



Mid-Term Review of FAO-GEF Project

**GCP/BGD/060/GFF
GEF ID: 9076**

Pesticide Risk Reduction in Bangladesh

Final Report

MTR conducted in October 2021

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS,
Bangladesh - December 2021**

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Acronyms and abbreviations

BARI	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
BAT	Best Available Techniques
BCPA	Bangladesh Crop Protection Association
BCSIR	Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
BEP	Best Environmental Procedures
BH	Budget holder
CAB	Consumers Association of Bangladesh
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
DGHS	Directorate General of Health Services
DoE	Department of Environment
DoF	Department of Fisheries
ESS	Environmental and Social Safeguards
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLO	Funding Liaison Officer (FAO)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEF CU	GEF Coordination Unit (at FAO)
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
HHP	Highly Hazardous Pesticide
IFRB	Institute of Food and Radiation Biology
LTO	Lead Technical Officer
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NIP	National Implementation Plan
PIR	Project Implementation Review report
PMU	Project Management Unit
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutant
ProDoc	Project Document
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PTF	Project Task Force
RM	Mid-term review manager
TAPP	Technical Assistance Project Proposal
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations

Executive summary

Introduction

1. This report presents the results of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the project GCP/BGD/060/GFF “Pesticide Risk Reduction”. The MTR was carried out from July to mid October 2021. The main purpose of the MTR is to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, to provide recommendations for improvement of the project, and to contribute to learning and knowledge sharing among FAO and its project partners.
2. The scope of the MTR covers the implementation of all four components of the project in Bangladesh between the start of the project in June 2019 and the start of the MTR in July 2021. It was clear from the start of the MTR that few activities were implemented, largely due to the COVID19 pandemic and the strict lockdowns in Bangladesh, which were of course beyond the control of project management. Additionally, the Technical Assistance Project Proposal (TAPP) was only approved recently, in August 2021. The TAPP is an internal governmental approval process. Only when the TAPP is approved, the executing agencies - the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), the Department of Environment (DoE), the Department of Fisheries (DoF) and the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) - can start to manage the activities they are expected to coordinate within the project. Generally, the approval of a TAPP can take some time. In this case, according to several interviewees, the approval process was more complicated, since there are a Ministry (the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change (MoEFCC)) and four departments (DoE, DAE, DoF, DGHS) involved. Additionally, some respondents mentioned that the COVID19 pandemic influenced the approval process because it was difficult to organize physical meetings, and there have been other priorities for some departments related to getting the COVID19 situation under control. This means that only activities related to preparation for the safeguarding and disposal of the large DDT stockpile in Chattogram (which fall under component 1) were implemented.
3. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MTR is mainly based on desk research of all key documents, and on remotely conducted semi-structured interviews (only towards the end of the MTR the national consultant had a few face-to-face meetings). Extensive key-informant interviews were held with the FAO project team and other lead partners involved in and responsible for the project.
4. The response to the interview requests was slow and the overall response was low. Several reasons were identified. First of all, as very few project activities were implemented, some potential interviewees felt they had no information to contribute to the MTR. Furthermore, since the TAPP document was not yet approved when the MTR started, some national counterparts were reluctant to discuss the project with the MTR team. Thirdly, as was mentioned by some respondents, many stakeholders had other priorities and therefore possibly some potential interviewees did not reply to requests for an interview. And finally, in a few cases potential interviewees (stakeholders other than FAO or the executing agencies) replied that they were not aware of the project and therefore could not contribute to the MTR.
5. To support the conduction of interviews, an evaluation matrix was prepared during the inception phase of the MTR. This matrix contains the key questions per MTR criterion, includes specific sub-questions for the criteria, and also indicates indicators for the different

sub-questions, as well as the sources of information to be consulted and the review methods to be applied in order to gain as much information as possible and ensure validation and triangulation of the findings of the MTR. The central questions assessed by the MTR and the main findings are summarized below.

Main findings

MTR question 1 – Relevance

Is the project still relevant to the country, beneficiaries and donor? To what extent are the project objectives relevant and suited to the priorities, policies and strategies of the executing and implementing agencies, donors, stakeholders and target groups?

6. The project was assessed to be in line with national priorities (including the Seventh Five Year plan of the government of Bangladesh) as well as donor strategic priorities (GEF-6 focal area strategies), existing interventions, and with the FAO strategic Framework and the FAO Country Programming Framework. The interviews with respondents make clear that all project activities are still highly important for the country and are complementary with other interventions in the country.
7. As few activities have been conducted and the project can really only start now that the TAPP has been approved and the lockdown restrictions lifted, the opportunities for cooperation with existing project and interventions will need to be verified and (re)initiated.

MTR question 2 – Effectiveness

To what extent has the project delivered on its outputs, outcomes and objectives?

8. The outputs and outcomes of the project have not been achieved at the mid-term point of the project since few activities could be implemented. The main reasons are the strict lockdowns in Bangladesh due to the COVID19 pandemic. Also, the TAPP has been approved only in August 2021 and before this the executing agencies could not start the activities they were expected to coordinate. As no outputs or outcomes have been achieved, it is too early to make an assessment of the likelihood of the intended, positive impact (longer-term results) becoming a reality.
9. Essential activities related to the preparation of safeguarding and disposal of the DDT stockpile in Chattogram have been carried out. A company to undertake safeguarding and disposal in a certified facility in France has been selected, and currently all preparations are underway to start safeguarding and finalise safeguarding in March 2022, before the start of the rainy season. The relevant GEF core indicator 9.1 “Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and POPs containing materials and products removed or disposed” has not yet been achieved but is expected to be completed by mid-2022, now the lockdown has been lifted and the TAPP approved.

MTR question 3 – Efficiency

To what extent has the project been implemented efficiently and cost effectively? Has management been able to adapt to any changes and conditions and improve the efficiency of project implementation?

10. The project is well behind schedule (due to the COVID19 lockdowns and late approval of the TAPP) and it is not feasible to implement the project activities by the current end date of the

project (June 2022). Currently (September-October 2021) the implementation of project activities are intensified since now the TAPP just has been approved, the lockdown restrictions have been lifted, and a project manager has recently been appointed.

11. As few activities have been implemented, and no outputs and outcomes have been achieved, it is difficult to assess cost-effectiveness. The costs for the safeguarding and disposal company (which are a considerable cost to the project, and which were planned at 60% of the original project budget) are lower than budgeted in the project document (ProDoc). However, as such activities are generally highly complex, there can be unforeseen costs. For example, logistics may become more expensive due to COVID19 (fewer containers are available and there are congestions at the Chattogram harbour as well as at global ports).

MTR question 4 – Sustainability

To what extent are there financial, institutional and governance, socio-political and/or environmental risks to sustaining project results in the long-term?

12. As most of the project activities have not yet started, it was difficult to assess all sustainability aspects for the MTR report. The risks to achieving environmental and financial sustainability are medium, provided that the project as defined in the original ProDoc is followed and a financially sustainable mechanism for empty container management as well as an incentive scheme for the safe manufacturing of dry fish are established. As many stakeholders will need to be involved in setting up such mechanisms, and these mechanisms require cooperation of different agencies, organizations, institutions and other stakeholders, it is recommended that financial sustainability is already addressed early on in further project implementation of the relevant activities. Environmental sustainability is likely if the DDT stockpile at Chattogram is safeguarded and eliminated.
13. Currently executing partners do not always have the capacity to undertake all project activities. Interviewees indicated that they need technical and coordination support as well as trainings from FAO. They also pointed out that it is important to ensure that capacity will be built within the project (within executing partners and of other stakeholders) and sustained after the project ends. Departments and institutions may sometimes lack institutional sustainability (for example, due to regular changes in staff, bureaucracy, and other priorities in their work).

MTR question 5 – Factors affecting performance

What are the main other factors affecting the project in reaching its results, and how are they affecting the project's performance? (consider project design and readiness; project execution and management arrangements; project oversight; financial management and co-financing; project partnerships and stakeholder engagement; communication, knowledge management and knowledge product, M&E design and implementation.)

14. It was difficult for the MTR team to assess factors affecting performance as the implementation status of the project is currently very low. The MTR rated the different criteria based on factual implementation status and on an analysis of how well factors were considered in the ProDoc. Additionally, the team took into consideration the exceptional circumstances related to the COVID19 pandemic, as well as the late approval of the TAPP and the momentum the project is currently gaining. There are several factors that have influenced

the implementation of the project as well as factors that should be considered during further project implementation in order to meet the project’s objectives.

15. As few activities could be implemented due to the COVID19 pandemic and the TAPP had not been approved, the project’s execution arrangements and oversight structures have not been fully operational. There have been no meetings of the Project Steering Committee or any other consultation meetings. Project stakeholders were properly identified during the project design phase. However, project partners were not well engaged with the project (in some cases stakeholders were not aware of the project as they had not been involved during the few activities that could be implemented), even though they acknowledged the importance of project results being achieved. Now the project is gaining momentum, it is especially important that the project coordination and supervision structures become well established as soon as possible, and that all stakeholders will be involved in and regularly informed about the project. It is vital that strong coalitions are built, so the momentum will not be lost, and the project outputs and outcomes can be achieved.
16. Component 4 on Communication and Awareness has been planned to support the achievement of outputs and outcomes of the three other components. No (public) communication and awareness raising activities have however been implemented yet and therefore it is too early to assess any influence of the project on attitudes and behaviour. Currently a communication strategy is being prepared (for safeguarding and disposal). Several respondents stated that awareness raising is very important and should start as soon as possible (for disposal but also within other components).
17. An M&E (Monitoring and Evaluation) officer have been hired recently. Monitoring has been conducted through the Project Implementation Review (PIR) reports. Now that the project activities can start to be fully implemented, it is expected that the new monitoring officer will update and start to fully implement the M&E plan, taking into consideration gender aspects.
18. No co-finance has been reported until now. One of the reasons is that official reporting of co-finance from executing partners was not possible as the TAPP has been approved only in August 2021. The project reporting also mentions that all co-finance is related to completed projects. However, the projects from which co-finance would contribute to this project, and that are mentioned in the co-finance letters of the executing partners and FAO, have not all been finalised yet, or the implementation status of these projects is unclear. It is likely that some of these projects could still generate co-financing. The executing agencies have already invested resources (time, staff, logistics) during the approval process of the TAPP that can be considered as in-kind co-finance. A record of co-finance would help illustrate ownership at national level, and serve as a means of accountability.

MTR question 6 – Cross-cutting dimensions (including gender and ESS)

To what extent have gender considerations been taken into account in project design and implementation? Have Environmental and Social Risks been identified and are appropriate mitigation measures taken?

19. Since very few activities were implemented, gender and equity issues have not been given attention in the implementation of the project. These aspects were however elaborately described and considered in the ProDoc. The ProDoc also includes a Gender Mainstreaming Plan, taking into account the relevant GEF and FAO gender policies. Recently a gender expert

has been hired, as well as a communication specialist and monitoring officer. The project communication strategy expectedly will include specific parts related to awareness raising for women, and the data that will be monitored within the M&E plan will be disaggregated by gender.

20. Environmental and Social Risks have been identified in annex 4 of the ProDoc. Several risks are described for the safeguarding and disposal operations of the DDT stockpile at Chattogram, including for instance the risk of improper or incomplete disposal of the DDT stockpile, the risk of worker exposure to chemicals during clean up, the risk of DDT release during safeguarding activities, and the risk of accident or release during transportation of the repackaged DDT to the destruction facility. Risk mitigation measures are described for each risk, taking into account the relevance international standards, conventions and directives, as well as the relevant FAO’s Environmental Management Tool Kits. Safeguarding, transport and disposal of the DDT stockpile has yet to take place and is currently being prepared. The safeguarding company Polyeco has developed a Health, Safety and Environmental Plan as well as an Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRRP) for the safeguarding operations.

Knowledge activities and products

21. A communication strategy was not developed as few activities could be implemented. No knowledge products have been prepared until the mid-term point of the project.

Stakeholder participation

22. The stakeholders were adequately identified at project design and the ProDoc contains an elaborate stakeholder analysis. However, as the project could implement only few activities, and the TAPP was approved only recently, the level of stakeholder participation and engagement has been very low (see also above under MTR question 5 – Factors affecting performance). It is recommended (see recommendations below) that the project focuses on building strong coalitions and setting up the appropriate consultation and oversight structures, so engagement of all stakeholders will be improved.

Overall progress on implementation

23. Overall progress on implementation has been assessed as **moderately unsatisfactory**, as no outputs were achieved and no outcomes are on track to be achieved, and only few (although important) activities could be implemented. The MTR took into consideration that the COVID19 pandemic was outside of the control of project management, and that the late approval of the TAPP meant that the executing agencies could not start to implement activities.

Progress towards achieving the project’s development objective

24. The overall progress to achieving the project objective (“to reduce risk to human and animal health and the environment from Stockpiles of POPs and other obsolete pesticides and from ongoing excessive use of new POPs and other Highly Hazardous Pesticides”) and the development objective (“increased food security through the elimination of POPs pesticides stockpiles and the implementation of safe alternatives for food preservation and agricultural practices”) is rated as **moderately unsatisfactory**.

25. Important activities have been implemented related to one of the most essential project outcomes (outcome 1: Legacy stockpile of DDT in Bangladesh eliminated) under component one; preparations for safeguarding and disposal of the DDT stockpile in Chattogram. However, no outputs and outcomes have been achieved, and there is very little progress related to the other outcomes within component 1, and the outcomes within component 2, 3 and 4. The MTR team has taken into consideration that although there has been no progress towards outcomes and the project (development) objective, the project was affected by exceptional difficult circumstances pertaining to the COVID19 lockdowns in Bangladesh that were beyond the control of the project management, and that the project was also affected by the late approval of the TAPP.

Overall risk rating

26. The MTR rates the project's level of risk to be medium and therefore it is **moderately likely** that the project will reach the objectives now that the COVID19 lockdown restrictions have been lifted and the TAPP has recently been approved, if an extension until December 2024 is granted and the recommendations below are addressed.

Conclusions (summarized)

27. **Conclusion 1 (Relevance):** The project is strategic relevant and in line with national priorities as well as donor strategic priorities, existing interventions, and with the FAO strategic Framework and the FAO Country Programming Framework. The MTR also found that there are certainly complementarities with existing interventions and projects, although the implementation status of existing interventions is not fully clear. The newly appointed project manager is currently discussing with the executing agencies and other stakeholders how other initiatives have been progressing during the COVID19 pandemic and how the project can cooperate with these initiatives and projects.
28. **Conclusion 2 (Effectiveness):** The project has made good progress regarding preparation for safeguarding and disposal of the DDT stockpiles at the Medical Sub-depot in Chattogram under component 1 and outcome 1. A selection and bidding process was carried out and a company to undertake safeguarding and disposal was selected. This company, Polyeco, has been preparing to start safeguarding as soon as the COVID19 situation allows and the necessary equipment will have been shipped to Chattogram and cleared at customs. The actual safeguarding is planned to be implemented by March 2022, before the start of the rainy season. As safeguarding and disposal of the DDT stockpile in Chattogram is an essential part of the project (and also a considerable cost, as 60% of the planned budget was reserved for this outcome), it is crucial that progress has been made for this part of the project.
29. **Conclusion 3 (Effectiveness and Efficiency):** The project implementation has been severely hampered by the COVID19 lockdown. No field work could take place, and currently no outputs or outcomes have been delivered, and little progress has been made towards achieving the project objectives. In addition, the late approval of the TAPP also means that most of the project activities could not start. It is therefore not feasible to implement the project before its current end date (June 2022).

