



## Project Implementation Report

(1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022)

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| <b>Project Title:</b>  | <i>Removal of Technical and Economic Barriers to Initiating the Clean-up Activities for Alpha-HCH, Beta-HCH and Lindane Contaminated Sites at OHIS</i> |
| <b>GEF ID:</b>   | 4385   |
| <b>UNIDO ID:</b>   | 100122   |
| <b>GEF Replenishment Cycle:</b>                              | GEF-5  |
| <b>Country(ies):</b>   | <i>Republic of N. Macedonia</i>  |
| <b>Region:</b>   | <i>ECA - Europe and Central Asia</i>   |
| <b>GEF Focal Area:</b>                                       | <i>Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)</i>  |
| <b>Integrated Approach Pilot (IAP) Programs<sup>1</sup>:</b> | N/A  |
| <b>Stand-alone / Child Project:</b>                          | N/A  |
| <b>Implementing Department/Division:</b>                     | <i>ENV / IPM</i>   |
| <b>Co-Implementing Agency:</b>                               | N/A  |
| <b>Executing Agency(ies):</b>                                | <i>Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MoEPP) / POPs Unit</i>   |
| <b>Project Type:</b>   | <i>Full-Sized Project (FSP)</i>  |
| <b>Project Duration:</b>                                     | <i>60 months</i>   |
| <b>Extension(s):</b>   | 1  |
| <b>GEF Project Financing:</b>                                | <i>3,100,000 USD</i>   |
| <b>Agency Fee:</b>   | <i>294,500 USD</i>   |
| <b>Co-financing Amount:</b>                                  | <i>12,450,000 USD</i>  |
| <b>Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:</b>                     | 12/15/2014   |
| <b>UNIDO Approval Date:</b>                                  | 1/29/2015  |
| <b>Actual Implementation Start:</b>                          | 2/11/2015  |
| <b>Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June 2022:</b>           | <i>3,036,523 USD</i>   |
| <b>Mid-term Review (MTR) Date:</b>                           | 4/1/2021<br><i>IF applicable, insert expected/actual date of MTR submission to the GEF.</i>  |

<sup>1</sup> Only for GEF-6 projects, if applicable

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| <b>Original Project Completion Date:</b>            | 2/11/2020<br><i>Insert the indicated project completion date as per CEO Approval / Endorsement document.</i>   |
| <b>Project Completion Date as reported in FY21:</b> | 12/31/2021<br><i>Insert the project completion date as reported in the previous PIR for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21)</i>  |
| <b>Current SAP Completion Date:</b>                 | 12/31/2022<br><i>Insert the project completion date as currently seen in the system</i>  |
| <b>Expected Project Completion Date:</b>            | 12/31/2022<br><i>If the date is the same as above, please confirm; if you plan to extend the project completion date, please indicate here and elaborate further under section III.2</i> |
| <b>Expected Terminal Evaluation (TE) Date:</b>      | 11/20/2022<br><i>Insert expected/actual date of TE submission to the GEF</i>   |
| <b>Expected Financial Closure Date:</b>             | 1/12/2023<br><i>Insert a date <u>no later than</u> 12 months after the TE submission date</i>  |
| <b>UNIDO Project Manager<sup>2</sup>:</b>           | Alessandro Amadio  |

## I. Brief description of project and status overview

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| <b>Project Objective</b>   |
| <p><i>The project objective is to set up a sustainable mechanism to ensure a sustainable clean up operation at the selected HCH contaminated site for future industrial use, and to protect human health and the environment from their adverse effects by reducing and eliminating the releases of and exposure to HCHs (6,000 m3 or 10,700 tons to be disposed of within the project period). A number of barriers for sound POPs contaminated site management have been identified in North Macedonia. These barriers can be roughly divided into legal, awareness and know-how related, institutional and technical capacity, economic and financial. The proposed FSP Full-sized project has been designed to address a variety of barriers in order to ensure its successful execution and achievement of project objectives. With GEF funding, Macedonia would initiate, by leveraging its governmental budget, its actions to eliminate the releases of POPs from alpha-HCH, beta-HCH and Lindane contaminated sites and establish an operation mechanism to continue the decontamination operation at the OHIS premise that is now situated within the expanded capital city of Skopje. The GEF resource will help secure governmental cash contribution in addition to in-kind cofinancing contribution related to the daily operation of the state-owned company, OHIS. The project on completion will establish, enhance and enforce the legal and institutional capacities to support, justify and evaluate the clean-up of the OHIS site contaminated by alpha-HCH, beta-HCH and lindane. The project will also characterize the HCH-contaminated site, assess the risks posed to humans and the environment and define risk management options. The project will also establish the site clean up plans and strategies and mobilize the cooperation and commitment of key stakeholders including local communities. The clean up operation will be initiated and the execution mechanism will be put in place to sustain the clean up operations beyond the project period.</i></p> |

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| <b>Baseline</b>   |
| <p><i>The Republic of North Macedonia ratified the Stockholm Convention on the 27th of May 2004 and as the first step towards meeting the obligations under the Convention was the development and formulation of the National Implementation Plan (NIP). The NIP was prepared and transmitted to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat on the 9th of February 2005.</i></p> |

<sup>2</sup> Person responsible for report content

*To address the problem of the HCH technical waste was identified as one of the highest priorities set in the first National Implementation Plan that was prepared under the UNIDO/GEF project (GEF ID: 1518) "Enabling Activities to Facilitate Early Action on the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)".*

*Although at that time HCH was not yet included in the list of POPs chemicals, it was included in the strategic planning, due to the existing quantities of industrial waste containing technical mixture of HCH isomers in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The initial NIP identified the following priorities relevant to the POPs contaminated sites issue:*

- Inventory of "hot spots";*
- PCB/OCP containing waste management;*
- Preparation of new and amendment of existing legislation;*
- Monitoring of POPs;*
- Public awareness and education;*
- Control of HCH.*

*For addressing the identified country-specific objectives and priorities, specific action plans (see Annex 2) related to the remediation of the POPs contaminated sites were developed as necessary to meet the requirements of the Stockholm Convention.*

*The recently revised National Implementation Plan on POPs listed the HCH contamination at OHIS site as one of the highest priorities in the field of POPs management. NIP foresees several action plans related to the management of POPs contaminated sites:*

