plans are underway in the participating countries. An extension of the project was recommended to ensure that all of the objectives could be met, however, the current conflict in the region poses significant risk to the project implementation.	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Public opposition to the disposal project	Low risk (L)	Low risk (L)	Public awareness raising and inclusion of all stakeholders in project implementation will minimize the likelihood of this occurring	All stakeholders included in key project activities to date, e.g. Technical Evaluation Group meeting.	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Owners of old refrigerators and air conditioners and POPs contaminated waste might not be willing to actively participate	Low risk (L)	Low risk (L)	Focus on stakeholder awareness raising as a priority; introduction of financial incentives for collection of old refrigeration appliances and their transportation to the recycling centers and a producer responsibility programme; coverage of IOC at the time of the project for PCB and POPs contaminated waste disposal including their transportation to the incineration centers.	Discussion held at first Project Steering Committee meeting on producer responsibility programmes and potential financial incentives. Specific models for each target country to be developed.	<input type="checkbox"/>

⁴ New risk added in reporting period. Check only if applicable.

7	Vendors, owners of old refrigerators and air conditioners and POPs waste and other parties might not be willing to cooperate	Modest risk (M)	Modest risk (M)	A policy for POPs disposal fee will be issued and a proper price mechanism will be introduced to allow suitable revenue for the contractors	As a precursor to a POPs disposal fee, proposals on national legislation on POPs and hazardous waste have been submitted to the line ministries in the target countries.	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Engagement of PCB owners complex or slow in the relevant countries or owners will not declare their PCB inventory	Low risk (L)	Low risk (L)	Clear communications and open guidance with explanation of recovery and treatment process and benefits for users	Synergies are being made with the GEF-funded project 4386 on the Environmentally Sound Management and Final Disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyls to ensure the proper engagement of PCB owners	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Climate change risk	Low risk (L)	Low risk (L)	No activities are planned in the area of possible risks, resulted by the climate change processes	Selection criteria for project sites includes climate change mitigation.	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Political imbalances hinder project implementation	Modest risk (M)	Modest risk (M)	The political imbalances and security issues in Ukraine have been recognized during the formulation of the project document. The implementation activities planned to be undertaken in the territories which are not part of the conflict. The possibility of collecting old refrigerators for recycling from the Eastern Ukrainian part can be considered, if the situation does not deteriorate. The geographical scope of the project including its work plan and timeline could be always readjusted.	Political issues which escalated in Belarus and Ukraine posed some challenges to project implementation. Though measures are being taken to safeguard implementation, including the extension of the project, there is still a significant risk to the achievement of the Global Environmental Objectives.	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Delays in project implementation and weak project coordination	Low risk (L)	Modest risk (M)	Carefully selected national institutions specialized in waste destruction, project personnel, success indicators and adaptive monitoring practice will enable timely implementation. UNIDO, as a GEF agency responsible for the project, will use the experience accumulated through other similar projects to facilitate accelerated and efficient implementation of the project	Political issues which escalated in Belarus and Ukraine posed some challenges to project implementation. Though measures are being taken to safeguard implementation, including the extension of the project, there is still a significant risk to the achievement of the Global Environmental Objectives.	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	The national destruction centres established by the project are not sustainable	Modest risk (M)	Modest risk (M)	Project design seeks to provide a viable business model over a 10 year period and planned financial incentives will continue to refine this model and ensure sustainability.	Working agreements signed with the project recipients in the target countries include the development of comprehensive national waste systems and incentive mechanisms, to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 indicate any implication of the **COVID-19** pandemic on the progress of the project.

Periodic monitoring missions, as well as the second Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting (planned for March 2020) were all postponed due to COVID-19 containment measures. These containment measures placed restrictions on regional and national travel over the course of 2020, resulting in a delay in the mid-term review of the project.

In 2021, the PSC took place virtually, as did the mid-term review in 2022, with online interviews and virtual site visits, with support from national experts wherever possible.

The COVID-19 containment measures also resulted in significant challenges for the final installation and commissioning of the equipment for ODS extraction and refrigeration appliances recycling in Ukraine and ODS/POPs disposal in Belarus.

Engagement with key project stakeholders has shifted primarily to telephone calls, email engagement and virtual meetings, with additional efforts placed on adding information and resources to the project website and knowledge sharing platform, so as to engage a wider range of stakeholders and ensure that communication and engagement with stakeholders is maintained regardless of the global situation.

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

The mid-term review of the project included the following recommendation from the evaluators: "The UNIDO project team in cooperation with the focal ministries in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine should submit request for a 3-year project extension.". UNIDO requested the endorsement of the GEF OFPs accordingly and received endorsement letters for the extension of the project from the GEF Operational Focal Points.

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

The main findings and recommendations of the mid-term review of the project are as follows:

Recommendation 1: The UNIDO project team in cooperation with the focal ministries in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine should submit request for a 3-year project extension.

Recommendation 2: The UNIDO project team in cooperation with the focal ministries should reassess the task to develop the framework for regional cooperation in light of the recent political developments in the participating countries.