30. **The TAPP has been approved in August 2021 and the most severe regulations of the last lockdown were lifted at approximately the same time. Currently, the new project manager and the other FAO project staff in Bangladesh have started to plan for all project components to be implemented, and have regular meetings with all executing agencies. An Inception Workshop is planned to be organized in November this year. Several specialists, including a monitoring officer, a communication specialist and a gender expert have been hired. As the project is currently gaining momentum it is possible, if the project is extended, to achieve all project outputs and outcomes.**
31. **Conclusion 4 (Sustainability): The risks to financial sustainability are medium if the project as defined in the original project document is followed and a financially sustainable mechanism for empty container management as well as an incentive scheme for the safe manufacturing of dry fish is established. These mechanisms would need to be discussed early on during the remaining project period, as the mechanisms need the involvement of many stakeholders and the mechanisms will need time to be set up properly. Environmental sustainability is likely if the DDT stockpile at Chattogram is safeguarded and eliminated. Aspects related to institutional sustainability need to be further considered now that the project activities can start to be implemented. Interviewees mentioned that the executing partners at the moment do not always have the capacity to undertake all project activities. They need technical and coordination support as well as trainings from FAO. Respondents also said that it is important to ensure that capacity will be built within the project (within executing partners and of other stakeholders) and sustained after the project ends.**
32. **Conclusion 5 (progress to impact): As so few activities were implemented, and no outputs and outcomes have been achieved, it was difficult to assess several of the criteria for this MTR. The MTR rated the different criteria based on factual implementation status, and took into consideration the exceptional circumstances related to the COVID19 pandemic (as well as the late approval of the TAPP, and the momentum the project is currently gaining). The overall assessment of the project’s progress is considered to be moderately unsatisfactory. This assessment follows from the lack of progress towards achieving outputs and outcomes, but the MTR team realises that activities could not have been achieved due to COVID 19 and the late approval of the TAPP. The MTR team also recognizes that important progress has been made to one of the most essential components of the project (safeguarding and disposal of the DDT stockpile at Chattogram) and that the project is currently gaining momentum. Therefore, the MTR team considers that it is moderately likely that the project will reach its main targets and objectives if an extension is granted until at least December 2023 (in line with the TAPP), and preferably until December 2024, bearing in mind that many interviewees proposed an extension of 2,5 to 3 years, and also taking into account that the original project duration of 3 years could be considered too short for the implementation of the large number of activities planned at project design.**

Recommendations

33. Based on the findings and conclusions, the MTR has prepared the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1 (Efficiency)	The MTR recommends an extension of the project until December 2024, in order to make it possible for the project team and the executing partners to achieve the project outputs and outcomes.
<p><u>Rationale for recommendation:</u></p> <p>The project has not achieved any outputs or delivered any outcomes. The main reasons for this are the COVID19 pandemic in Bangladesh and the strict lockdowns that did not allow for any field work to be implemented. In addition, the approval process of the TAPP has taken a long time (in part probably also due to the COVID19 situation, making it more difficult for governmental agencies to have meetings) and was only approved recently, in August 2021. Now that these two issues have been solved (although it cannot be predicted how the COVID19 situation will evolve) and coincided with the appointment of a project manager, the project is starting to gain momentum. However, since the project is only at the start of implementing most activities, it is not feasible to conduct these activities and reach the anticipated project results by the original project end date (June 2022).</p> <p>The MTR has assessed that the project is very relevant to all stakeholders and in line with GEF, FAO and country priorities. Interviewees confirmed the importance of implementing the project activities and achieving the main project results. Taking into account all of the above, the MTR team considers that the project results, and the outputs and outcomes, can be achieved if the project is granted an extension.</p> <p>The extension should be until at least December 2023, as this would be in line with the end date as defined in the TAPP. Taking into account that most interviewees proposed an extension for a longer period (2,5 to 3 years), and also because there are many activities, outputs and outcomes defined at project design (and so the original project duration of three years would likely have been too short), it is recommended that the project be extended until December 2024.</p>	
Responsibility	FAO PTF, FAO GEF Coordination Unit
Proposed timeframe	As soon as possible

Recommendation 2 (Factors affecting performance)	FAO to ensure that the coordination and monitoring mechanisms will be set up and start as soon as possible, including the meetings of the Project Steering Committee. The Inception Workshop needs to be the start of building strong coalitions.
<p><u>Rationale for recommendation:</u></p> <p>Over the last years, there have been no meetings of the Project Steering Committee or the Project Implementation Committee, as the TAPP was not approved.</p> <p>The response of the different stakeholders to participate in the MTR process was overall very low and slow. This showed that some stakeholders are not aware of the project, and that other stakeholders, such as the executing agencies, are not yet well engaged, even though they expressed commitment to the project results.</p> <p>Now that the project is gaining momentum, it is especially important that the project coordination and supervision structures become well established as soon as possible, and that all stakeholders will be involved in and regularly informed about the project. It is vital that strong coalitions are built, so the momentum will not be lost, and the project outputs and outcomes can be achieved. It is recommended that the coordination structures, specifically the Project Steering Committee, will meet regularly, in the beginning once per two months. The Inception Workshop that is planned for November 2021 should be the start of building coalitions; FAO Bangladesh should ensure that all relevant stakeholders</p>	

participate in the meeting and that the coordination and supervision structures will start to operate immediately after the Inception Workshop. The agreements made within the consultation mechanisms on activities, outputs and outcomes should be reflected in the Monitoring and Evaluation plan by the newly appointed Monitoring Officer, so the project’s performance can be tracked regularly.

The Result Matrix as presented in the ProDoc is overall coherent and logical. The individual indicators (including for instance number of people trained and participating in activities and meetings) should be reviewed now that the TAPP has been approved and all project activities can start soon, and it is thus more clear if the numbers/amounts mentioned are still fully relevant.

This recommendation is planned to contribute to the improvement of several “Factors affecting performance”, namely Quality of project execution and management arrangements, Project oversight by FAO and national partners, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Project Partnerships and stakeholder involvement.

Responsibility	FAO PTF, PMU, Monitoring Officer
Proposed timeframe	As soon as possible, before end of December 2021

Recommendation 3 (Sustainability)	FAO to ensure that exit strategies (what will happen after project end) will be prepared timely, to ensure sustainability of project results.
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Rationale for recommendation:

It was difficult to assess all sustainability aspects, as the project has implemented only few activities, no outputs were achieved and there has been no progress towards delivery of outcomes (except for outcome1, as essential preparatory activities for safeguarding and disposal were conducted). The MTR assessed how sustainability aspects were considered at project design. Overall, the risks to achieving financial and environmental sustainability are considered to be medium, provided that the mechanisms as described in the ProDoc (the financial mechanism related to empty container management and the incentive scheme for safe dry fish manufacturing) are set up. As many stakeholders will need to be involved in setting up such mechanisms, and these mechanisms require cooperation of different agencies, organizations, institutions and other stakeholders, it is recommended that financial sustainability is already addressed early on in further project implementation of these activities.

Several pilot and demonstration activities are foreseen to be implemented within the project. Although these pilot activities generally have a potential for replication and upscaling, sustainability of such pilot and demonstration projects can be problematic if no timely discussions and agreements are made between FAO, the executing agencies and relevant stakeholders on responsibilities of replication and upscaling, and on ownership, also after the project ends.

Institutional sustainability is not explicitly described in the ProDoc. Interviewees stated that the executing agencies need coordination and technical support from FAO, and that capacity building activities such as trainings are important for the government agencies (and other stakeholders). Respondents also indicated that it is important to sustain the built capacity after project end. Departments and institutions may sometimes lack institutional sustainability (for example, due to regular changes in staff, and other priorities in their work).

Long-term results depend on the sustainability of project results and therefore it is recommended that exit strategies are prepared. The strategies need to be developed in

time well before the activities to which the exit strategy refers are completed, and should include factors related to institutional as well as financial sustainability. The strategy should also clarify the responsibilities of the different partners involved, the expectations, responsibilities, and ownership after project end.	
Responsibility	FAO PTF, PMU, in consultation with the PSC
Proposed timeframe	Within the next year

Recommendation 4 (Financial management and co-financing)	Start to record co-finance at a detailed level, and possibly still record co-finance contributed by the executing partners from the period before approval of the TAPP.
<u>Rationale for recommendation:</u> The co-financing table shows that there has been no co-finance reported until now. One of the reasons is that official reporting of co-finance from executing partners was not possible as the TAPP had not yet been approved. The PIR also mentions that co-finance is related to completed projects. However, the projects from which co-finance would contribute to this project, and that are mentioned in the co-finance letters of the executing partners and FAO, have not all been finalised yet, or the implementation status of these projects is unclear. It is likely that some of these projects could still generate co-financing. Also, the executing agencies have already invested resources (time, staff, logistics) during the approval process of the TAPP that can be considered as in-kind co-finance. Now the TAPP has been approved recently (in August 2021) and the lockdown restrictions lifted, the opportunities for co-finance from and cooperation with existing project and interventions will need to be verified and (re)initiated. It is recommended that FAO: 1) clarifies the amounts of co-finance already generated (and if possible also include possible co-finance already provided by executing agencies before the approval of the TAPP), 2) updates the numbers of co-financing already generated, and 3) assesses whether the original amounts of co-finance pledged are still valid, if the sources of co-finance (e.g. other projects) are still valid and if any other/additional co-finance can be found and generated.	
Responsibility	FAO PTF, PMU in consultation with the PSC
Proposed timeframe	Within the next 6 months

Recommendation 5 (Financial management and co-financing)	Start to record expenditure on a more detailed level, if possible per output but at least per outcome, so it will be easier to assess cost-effectiveness of particular actions and of the final results.
Rationale for recommendation	The MTR team received an expenditure overview per oracle code (budget line) and an overview of expenditure per component. Although this gives some insight into the actual expenditure and the expenditure ratio, it is difficult to assess how cost-effective specific actions were, and e.g. which activities were relatively costly. Recording expenditure at a more detailed level, for example of pilot projects, will provide a deeper understanding of the funds needed to upscale such activities and if it would be realistic to continue these activities after project end. As the project is now gaining momentum and it can be expected that important

	progress towards achieving outputs and outcomes will start to be made, it seems the right moment to start recording expenditure at a more detailed level.
Responsibility	PTF and FAO operational management
Proposed timeframe	As soon as possible

Recommendation 6 (Communication)	FAO to ensure that a methodical/strategic communication and awareness raising strategy for the entire project is prepared and implemented, including budget for the communication activities. Additionally, the M&E as well as gender plans need to be updated and brought in line with the communication and awareness raising strategy.
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Rationale for recommendation:

As few activities were implemented, awareness raising activities have not yet taken place and communication with stakeholders has been ad hoc. Communication and Awareness is a specific component of the project (component 4) which is meant to strengthen and support the results of the other three components. These aspects are a vital part of the project, and many interviewees also mentioned that awareness raising should get specific attention and is crucial for attaining sustainable project results and for changing attitudes and behaviours.

Specific target groups have already been identified in the ProDoc: farmers, government extension and technical staff, agricultural and public health private sector providers, and consumers. The ProDoc also explains that two key messages will be developed related to the benefits of using non-chemical, less hazardous chemicals and technologies, as well as the hidden costs and risks associated with the use of illegal chemicals including POPs pesticides.

Within component 4 it is planned that a communication strategy will be developed. Until now, a methodical strategy taking into consideration the key target groups and messages has not been developed. Recently a communication specialist has been appointed who is preparing communication activities related to the safeguarding and disposal of the DDT stockpile at Chattogram. It is also planned to prepare a film of the safeguarding activities. It is recommended that: 1) communication and awareness raising will receive immediate and specific attention and that a comprehensive methodical and result based communication strategy for all three components will be developed that will elaborate on the specific target groups (with specific attention being paid to gender issues and women, as was also planned at project design), on key messages and communication tools. The most relevant aspects of this strategy can be presented and discussed during the Inception Workshop (which is planned for November 2021). 2) Additionally, it is recommended that the gender and M&E plans are revised and updated now that a gender expert and M&E officer have been appointed. It is important that the communication strategy and the M&E and gender plans are in line with each other and that the communication strategy and gender aspects are well monitored.

Responsibility	FAO Bangladesh /Communication and Knowledge Management specialist/Gender expert/M&E officer
Proposed timeframe	Within the next 6 months

GEF rating table

Ratings: Highly satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Moderately satisfactory (MS), Moderately unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U) Highly unsatisfactory (HU) Unable to assess (UA). Additional ratings for Section D: Likely (L), Moderately likely (ML), Moderately unlikely (MU), Unlikely (U).