- a. Clean-up and remediation of contaminated locations with POPs including their ultimate disposal (NIP/ Action plan 15.7) is mostly addressed to the remediation of the lindane-HCH production and storage site at OHIS;*
- b. Establishment of National laboratory for monitoring and analysis of the POPs (NIP/Action plan 15.10);*
- c. Establishment of a system for Eco-Bio Monitoring (NIP /Action plan 15.9) proposed activities related to strengthening the capacity of health and laboratory organizations to assess and monitor the effects of POPs on human health and the environment;*
- d. Raising awareness and capacity building of all stakeholders about the potential risk of product, processes and chemicals containing POPs on human health and the environment (NIP/ Action plan 15.2);*
- e. Raising awareness and strengthening capacities to control the POPs emissions from the industry (NIP/ Action plan 15.2a)*

*A number of barriers for sound POPs contaminated site management have been identified in Macedonia. These barriers can be roughly divided into legal, awareness and know-how related, institutional and technical capacity, economic and financial. The proposed FSP has been designed to address a variety of barriers in order to ensure its successful execution and achievement of project objectives. The GEF scenario will support the baseline project by providing a comprehensive environmentally sound management of POPs/HCH contaminated sites in Macedonia. Without this GEF funding, there is a great possibility that POPs/HCH from the contaminated sites will be continuously released to the environment with subsequent environmental and human exposure. In a business-as-usual scenario, Macedonia would be unable to comply with the Stockholm Convention in respect to the management of contaminated sites. As a consequence, those involved in current operations at the site, communities living close to the contaminated areas as well as the global environment will remain at risk from exposure to the HCH. Public awareness of the issues would continue to be low and the current analytical capacities for POPs monitoring of the environmental media and biological matrices will remain insufficient. The incremental activities proposed in the project are addressed to tackle the barriers identified by establishing environmentally sound management system for POPs/HCH contaminated sites that will be supported by law, and consequently by strengthening the local technical and institutional capacity.*

Please refer to the explanatory note at the end of the document and select corresponding ratings for the current reporting period, i.e. FY22. Please also provide a short justification for the selected ratings for FY22.

In view of the GEF Secretariat's intent to start following the ability of projects to adopt the concept of adaptive management<sup>3</sup>, 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. FY21, in the last column.

| Overall Ratings <sup>4</sup>   | FY22                     | FY21                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Global Environmental Objectives (GEOs) / Development Objectives (DOs) Rating | <i>Satisfactory (S)</i>  | <i>Satisfactory (S)</i>  |
| Implementation Progress (IP) Rating  | <i>Satisfactory (S)</i>  | <i>Satisfactory (S)</i>  |
| Overall Risk Rating  | <i>Moderate Risk (M)</i> | <i>Moderate Risk (M)</i> |

## 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.

*Please fill in the below table or make a reference to any supporting documents that may be submitted as annexes to this report.*

| Project Strategy   | KPIs/Indicators                      | Baseline | Target level   | Progress in FY2022   |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------|--|--|
| <b>Component 1 – Legal framework and institutional capacities</b>  |                                      |          |  |  |
| Outcome 1: Legal framework and institutional capacities to support, justify and evaluate the clean-up of the OHIS site contaminated by alpha-HCH, beta-HCH and lindane established, enhanced and enforced    |                                      |          |  |  |
| Output 1.1: Legal acts and institutional and technical tools prepared to ensure the completion of the OHIS site clean up operations and building capacities towards contaminated sites management in general | • Environmental laws and regulations | 0        | • Environmental laws and regulations<br>• Three legal acts prepared and approved<br>• Three round table discussions held with stakeholders representatives for identification of the legal, institutional and infrastructure gaps and for policy improvement | The Amendment to the Law on Environment comprising articles related to the contaminated sites management adopted in the Macedonian parliament on 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 |
| <b>Component 3 – Clean up strategies and plan</b>  |                                      |          |  |  |
| Outcome 3: Contaminated site clean up operation/remediation plan and groundwater management plan prepared for prevention of further contamination and adverse human health impact                            |                                      |          |  |  |

<sup>3</sup> 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

<sup>4</sup> 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

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| <p>Output 3.2: Consensus among the general public and major stakeholders built for the establishment/improvement of OHIS contaminated site</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consensus of the general public</li> </ul> | <p>0</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consensus of the general public obtained as legally required by publication of awareness raising materials and organization of two public hearings and awareness raising meetings with the participation of 80 persons</li> <li>• Cost-benefit analysis justifying the site clean-up prepared</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visibility event organized by the national sub-contractor on awareness raising activities to inform the public and other interested parties in initiation of the cleaning activities</li> <li>• Four meetings organized with the national sub-contractor on awareness raising activities on organization of the public debate at the time of the excavation works; preparation of the scenario for the video; media coverage of the activities in coordination with the MoEPP, - Department of Public Relations</li> <li>• On-line webinar organized and the media familiarized with the progress of the clean-up activities and the supervision of the remediation work</li> <li>• Media event organized at OHIS site for demonstration of the progress of the remediation activities (12 media presented at the site, statements on the progress of the remediation works given and the explanation on the technical aspects of the clean-up provided to journalists inside the tent</li> <li>• Project progress towards the site clean-up activities regularly promoted in the media</li> <li>• Video material on the site clean-up activities prepared and promoted</li> </ul> |
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**Component 4 – Establishment of clean up mechanism and operations**

Outcome 4: Contaminated site clean up operation/remediation plan and groundwater management plan prepared for prevention of further contamination and adverse human health impact