Recommendation 3: The UNIDO project team in cooperation with the focal ministries should assess feasibility of the regional database on waste management.

Recommendation 4: The UNIDO project team in cooperation with the focal ministries and UNDP Country Offices in Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan should strengthen links between the regional project and relevant national projects focussing on POPs and ODS management

Recommendation 5: The UNIDO project team should discuss with the focal ministries to ensure smooth and uninterrupted functionality of the project webpage and the knowledge management platform beyond the project implementation period.

Recommendation 6: The UNIDO project team should consider provision of assistance for targeted dissemination of detailed experience from the successfully implemented national components of the regional project amongst the project participating countries.

Recommendation 7: The UNIDO project team should assess the realistic options to achieve the quantitative targets for destruction of POPs and ODS within the project period and communicate the changes to the GEF Secretariat.

Recommendation 8: The UNIDO project team should discuss with the counterparts in Belarus options for technical assistance that would lead to repair and operation of the existing refrigerator recycling plant in Belarus.

Recommendation 9: The UNIDO project team and the national project coordinators should continuously monitor the actually provided co-financing commitments and include the actually provided co-financing totals in annual GEF Project Implementation Reports.

Recommendation 10: The UNIDO project team should conduct critical revision of the project risk matrix including development of mitigation measures for newly emerged risks including cooperation with relevant national projects for provision of assistance for strengthening of existing national laboratory facilities for characterisation of ODS/POPs waste.

Following the completion of the mid-term review, the UNIDO project team shared the recommendations with the focal ministries in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine and requested an endorsement from each target country on the extension of the project. The Government of Ukraine responded with a request to modify the project on political grounds. As this is a regional project, there are significant concerns that the objectives of the project cannot be fully achieved. Notwithstanding, efforts will be taken to comply with the recommendations during the remainder of the project implementation.

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).

Please expand the table as needed.

	E&S risk	Mitigation measures undertaken during the reporting period	Monitoring methods and procedures used in the reporting period
(i) Risks identified in ESMP at time of CEO Endorsement			
(ii) New risks identified during project implementation (if not applicable, please insert 'NA' in each box)			

V. Stakeholder Engagement

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) was established at the regional level, with participation from stakeholders from Government, Academia, NGOs and UN organisations. The Project Steering Committee meetings are held on a regular basis with representatives from each of the target countries.

Following the completion of the mid-term review, the UNIDO project team shared the recommendations with the focal ministries in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine and requested an endorsement from each target country on the extension of the project. Endorsement letters were received from the Governments of Belarus and Kazakhstan, however, the Government of Ukraine responded with a request to modify the project on political grounds (refusal to cooperate on a regional level with the Government of Belarus).

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.).

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

Mid-term Review report

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),.

Throughout project implementation continuous efforts have been made to engage women and women's organizations in project activities, including technical evaluation groups, the PSC meetings and as experts for project activities. Sex-disaggregated data, including participation rates of women and men, is also collected.

VII. Knowledge Management

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

The Project website, available in English and Russian, was launched in 2020, alongside a knowledge sharing platform (KSP). The KSP serves as a knowledge resource for counterparts to share documents and exchange lessons learned with partners at the national and regional level, to organize, store and disseminate information and knowledge generated under the Project. The KSP is expected to reduce challenges in the form of frequent political changes, by helping project partners preserve institutional memory.

The content of the website is directed towards a wider range of project stakeholders, policy makers project data users and the general public.

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

- Project website: <https://www.waste-management.org/en/>
- Knowledge sharing platform (KSP).

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.

Implementation progress during the reporting period was advancing in line with the proposed work plan, however, challenges in implementation emerged due to the political instability in the target region, as well as enduring restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Key activities continued to be conducted by means of virtual meetings or with the support of national experts in the target countries to the extent possible. In this manner the mid-term review was successfully conducted and key recommendations for project implementation were obtained and shared with the project counterparts.

On the basis of the findings and discussions with the counterparts in each of the target countries, the

recommendation by the evaluators was as follows: “The UNIDO project team in cooperation with the focal ministries in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine should submit a request for a three-year project extension.” The project team shared the mid-term review report with the project counterparts and requested endorsement letters for the extension of the project from the GEF operational focal points. The endorsement letters from the Governments of Belarus and Kazakhstan were received. In order to ensure the continuation and culmination of the project activities, and achievement of the Global Environmental Benefits, the GEF Secretariat is kindly requested to endorse the extension of the project. The project currently has a financial implementation of 80% with a total expenditure of \$14,554,724.57 as of 15 July 2023.

2. Please briefly elaborate on any **minor amendments**⁵ 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	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Components and Cost	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Institutional and Implementation Arrangements	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Financial Management	N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Implementation Schedule	Following the request for extension by the national executing agencies, the project is expected to be terminated by June 2025.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Executing Entity	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Executing Entity Category	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor Project Objective Change	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Safeguards	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Risk Analysis	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase of GEF Project Financing Up to 5%	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Co-Financing	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Location of Project Activities	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Others	

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

The latest Project Delivery Report is attached for more detailed information.