Table 1: GEF Rating table

GEF criteria/sub-criteria	Rating	Summary comments
A. STRATEGIC RELEVANCE		
A1. Overall strategic relevance	HS	The project is strategic relevant and is fully in line with national and global priorities, as well as GEF and FAO strategic objectives.
A1.1. Alignment with GEF and FAO strategic priorities	HS	The project adheres to the GEF-6 Chemical and Waste focal area strategy, the strategic objectives of FAO (specifically “Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable”) and the most recent FAO Country Programming Frameworks (for the period 2014-2018 and 2019-2020).
A1.2. Relevance to national, regional and global priorities and beneficiary needs	HS	The project is fully in line with the key priorities of the Bangladesh National Implementation Plan for the Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants, as developed within the framework of the Stockholm Convention. These priorities include improvement of the existing legal framework and legislative provisions for POPs, safe repackaging, labelling and storage of DDT obsolete stockpiles, DDT sampling in dry fish, as well as awareness raising, outreach and education. The project also adheres to several key objectives of the Bangladesh Seventh Five year Plan.
A1.3. Complementarity with existing interventions	S	The project shows complementarities with several projects already being implemented by the project executing partners and by FAO (within their Country Programming Framework). As few activities have been implemented and the project can really only start now the TAPP has been approved and the lockdown restrictions lifted, the opportunities for cooperation with existing project and interventions will need to be verified and taken up.
B. EFFECTIVENESS		
B1. Overall assessment of project results	MU	At the mid-term point of the project, no outputs or outcomes have been achieved, although important progress was made related to the preparatory activities for safeguarding and disposal of the DDT stockpiles at Chattogram. There are exceptional circumstances (COVID19 pandemic) and this has

		been taken into consideration when assessing the project results.
B1.1 Delivery of project outputs	MU	No outputs have been delivered. Few activities could be implemented due to COVID19 (and late approval of the TAPP) and this has been considered when assessing this criterion.
B1.2 Progress towards outcomes and project objectives	MU	There has been progress towards achieving the first outcome, but no progress towards achieving the other seven outcomes. The MTR team decided to rate the delivery of project results and outputs as Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), having taken into consideration that although in fact no project results and outcomes have been achieved (and thus the rating should have been Highly Unsatisfactory), the project was severely affected by very difficult circumstances pertaining to the COVID19 lockdowns in Bangladesh (which were beyond the control of the project management), and the project was also affected by the late approval of the TAPP. Progress towards the individual outcomes has therefore also been rated as MU, except for progress towards outcome 1, which was rated as Satisfactory (see below).
- Outcome 1: Legacy stockpiles of DDT in Bangladesh eliminated.	S	A selection procedure to hire a company to undertake safeguarding and disposal of DDT has been successfully completed, and this company is taking preparations to start safeguarding. Now that the lockdown in Bangladesh has been lifted, it is planned to finalise safeguarding by March 2022, before the rainy season starts.
- Outcome 2: Increased capacity on risk assessment of contaminated sites	MU	See B1.2.
- Outcome 3: Increased capacity on management options for empty containers.	MU	See B1.2.
- Outcome 4: Strengthened capacity to control POPs pesticides imports, production and sale.	MU	See B1.2.
- Outcome 5: Increased capacity to address ongoing and illegal uses and unintentional exposures to POPs pesticides.	MU	See B1.2.
- Outcome 6: Improved monitoring and reporting of POPs pesticides residues in food, POPs pesticides poisoning and POPs pesticides contamination in the environment.	MU	See B1.2.
- Outcome 7: Strengthened understanding of alternative, low	MU	See B1.2.

hazard pest control options in agriculture and public health.		
- Outcome 8: Increased awareness of risks of continued and illegal use of POPs pesticides and about alternatives, developed among farmers, extension staff, agricultural input traders and consumers.	MU	See B1.2.
- Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes	MU	See B1.2.
B1.3 Likelihood of impact	Not rated at MTR	-
C. EFFICIENCY		
C1. Efficiency	MU	Very few activities have been implemented (due to the COVID19 pandemic and the late approval of the TAPP), except for activities related to preparation for safeguarding and disposal). The project is well behind schedule. As few activities have been implemented, and no outputs and outcomes have been achieved, it is difficult to assess cost-effectiveness. The costs for the safeguarding and disposal company are lower than budgeted in the ProDoc. But as such activities are generally highly complex, there can be unforeseen costs, for example related to logistics (limited available shipping containers and congestions at harbours due to COVID19).
D. SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECT OUTCOMES		
D1. Overall likelihood of risks to sustainability	ML	Although it is too early to make any definite statements on sustainability as few activities have been executed, the MTR assesses it moderately likely that there are some risks to achieving sustainability, in particular institutional and also financial sustainability (see below). However, these risks can be reduced if they are taken into account early during implementation of the relevant activities and if exit strategies are prepared timely.
D1.1. Financial risks	ML	There are some financial risks to sustainability. The ProDoc describes two mechanisms (on empty container management and incentives for safe dry fish processing) that can support the financial sustainability of the project if they are indeed set up.
D1.2. Socio-political risks	UA	The MTR did not find major socio-political risks that currently influence the sustainability of the project. However, as these aspects are not described in the ProDoc, and the project has implemented few

		activities, the MTR team is unable to assess the socio-political risks to sustainability.
D1.3. Institutional and governance risks	ML	Interviewees indicated that stakeholders need technical and coordination support to execute activities in the project and that their capacity needs to be built (further). If these needs are met, and the capacity built sustained, the institutional sustainability will be increased.
D1.4. Environmental risks	ML	The main environmental risk as described in the ProDoc is especially related to safeguarding of POPs pesticides and the Environmental Sound Destruction of POPs pesticides in Chattogram. The ProDoc describes how these risks will be mitigated, and this is also explained in the annex on Environmental and Social Risks. Specific measure have already been taken during the preparatory activities for safeguarding.
D2. Catalysis and replication	ML	It is too early to assess changes in behaviour and practice that the project helped to catalyse, as no outputs and outcomes have been achieved. The ProDoc contains a chapter on Potential for Scaling Up in which catalysis and replication aspects are described. Replication is not expected for safeguarding and disposal as the largest DDT stockpile in Chattogram will likely already be disposed of within this project. The ProDoc identifies a number of activities which will be piloted, and which could have significant scale-up potential. If the project outcomes will be achieved, it may well be that certain (demonstration) activities will be scaled-up after project end, provided that responsibilities and financial aspects related to upscaling after project end are discussed and addressed timely.
E. FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE		
E1. Project design and readiness	MS	The project was overall designed well. However, there have been considerable delays in implementation of project activities, as the TAPP was not approved when the project started (but only in August 2021). Therefore the executing agencies are only now ready to start coordinating the activities they are expected to manage.
E2. Quality of project implementation	MS	Few activities have been implemented. Therefore it is difficult to assess this criterion. Those activities that have been implemented, related to safeguarding and disposal, have been implemented satisfactorily. However, the level of project implementation is low and the executing agencies have not yet started to implement activities.

E2.1 Quality of project implementation by FAO (BH, LTO, PTF, etc.)	MS	Few activities have been implemented. The support provided by FAO for those activities that were executed (preparations for safeguarding and disposal) was satisfactory.
E2.2 Project oversight (PSC, project working group, etc.)	MU	No project oversight structures have been set up (as the TAPP was not approved). As few activities could be implemented, the level of project oversight was limited.
E3. Quality of project execution	MS	Few project activities have been executed. Those activities that have been executed, i.e. selection of a safeguarding/disposal company and other preparatory activities related to elimination of the DDT stockpile at Chattogram, have been executed well.
E3.1 Project execution and management (PMU and executing partner performance, administration, staffing, etc.)	MU	As the TAPP was not yet approved (until August 2021) and due to the COVID19 situation in Bangladesh, few project activities were executed. The executing partners have not yet coordinated any of the project components and activities.
E4. Financial management and co-financing	MS	The financial management followed the normal FAO procedures and a financial status of the project was shared with the MTR in August 2021 (by oracle code, and per component). Co-finance from the executing partners has not yet been officially reported as the TAPP was not yet approved, even though some in-kind resources were provided during the TAPP approval process and discussions with FAO. Co-finance will need to be reassessed now that the TAPP has been signed.
E5. Project partnerships and stakeholder engagement	MS	The stakeholders were properly defined at project design; an elaborate stakeholder analysis was prepared. However, during the MTR process it became clear that several stakeholders were not aware of the project. Also, the overall low and slow response from all stakeholders to the MTR showed that the stakeholders are not yet well engaged in the project, even though they showed commitment to the project results.
E6. Communication, knowledge management and knowledge products	MU	As only few activities could be executed, component 4 on Awareness and Communication was not taken up yet. Although (informal) discussions between FAO and executing agencies on for instance communication with local people at Chattogram were discussed, a communication strategy was not developed and no strategic communication or awareness raising activities have taken place.
E7. Overall quality of M&E	MS	The M&E plan at project design was of a satisfactory level and reporting to GEF has been done via the PIRs. However, as very few activities were undertaken, consequently the M&E activities were of a limited level.

E7.1 M&E design	MS	The M&E at project design was of an adequate level. The ProDoc contained an M&E plan, indicating type of M&E activity, responsible parties, timeframe and budget.
E7.2 M&E plan implementation (including financial and human resources)	MU	As few activities were implemented, the M&E plan as described in the ProDoc could not be fully implemented. Recently a monitoring officer was hired, and it can be expected that now all project activities can start soon, M&E will be intensified and implemented according to the plan prepared by the new monitoring officer.
E8. Overall assessment of factors affecting performance	MS	As few activities were implemented, it was difficult to assess factors affecting performance when looking at the aspects that need to be considered according to the MTR guidelines. The MTR team tried to balance the assessment based on the quality of the information provided in the ProDoc and on what was actually implemented (also taking into consideration that the project is currently gaining momentum as the TAPP has been approved and the strict lockdown regulations were lifted).
F. CROSS-CUTTING CONCERNS		
F1. Gender and other equity dimensions	MS	The project has not considered these aspects during implementation as few activities could be conducted. However, gender aspects have been considered well in the ProDoc, including a gender mainstreaming plan. A gender expert has recently been hired, and gender aspects are also expected to be reflected in the project communication strategy that is being developed, as well as in the M&E plan.
F2. Human rights issues	MS	The project has not considered these aspects during implementation as few activities could be implemented. A chapter on indigenous people is included in the ProDoc and it is planned that awareness arising activities will focus on indigenous people where relevant.
F2. Environmental and social safeguards	S	The ProDoc contains a chapter on ESS where the main risks and mitigation measures are described. These measures have been taken into account during the preparatory work on safeguarding and disposal that has already been executed.
Overall project rating		
		MU

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose and scope of the MTR

34. This report presents the results of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the project GCP/BGD/060/GFF “Pesticide Risk Reduction”. The MTR was carried out from July to mid October 2021. The purpose of this MTR is to provide an independent mid-term assessment of the progress in the implementation of the project’s strategy, and to assess relevance, efficiency, sustainability and impact of the project, as well as to review the project’s performance, governance structure and operation system. Additionally, the MTR aims to inform the FAO GEF team and other stakeholders about project progress and effectiveness in achieving the expected project objectives and outputs. The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the MTR specifies the following main aims of the MTR:

- provide accountability – to respond to the information needs and interests of actors with decision-making power;
- improve the project – project improvement and organizational development provide valuable information to managers and others responsible for regular project operations;
- contribute to knowledge and learning – in-depth understanding and contextualization of the project/programme and its practices, of particular benefit to FAO GEF Coordination Unit (FAO GEF CU), FAO staff and future developers and implementers.

35. The scope of the MTR covers the implementation of all four components of the project in Bangladesh between the start of the project in June 2019 and the start of the MTR in July 2021. It was clear from the start of the MTR that few activities were implemented, largely due to the strict lockdowns in Bangladesh because of the COVID19 pandemic (circumstances beyond the control of project management), and also because of the late approval of the Technical Assistance Project Proposal (TAPP). The TAPP is an internal governmental approval process. Only when the TAPP is approved, the executing agencies (the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), the Department of Environment (DoE), the Department of Fisheries (DoF), and the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) can start the activities they are expected to coordinate within the project. This means that only some activities related to preparation for the safeguarding and disposal of the large DDT stockpile in Chattogram (which fall under component 1) were implemented, and therefore the MTR specifically reviewed these activities.

1.2. Objective of the MTR

36. The MTR objective is to assess the GEF evaluation criteria of the MTR as presented in the box below. Based on the assessment of these criteria, an overview of conclusions, lessons learned and actionable recommendations will be provided.

37. The main questions for each criterion are described in the ToR of the MTR and are copied in the box below. During the inception phase of the MTR, an evaluation matrix was prepared and included in the Inception Report. This matrix can be found in appendix IV of this report. The evaluation matrix contains the key questions per criterion, includes more specific sub-questions for the criteria, and also indicates indicators for the different sub-questions, as well as the sources of information to be consulted and the review methods to be applied in order to gain as much information as possible and ensure validation and triangulation of the findings of the MTR.

Box 1 : Main MTR questions (as defined in the ToR of the MTR)

<p>1. Relevance</p>	<p>Are the project outcomes congruent with country priorities, GEF focal areas/operational programme strategies, the FAO Country Programming Framework, the POPs project objectives and the needs and priorities of targeted beneficiaries (government institutions, local communities, farmers)?</p> <p>Has there been any change in the relevance of the project since its formulation, such as the adoption of new national policies, plans or programmes that affect the relevance of the project's objectives and goals? If so, are there any changes that need to be made to the project to make it more relevant?</p> <p>How appropriate and relevant is the project approach and intervention logic in terms of its objectives and anticipated outcomes, and within the project region context? To what extent is the project fit-for-purpose to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - eliminate the legacy stockpile of DDT in Bangladesh. - strengthen the control on POPs pesticides imports, production and sale. - counteract the illegal and ongoing uses and unintentional exposures to POPs pesticides. - raise awareness on risks of continued and illegal use of the POPs pesticides and about the alternatives developed among farmers, extension services staff, agriculture input traders and consumers.
<p>2. Effectiveness of project results</p>	<p><i>(Delivery of results)</i> To what extent has the project delivered on its outputs, outcomes and objectives? What broader results (if any) has the project had at regional and global level to date? Were there any unintended consequences? Is there any evidence of environmental stress reduction (for example, in direct threats to biodiversity) or environmental status change (such as an improvement in the populations of target species), reflecting global environmental benefits or any change in policy, legal or regulatory frameworks? To what extent can the achievement of results be attributed to the GEF-funded component?</p> <p>How effective has been the project so far in engaging with key decision makers and other key stakeholders in country to mainstream the project in implementation and decision making?</p> <p>What are the enabling/constraining factors influencing the achievement and non-achievements of the outcomes? In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What constraining factors underlie postponing elimination of the DDT stockpiles? What enabling factors underlie successful implementation and, conversely, what barriers hinder successful implementation? <p><i>(Targets)</i> To what extent has the project delivered on achieving the set targets? How were the targets developed and set? To what extent are the set targets relevant to the project? To what extent the targets need to be readapted in line with the project progress to date?</p> <p><i>(Likelihood of impact)</i> Are there any barriers or other risks that may prevent future progress towards and the achievement of the project’s longer-term objectives? What can be done to increase the likelihood of positive impacts from the project? To what extent can the progress towards long-term impacts be attributed to the project?</p>