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| <p>Output 4.7: A monitoring program, system established in the location</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring plan and system for the environmental media</li> </ul> | <p>0</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental monitoring system/programme established</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial evaluation of the technically acceptable Bidders performed and the contracts signed with the Bidders that offered the lowest price</li> <li>• Laboratory equipment delivered to the Institute of Chemistry and the Institute of Public Health</li> <li>• Technical capacities of the Institute of Public Health for POPs monitoring in the water and biological matrices enhanced</li> <li>• Contracts signed between the Ministry of Environment and the Institute of Chemistry and the Institute of Public Health for the formalization of the cooperation between the institutions regarding the air and soil monitoring at the residential area during the remediation works, as well as the water and workers blood</li> <li>• Technical capacities of the Institute of Public Health for POPs monitoring in the water</li> </ul> |
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|   |   |   |  | <p>and biological matrices enhanced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental monitoring programme established prior to and during the site clean up activities (2 air sampling points at the residential area in the vicinity of OHIS site; 3 air sampling points in the remediation area in OHIS; 1 air sampling point inside the environmental enclosure; 2 soil sampling points at the residential area in the vicinity of OHIS; workers' blood and rain water collected from working area)</li> <li>• Supervision and monitoring services provided by the Contractor: i) contractor's site remediation plan; ii) excavation and packing of 477 tons of HCH waste and 126 tons of HCH contaminated soil; iii) transportation of the packed HCH waste in amount of 154 tons (note that the remaining quantities of HCH waste of 323 tons are planned to be transported by September 2022 and of HCH contaminated soil of 126 tons are planned to be transported by the end of October 2022)</li> <li>• 2 trainings of national counterparts on monitoring and supervision organized and guidance documents and instruction manuals provided</li> <li>• Forty participants have been trained (21 female and 19 male)</li> </ul> |
| Output 4.8: Clean up operation executed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HCH waste and contaminated soil treatment</li> <li>• Incremental investment by key stakeholders</li> <li>• New businesses creation</li> <li>• Companies adopting best practices</li> </ul> | 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10.700 tons of HCH waste and contaminated soil disposed of</li> <li>• Alpha and beta HCH dump capped</li> <li>• Four new jobs created</li> <li>• Amount of incremental investment by key stakeholders for sound management of chemicals (TBD until the operating entity will be determined)</li> <li>• Two companies with the best practices adopted</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site set-up activities finalized, i.e. fencing, zoning and marking of the site; erection of environmental enclosure; installation of compressors for negative pressure and the air purification system; delivery of the need equipment and tools (UN approved drums and containers; PPE; waste water collection tanks and waste water filtration unit; decontamination units for the workers; air monitoring instruments; handheld instrument for soil analyses (XRF); machinery (conveyor belt with the mounted funnel; trucks, bulldozers, cranes, etc.)</li> <li>• The foreseen quantities of 477.1 tons of HCH waste and 126.37 tons of HCH contaminated soil excavated, packed and temporarily stored awaiting exportation</li> <li>• The notification consents for the transboundary shipment of the HCH waste from all concerned countries received</li> <li>• The notification consents for the transboundary shipment of</li> </ul>  |

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|  |  |   |  | <p>the HCH contaminated soil are in progress and expected to be obtained by the end of August 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 154 tons of HCH waste exported to TREDI for incineration on July 5<sup>th</sup>. The exportation of the remaining 323 tons is planned to be finalized by September 2022.</li> <li>• The exportation of the 126 tons of HCH contaminated soil is planned to commence by the beginning of September 2022 and to finalize by the end of October 2022</li> </ul> |
| <b>Component 5 –Project monitoring and evaluation</b>  |  |   |  |  |
| Outcome 5: Project management structure established, and monitoring and evaluation conducted |  |   |  |  |
| Output 5.1: Project results monitored and reported   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project progress reports</li> <li>• Work Plans</li> </ul>     | 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bi-annually, i.e. two progress reports prepared and submitted</li> <li>• Annually, i.e. Work Plan for each year prepared</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly progress reports submitted</li> <li>• Work Plan prepared</li> </ul>   |
| Output 5.2: Project evaluated meeting the GEF's evaluation criteria                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-term evaluation</li> <li>• Terminal evaluation</li> </ul> | 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Mid-term evaluation report prepared</li> <li>• One Terminal evaluation report prepared</li> </ul>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-term evaluation report, prepared, reviewed and finalized</li> <li>• Not started yet- planned for December 2022</li> </ul>   |

### 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.

*Describe in tabular form the risks observed and priority mitigation activities undertaken during the reporting period in line with the project document. Note that risks, risk level and mitigations measures should be consistent with the ones identified in the CEO Endorsement/Approval document. Please also consider the project's ability to adopt the adaptive management approach in remediating any of the risks that had been sub-optimally rated (H, S) in the previous reporting cycle.*

|   | (i) Risks at CEO stage   | (i) Risk level FY 21 | (i) Risk level FY 22 | (i) Mitigation measures  | (ii) Progress to-date  | New defined risk <sup>5</sup> |
|---|--|----------------------|----------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Delays in adoption of legal framework, specific policy and technical guidance may hamper execution and cause delay in the project implementation | Low risk (L)         | Low risk (L)         | Government officials are closely involved in project planning to ensure the new regulations are practical, enforceable, meeting the needs at the national governments and municipalities; Project staff will monitor, review and enactment of legal and regulatory measures and technical tools and provide the relevant counterparts with technical support | Commitment from the high-level governmental structures and dedication for adoption of the legal acts prior to any on-site work                             | <input type="checkbox"/>      |
| 2 | Risk management options inadequate for achieving human   | Low risk (L)         | Low risk (L)         | Involvement of accredited, licensed and experienced institutions in the site characterization, risk assessment site management option definition   | The environmental analysis method applied by the laboratory to trace the contaminant inadequate for pure chloro-organic matrices, resulting in re-analyses | <input type="checkbox"/>      |

<sup>5</sup> New risk added in reporting period. Check only if applicable.