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.

Please fill in the below table or make a reference to a file, in case it is submitted as an annex to the report.

Outputs by Project Component	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3-4				Year 5				GEF Grant Budget Available (US\$)
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Component 1 – National regulatory framework for ODS and PCB/POPs management and disposal																	
Outcome 1.1: Relevant regulations and instructions in each country developed to allow enforcement of POPs and ODS waste disposal in order to meet relevant obligations																	

⁵ 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%.

Output 1.1.1: Revised national policies, regulations and guidelines on PCB/POPs and ODS waste disposal developed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	111,732.79
Output 1.1.2: A new regulatory mechanism on various aspects of ODS/PCB/POPs disposal in the project target countries developed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Output 1.1.3: Adequate financial models to ensure long-term sustainability of the sub-regional centers developed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Output 1.1.4: Qualified sampling and analytical capability in the region for characterizing PCB and POPs wastes and assessment of PCB and POPs content strengthened	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Component 2 – Waste management and disposal subnetworks in the project target countries including ODS and POPs waste collection, storage, transportation and final destruction linked into the regional network																		
Outcome 2.1: In country capability in identifying, collecting, and transporting POPs and ODS waste (refrigeration appliances) to specified recycling and destruction locations																		
Output 2.1.1: ODS, POPs and OPs waste for disposal at the sub-regional disposal centers assessed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	106,439.06
Output 2.1.2: National ODS and POPs disposal plans developed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Output 2.1.3: Three national ODS and POPs collection, transportation and disposal centers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Outcome 2.2: Potential for coordinated management ofrefrigerator recycling and ODS and POPs waste disposal among the countries within the region																		
Output 2.2.1: A regional ODS and POPs pesticide waste stocks database designed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Output 2.2.2: A framework for regional cooperation for ODS appliances recycling, ODS and POPs disposal among the project target countries developed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Component 3 – ODS extraction during refrigeration appliances recycling, and subsequent destruction of ODS at the established national facilities																		
Outcome 3.1: In country capacity in establishing refrigeration appliances recycling facilities for ODS extraction and their consequent destruction																		
Output 3.1.1: Advanced technology options for refrigeration appliances recycling and ODS destruction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	819,579.94
Output 3.1.2: Construction, installation and commission of a refrigeration appliances recycling facilities for ODS extraction in the project target countries performed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Output 3.1.3: An estimated 400,000 units of EOL refrigerators and airconditioners collected and recycled	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Output 3.1.4: An estimated 418 tons of extracted ODS destroyed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Component 4 – Environmentally Sound Management and destruction of PCB contaminated equipment and POPs pesticide waste stockpiles																	
Outcome 4.1: In country capacity for destroying PCB containing equipment and POPs contaminated pesticide waste at the established national ODS, PCB/POPs destruction facilities																	
Output 4.1.1: Advanced technology options for treatment and disposal methods of PCB and POPs destruction assessed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2,124,981.79
Output 4.1.2: A national plan for PCB-containing transformer oil decontaminated and pure PCB destruction in the project target countries developed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Output 4.1.3: A national facility for ODS and POPs contaminated pesticides destruction in	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Output 4.1.2: A national plan for PCB-containing transformer oil decontaminated and pure PCB destruction in the project target countries developed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Component 5 – Project monitoring and Evaluation																	
Outcome 5.1: Project results monitored and evaluated effectively and “best practices” in the region and “lessons learned” during the project implementation disseminated																	
Output 5.1.1: Country level and regional monitoring and evaluation plans developed and implemented, reports published	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	182,541.85
Output 5.1.2: Mid-term and final evaluation constructed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

X. Synergies

1. Synergies achieved:

Discussions are ongoing in the project countries with other development agencies to identify synergies with national or regional projects and programmes.

In Kazakhstan, initial discussions have been held with FAO on the GEF-funded project "Lifecycle Management of Pesticides and Disposal of POPs Pesticides in Central Asian countries and Turkey" (GEF ID 5000). Potential areas of cooperation which are being explored are communication and awareness raising, legal framework and disposal technologies.

In Belarus, discussions have been held with UNDP representatives leading the “Sustainable Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants and Chemicals in the Republic of Belarus, GEF-6” (UNDP POPs Project). Under this project, UNDP agreed to support the certification of the CUE destruction facility that will be established under UNIDO’s regional project.

In Ukraine, UNIDO was requested by the previous GEF Operational Focal Point for Ukraine to identify potential synergies between the regional project and the GEF-funded “Environmentally Sound Management and Final Disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)” project. To increase the impact of its technical cooperation as well as to promote the efficient implementation of project resources, UNIDO proposed to design a joint implementation plan to encompass the PBC-related activities in Ukraine.

3. Stories to be shared (Optional)

XI. GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate.

Web mapping applications such as [OpenStreetMap](#) or [GeoNames](#) use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com>

Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking [here](#)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location and Activity Description

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

Considering the political conflict in the region, it would be preferable not to disclose this information.