<p>3. Efficiency</p>	<p>To what extent has the project been implemented efficiently and cost effectively? To what extent has project management been able to adapt to any changing conditions to improve the efficiency of project implementation?</p> <p>To what extent has the project built on existing agreements, initiatives, data sources, synergies and complementarities with other projects, partnerships, etc. and avoided duplication of similar activities by other groups and initiatives?</p>
<p>4. Sustainability</p>	<p><i>(Sustainability)</i> What is the likelihood that the project results will be useful or persist after the end of the project? What are the key risks that may affect the sustainability of the project results and its benefits (consider financial, socioeconomic, institutional and governance, and environmental aspects)? What efforts are being made to ensure sustainability of results in the long term?</p> <p><i>(Replication and catalysis)</i> What project results, lessons or experiences have been replicated (in different geographic areas) or scaled up (in the same geographic area, but on a much larger scale and funded by other sources)? What results, lessons or experiences are likely to be replicated or scaled up in the near future?</p>
<p>5. Factors affecting progress</p>	<p><i>(Project design)</i> Is the project design suited to delivering the expected outcomes? Is the project’s causal logic coherent and clear? To what extent are the project’s objectives and components clear, practical and feasible within the timeframe allowed? To what extent was gender integrated into the project's objectives and results framework? Were other actors – civil society, indigenous peoples or private sector – involved in project design or implementation and what was the effect on project results?</p> <p><i>(Project execution and management)</i> To what extent did the executing agencies effectively discharge its role and responsibilities in managing and administering the project? What have been the main challenges in terms of project management and administration? How well have risks been identified and managed? What changes are needed to improve delivery in the latter half of the project?</p> <p><i>(Achievements and challenges)</i> To what extent has the project progressed in achieving the expected outcomes in each of its components?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">What are the early markers of changes among decision/policy makers, and other relevant partners that demonstrate the project is on its way to deliver on its intended outcomes?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">What are the enabling/constraining factors influencing the achievement and non-achievements of the outcomes?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">What are the early markers of the project being on track to achieve its environmental and development objectives?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Are there any unintended consequences as a result of the actions of the project program and its partners?</p> <p><i>(Financial management and co-financing)</i> What have been the financial-management challenges of the project? To what extent has pledged co-financing been delivered? Has any additional leveraged co-financing been provided since implementation? How has any shortfall in co-financing or unexpected additional funding affected project results?</p> <p><i>(Project oversight, implementation role)</i> To what extent has FAO delivered oversight and supervision and backstopping (technical, administrative and operational) during project identification, formulation, approval, start-up and execution?</p>

	<p><i>(Partnerships and stakeholder engagement)</i> To what extent have stakeholders, such as government agencies, civil society, indigenous populations, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, people with disabilities and the private sector, been involved in project formulation and implementation? What has been the effect of their involvement or non-involvement on project results? How do the various stakeholder groups see their own engagement with the project? What are the mechanisms of their involvement and how could these be improved? What are the strengths and challenges of the project’s partnerships? Has the stakeholder engagement plan been adhered to and documented? Have all stakeholders been made aware of the ESS plan and the grievance complaint mechanism?</p> <p><i>(Communication and knowledge management)</i> How effective has the project been in communicating and promoting its key messages and results to partners, stakeholders and the general audience? How can this be improved? How is the project assessing, documenting and sharing its results and lessons learned and experiences? To what extent are communication products and activities likely to support the sustainability and scaling up of project results?</p> <p><i>(M&E design)</i> Is the project’s M&E system practical and sufficient? How has stakeholder engagement and gender assessment been integrated into the M&E system? How could this be improved? To what extent are the Monitoring, Review and Learning (MEL) strategy and related tools adequate and effective?</p> <p><i>(M&E implementation)</i> Does the M&E system operate per the M&E plan? Has information been gathered in a systematic manner, using appropriate methodologies? How effectively was the reporting against the 9 core indicators required by GEF? To what extent has information generated by the M&E system during project implementation been used to adapt and improve project planning and execution, achieve outcomes and ensure sustainability? Are there gender-disaggregated targets and indicators? How can the M&E system be improved?</p>
6. Cross-cutting priorities	<p><i>(ESS)</i> To what extent were environmental and social concerns taken into consideration in the design and implementation of the project? Has the project been implemented in a manner that ensures the ESS Mitigation Plan has been adhered to?</p>
7. Gender	<p><i>(Gender and minority groups, including indigenous peoples, disadvantaged, vulnerable and people with disabilities)</i> To what extent were gender considerations taken into account in designing and implementing the project? Has the project been designed and implemented in a manner that ensures gender-equitable participation and benefits? Was a gender analysis done?</p>

1.3. Intended users

38. For the stakeholder analysis as presented in its Inception Report, the MTR team used the elaborate stakeholder analysis as provided in the ProDoc and the ToR of the MTR. The MTR team described the (anticipated) role of the different stakeholders in the project, provided reasons for the inclusion or exclusion of these stakeholders in the MTR, prioritised the stakeholders for involvement in the MTR, and explained how the stakeholders would be involved during the MTR.
39. The main users of the MTR report are as follows:

- FAO Bangladesh and the Project Task Force that are expected to use the findings and lessons identified in the MTR to continue and improve the project activities and plan for sustainability of the results achieved;
 - The Government of Bangladesh, responsible for project execution in close collaboration with FAO as GEF Implementing Agency ;
 - The Government counterparts such as the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the Department of Environment (DoE), the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), and the Department of Fisheries (DoF).
40. Additionally, there are other stakeholders who may not directly consult the MTR report but can indirectly benefit from the recommendations as presented in this report:
- Organizations, such as the Bangladesh Crop Protection Association (BCPA), the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA), the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI), the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), and the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB);
 - Farmers/growers, manufacturers of dry fish products, and the local population near the Chattogram pesticide depot.

1.4. Methodology

41. The MTR has been conducted by two independent consultants, one international and one national, in line with the FAO–GEF MTR Guide and annexes and the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms & Standards 2016, which includes the following key considerations: (a) all interviews and information were provided in confidence and no information can be traced back to a direct source/individual, (b) those involved in the evaluation have had the opportunity to review the MTR findings as well as the main MTR report, and (c) the MTR consultants were sure to have empathy and sensitivity to different contexts in which stakeholders work throughout the course of the MTR.
42. During the inception phase, the MTR team prioritised stakeholders into three groups; the highest priority level were those stakeholders that needed to be interviewed during the MTR as their feedback would be essential for understanding how the project is progressing and for assessing the different evaluation criteria. As mentioned before, only few activities have been implemented mainly due to the COVID19 situation and late approval of the TAPP. Therefore, most stakeholders – besides FAO and the executing agencies – have not yet been involved in the project. Even so, during the inception phase some of these stakeholders were prioritised into the medium priority level group, as the MTR team considered it worthwhile to verify if these stakeholders considered that the planned activities are still relevant or if any changes in the project activities would be necessary.
43. The ProDoc describes how specific target groups will be involved; these include women, the local population near the Chattogram pesticide storage facility, farmers/growers and people working in the dry fish industry. The MTR team acknowledged the importance of these groups, but also realised it would not be possible to interview these groups; as very few activities have been implemented, and the above-mentioned target groups did not participate in any of the activities that were implemented, these groups have thus far not been involved in the project and are not yet aware of the project. The MTR team tried to

interview several organizations that are were planned to be involved as soon as project activities would start.

44. Due to the COVID-19 situation, the MTR is mainly based on **desk research of all key documents**, and on remote **interviews** by Skype, Zoom or phone. During part of the MTR process, Bangladesh was in a strict lock-down. Only later the strict lockdown regulations were lifted and it was possible for the national MTR consultant to have several face-to-face meetings. Interviews were conducted in a semi-structured manner and individually with key stakeholders to allow space for interviewees to provide their views, priorities, and potential recommendations. Extensive key-informant interviews were held with the FAO project team (individual and group interviews) and other lead partners (executing agencies) involved in and responsible for the project. In total 20 persons were interviewed (in several cases multiple times). Interview protocols were prepared, as well as a questionnaire with 11 open questions for those stakeholders who agreed to provide feedback but would rather do so in writing (finally only one person requested to provide feedback in writing, however, no feedback was received).
45. In line with MTR principles, the MTR findings and judgments were based on sound evidence and analysis, and information was, as far as possible, triangulated, meaning verified from different sources, always protecting anonymity of responses;

Team roles and responsibilities

46. The MTR was executed by an international and a national MTR specialist. The international MTR specialist was responsible for coordinating the MTR team’s contribution and had ultimate responsibility for ensuring the delivery of the MTR reports. The MTR team undertook all activities required for the MTR, including preparing the Inception Report, the preliminary findings and the main MTR report, conducting all interviews (face-to-face and virtual) with key stakeholders, collection of primary and secondary data, considering the feedback on the draft MTR report and based on the feedback received, finalising the MTR report. The international consultant has extensive experience in managing environmental and health projects related to POPs and obsolete pesticides, and also has a broad experience in evaluating large scale international projects, including GEF projects. The national consultant has undertaken several consultancy assignments related to the areas of fisheries and aquatic environment with international organizations (such as FAO, IMO, IUCN, WorldFish) and leading national NGOs, and has been actively involved in reviewing grant proposals and manuscripts for international scientific journals.
47. The MTR team conducted the MTR in close and ongoing discussion with the FAO MTR manager in Bangladesh and the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit (FAO GEF CU) MTR focal point.

1.5. Limitations

48. There were several limitations faced by this MTR. These include:
 - Potential for respondent bias;
 - Very limited possibilities for face-to-face meetings (due to COVID-19);
 - Time limitations due to the tight schedule for the MTR;
 - Slow and low response to requests for interviews from executing partners and other stakeholders.

49. The MTR findings are based partly on the views of interviewees with a responsibility for implementation and execution of project activities who could be potentially biased in their responses. Several measures were taken to reduce the effect of respondent biases and validate interview results, such as including interviewees who did not have a direct responsibility for implementation of (all) project activities, asking respondents to provide a rationale for their judgments, and using the documents and reports that were prepared to verify or validate responses of the respondents.
50. During the MTR, it became clear that the original tight time schedule could not be kept. The procedure of sending introduction letters about the MTR to the executing partners and other stakeholders who were planned to be interviewed took longer than anticipated. The response to the interview requests was slow and the overall response was very low. The MTR team sent several reminders to the persons to be consulted, and the national consultant also phoned stakeholders to request a face-to-face meeting or interview call. Even so, the MTR team could not interview all executing partners despite the numerous attempts to gather their feedback. According to the MTR team there are several reasons why the response was low:
- As very few project activities were implemented due to the COVID19 pandemic and the late approval of the TAPP document, some potential interviewees felt they had no information to contribute to the MTR. The MTR team tried to assure these persons that it would be important to get their feedback and discuss the remaining period of the project. However, in some cases no further replies were received;
 - As the TAPP document was not approved when the MTR started, some persons were reluctant to discuss the project with the MTR team. Also after the TAPP was approved, these persons did not always reply to the MTR team;
 - As was mentioned by some respondents, many of the stakeholders had other priorities (for example the DGHS was busy with the COVID19 pandemic) and therefore possibly some potential interviewees did not reply to requests for an interview;
 - In a few cases potential interviewees (stakeholders other than FAO or the executing agencies) replied that they were not aware of the project and therefore could not contribute to the MTR.
51. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no physical MTR mission could take place. At the beginning of the MTR process, the national MTR consultant could not have any face-to-face meetings either. Later on, when the lockdown relaxed a little bit, the consultant had a few face-to-face meetings. Most of the information had to be captured and triangulated remotely. The team had to rely on the answers to the online interview calls. In a few cases there were some connectivity issues due to a bad internet connection. Some of the topics under discussion were more complicated and needed repeated efforts via Zoom, Skype or email to clarify. Face-to-face meetings would have probably clarified these issues faster and more effectively. Despite these limitations, the MTR team considers that the interview calls provided adequate information for the MTR, and most interviews were very productive and informative.
52. Despite the limitations described above, the MTR team tried to ensure maximum data collection and triangulation with the help of the documents’ review, the semi-structured interviews with FAO, consultants and several partner organizations.

2. Project background and context

53. This report is written in the framework of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the FAO/GEF project "Pesticide Risk Reduction in Bangladesh", with GEF Project ID 9076. The planned budget for the project USD 42,038,050, the GEF allocation is USD 8,295,000 and the expected total co-finance is USD 33,743,050 (see also appendix 7 with the co-financing table). The project duration is planned for 36 months, from June 2019 to June 2022.
54. FAO is the GEF Agency of the project. The Executing Agencies are the Department of Environment (DoE, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change), the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE, Ministry of Agriculture), the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare), and the Department of Fisheries (DoF, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock).
55. Other key stakeholders include organizations, such as the Bangladesh Crop Protection Association (BCPA), Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA), Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI), Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), and the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB). Important project beneficiaries are farmers, manufacturers of dry fish products, and the local population near the Chattogram pesticide depot.
56. In 1985 the Government of Bangladesh imported around 500 tonnes of the notoriously toxic and currently illegal pesticide DDT, which were, however, considered not in compliance with the technical requirements and therefore were stored in the Chattogram Government Medical Sub-depot (MSD). The stockpile has remained there since, where due to the adverse effect of a humid tropical climate on DDT molecular stability, the stock has become severely degraded. In addition, in 1991 the area was exposed to severe floods that greatly exacerbated the problem by flushing DDT into the surrounding environment. DDT persists in soil, water and bio-accumulates in organisms through the food chain. Eventual consumption by humans has toxic and likely carcinogenic effects. Bangladesh has one of the highest population densities of any country in the world and the port city of Chattogram is the second largest city of Bangladesh. People who until recently were living in slums surrounding the depot may likely have been exposed to DDT. The stockpile poses a very high risk to human health and the ecosystem. The increased frequency of flooding in the area driven by climate change and rising of the sea level makes action to prevent further release very urgent.
57. While DDT is banned for use as an agricultural pesticide, testing has shown concentrations of DDT in dry fish, a common source of protein and the basis of many livelihoods in Bangladesh. DDT is being used in some areas of Bangladesh to prevent spoilage of fish in the drying process, demonstrating a severe lack of awareness of the negative impacts of DDT.
58. In general, in Bangladesh there is neither strategy nor capacity for collecting and disposing of hazardous waste such as (obsolete) pesticides, and national regulations and border customs practice contain loopholes that allow hazardous substances to escape attention. At the same time the population and also the use of pesticides in Bangladesh are increasing significantly.
59. The project therefore intends to support the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) in updating its national regulations in relation to the Stockholm Convention and in developing the

national capacity for the management and safe disposal of hazardous wastes, in order to safeguard people and environment.

60. The **project objective** therefore is to reduce risk to human and animal health and the environment from Stockpiles of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), other obsolete pesticides and from ongoing excessive use of new POPs and other Highly Hazardous Pesticides. More specifically, the project aims to reduce the risk to human and animal health and the environment through the environmentally sound elimination of approximately 1000 tonnes of POPs pesticides including DDT and through the reduction of exposure to POPs pesticides, Highly Hazardous Pesticides and other toxic chemicals achieved through a better management of empty pesticide containers, better food preservation and agricultural practices, and an improved legislation on chemical management. Customs control will be tightened over the import/export of pesticides through training of staff on chemical analysis. Safer food processing and general best practice in relation to pesticides will be promoted amongst the fish drying industry, the agricultural sector and the general public by way of a national awareness raising campaign.
61. The **development objective** of the project is “increased food security through the elimination of POPs pesticides stockpiles and the implementation of safe alternatives for food preservation and agricultural practices.”
62. Due to the COVID-19 situation, very few activities could be implemented. Until recently (mid-August 2021) Bangladesh was in a hard lock-down. Field visits, assessments and trainings could not be undertaken due to travel restrictions. In addition, the Technical Assistance Project Proposal (TAPP), was only approved recently, in August 2021. The TAPP is a document which needs to be approved as part of the Bangladesh internal governmental approval process. Until the TAPP was approved, the governmental executing agencies could not manage and implement the project activities they were planned to coordinate (see also chapter 4.3 – Efficiency)
63. Within component 1 of the project (there are 4 components, see below), some activities have been implemented; a company was selected to do the safeguarding and disposal of pesticides at the pesticide depot in Chattogram. A contract for safeguarding and disposal was signed with Polyeco in January 2021. Currently preparations are underway to conduct safeguarding of the DDT stockpile at Chattogram by March 2022.
64. The table below provides an overview of the project objectives, outcomes, and outputs as presented in the narrative text of the ProDoc and the Results Matrix in Annex I of the ProDoc. This overview was used as the basis for the Mid-Term Review and reconstructing the Theory of Change (ToC) during the inception phase of the MTR.