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|   | and environmental protection   |                 |                 |   | of the samples and delays in the delivery of the site characterization result  |                          |
| 3 | Lack of interest of the public towards the awareness raising campaigns, which might result in reluctance among the public audience and the local community for initiation of the clean up activities | Low risk (L)    | Low risk (L)    | Identification of potentially conflicting stakeholder interests through involvement of stakeholders in the project design process   | Involvement of NGOs, Local Community, Civil Society in dissemination of the information regarding the benefits gained with the remediation of the contaminated site versus costs of non action   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | Lack of private sector's interest to invest in setting the clean up infrastructure due to insecure economic conditions to guarantee sustainable financial input                                      | Modest risk (M) | Modest risk (M) | Potential private sectors will be kept informed of the project updates and major decisions and the Government/local community will set conditions that attract private sector investment  | Government of North Macedonia has established the Multi Partner Environment Fund for mobilization of resources for the clean-up of the contaminated site. The Ministry of Environment reallocated funds from its own budget in 2021 and 2022 to contribute to the MPEF for the cleanup purposes  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | Opportunism, reluctance among the local community for establishing the eventual treatment facility   | Low risk (L)    | Low risk (L)    | Round table discussions between the Government, local community authorities and NGOs with assurance that the facility will meet the highest safety standards and operate respecting the best working practices and procedures for protection of human health and the environment, supported by regular inspections and monitoring program   | Environmental health and occupational safety issues were addressed in the terms of reference for the selection of the service provider for the clean-up of the contaminated sites.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 | Unavailability of the operating entity to continue with the remediation due to inconsistent financial input from the Government  | Modest risk (M) | Modest risk (M) | Commitment letter from the Government secures cash flow for timely execution of the needed activities; Additional round table discussions with the Government/comunal authorities and their inclusion in plans development process and continuous information dissemination on project decisions and progress   | MoU for establishing and managing of a trust fund for remediation of the $\alpha$ , $\beta$ and the delta HCH dump signed between the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, the Government of the Kingdom of Norway and UNOPS<br>First Meeting of the Executive Board of the Multi-Partner Environmental Fund for defining the way forward in mobilization of the funds needed for the clean-up of the delta dump<br><br>Meeting of the Sector Working Group for establishing better coordination of the EU support for inclusion of the OHIS clean-up in the IPA III programming<br><br>Second Meeting of the Executive Board of the Multi-Partner Environmental Fund for the division of work between MPEF (UNOPS) and UNIDO for the cleaning of the small basin in OHIS<br><br>Third Meeting of the Executive Board of the Multi-Partner Environmental Fund for the progress of the activities of MPEF (UNOPS) and UNIDO for the cleaning of the small basin in OHIS | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 | High environmental and human health risk related to the climate change impact (temperature, rain, flood, wind, vulnerability to storms etc.)   | Low risk (L)    | Low risk (L)    | Evaluation of the fluctuating atmospheric conditions (atmospheric temperature, rainfall regime, storm frequency and attendant drought/flood cycles), along with historical cases of how the site is affected by these conditions and the natural geological and hydrological features of the area; If the flood risk is indeed higher, the project will evaluate the cost effectiveness of a project activity | Environmental and climatic conditions are being closely and regularly monitored to identify risks  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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|    |  |                 |                 | to secure the contaminated site from a possible flood occurrence   |   |                          |
| 8  | High environmental risk during the treatment operations, i.e. accidents and environmental releases during clean up operations including excavation, treatment, handling, packaging and transportation of HCH wastes which will result in exposure of the operators and workers of the facilities and the community to the hazards of the contaminant | Modest risk (M) | Modest risk (M) | Frequent inspections ensure the Operating Entity to follow the best working practices in order to ensure safe handling and incident avoidance; Following the best working practices to ensure safe handling and incident avoidance and training on emergency preparedness and preparation of emergency prevention and response plans | The ToR for the selection of the remediation technology/service provider defines the highest safety criteria to be fulfilled by the Contractor ensuring no odor and dust emissions and other discharges   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9  | Due to insufficient political will, administrative support and financial commitment of the government to the project delays may occur in completing and achieving the outlined tasks in a timely manner  | Modest risk (M) | Modest risk (M) | High-level consultations, as well as civil society and NGOs could play a major role in regaining political commitment. The signed endorsement letter confirms the commitment of the Government. Additional fund raising activities and funds/donors will be sought   | The Working Group established by the Government enable all identified execution issues to be properly articulated and solved. Moreover, the adoption of the Rules and Procedures for the work of the Project Steering Committee contributed towards their more effective work | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 | Inefficient and ineffective project executions as well as monitoring and evaluation may cause delays in holding regular project management and M&E meetings and issuing required reports   | Low risk (L)    | Low risk (L)    | Carefully selected and well-trained project staff will be appointed, clear mandate and impact indicators will assure compliance to the workplan and budget   | Project management were trained and undertook study visit to Basel, Switzerland for experience sharing and information  | <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.

Not applicable

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

*The main constrain for the realization of the project activities in the reporting period was the restrictive measures undertaken due to the coronavirus pandemic, postponing the negotiation process with the technically acceptable bidders on the cost-reduction of their financial offers and consequently on the final decision for the bidder that is to be selected for the clean-up of the delta dump.*

*Since the public hearing/debate is conditioned with the selection of the technology/service remediation provider, the delay in the selection of the same resulted in the delay for the organization of the debate. The pandemic situation also influenced on the modalities for organization of the public hearing/debate, i.e.*

*the first one was organized as an on-line event where the concept and methodology for the remediation of the site were presented to the concerned parties, while the second one was organized on the site where the journalists from different media were informed on the progress of the remediation works and on the technical aspects of the clean-up inside the tent.*

*Moreover, the situation with the corona virus pandemic improved and the same did not might affect and or prolong the contractor's on-site activities related to the clean-up of the contaminated site.*

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

*The project faced delays that resulted in the extension of the project in two occasions, i.e. the first time the project was extended by 31th of December 2021 and the second time by December 2022 (note that the both extensions were result of the national consultations, supported by the Request of extension signed by the Minister of Environment). The main reasons for the delays could be summarized as follows:*

- *Signing the project document: the project document was signed by the Macedonian authorities on April 2015, i.e. 3 months after its commencement in UNIDO;*
- *Unresponsiveness of the PSC members: unstable political situation resulted in frequent changes of the members of the Project Steering Committee and of the Ministers positions, leading to a delay of the activities for 10 months;*
- *Repetition of analyses of the soil samples: unexpectedly high values of the HCH in the samples of the overlying soil imposed the need the same to be re-analysed, leading to a delay of the related activities for 6 months;*
- *the selection of the Contractor for clean-up of the delta HCH dump took longer than planned;*
- *a site remediation plan that was part of the procedure to obtain an approval from the responsible institutions to start with the clean-up, took more than the initially planned mainly due to the need to improve some of its segments before it is approved;*
- *the preparatory activities on site take longer period due to unexpected findings of additional contamination with HCH near the dump (excavation for foundation for the tent instalment purposes. Some additional time is needed for additional unforeseen samplings and analyses.*

*Currently, due to some exportation issues, the Contractor on site remediation work has been granted with 6 months extension, but this extension will not result in the additional project extension beyond the last granted one by December 2022.*

**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 MTR has been completed in July 2019 and the following main recommendations were noted:*

- *Tendering procedure for the selection of technology provider to be initiated as soon as realistically possible;*
- *Adoption of Rules of Procedure for the PSC / TOR for PSC for acceptance if no substantive objection within 7 days, in future projects;*
- *Co-finance to be documented;*
- *The amended Law on Environment to be adopted as soon as practically possible;*
  
- *Awareness-raising activities to be continued;*
- *Clean-up operation and corresponding activities to be expedited;*
- *Committed co-finance made available in time;*
- *International bidding to be carried out;*
- *Technology provider selected;*
- *Site remediation plan prepared;*
- *Clean-up operation carried out;*
- *Technology provider, if feasible, could use EN standard, if monitoring procedure also covered (the adequate standard to be considered in the TOR).*

*Appropriate actions have been undertaken towards implementation of the noted recommendations, resulting in:*

- *Tendering procedure for the selection of the technology provider initiated in October 2019 and finalized in September 2020;*

- The Rules of Procedures for for the work of the Project Steering Committee adopted and contributed towards their more effective work;
- Co-financing secured by the establishment of the MPEF fund to sustain the remediation work;
- The amendment of the Law on Environment adopted, regulating the management of the contaminated sites;
- Awareness raising activities continued, informing the public and the concerned stakeholders on the progress, effectiveness and the safety aspects of the clean-up works;
- The site clean-up operations have been finalized, i.e. the excavation, packing, temporarily storage and partly the exportation. All remediation activities have been subjected to monitoring and supervision, including the monitoring of the different contaminants in the environmental media and biological matrices.

#### 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).

*Notes on new risks:*

- *If new risks have been identified during implementation due to changes in, i.e. project design or context, these should also be listed in (ii) below.*
- *If these new/additional risks are related to Operational Safeguards #2, 3, 5, 6, or 8, please consult with UNIDO GEF Coordination to discuss next steps.*
- *Please refer to the UNIDO Environmental and Social Safeguards Policies and Procedures (ESSPP) on how to report on E&S issues.*

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  |
|--|--|--|---|
| <b>(i)</b> Risks identified in ESMP at time of CEO Endorsement   | Not applicable   | Not applicable   | Not applicable  |
| <b>(ii)</b> New risks identified during project implementation (if not applicable, please insert 'NA' in each box) | Rejection of the additionally submitted request for export of the HCH-contaminated soil to ATM facility, since the company is still under scrutiny, despite the fact that the company won the court case against the Dutch authorities | Initiation of the procedure for export of the HCH-contaminated soil to some alternative facility, i.e. the company Polyeco communicated a German companies Are Deutzen and Indaver for the definition of the cooperation agreement | Notification forms for the transboundary shipment of the HCH contaminated soil submitted to the concerned countries |

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
|  | Stopping of the excavation work due to the adverse climate conditions or collapsing of the tent   | The technical details of the enclosure, i.e. the design of the same is prepared by the supplier of the tent and the same was subjected to an audit from an authorized institution, i.e. the Faculty of Civil Engineering  | A certificate of compliance is submitted by the company Fakom that was engaged for the erection of the tent   |
|  | Increased air emissions and odour above the acceptable levels as a result of the excavation/packing activities  | The company Polyeco engaged for the remediation of the HCH contaminated site erected an environmental enclosure above the delta dump in order to avoid fugitive odour, vapour and dust emissions, with sufficient negative air pressure, with air ventilation and with installation of sluice systems to prevent fugitive emissions during haul truck (and other mechanical equipment) ingress and egress | The company Polyeco presented a statement/proof for maintenance of the permanent negative pressure in the tent. The reasons for the emissions/odour will be investigated and the appropriate corrective measures undertaken |
|  | Mixing of the HCH-contaminated soil and the HCH waste, and also mixing the soil contaminated with mercury during the excavation work, resulting in generation of a waste soil fraction with the HCH concentrations of above the acceptance limit of the thermal desorption plant, thus increasing the quantities of the waste intended for incineration and consequently increasing the disposal costs or in non-acceptance due to the mercury concentrations higher than the acceptance limits | The soil separation procedures, i.e. the soil excavation strategy are established   | The implementation of the soil excavation and separation is monitored by the supervisor and confirmed by report   |

## 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 project stakeholders have been regularly informed on the project progress and their support obtained. The PSC meeting was not held in the reporting period due to the pandemic and the accelerated pace of implementation of the activities, but all the members of the PSC were informed about the progress of the project, the realized activities and the activities that are foreseen in the forthcoming period, with the emphasis on the Contractor's site on-going preparatory activities, (finalization on the remediation plan and initiation of the notification procedure and initiation and the progress of the site clean-up activities (excavation, packing, temporary storage and transportation). It is foreseen to meet the PSC members, at the end of the project when the last quantities of the HCH waste and contaminated soil are eliminated by the disposal facilities.*

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.).

*The planned activities generally are implemented in a timely manner, by inclusion of all relevant stakeholders and upon consultations with the respective contractors. Some delays were experienced as a result of the restrictive measures due to the corona virus pandemic.*

*The project progress has been regularly reported to the NGOs and the electronic and printed media. Cooperation with and assistance to the working group within the MoEPP provided on the issues related to approval of the site remediation plan submitted by the Contractor.*

*Moreover, technical assistance was provided to the Department of the EU (European Union) within the MoEPP on preparation of an action fiche for clean-up of the OHIS contaminated site and presented to EU delegation for funding under the IPA (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance) programme.*

*The cooperation and communication with UNOPS resulted in allocation of the available funds for building of the analytical capacities of the Institute of Chemistry for POPs monitoring. Moreover, the funds generated in the MPEF enable UNOPS to sign contract with Polyeco on continuation of the clean-up process.*

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

GEF4385\_Meeting Agenda of the first supervision training workshop  
GEF4385\_List of participants of the first supervision training workshop  
GEF4385\_Meeting Agenda of the second supervision training workshop  
GEF4385\_List of participants of the second supervision training workshop  
GEF4385\_Meeting Agenda of the MPEF Executive Board  
GEF4385\_Meeting minutes of the MPEF Executive Board

## 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),.

*The PMU, and the stakeholder institutions are gender balanced. Gender balance is also demonstrated in the project work shops, as well as in the national and international consultants/subcontractors engaged in different aspects of the contaminated sites management. Two work shops on awareness raising have been organized, with more emphasis on women participation. The list of participants was gender-segregated and showed of a total of 48 females and 23 males. Moreover, 2 trainings of national counterparts on monitoring and supervision organized and guidance documents and instruction manuals provided, where forty participants have been trained (21 female and 19 male).*

## 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.

1. Awareness Raising Activities

a) Two work shops on awareness raising have been organized (48 female and 23 male)

b) Consultation meeting with the national subcontractor and the MoEPP on progress of the work and the

*timeline of the remaining activities for the awareness raising organized*

*Macedonian Ecological Society/Second Progress Report*

*c) Awareness raising activities at five schools on the harmful impact of the Lindane on human health and the environment organized by Macedonian Ecological Society/Second Progress Report*

*d) General survey among the local population repeated*

*e) Clean-up activities promoted in printed and electronic media, <https://vidivaka.mk>*

*f) Two trainings of national counterparts on monitoring and supervision organized and guidance documents and instruction manuals provided (21 female and 19 male)*