Table 2 : Overview of project objectives and components

Project development objective:	Increased food security through the elimination of POPs pesticides stockpiles and the implementation of safe alternatives for food preservation and agricultural practices.
Project objective:	To reduce risk to human and animal health and the environment from Stockpiles of POPs and other obsolete pesticides and from ongoing excessive use of new POPs and other Highly Hazardous Pesticides. More specifically the project aims to reduce the risk to human and animal health and the environment through the environmentally sound elimination of

	1000 cubic meters (approx.) of POPs pesticides including DDT and through the reduction of exposure to POPs pesticides.
Component 1:	Disposal of legacy stockpiles of POPs.
Outcome:	1.1 Elimination of a legacy stockpile of DDT in Bangladesh.
Outputs:	1.1.1 Inventory of POPs pesticides in Bangladesh updated. 1.1.2 All POPs pesticides identified, packaged and centralized in preparation for destruction. 1.1.3 Environmentally Sound Destruction of all POPs obsolete pesticides particularly DDT identified.
Outcome:	1.2 Capacity developed to characterize and assess risk from POPs pesticide contaminated sites.
Outputs:	1.2.1 Training of government technical staff on characterization and risk assessment of contaminated sites.
Outcome:	1.3 Management options for empty pesticide containers developed.
Outputs:	1.3.1 Survey on empty containers and other agricultural plastics in Bangladesh. 1.3.2 Recommendations for recycling, energy recovery or environmentally sound disposal of agricultural plastics developed and one pilot in place.
Component 2:	Component 2: Governance and enforcement.
Outcome:	2.1 Strengthened control on POPs pesticides imports, production and sale.
Outputs:	2.1.1 Regulatory frameworks for pesticide registration reviewed and recommendation for amendment proposed. 2.1.2 Pesticide Registration Toolkit deployed. 2.1.3 Improved pesticide import control deployed at entry points. 2.1.4 Post registration inspection and enforcement training manual developed and training delivered.
Component 3:	POPs pesticides uses addressed.
Outcome:	3.1 Ongoing and illegal uses and unintentional exposures to POPs pesticides addressed.
Outputs:	3.1.1 Ongoing and illegal uses of POPs pesticides and sources of unintentional exposures to POPs pesticides identified. 3.1.2 Strategy for eliminating or reducing use or exposure to POPs pesticides developed.
Outcome:	3.2. Improved monitoring and reporting of POPs pesticides residues in food, POPs pesticides poisoning and POPs pesticides contamination in the environment.
Outputs:	3.2.1 Sources of POPs pesticide residues in food identified and addressed through regulatory and technical intervention. 3.2.2 Capacity developed for POPs pesticide residues monitoring and reporting. 3.2.3 Environmental pesticide monitoring and incident reporting system established.
Outcome:	3.3 Promotion of alternative, low hazard pest control options in agriculture and public health.
Outputs:	3.3.1 Alternatives to POPs pesticides in use proposed and tested. 3.3.2 Fish drying practices reviewed and low risk options deployed. 3.3.3 Network for promotion of sustainable non-POPs pesticide control measures in public health established.

Component 4:	Awareness and communication.
Outcome:	4.1 Awareness of risks of continued and illegal use of POPs pesticides and about alternatives, developed among farmers, extension staff, agricultural input traders and consumers.
Outputs:	4.1.1 Communication strategy developed.

3. Theory of change

65. When the ProDoc was designed, a Theory of Change (ToC) was not prepared. Therefore, the ToC had to be reconstructed based on the defined activities, outcomes, outputs, goals and objectives as described in the ProDoc, see also table 2 (chapter 2 – Project Background and Context) above. The outcomes and outputs as described in the ProDoc were found to not always be fully in line with the definitions of results used by FAO. Some outcomes and outputs have been slightly rephrased (in some cases they were more phrased as activities instead of outputs) to form an adequate basis for assessing performance, better align them with the FAO definitions and to develop a coherent intervention logic. A comparison table between the ProDoc and the rephrased outcomes and outputs can be found below.
66. The Intermediate States and Impact were not explicitly described within the ProDoc. The MTR team, however, considered the explanations on possible longer-term results that were mentioned in the ProDoc to define the Intermediate States and Impact. During the main phase of the MTR, the reconstructed ToC, including assumptions and drivers, was discussed with the FAO MTR manager in Bangladesh, the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit (FAO GEF CU) MTR focal point, and core project staff. Some feedback was received based on which the ToC was adapted. Initially, some outputs and outcomes had been combined but it was pointed out that it would be more convenient to keep the implementation consistency and therefore the number of outputs and outcomes in line with the ProDoc as this was the basis for the recently approved TAPP and the LoAs with the executing agencies, and thus for the execution arrangements with the executing partners. Besides this, some small adjustments in the phrasing of drivers, intermediate states and impact have been made.

Causal pathways

67. The ProDoc divided the project into four components. Each component has one to three outcomes and each component has one to four outputs. The ToC outcomes are based on the outcomes as mentioned in the ProDoc and some have been rephrased slightly. The ToC also contains one overall project outcome to show how the outcomes per component together would lead to one overall project result.
68. The outcomes and outputs within the four components as described in the ProDoc are grouped logically and coherently. The ToC therefore follows these four components, just rephrasing some outputs and outcomes to be in line with the definitions of outputs and outcomes as used by FAO. Component 4 on awareness raising and communication is a supporting component for the other three components; raised awareness will contribute to sustainability of the other components (and the outputs and outcomes of these components). If stakeholders are more aware of the risks related to POPs and obsolete pesticides, the regulations, and illegal and excessive use of POPs pesticides, it can be expected that they are more committed to reducing those risks. The arrows in the ToC diagram below show how this component and the output within this component contribute to all the outcomes.
69. The first component is related to eliminating existing POPs pesticide stockpiles in the agriculture and public health sectors (mainly the DDT stockpile currently stored in the medical depot of the DGHS in Chattogram), to assessing risks of POPs pesticide contaminated sites and to improving empty container management (in order to prevent future accumulation of hazardous waste). Component 2 focuses on governance and performance, strengthening control on current pesticide imports, production and sale in

order to stop illegal uses of POPs (and thus also reducing risk of accumulation of hazardous POPs waste). These controls will help consolidate and ensure the sustainability of the achievements of project component 1 and will facilitate project component 3. This third component addresses illegal and ongoing uses of POPs pesticides as well as unintended exposure to POPs, and aims to reduce risks to people, including consumers and the environment from pesticide use. The three components together – and thus also the related outputs and outcomes – cover reducing risks related to (legacy) stockpiles (component 1) as well as current POPs use (component 2 and 3). All 8 direct outcomes of the different components would logically lead to the main project outcome; reduced risks to human and animal health and the environment from stockpiles of POPs and other obsolete pesticides as well as current use of POPs and HHPs.

70. It is expected that the application of the overall project outcome would lead to Intermediate State 1 and Intermediate State 2, and then on to Impact. Reduced risks to human and animal health and the environment from stockpiles of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), other obsolete pesticides and from ongoing excessive use of new POPs and other Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) would ideally lead to increased food security (Intermediate State 1), which has also been mentioned in the development objective of the project. It can also be expected that the reduced risks (successfully) achieved within the project would lead to continued and improved risk reduction measures (Intermediate State 2). This is also necessary as the activities in the project need to be continued and broadened (as some activities are pilot projects, have limited duration or are one-time trainings) in order to achieve long-lasting results. In the long run this would lead to improved conditions for human and animal health and the environment in the country.
71. It should be noted that the project is responsible for achieving the outputs and outcomes. Intermediate states, as well as impacts (long-term results that can take a long time to be achieved), are expected to be part of the longer-term possible results, and the MTR assesses the likelihood that these results can be realized.

Drivers and assumptions

72. The ProDoc did not contain a ToC, and drivers and assumptions were therefore not specified. The ProDoc has a paragraph on “Project assumptions” and the Result Matrix in Annex 1 has a column with “Assumptions”. Risks are defined in the paragraph on “Risk management strategy”. The MTR team has used these risks and assumptions to define several of the assumptions for the ToC, and also tried to logically extract possible drivers from the narrative text of the ProDoc. The risks have been rephrased under assumptions; these are the risks that there will be limited participation of some stakeholders, financial risks (as there may be unexpected costs for the safeguarding and disposal of the pesticides in Chattogram and this is planned at 60% of the total project budget), and environmental risks (as especially the removal and elimination of obsolete pesticides may cause environmental impairment).
73. Some assumptions in the ProDoc are actually drivers, since a driver can be defined as a significant external factor over which the project, or its stakeholders/partners, has (or could have) some degree of control or influence. For example, commitment of the GoB (Government of Bangladesh) to the objectives of the project is something that the project has some control over, as some departments of ministries are executing agencies.
74. For the reconstructed ToC, the following assumptions and drivers were established:

Assumptions (from Outputs to Outcomes)

- Project stakeholders are willing to participate and are open to cooperation;
- The project budget is adequate to implement all project activities;
- Adequate environmental management plans are in place.

Assumptions (Project Outcome to Intermediate States and Impact):

- Funding is made available by institutions/development organizations for continued risk reduction measures, awareness-raising and capacity building activities.

Drivers (from Outputs to Outcomes):

- Active FAO support and guidance are provided to increase cooperation and networking on pesticide risk reduction;
- The GoB (the executing partners) is committed to the project objectives and provides active support, information and guidance;
- Stakeholders show interest and actively participate in pesticide risk reduction;
- Active community sensitization and distribution of information and awareness raising materials by FAO and project partners.

Drivers (Project Outcome to Intermediate States and Impact):

- Stakeholders continued interest, commitment, and support (e.g. by FAO, GoB);
- Continuation of awareness-raising and capacity building activities;
- Financing provided by the government.

75. In the table below, a comparison between the results of the ProDoc versus the reconstructed ToC, as well as a justification for reconstruction, is provided:

Table 3 : Comparison table between results matrix in the ProDoc and reconstructed ToC

ProDoc		Reconstructed TOC		Justification for reconstruction and comments
Impact		Impact	<u>Impact 1:</u> Improved environment and health of humans and animals in Bangladesh and beyond.	No long-term impact was explicitly defined in the narrative text or the Result Matrix of the ProDoc. However, reduced risk to human and animal health from POPs and obsolete pesticides and from ongoing excessive use of new POPs and HHPs , can in the long run (via the Intermediate States), be expected to lead to an improved overall environmental and health situation (for humans and animals) in Bangladesh. Since the project is related to POPs, the environmental and health benefits can also expect to be on a global level.

ProDoc		Reconstructed TOC		Justification for reconstruction and comments
Development goal	Increased food security through the elimination of POPs pesticides stockpiles and the implementation of safe alternatives for food preservation and agricultural practices.	Intermediate States (IS)	<p><u>IS 1:</u> Additional and comprehensive risk reduction to human and environmental health from use of new POPs and other Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs).</p> <p><u>IS 2:</u> Increased food security due to reduction in POPs pesticides and the implementation of safe alternatives for food preservation and agricultural practices.</p>	<p>The Intermediate State 2 is based on the development goal; risk reduction related to past and current POPs and HHPs will lead to improved food security in Bangladesh (and possibly in countries that import dried fish products from Bangladesh). The project goal is to reduce risks related to POPs and HHPs and for this many activities will be implemented, part of which include pilot and demonstration projects. For the project to lead to long-lasting results, these activities need to be broadened and extended, which is captured in IS 1.</p>
Overall project goal	To reduce risk to human and animal health and the environment from Stockpiles of POPs and other obsolete pesticides and from ongoing excessive use of new POPs and other Highly Hazardous Pesticides.			
Outcomes	<p><u>Component 1:</u> 1.1 Elimination of a legacy stockpile of DDT in Bangladesh. 1.2 Capacity developed to characterize and assess risk from POPs pesticide contaminated sites. 1.3 Management options for empty pesticide containers developed.</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> 2.1 Strengthened control on POPs pesticides imports, production and sale.</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> 3.1 Ongoing and illegal uses and unintentional exposures to POPs pesticides addressed. 3.2. Improved monitoring and reporting of POPs pesticides residues in food, POPs pesticides poisoning and POPs pesticides contamination in the environment. 3.3 Promotion of alternative, low hazard pest</p>	Outcomes	<p><u>Direct Outcomes:</u></p> <p><u>Component 1:</u> 1. Legacy stockpile of DDT in Bangladesh eliminated. 2. Increased capacity on risk assessment of contaminated sites. 3. Increased capacity on management options for empty containers.</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> 4. Strengthened capacity to control POPs pesticides imports, production and sale.</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> 5. Increased capacity to address ongoing and illegal uses and unintentional exposures to POPs pesticides. 6. Improved monitoring and reporting of POPs pesticides residues in food, POPs pesticides poisoning and POPs pesticides contamination in the environment. 7. Strengthened understanding of alternative, low hazard pest control</p>	<p>Some outcomes have been rephrased slightly to align them better to the definitions of outcomes as used by FAO. All outcomes as defined in the ProDoc have been used. Additionally, one overall project outcome has been defined based on the original project objective, to show the anticipated ultimate result of the project to which the outcomes of the individual components are expected to lead. The project outcome of reduced risk to human and animal health and the environment from Stockpiles of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), other obsolete pesticides and from ongoing excessive use of new POPs and other Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) is in line with GEF core indicator 10 (Reduction, avoidance of emissions of POPs to air from point and non-point</p>

ProDoc		Reconstructed TOC		Justification for reconstruction and comments
	<p>control options in agriculture and public health.</p> <p><u>Component 4:</u> 4.1 Awareness of risks of continued and illegal use of POPs pesticides and about alternatives, developed among farmers, extension staff, agricultural input traders and consumers.</p>		<p>options in agriculture and public health.</p> <p><u>Component 4:</u> 8. Increased awareness of risks of continued and illegal use of POPs pesticides and about alternatives, developed among farmers, extension staff, agricultural input traders and consumers.</p> <p><u>Project Outcome:</u> 1. Reduced risk to human and animal health and the environment from Stockpiles of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), other obsolete pesticides and from ongoing excessive use of new POPs and other Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs).</p>	<p>sources).</p>
Outputs	<p><u>Component 1:</u> 1.1.1 Inventory of POPs pesticides in Bangladesh updated. 1.1.2 All POPs pesticides identified, packaged and centralized in preparation for destruction. 1.1.3 Environmentally Sound Destruction of all POPs obsolete pesticides particularly DDT identified.</p> <p>1.2.1 Training of government technical staff on characterization and risk assessment of contaminated sites.</p> <p>1.3.1 Survey on empty containers and other agricultural plastics in Bangladesh. 1.3.2 Recommendations for recycling, energy recovery or environmentally sound disposal of agricultural plastics developed and one pilot in place.</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u></p>	Outputs	<p><u>Component 1:</u> 1.1 Increased knowledge on presence of POPs pesticides through updated inventory. 1.2 Safeguarding of POPs pesticides in Bangladesh. 1.3 Environmental Sound Destruction of POPs pesticides (specifically of DDT in Chattogram) conducted. 1.4 Trained government technical staff on characterization and risk assessment of contaminated sites. 1.5 Increased knowledge on empty container practices through a survey. 1.6 Recommendations for recycling, energy recovery or environmentally sound disposal of agricultural plastics developed and one pilot project implemented.</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> 2.1 Regulatory frameworks for pesticide registration reviewed and</p>	<p>This ToC follows the different components as defined in the ProDoc as they are formulated in a coherent way. Some outputs have been slightly rephrased. In some cases, outputs were more phrased as activities, which in itself would not lead to the expected outcomes. For example, a survey on empty container management (original output 1.3.1) is only relevant because based on this survey, recommendations will be prepared and one pilot project will be implemented. In some cases the outputs were slightly rephrased. For example, original output 4.1 says that a communication strategy will be developed. This will not lead to the increased awareness of the stakeholders (the corresponding outcome), only if the communication strategy will be implemented and several</p>

ProDoc	Reconstructed TOC	Justification for reconstruction and comments
<p>Output 2.1.1 Regulatory frameworks for pesticide registration reviewed and recommendation for amendment proposed.</p> <p>Output 2.1.2 Pesticide Registration Toolkit deployed.</p> <p>Output 2.1.3 Improved pesticide import control deployed at entry points.</p> <p>Output 2.1.4 Post registration inspection and enforcement training manual developed and training delivered.</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u></p> <p>3.1.1 Ongoing and illegal uses of POPs pesticides and sources of unintentional exposures to POPs pesticides identified.</p> <p>3.1.2 Strategy for eliminating or reducing use or exposure to POPs pesticides developed.</p> <p>3.2.1 Sources of POPs pesticide residues in food identified and addressed through regulatory and technical intervention.</p> <p>3.2.2 Capacity developed for POPs pesticide residues monitoring and reporting.</p> <p>3.2.3 Environmental pesticide monitoring and incident reporting system established.</p> <p>3.3.1 Alternatives to POPs pesticides in use proposed and tested.</p> <p>3.3.2 Fish drying practices reviewed and low risk options deployed.</p> <p>3.3.3 Network for promotion of sustainable non-POPs pesticide control measures in public health established.</p> <p><u>Component 4:</u></p>	<p>recommendations for improvement prepared.</p> <p>2.2 Pesticide Registration Toolkit deployed.</p> <p>2.3 Improved pesticide import control deployed at entry points.</p> <p>2.4 Post registration inspection and enforcement training delivered and several inspections conducted.</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u></p> <p>3.1 Increased knowledge through identification of ongoing and illegal uses of POPs pesticides and sources of unintentional exposures to POPs pesticides.</p> <p>3.2 A strategy for eliminating or reducing (illegal and excessive) use or exposure to POPs pesticides developed and implemented.</p> <p>3.3 Sources of POPs pesticide residues in food identified and addressed through regulatory and technical interventions.</p> <p>3.4 Capacity developed for POPs pesticide residues monitoring and reporting.</p> <p>3.5 Environmental pesticide monitoring and incident reporting system established and used.</p> <p>3.6 Alternatives to POPs pesticides in use proposed and tested.</p> <p>3.7 Fish drying practices reviewed and low risk options deployed.</p> <p>3.8 Network for promotion of sustainable non-POPs pesticide control measures in public health established.</p> <p><u>Component 4:</u></p> <p>4.1 Communication strategy developed and communication campaigns implemented.</p>	<p>information/awareness raising campaigns will be conducted based on the strategy developed.</p>

ProDoc		Reconstructed TOC		Justification for reconstruction and comments
	4.1.1 Communication strategy developed.			

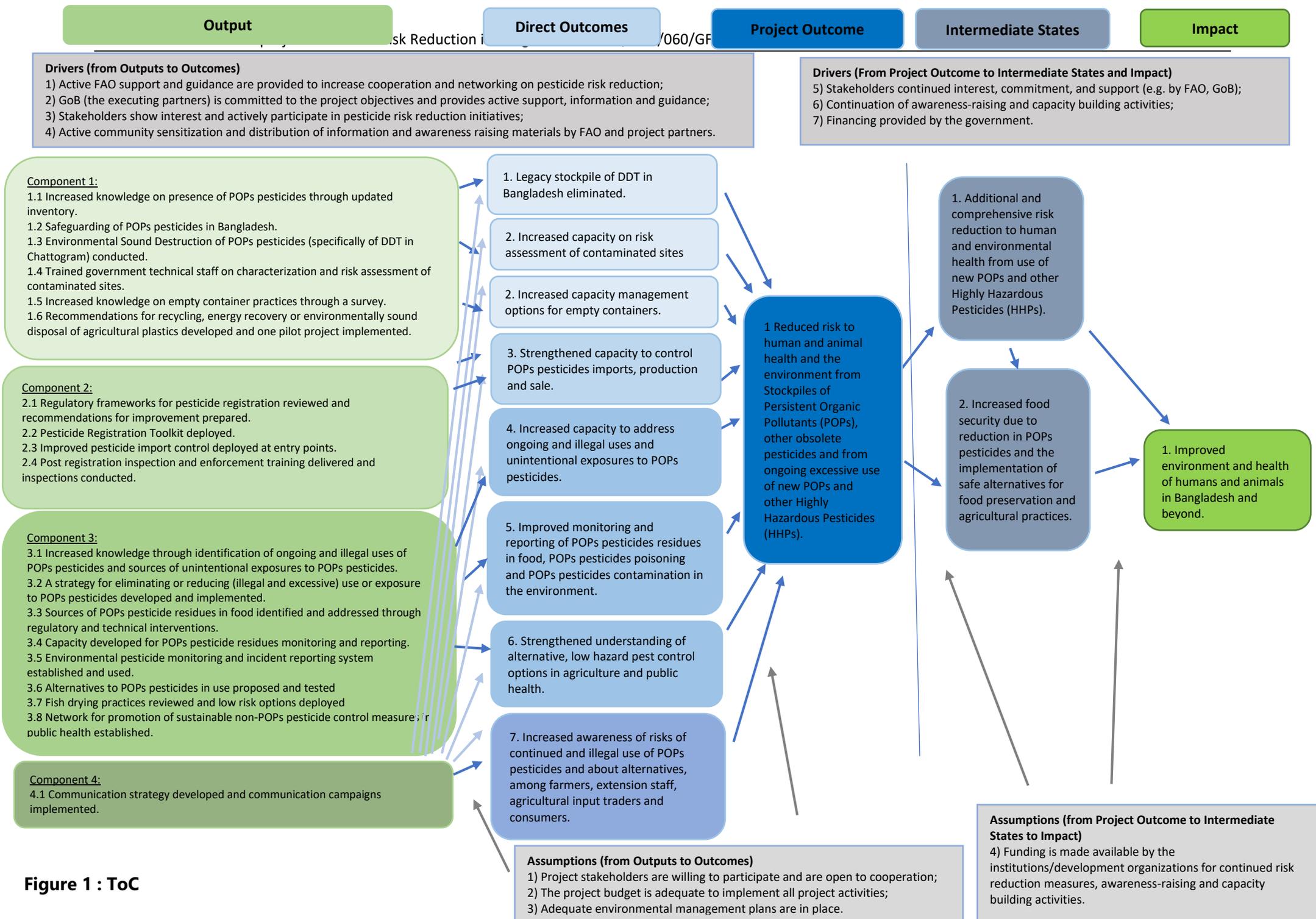


Figure 1 : ToC

4. Key findings and MTR questions

4.1 Relevance

MTR question 1 – Relevance:

Is the project still relevant to the country, beneficiaries and donor? To what extent are the project objectives relevant and suited to the priorities, policies and strategies of the executing and implementing agencies, donors, stakeholders and target groups?

Finding 1. The project is fully in line with national priorities as well as donor strategic priorities (GEF-6 focal area strategies), existing interventions, and with the FAO strategic Framework and the FAO Country Programming Framework. The relevance and importance of the project have been confirmed in interviews with the executing agencies.

Finding 2. The recent signing of the TAPP clearly indicates the relevance of the project to the national development goals and policies. The interviews with respondents make clear that all project activities are still highly important for Bangladesh and are complementary with other interventions in the country. Cooperation with other interventions and projects will need to be (re)initiated now that the TAPP has been approved and project activities can start.

76. The project is in line with priorities of the National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants, the GEF-6 focal area strategies and several national plans and policies, and also is aligned to the FAO Strategic Framework and FAO Country Programming Framework.
77. The **NIP** was prepared in 2007 and received by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention in 2009. Several priorities as defined in the NIP are addressed within the project, including improvement of the existing legal framework and legislative provisions for POPs (which is addressed within project component 2 on Governance and enforcement), safe repackaging, labelling and storage of Annex B (DDT) obsolete stockpiles (which relates to project component 1 on Disposal of legacy stockpiles of POPS), DDT sampling in dry fish (which links to component 3 on POPs pesticides uses addressed). Additionally, awareness raising, outreach and education were also identified as a priority in the NIP and the project will contribute to this within component 4 on Awareness and communication.
78. The project is in line with the **GEF-6 Chemical and Waste focal area strategy**. The GEF-6 chemical and waste strategy's long term goal is to prevent the exposure of humans and the environment to harmful chemicals and waste of global importance, including POPs, mercury and ozone depleting substances, through a significant reduction in the production, use, consumption and emissions/releases of those chemicals and waste.
79. The project is primarily aligned with CW-2 "Reduce the prevalence of harmful chemicals and waste and support the implementation of clean alternative technologies/substances", Programme 3 "Reduction and elimination of POPs", as the project intends to eliminate the existing DDT stockpile located in Chattogram, as well as an additional amount of 100 tonnes of empty pesticide containers. The project also contributes to CW-1 "Develop the enabling conditions, tools and environment for the sound management of harmful chemicals and wastes", Programme 1 "Develop and demonstrate new tools and economic approaches for managing harmful chemicals and waste in a sound manner", as the project will contribute to

improving the existing regulation on pesticides, and it also intends to demonstrate new technical and economic approaches to address the disposal of empty pesticide containers and the development and deployment of safe dry fish processing.

80. The project is planned to contribute to the **Bangladesh Seventh Five Year plan** and the achievement of several key objectives as set out in section 8 of this Plan "Environment and Climate Change", including addressing environmental health, attaining good governance in environmental sustainability, establishing quality of life in rural areas of all regions and meeting national air and water quality standards.
81. All persons who were interviewed during the MTR (including several executing agencies, FAO and other key partners) confirmed the continued relevance of the project and the importance of implementing all project activities.
82. The project is also fully in line with the **strategic objectives of FAO**. FAO identified five key priorities on which it is best placed to intervene. As the project is to eliminate a large stockpile of DDT, and to address the use of POPs pesticides, the project fits mostly within strategic objective 2: "Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable."
83. The project also fits within the **FAO Country Programming Framework** for Bangladesh, both for the **Framework 2014-2018**, as well as the **Framework 2019-2020** (a new Framework is currently being developed). The FAO Country Programming Framework is a strategic planning and management document which provides the FAO with a sound basis for developing its mid-term country programme, in line with the policies and development priorities of the Government of Bangladesh. The project is in line with the following FAO Country Program Framework priorities and outcomes:
 - Priority 2: Enhance agricultural productivity through diversification/intensification, sustainable management of natural resources, use of quality inputs and mechanization.
 - Outcome 2B: Strengthened technical capacity (institutional and individual) for developing and implementing sustainable production programmes.
 - Outcome 2F: Sustainable natural resources management practices promoted for protection of environment and conservation of natural resources and biodiversity.
84. The **FAO Country Programming Framework 2019-2020** identified three priority areas or 'pillars'. Each is aligned with the Government of Bangladesh' development priorities and the FAO's strategic objectives. They contribute towards achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The project fits mostly with the first pillar "Healthy, safe, and nutritious food".
85. Several **other initiatives and projects** that are implemented by executing agencies, other stakeholders and FAO (within their Country Programming Framework) have been identified at project design, including also several GEF projects. Currently it is not fully clear if all these projects have been implemented or are still being implemented. During the approval process of the TAPP, no information was shared between the executing agencies and FAO related to these other projects. It can be expected, however, that the COVID19 pandemic has also influenced these other initiatives and projects. As few activities have been conducted and the project can really only start now the TAPP has been approved and the lockdown restrictions lifted, the opportunities for cooperation with existing project and interventions will need to be verified and (re)initiated.

4.2 Effectiveness

MTR question 2 – Effectiveness:

To what extent has the project delivered on its outputs, outcomes and objectives?

Finding 3. The outputs and outcomes of the project have not been achieved at the mid-term point of the project since few activities could be implemented. The main reasons are the strict lockdowns in Bangladesh due to the COVID19 pandemic. Also, the TAPP has been approved only in August 2021 and before this the executing agencies could not start to manage the project activities they are expected to coordinate.

Finding 4. Important activities related to the preparation of safeguarding and disposal of the DDT stockpile in Chattogram under component 1 have been carried out. A company to undertake safeguarding and disposal in a certified facility in France has been selected, and currently all preparations are underway to start safeguarding and finalise safeguarding before the start of the rainy/monsoon season.

Finding 5. The relevant GEF core indicator 9.1 “Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and POPs containing materials and products removed or disposed” has not been achieved. Preparatory activities have been conducted. It is currently foreseen to have the DDT stockpile at Chattogram safeguarded by March 2021.

Finding 6. No outputs and outcomes have been achieved, and few activities have been implemented. Although the MTR team did not identify any relevant shortcomings in the internal logic of the project, it is therefore too early to make an assessment regarding the likelihood of impact.