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

1. GEF4385\_ Project website (<http://pops.org.mk/>)

2. GEF4385\_ Awareness Raising Activities

a) Awareness raising materials prepared, printed and disseminated (60 posters and 500 leaflets)

Macedonian Ecological Society/Second Progress Report

b) Video material on the OHIS site clean-up prepared and disseminated to the relevant media  
<https://www.amazon.com/clouddrive/share/GSxJEKZ23SgGe5QdfYqwQ5v2pj0gfR8vHcMyyrYrUGF>

3. GEF4385\_ PA Poster, ([http://mes.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/poster\\_a3\\_lindanftw.pdf](http://mes.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/poster_a3_lindanftw.pdf))

4. GEF4385\_ PA flyer ([http://mes.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/flyer\\_med\\_lindanftw\\_480x160mm\\_plus5mmobrez.pdf](http://mes.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/flyer_med_lindanftw_480x160mm_plus5mmobrez.pdf))

(Reported in the PIR 2019)

5. GEF4385\_ Media articles

(13.03.2021 <https://slobodna.tv/%d0%bc%d0%b8%d1%86%d0%ba%d0%be%d0%b2%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b8->

<https://slobodna.tv/%d0%bc%d0%b8%d1%86%d0%ba%d0%be%d0%b2%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b8-%d0%bb%d1%83%d1%87%d1%83%d0%b2%d0%b0%d0%bc%d0%b5-%d0%bc%d0%be%d0%b6%d0%bd%d0%be%d1%81%d1%82-%d0%b7%d0%b0-%d0%be%d0%bf%d0%b0/>;

14.04.2021 <https://360stepeni.mk/do-pochetokot-na-narednata-godina-treba-da-se-otstrani-lindanot-od-malata-deponija-vo-ohis/>;

22.04.2021 <https://www.vecer.press/%D1%87%D0%B8%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B5%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0->

[%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B4%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D0%BE%D1%85%D0%B8%D1%81-%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D0%B8%D0%BD%D1%82%D0%B5%D1%80/](https://www.vecer.press/%D1%87%D0%B8%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B5%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B4%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D0%BE%D1%85%D0%B8%D1%81-%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D0%B8%D0%BD%D1%82%D0%B5%D1%80/)

14.06.2021 <https://mk.tv21.tv/vo-juli-ke-se-chisti-lindanot-od-ohis-iljadnitsi-toni-kantserogeni-hemikalii-se-postojana-zakana/>

14.06.2021 <https://mia.mk/obezbedena-nova-oprema-za-slede-e-na-efektite-od-procesot-na-chiste-e-na-lindanot-vo-ohis/>

28.06.2021 <https://lokalno.mk/huredini-za-dve-nedeli-ke-se-chisti-lindanot-od-ohis/>

MIA 28.06.2021 <https://mia.mk/na-13-uli-ofici-alno-zapochnuva-postapkata-za-chiste-e-na-malata-deponija-vo-ohis/>

Sloboden pecat 29.06.2021

<https://www.slobodenpecat.mk/lindanot-ke-patuvava-vo-franczija-zagadenata-zemja-vo-holandija/>)

16.03.2022 – media promotion of the initiation of the site clean-up activities

<https://sitel.com.mk/idnata-nedela-pochnuva-chistenjeto-na-lindanot-od-ohis>

<https://telma.com.mk/2022/03/16/%d0%b2%d0%be-%d0%b7%d0%b0%d0%b2%d1%80%d1%88%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d1%84%d0%b0%d0%b7%d0%b0-%d1%81%d0%b5->

[%d0%bf%d0%be%d0%b4%d0%b3%d0%be%d1%82%d0%be%d0%b2%d0%ba%d0%b8%d1%82%d0%b5-%d0%b7%d0%b0-%d0%b7%d0%b0%d0%bf/](https://telma.com.mk/2022/03/16/%d0%b2%d0%be-%d0%b7%d0%b0%d0%b2%d1%80%d1%88%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d1%84%d0%b0%d0%b7%d0%b0-%d1%81%d0%b5-%d0%bf%d0%be%d0%b4%d0%b3%d0%be%d1%82%d0%be%d0%b2%d0%ba%d0%b8%d1%82%d0%b5-%d0%b7%d0%b0-%d0%b7%d0%b0%d0%bf/)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0Jr6rRBnmg>

<https://vlada.mk/node/28110>

<https://nezavisen.mk/slednata-nedela-pochnuva-chistenjeto-na-lindanot-od-ohis/>

<https://makfax.com.mk/makedonija/%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%87%D0%B5%D0%B2%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8-%D1%81%D0%BE-%D0%BE%D1%82%D1%81%D1%82%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BD%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B4/>

<https://www.dw.com/mk/%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B4%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BE%D0%B4-%D0%BE%D1%85%D0%B8%D1%81-%D1%9C%D0%B5-%D0%BF%D0%B0%D1%82%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0-%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D1%84%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BD%D1%86%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B0-%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BD%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BC%D0%B8%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B5%D0%BC%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D1%85%D0%BE%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0/a-58254653>

28.04.2022 – media presentation of the site clean-up progress

<https://www.24.mk/details/ischisteni-450-toni-lindan-od-malata-deponija-vo-okhis-do-krajot-na-godinata-celosno-otstranuvanje-na-otpadot>

<https://telma.com.mk/2022/04/28/peda-po-peda-se-chisti-lindanot-koi-so-decenii-tlee-vo-ohis-pronajdena-i-zhiva-vo-krugot-na-fabrikata/>

<https://sitel.com.mk/se-chisti-deponijata-vo-ohis-prvite-pratki-lindan-kje-patuvaat-kon-holandija-slednata-nedela>

<https://kana15.com.mk/toksichniot-lindan-spakuvan-vo-burinja-slednata-nedela-kje-bide-prenesen-vo-francija-i-holandija/a527540>

<https://mk.tv21.tv/ischisteni-450-toni-lindan-od-malata-deponija-vo-ohis-do-krajot-na-godinata-se-planira-tselosno-otstranuvane-na-otpadot/>

<https://novatv.mk/prvata-tura-dislokatsija-na-lindan-od-ohis-na-3-maj/>

<https://mrt.com.mk/node/72773>

<https://meta.mk/prvite-kolicini-opasen-lindan-od-ohis-kje-se-izvezat-vo-maj-foto/>

<https://nezavisen.mk/chistenjeto-na-lindanot-od-ohis-odi-pobrzo-od-ochekuvanoto/>