86. At the start of the MTR (end of June 2021), it was clear that very few activities had been implemented, and that no outputs or outcomes have been achieved. The main reason for this is the COVID19 pandemic in Bangladesh; due to the strict restrictions and lockdowns in the country it had not been possible to implement any field work. It also soon became clear to the MTR team that the internal governmental approval process had not been finalised. This process requires the development and approval by all involved governmental bodies of a Technical Assistance Project Proposal (TAPP). The executing agencies (The DEA, DoE, DoF, and DGHS) could therefore not implement any activities that they were expected to coordinate until the TAPP would be approved (see also chapter 4.3 – Efficiency). The project was at a standstill, except for activities related to **component 1** on safeguarding and disposal of the DDT stockpile at Chattogram.
87. At the moment the MTR started, a project manager had just been appointed. Soon after, in the middle of August 2021, the TAPP was approved and, at approximately the same time, the lockdown restrictions were relaxed. This meant the project was accelerated; the FAO manager and project team are currently conducting regular exchanges with the executing agencies, an Inception Workshop is now planned for November 2021, and several experts were appointed (such as a gender expert, communication specialist, monitoring officer, and an international as well as a national consultant to further assess capacities of the different laboratories in the country). Also, the work plan was revised. In fact, these are the actions that could have been expected to be conducted at the start of any project.

88. For the MTR team it has not been possible to assess the work that is currently being conducted, since no actual project activities have been implemented and all actions that are now undertaken by the FAO project manager and his team are part of preparations to set up the project activities and activate the project oversight structures. The MTR focused on the activities that were implemented until the start of the MTR. Even so, the MTR team realises that the project is currently gaining momentum, and that, considering the high relevance of the project outputs and outcomes for the country, this is an important development. There is sufficient evidence (based on the interviews with FAO staff as well as the executing agencies) that the project can still achieve the project outcomes, but only if the project implementation period is extended.
89. As mentioned, the main activities that were implemented are related to the preparation of the safeguarding and disposal of the DDT stockpile at the Chattogram depot and fall under component 1. These activities are briefly described below. As no major activities for any of the other three components were implemented (due to the COVID19 pandemic, and late approval of the TAPP), these components are not further described. It should be noted that a preliminary **assessment of laboratories** was made within **component 3 (POPs pesticides uses addressed)**. Recently, a national and international consultant were hired to further assess the laboratories and provide recommendations for strengthening of laboratories in the country that could be implemented within the project. Progress towards each outcome is also captured in appendix 6 “Results matrix showing achievements at mid-term and MTR observations”.
90. The four components are the following:
- Component 1: Disposal of legacy stockpiles of POPs.
 - Component 2: Governance and enforcement.
 - Component 3: POPs pesticides uses addressed.
 - Component 4: Awareness and communication.
91. **Component 1, output 1.2: Safeguarding of POPs pesticides in Bangladesh, and output 1.3: Environmental Sound Destruction of POPs pesticides (specifically of DDT in Chattogram) conducted.** These outputs have not been achieved, but important preparatory activities have been conducted, mainly the selection process for an experienced company to undertake the safeguarding at the Chattogram depot, and then to eliminate the stockpile at a certified incineration facility. The Greek company Polyeco was selected and this company is currently (August - October 2021) preparing for the safeguarding at the Chattogram pesticide depot. According to the new revised work plan, the safeguarding should be finalised by March 2022, well before the start of the rainy season.
92. This output is one of the main outputs of the project and interviewees mentioned that this output is essential for the project to be successful. It is vital that the DDT stockpile at Chattogram is safely safeguarded and eliminated, as the environmental and health risks posed by the DDT stockpile are very high (see also chapter 2 – Project background and context). Component 1 (beside the environmental sound destruction of POPs pesticides, this component also includes the characterization and risk assessment of contaminated sites, and the development of recommendations for recycling, energy recovery or environmentally sound disposal of agricultural plastics) makes up 76% of the total planned budget. The safeguarding and disposal itself were originally planned at around 60% of the total project

budget. The safeguarding and consecutive elimination of the DDT stockpile is a costly and highly complex exercise.

93. Regarding **output 1 of component 1: Increased knowledge on presence of POPs pesticides through updated inventory**, it should be noted that several interviewees referred to this activity. No additional large stockpiles have been identified in Bangladesh. It is however not fully clear if an additional inventory of possible (smaller) stocks will (need to) be undertaken; project management will clarify this issue with the executing agencies and the MoEFCC.

Likelihood of impact

94. In principle, the MTR assesses the likelihood that the project will make a substantive contribution to the longer-term intended changes and impacts as presented in the reconstructed Theory of Change. The likelihood of impact being achieved in the future is assessed based on the internal logic of the project, the assessment of effectiveness, and verification of drivers and assumptions. As no outputs have been achieved and there is thus no progress towards outcomes, it follows that there has been no progress towards achieving long-term results and impact until now.
95. The assumptions from outputs to outcomes as described in chapter 3 – Theory of Change are in place; stakeholders are willing to cooperate, the project budget seems adequate to implement all activities, and adequate environmental management plans are in place. However, the drivers from output to outcomes are only partially in place. At the moment, now the project has been intensified, FAO provides active support and guidance, and is focusing on increasing cooperation and networking. Although the executing partners seem committed to the project results, they have not yet provided active support and guidance; as the TAPP was only recently approved, they can only start to implement activities now. There has been no active distribution of information and awareness raising materials by FAO and project partners since few activities have been implemented. At the moment a communication strategy will be developed which should support the awareness raising activities in a structured and methodological manner. It is too early to assess the assumptions and drivers from outcome to intermediate states and long-term impact, since no outcomes have yet been achieved.

4.3 Efficiency

MTR question 3 – Efficiency:

To what extent has the project been implemented efficiently and cost effectively? Has management been able to adapt to any changes and conditions and improve the efficiency of project implementation?

Finding 7. The project is well behind schedule and it is not feasible to implement the project activities by the current end date of the project (June 2022). Due to the COVID19 lockdowns and late approval of the TAPP, very few activities have been implemented (only activities related to preparation for safeguarding and disposal of the DDT stockpile at Chattogram were initiated). Currently the implementation of project activities are intensified since now the TAPP has been approved, the lockdown restrictions have been lifted, and a project manager has recently been appointed.

Finding 8. As few activities have been implemented, and no outputs and outcomes have been achieved, it is difficult to assess cost-effectiveness. The costs for the safeguarding and disposal company (which are a considerable cost to the project) are lower than budgeted in the project document. However, as such activities are generally highly complex, there can be unforeseen costs. For example, logistics may become more expensive due to COVID19 (fewer containers are available and there are congestions at the Chattogram harbour as well as global ports).

96. As is mentioned above under 4.2 – Efficiency, no outputs and outcomes have been achieved, and only few activities have been implemented. The reasons for this are twofold. First of all, the COVID19 pandemic situation in Bangladesh prevented the project from conducting any field work. Secondly, the internal governmental approval procedure of the TAPP took a very long time. Respondents noted that the TAPP approval process for all projects implemented in Bangladesh usually takes time, but the general consensus among the interviewees is also that it has taken longer than usual for this project. When asked what the reason for the long approval process could be, many interviewees indicated that they did not know the reason for this. However, several respondents noted that the project is quite complex, since there are a Ministry (the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change (MoEFCC)) and four departments (DoE, DAE, DoF, DGHS) involved. Additionally, some respondents also mentioned that the COVID19 pandemic influenced the TAPP approval process, since there have been other priorities for some departments related to getting the COVID19 situation under control, and also because the staff of ministries and departments had to work from home and it was difficult to organize physical meetings. As a result, the project is now well behind schedule, and the outputs and outcomes cannot be achieved by the planned end of the project (June 2022).
97. Fortunately, the TAPP was approved in August 2021, and the lockdown restrictions have been eased. At approximately the same time, in June 2021, the new project manager started to have meetings with the executing agencies to start up activities, and also has appointed the necessary specialists (including a communication specialist, a monitoring officer and a gender expert) to support the achievement of outputs and outcomes.
98. As few activities have been implemented, and no outputs and outcomes have been achieved, it is difficult to assess cost-effectiveness. The costs for the safeguarding and disposal company are a considerable cost to the project and were anticipated to be around 60% of the total project budget. The actual costs for the company that will undertake safeguarding and elimination of the DDT stockpile in Chattogram are lower than budgeted in the ProDoc. However, as such activities are generally highly complex, there can be unforeseen costs. For example, logistics may well become more expensive due to COVID19; fewer containers are available and there are congestions at the Chattogram harbour and other global ports.
99. The project activities are in alignment with other FAO and government departments' work and therefore the project is building upon existing institutions, agreements, partnerships, and there are adequate synergies and complementarities with other initiatives (see also chapter 4.1 - Relevance). However, it is too early to say if and how far these will help to increase project efficiency.

4.4 Sustainability

MTR question 4 – Sustainability:

To what extent are there financial, institutional and governance, socio-political and/or environmental risks to sustaining project results in the long-term?

Finding 9. As the project activities have hardly started, it is not possible at this point to assess all sustainability aspects for the MTR report. A preliminary assessment was made based on how sustainability aspects were considered at project design.

Finding 10. Environmental and financial sustainability are described in the project document. Socio-political and institutional capacity are not described in the project document. The risks to achieving environmental and financial sustainability are low to medium, if the project as defined in the original project document is followed and a financially sustainable mechanism for empty container management as well as an incentive scheme for the safe manufacturing of dry fish is established. Environmental sustainability is likely if the DDT stockpile at Chattogram is safeguarded and eliminated.

Finding 11. With regard to institutional sustainability, it should be noted that the executing partners at the moment do not always have the capacity to undertake all project activities. Respondents indicated that they need technical and coordination support as well as trainings from FAO. They also pointed out that it is important to ensure that capacity will be built within the project (within executing partners and of other stakeholders) and sustained after the project ends (institutional sustainability). Departments and institutions may sometimes lack institutional sustainability (for example, due to regular changes in staff, and other priorities in their work).

100. The MTR looks at financial, socio-political, institutional/governance and environmental sustainability. These issues have not yet received close attention in the project, as there is a considerable delay in the implementation of activities and few activities have been achieved.
101. The ProDoc contains a chapter on Sustainability. This chapter describes financial and environmental sustainability. The environmental sustainability is assessed as highly likely, as the project intends to dispose of DDT stockpiles that have been degrading the environment for over 30 years, and at the same time intends to address the use of POPs pesticides in dry fish processing and the improper disposal of empty pesticide containers. The environmental and health benefits of the project are therefore high.
102. Regarding financial sustainability, the ProDoc mentions that the key project actions need to be self-sustainable even after project end. The ProDoc describes that the project plans to establish a financially sustainable mechanism for the management of empty containers (based on an incentive scheme), and that further financial costs can be covered by an Extended Producer's responsibility scheme and possibly specific funds allocated by the Government of Bangladesh. Also for the fish drying sector, an incentive scheme is envisaged. The project also intends to demonstrate that safer technologies for drying fish may be self-sustainable, also from a financial perspective, when they are coupled with a certification scheme allowing the manufacturer to gain access to a wider, better profitable market. The ProDoc clearly identified some activities that will contribute to financial sustainability. However, since no activities related to empty container management and safe manufacturing

of dry fish have been implemented, it is too early to assess if the mechanisms described above can indeed be implemented.

103. Socio-political and institutional and governance sustainability are not explicitly described in the ProDoc, although one of the risks defined within the Project Risk Log frame is “Limited participation in collective actions (collection of pesticide containers; promotion of non-chemicals alternative in fish drying)”. Interviewees mentioned that the executing agencies do not always have the full capacity to coordinate and implement all project activities, and need technical and coordination support from FAO, as well as training. Some respondents also pointed out that it is important to ensure that capacity will be built within the project (within executing partners and also of other stakeholders) and sustained after project end. Departments and institutions may sometimes lack institutional sustainability (for example, due to regular changes in staff, other priorities).
104. As few project activities have been implemented, the MTR team cannot fully assess socio-political risks to sustainability, which includes the government-agency, institutional and other stakeholder ownership, awareness and support given to project execution. It is clear that several stakeholders are not aware of the project and as mentioned previously, the response to the MTR has been very low. However, all the stakeholders interviewed (besides also FAO staff) stated that the project activities are considered very relevant and important. Now that the project is gaining momentum, it can be expected that the executing agencies will become more committed to and engaged with the project. FAO needs to ensure that the supervision and consultation mechanisms are set up and will be fully operational, so that all stakeholders will become adequately involved and committed to the project results.
105. Under Sustainability, the MTR also assesses the risks identified in the ProDoc. Although in the PIR the overall project rating is qualified as low, the Environmental and Social Risk classification is defined as high. The ProDoc contains a chapter on Risk Management, as well as a Project Risk Log frame in Annex 3, in which some important financial and environmental risks are described. These risks are also described in the PIR. For example, the ProDoc explains that the budget for safeguarding and disposal of the DDT are over 60 percent of the overall project budget. As these activities are generally highly complex and dependent on context, there is a high variability of costs (related for instance to the transportation of waste to the disposal facility). Therefore, the ProDoc identifies this outcome as an important financial risk for the project. One of the measures that is proposed in the document is the timely drafting of the Terms of Reference and procurement bidding documents for the recruitment of a provider of safeguarding transportation and disposal services. This would allow enough time for ensuring that applicants submit their proposals, and in case of bid failure (because the prices of the proposals are too high), there will time to review the bidding strategy and reissue the bid. In fact, a company to undertake safeguarding and disposal (Polyeco) was recruited timely. The costs for safeguarding and disposal are lower than budgeted in the ProDoc. However, as described, these activities are highly complex and there may be unexpected costs and delays. For example, due to the COVID19 pandemic, interviewees mentioned that shipping containers are more expensive, there are not enough containers available, and there is a congestion at the Chattogram harbour.
106. The main environmental risk as described in the ProDoc, is also related to the safeguarding and elimination of obsolete pesticides. The ProDoc mentions that the project is designed to have positive benefits to the environment through the removal of obsolete pesticides and risk reduction of a heavily contaminated site, together with the reduction in use of hazardous

pesticides and the planned environmentally sound management of empty pesticide containers. However, especially related to outcomes on safeguarding of POPs pesticides and Environmental Sound Destruction of POPs pesticides in Chattogram, there is a considerable risk of environmental impairment. The ProDoc describes how these risks will be mitigated, and this is also explained in the annex on Environmental and Social Risks. During the preparatory works for the safeguarding, adequate measures have already been taken, for example a Health, Safety and Environmental Plan for the safeguarding, and an Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response Plan have been developed by Polyeco. All work is expected to be conducted in line with the relevant Stockholm and Basel Convention requirements, and FAO’s Environmental Management Tool Kits.