<https://emagazin.mk/ischisteni-450-toni-lindan-od-malata-deponija-vo-ohis-do-kra-ot-na-godinata-se-planira-celosno-otstranuvane-na-otpadot/>

<https://mia.mk/%d0%b8%d1%81%d1%87%d0%b8%d1%81%d1%82%d0%b5%d0%bd%d0%b8-450-%d1%82%d0%be%d0%bd%d0%b8-%d0%bb%d0%b8%d0%bd%d0%b4%d0%b0%d0%bd-%d0%be%d0%b4-%d0%bc%d0%b0%d0%bb%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b0-%d0%b4%d0%b5%d0%bf%d0%be/>

<https://www.mkd.mk/makedonija/skopje/ischisteni-450-toni-lindan-od-malata-deponija-vo-ohis-se-baraat-pari-za-golemata#1>

<https://kurir.mk/makedonija/vesti/ischisteni-450-toni-lindan-od-malata-deponija-vo-ohis-do-krajot-na-godinata-se-planira-celosno-otstranuvanje-na-otpadot/>

<https://iportal.mk/makedonija/ischisteni-450-toni-lindan-od-malata-deponija-vo-ohis-krajot-na-godinata-se-planira-celosno-otstranuvanje-na-otpadot/>

<https://www.novamakedonija.com.mk/makedonija/skopje/ischisteni-450-toni-lindan-od-malata-deponija-vo-ohis/>

<https://www.dw.com/mk/%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B4%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BE%D0%B4-%D0%BE%D1%85%D0%B8%D1%81-%D1%9C%D0%B5-%D0%BF%D0%B0%D1%82%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0-%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D1%84%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BD%D1%86%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B0-%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BD%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BC%D0%B8%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B5%D0%BC%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D1%85%D0%BE%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0/a-58254653>

6. GEF4385\_Site Investigation Report

<http://pops.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/UNIDO-Final-Investigation-Report-OHIS-rev2.pdf>

7. GEF4385\_Technical tools, guidelines and procedures for contaminated sites management

English version :

a) <http://pops.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Part-1-Assessing-contaminated-sites.pdf>

b) <http://pops.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Part-2-Remediation-of-contaminated-sites.pdf>

c) <http://pops.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/SOPs.pdf>

Macedonian version:

а) Дел-1-Проценка-на-контаминирана-локација

<http://pops.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Дел-1-Проценка-на-контаминирана-локација.pdf>

Дел-2-Ремедијација-на-контаминирана-локација

<http://pops.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Дел-2-Ремедијација-на-контаминирана-локација.pdf>

Дел-3-Стандардни-оперативни-процедури

<http://pops.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Дел-3-Стандардни-оперативни-процедури.pdf>

8. GEF4385\_Risk Assessment Analysis Update report

<http://pops.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Risk-Assessment-Analysis-Update-final.pdf>

9. GEF4385 \_Cost Benefit Analysis report

[http://pops.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Ohis-CBA\\_Final-Report.pdf](http://pops.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Ohis-CBA_Final-Report.pdf)

## 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 following tasks have been finalized during the reporting period: visibility event organized by the national sub-contractor on awareness raising activities to inform the public and other interested parties in initiation of the cleaning activities; Four meetings organized with the national sub-contractor on awareness raising activities on organization of the public debate at the time of the excavation works; preparation of the scenario for the video; media coverage of the activities in coordination with the MoEPP, - Department of Public Relations; On-line webinar organized and the media familiarized with the progress of the clean-up activities and the supervision of the remediation work; Media event organized at OHIS site for demonstration of the progress of the remediation activities (12 media presented at the site, statements on the progress of the remediation works given and the explanation on the technical aspects of the clean-up provided to journalists inside the tent; Project progress towards the site clean-up activities regularly promoted in the media; Video material on the site clean-up activities prepared and promoted; Commercial evaluation of the technically acceptable Bidders performed and the contracts signed with the Bidders that offered the lowest price; Major part of the laboratory equipment delivered to the Institute of Chemistry and all to the Institute of Public Health; Technical capacities of the Institute of Public Health for POPs monitoring in the water and biological matrices enhanced; Contracts signed between the Ministry of Environment and the Institute of Chemistry and the Institute of Public Health for the formalization of the cooperation between the institutions regarding the air and soil monitoring at the residential area during the remediation works, as well as the water and workers blood; Technical capacities of the Institute of Public Health for POPs monitoring in the water and biological matrices enhanced; Environmental monitoring programme established prior to and during the site clean-up activities (2 air sampling points at the residential area in the vicinity of OHIS site; 3 air sampling points in the remediation area in OHIS; 1 air sampling point inside the environmental enclosure; 2 soil sampling points at the residential area in the vicinity of OHIS; workers' blood and rain water collected from working area; Supervision and monitoring services provided by the Contractor: i) contractor's site remediation plan; ii) excavation and packing of 477 tons of HCH waste and 126 tons of HCH contaminated soil; iii) transportation of the packed HCH waste and HCH contaminated soil; 2 trainings of national counterparts on monitoring and supervision organized and guidance documents and instruction manuals provided; Forty participants have been trained (21 female and 19 male); Site set-up activities finalized, i.e. fencing, zoning and marking of the site; erection of environmental enclosure; installation of compressors for negative pressure and the air purification system; delivery of the need equipment and tools (UN approved drums and containers; PPE; waste water collection tanks and waste water filtration unit; decontamination units for the workers; air monitoring instruments; handheld instrument for soil analyses (XRF); machinery (conveyor belt with the mounted

funnel; trucks, bulldozers, cranes, etc.); The foreseen quantities of 477.1 tons of HCH waste and 126.37 tons of HCH contaminated soil excavated, packed and temporarily stored awaiting exportation; The notification consents for the transboundary shipment of the HCH waste from all concerned countries received; The notification consents for the transboundary shipment of the HCH contaminated soil are in progress and expected to be obtained by the end of August 2022; 154 tons of HCH waste exported to TREDI for incineration. The exportation of the remaining 323 tons is planned to be finalized by September 2022; The exportation of the HCH contaminated soil is planned to commence by the beginning of September 2022 and to finalize by the end of October 2022.

The fund raising activities resulted in mobilization of additional around 0.7 million euros from the MoEPP budget and the availability of the EU IPA funds, in amount of 2.5 million euros, under the IPA III program have been confirmed for continuation of the clean-up activities beyond the quantities contracted by UNIDO. Therefore, the total budget accumulated in the Multi-Partner Environmental Fund is around 6,800,000 euros.

**2. Please briefly elaborate on any **minor amendments**<sup>6</sup> to the approved project that may have been introduced during the implementation period or indicate as not applicable (NA).**

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                             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Components and Cost                           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Institutional and Implementation Arrangements |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Financial Management                          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Implementation Schedule                       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Executing Entity                              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Executing Entity Category                     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Minor Project Objective Change                |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Safeguards                                    |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Risk Analysis                                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Increase of GEF Project Financing Up to 5%    |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Co-Financing                                  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Location of Project Activities                |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Others  |  |

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

No major expenditure during this period that means no expenditure in 4500, equipment and 2100 subcontract. Project activities affected with a cumulative expenditure of USD 35,334.17 (budget line 2100), subcontract USD 5,890.41 followed by the recruitment of National expert (budget line 1700), USD 10,114.95 (budget line 5100) and other direct costs USD 19,298.81.

<sup>6</sup> 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%.

During the reporting period activities centred on the awareness raising activities, increasing of the laboratories analytical capacities on POPs monitoring, the preparatory activities for clean-up of the site (obtaining the export permits, purchasing and delivery of the needed equipment and materials, site set-up) have been finalized, the excavation and packing of the foreseen quantities of the HCH waste and the HCH contaminated soil finalized, as well as the transportation of a part of the packed HCH waste.

The services of the National Project Coordinator (NPC) and National Technical Specialist were also engaged under budget line 17-00) during the reporting period for monitoring and coordination of in-country activities and engagements. The NPC coordinated the day-to-day consultations and follow up with all the relevant stakeholders in the country and report to UNIDO on progress of project execution. The National Technical Specialist was involved in the daily communication with the contractor on site clean up and the site visits for the verification of the remediation work, then in regular communication with the State Environmental Inspectorate and communication with the responsible authorities for the exportation notification procedure. The specialist was also involved in the review and the evaluation of the contractor's site remediation progress reports and on the environmental monitoring results.

In 2018, the Secretary General of the Government, who was appointed by the Prime Minister to manage the fundraising for the lindane cleanup, has initiated the establishment of the multi-donor environment fund with the Government of Norway and UNOPS. The latter has been appointed as a Fund Management Agent.

It was decided to replace the national funds that have already been committed in 2013 with donor money, to be collected in this Fund. The intention is to use the Fund for raising money from various donors in order to complement the funds that are already available with UNIDO.

In 2019 almost 1,500,000 euros was collected in the Fund (500,000 from the Norway Government and 970.000 euros from the national budget).

In the MoEPP budget for 2021 there are around 720,000 euros available for the OHIS clean-up activities and the same have been transferred to the MPEF for continuation of the clean-up activities beyond the quantities contracted by UNIDO.

In 2022 the Norway contribution has been increased for about 1,130,000 euros.

Moreover, the availability of the Fund EU IPA funds, in amount of 2.5 million euros, under the IPA III program have been confirmed.

## 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 2022                           |                                     | GEF Grant Budget Available (US\$)  |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
|   | Q3                                  | Q4                                  |  |
| <b>Component 3 – Clean up strategies and plan</b>   |                                     |                                     |  |
| Outcome 3: Contaminated site clean up operation/remediation plan and groundwater management plan prepared for prevention of further contamination and adverse human health impact |                                     |                                     |  |
| Output 3.2: Consensus among the general public and major stakeholders built for the establishment/improvement of OHIS contaminated site   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 671.67 (contract already issued for the Macedonian Ecological Society (MES)) |
| <b>Component 4 – Establishment of clean up mechanism and operations</b>   |                                     |                                     |  |
| Outcome 4: Contaminated site clean up operation/remediation plan and groundwater management plan prepared for prevention of further contamination and adverse human health impact |                                     |                                     |  |

|  |                                     |                                     |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Output 4.7: A monitoring program, system established in the location                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 24,340.77                                      |
| Output 4.8: Clean up operation executed  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1,751 (contracts issued for service providers) |
| <b>Component 5 –Project monitoring and evaluation</b>  |                                     |                                     |  |
| Outcome 5: Project management structure established, and monitoring and evaluation conducted |                                     |                                     |  |
| Output 5.1: Project results monitored and reported   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 553.3  |
| Output 5.2: Project evaluated meeting the GEF's evaluation criteria                          | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 34,000 (TE)                                    |

## X. Synergies

### 1. Synergies achieved:

Through the implementation of the project in the reported period a permanent communication was secured with the designated officers responsible for implementation of the relevant Chemicals and Waste multilateral agreements in the country (Stockholm Convention, Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Minamata Convention and SAICM).

The communication with the designated officers /national focal points for all chemicals and waste conventions is aiming to provide an administrative/institutional support to the implementation of the project activities, particularly in the phase of sharing information with the public, as well as establishing the onsite clean-up process in a coordinated manner, such as obtaining the permits in accordance with the national legislation and with relevant Convention provisions.

Moreover, cooperation have been established between UNIDO and UNOPS, where UNIDO provides technical support to UNOPS which will enable the latter to continue with the remediation activities upon finalization of the clean-up demonstration project implemented by UNIDO.

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

N/A

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. **Timing & duration:** Each report covers a twelve-month period, i.e. 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022.
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 |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Highly Satisfactory (HS)</b>   | 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”.  |
| <b>Satisfactory (S)</b>   | 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.  |
| <b>Moderately Satisfactory (MS)</b>   | 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. |
| <b>Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)</b>   | 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.  |
| <b>Unsatisfactory (U)</b>   | 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.  |
| <b>Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)</b>   | 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)          |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Highly Satisfactory (HS)</b>       | 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”. |
| <b>Satisfactory (S)</b>               | 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.                        |
| <b>Moderately Satisfactory (MS)</b>   | Implementation of <u>some</u> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action.                                 |
| <b>Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)</b> | 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.                      |
| <b>Unsatisfactory (U)</b>             | Implementation of <u>most</u> components is <u>not</u> in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.   |
| <b>Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)</b>     | 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: |   |
| <b>High Risk (H)</b>   | There is a probability of greater than <b>75%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.                   |
| <b>Substantial Risk (S)</b>  | There is a probability of between <b>51%</b> and <b>75%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face substantial risks.  |
| <b>Moderate Risk (M)</b>   | There is a probability of between <b>26%</b> and <b>50%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only moderate risk. |
| <b>Low Risk (L)</b>  | There is a probability of up to <b>25%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only low risks.                      |