107. It is too early to say if there are changes in behaviour and practice that the project has helped to catalyse, as no outputs and outcomes have been achieved. The ProDoc contains a chapter on Potential for Scaling Up in which catalysis and replication aspects are described. Replication is not expected for safeguarding and disposal as the largest DDT stockpile in Chattogram will expectedly already be disposed of within this project.
108. The ProDoc identifies a number of activities which will be piloted, and which could have significant scale-up potential. If the project outcomes will be achieved, it may well be that certain (demonstration) activities will be scaled-up after project end. These include:
- An intervention aimed at demonstrating better technology and management for fish drying. The project will demonstrate and improve the effectiveness of alternative processes in pilot areas;
 - Under component 3, the project will assess available safe chemicals and non-chemical approaches as alternatives to POPs pesticides in key agricultural crops in Bangladesh, and demonstrate these in one or more pilot areas;
 - Under the same component, the project intends to further disseminate holistic approaches to reduce the use of chemicals in malaria control;
 - Engagement with consumer organizations could establish programmes to raise awareness and monitoring programmes among consumers and retailers to ensure that safe food is being sold and consumed. This in turn will incentivise farmers and producers to use safer and more sustainable production and pest control methods;
 - The project will provide laboratory infrastructures and training on the above issues, which can be the basis for future expansion of the activities.
109. These pilot activities have a potential for replication and upscaling, although at the same time sustainability of such pilot and demonstration projects can be an issue if during project implementation no timely discussions and agreements (exit strategies) are made between FAO, the executing agencies and relevant stakeholders on responsibilities of replication and upscaling and on ownership (including an assessment of financial aspects).

4.5 Factors affecting performance

MTR question 5 – Factors affecting performance:

What are the main other factors affecting the project in reaching its results, and how are they affecting the project’s performance?

Project design and readiness:

Finding 12. The project document was well designed and the most relevant stakeholders adequately identified at project design. However, there have been significant delays in starting project activities, which are in part related to the lengthy approval process of the TAPP (as well as COVID19), meaning the project executing partners are only now ready to implement activities. There was no project manager working for the project from the start (a project manager has been appointed recently).

Quality of project execution and management arrangements:

Finding 13. As very few activities could be implemented, the TAPP was only approved in August 2021, and only recently a project manager was appointed, the level/quality of project management and supervision could not be assessed fully. FAO staff and consultants have worked hard within the complicated circumstances (COVID19 and late approval of TAPP). Currently the project is intensified, project activities are planned, and relevant experts (monitoring officer, communication specialist, gender specialist, national and international consultant to support laboratory assessments) are appointed.

Project oversight by FAO as the GEF Agency and national partners:

Finding 14. It is difficult to assess project oversight by FAO and national partners, as very few project activities could be implemented. The executing partners have therefore not provided any structured oversight yet. Other national partners are only very limited aware of the project activities. Project oversight structures are just being established.

Financial management and co-financing:

Finding 15. A summary expense report per budget line and component was provided to the MTR-team. As few activities have been implemented, the overall expense is currently low (most expenses are related to professional salaries, national and international consultants), although the commitments are much higher (which are mostly related to safeguarding and disposal). No co-finance of the executing partners has been reported, although they have already invested resources in-kind co-finance (time, staff) during e.g. the approval process of the TAPP.

Project partnerships and stakeholder engagement:

Finding 16. All stakeholders were identified at project design, including gender/vulnerable groups. Although stakeholders in general showed commitment to the expected results of the project, the stakeholder groups have not been well engaged until now since few activities could be implemented. Some stakeholders informed the MTR team that they are not aware of the project, or showed reluctance to be involved in the MTR.

Finding 17. Consultation and communication mechanisms are set up only now. There have been no meetings of the Project Steering Committee, nor have there been any other consultation meetings.

Communication, visibility, knowledge management and knowledge products:

Finding 18. No (public) communication and awareness raising activities have been implemented yet and therefore the influence of the project on attitudes and behaviour cannot be assessed. Currently a communication strategy is being prepared (for safeguarding and disposal). Several respondents mentioned that awareness raising is very important and should start as soon as possible (for disposal but also within other components). Moreover, some

respondents suggested to include a media partner and/or civil society in order to give the project an extended outreach.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Finding 19. The project document contains a M&E Plan, indicating type of M&E activity, responsible parties, timeframe and budget. Most of the M&E activities have not been undertaken as only few project activities were implemented. Reporting is done through the Project Implementation Review reports. Now that project activities can start, a monitoring officer has been appointed to implement the M&E plan. Gender aspects will be considered during monitoring.

Preparation and readiness

110. The ProDoc was overall well designed. The reconstructed ToC from project outputs and outcomes on to the longer term results, which is based on the outputs and outcomes (as well as the narrative text) at project design, shows the causal logic between the different elements and the pathways. The most relevant stakeholders were adequately identified at project design. The Results Matrix (annex 1 of the ProDoc) is overall clear and logical. Since project activities for part of component 1 and all of components 2, 3 and 4 will start now, this matrix (specifically the indicators) may be reassessed based on the discussions between FAO Bangladesh and the executing agencies that are currently going on, and the discussions during the Inception Workshop which is planned to be organized in November 2021.
111. There have been significant delays in starting project most activities, which are in part related to the lengthy approval process of the TAPP (as well as COVID19), meaning the project executing partners are only now ready to implement the activities that they are expected to coordinate.
112. Regarding the activities related to safeguarding and disposal; these were started timely, as selection of the safeguarding company did not depend on the approval of the TAPP and with support of a senior technical advisor consultant, the activities necessary for the bidding and selection process could be implemented.
113. A project manager for the project has only recently been assigned. Although previously a project manager was also appointed, this project manager did finally not start to work for the project (in part due to the COVID19 pandemic). As the TAPP was not approved when the project started, and project management arrangements were not fully established, the “readiness” for implementation of most project activities after the project’s approval was not adequate.

Quality of project execution and management arrangements

114. Within this criterion, the MTR team assesses the performance of project management and the project executing partners in managing and delivering the project, including operational and administrative arrangements. The MTR also looks at whether management responsibilities and reporting lines are clear to the extent to which decision-making has been transparent and timely. However, as the TAPP was only recently approved, few project activities have been implemented, and only recently a project manager was appointed, project executing and management arrangements have not been fully operational. Therefore,

the level and performance of project management and the executing partners could not be assessed fully.

115. Currently the project is intensified, project activities are planned, and relevant experts are appointed, including e.g. a monitoring officer, a communication specialist, a gender specialist, and national and international consultants to support further laboratory assessments. It is expected that, now the TAPP has been approved, all Letters of Agreement with the executing agencies will be signed shortly from the time of preparation of this MTR report. The executing arrangements should therefore become operational soon after.
116. The collaboration of FAO staff for the project overall works well. FAO staff has been working under exceptional circumstances because of the COVID19 pandemic. It was not possible to implement any field work activities. Progress has been made regarding preparations for safeguarding and disposal of the DDT stockpile at Chattogram. Now that the TAPP was approved and the strict lockdown regulations have been lifted, and in order for the project results to be achieved, it will be necessary to extend the project so that the activities can still be implemented, and the outputs and outcomes can be achieved.

Project oversight by FAO as the GEF Agency and national partners

117. Again, due to the fact that few activities could be implemented, it is difficult to assess project oversight by FAO and national partners. Executing partners have not yet provided any oversight. Other national partners are only very limited aware of the project.
118. FAO has provided satisfactory supervision, guidance and technical backstopping for the activities related to safeguarding and disposal. The custodian of the DDT, at the Medical Sub Depot in Chattogram, has shared practical information about the DDT stockpiles, and the safeguarding company Polyeco has developed a Health, Safety and Environmental Plan and an Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response Plan to proactively manage obligations, as well as environmental, health and safety issues during the safeguarding operations. These activities are on track, although of course due to the COVID19 pandemic, the actual safeguarding could not be implemented yet.
119. Implementation arrangements as described in the ProDoc are expected to become operational only now the TAPP has been approved and the situation in Bangladesh regarding the COVID19 pandemic seems to improve. The ProDoc describes the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Project Implementation Committee (PIC). Both bodies have not been functional thus far.

Financial management and co-financing

120. A summary expense report was supplied to the MTR team by oracle code in August 2021, and an updated version per 7 October 2021, which included an overview per component (no report per output or outcome was received).
121. As few activities have been implemented, the total expenditure ratio is currently low (most expenses are related to consultants and non-expendable equipment), see the table below. The total expenditure ratio for consultants (0.48) is relatively high, considering that the project had few activities. It needs to be assessed if the remaining budget for consultants is fully adequate when the project will be extended.

122. It should be noted that the commitments are much higher than the expenses; one of the reasons for this is that the company for safeguarding and disposal has already been selected and a contract has been signed but safeguarding activities could not yet take place.

Table 4 : Project expenditure as of 7 October 2021

Financial project status report (7 October 2021)						
Expenditure	Estimated at design (total GEF) A	Commitments B	Actual expenditure C	Total D	Balance A - B - C	Expenditure ratio (actual/planned) C/A
Salaries Professional	144,000	0	21,226	21,226	122,774	0.15
Consultants	1,026,298	155,810	493,562	649,373	376,925	0.48
Contracts	6,224,243	1,894,016	0	1,894,016	4,330,227	0.00
Locally Contracted Labour	0	411	1,302	1,713	-1,713	
Travel	137,997	3,900	20,785	24,684	113,313	0.15
Training	110,000	0	1,421	1,421	108,579	0.01
Expendable Procurement	421,047	117	37,068	37,184	383,863	0.09
Non Expendable Procurement	61,104	0	23,702	23,702	37,402	0.39
General Operating Expenses	170,311	2,861	19,725	22,586	147,725	0.12
TOTAL	8,295,000	2,057,114	618,791	2,675,905	5,619,095	0.07

123. The overview per component is provided in table 5 below. Currently few activities have been implemented, but for the remaining part of the project an overview per output (or even outcome) would provide a better insight on costs and cost-effectiveness of specific activities.

Table 5 : Project expenditure per component as of 7 October 2021

Financial overview per component (7 October 2021)					
Results Based Inputs	Budget	Actual expenditure	Hard commitments	Total (including commitments)	Available Budget
Component 1	6,050,185	264,059	1,976,534	2,240,593	3,809,592
Component 2	325,353	10,240	3,301	13,540	311,813
Component 3	1,094,305	145,774	42,590	188,364	905,941
Component 4	430,158	33,593	4,951	38,544	391,614
Programme Management Costs	395,000	165,126	29,738	194,864	200,136
TOTAL	8,295,001	618,791	2,057,114	2,675,905	5,619,096

124. No co-finance of executing partners has been reported, although they have already invested resources in-kind as co-finance (time, staff) during e.g. the approval process of the TAPP. However, as the TAPP was not approved and the LoAs not yet signed, no official co-finance could be materialized. It will need to be discussed with the individual executing agencies if the co-finance numbers that were pledged are still realistic; in several cases co-finance was to be provided from projects that were (going to be) implemented by these agencies, and possibly some of these projects have been finalised in the meantime. Please see also appendix 7 for the co-financing table.

Project partnerships and stakeholder engagement

125. At project design all stakeholders were identified, a comprehensive stakeholder analysis was presented in the ProDoc, and explanations on vulnerable groups were also provided. Consultations were also organized during the project design phase.
126. Consultations and discussions with the executing agencies were organized on an informal basis until the TAPP was approved in August 2021. Currently regular meetings are held between FAO and the executing agencies with the aim to get the project on track. An Inception Workshop is planned for November 2021 and it is expected that all relevant stakeholders will be invited.
127. As mentioned previously, the response to requests for interviews for the MTR was overall low. In several cases, people indicated they were not aware of the project or only to a very limited degree. Although respondents of the executing agencies who could be interviewed showed committed to the project results, the engagement of stakeholders until now has been limited. Now that the TAPP has been approved, and the lockdown regulations lifted, it is expected that communication with stakeholders will be improved and the project consultation meetings such as the Project Steering Committee will become operational.

Communication, visibility, knowledge management and knowledge products

128. Component 4 of the project is fully related to awareness and communication. This component is expected to strengthen and support the results of the other three components. Specific target groups have already been identified in the ProDoc: farmers, government extension and technical staff, agricultural and public health private sector providers, and consumers. The ProDoc also explains that two key messages will be developed related to the benefits of using non-chemical, less hazardous chemicals and technologies, as well as the hidden costs and risks associated with the use of illegal chemicals including POPs pesticides.
129. However, as very few activities have been executed, a comprehensive strategic communication strategy with programmes for specific target groups (farmers, extension officers, traders and retailers of chemicals, consumers, women, and the general public) was not prepared. Recently a communication specialist has been appointed who is preparing communication activities related to the safeguarding and disposal of the DDT stockpile at Chattogram. It is also planned to prepare a film of the safeguarding activities.
130. As no (public) communication and awareness raising activities have been implemented yet, and also few activities were conducted, the project’s influence on attitudes and behaviour cannot be assessed. Several respondents mentioned that awareness raising is very important and should start as soon as possible (for safeguarding and disposal, but also within other components). It was also mentioned that it is important to include civil society organizations in the implementation of awareness raising strategies.
131. No knowledge products have been prepared yet due to the lack of activities in the project.

Monitoring and Evaluation

132. The ProDoc contains an M&E Plan, indicating type of M&E activity, responsible parties, timeframe and budget. Most M&E activities have not been undertaken as only few project activities were implemented. Now that project activities can start, a monitoring officer has

been appointed to verify and implement the M&E plan. Gender aspects will be considered during monitoring.

133. Reporting was done through the Project Implementation Review (PIR) reports. The MTR team received two PIRs; for the period July 2019 to June 2020, and for the period July 2020 to June 2021. The quality of the PIR reports is adequate and it is clearly explained that the COVID19 pandemic was severely hampering the implementation of the project activities. The progress ratings for the indicators under component 2, 3 and 4 have been partly assessed as Moderately Unsatisfactory and partly as Moderately Satisfactory in the PIR, while no actual progress towards achievement of the indicators was reported (even though there have been contacts and discussions with the relevant partners). See also appendix 6 - “Results matrix showing achievements at mid-term and MTR observations”, where the MTR team has assessed these indicators as “Not on target to be achieved”, thus the MTR team considers that progress was moderately unsatisfactory for all the indicators within component 2, 3 and 4.

4.6 Cross-cutting dimensions

MTR question 6 – Cross-cutting dimensions:

To what extent have gender considerations been taken into account in project design and implementation? Have environmental and social risks been identified and are appropriate mitigation measures taken?

Gender and equity:

Finding 20. During project design, aspects related to gender and vulnerable groups have been adequately considered, including a Gender Mainstreaming plan. As few activities have been executed, these aspects were thus far not considered during implementation. Recently a gender expert was involved in the project who will monitor these aspects closely.

Environmental and social standards:

Finding 21. The project document contains an annex on environmental and social risks, this annex focuses on safeguarding, transportation and disposal under component 1. The chapter on Risk Management also mentions environmental risks related to safeguarding and disposal. For the safeguarding and disposal necessary precautions have been arranged, including development of a Health, Safety and Environmental Plan and an Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response Plan. All work is expected to be conducted in line with Stockholm and Basel Convention requirements, and FAO’s EMTKs.

Gender and equity

134. Since very few activities were implemented, gender and equity issues have not been given attention in the implementation of the project. These aspects were however elaborately described and considered in the ProDoc. For each component it is explained how women will be involved. The ProDoc also includes a Gender Mainstreaming Plan, taking into account the relevant GEF and FAO gender policies.
135. The ProDoc explains that women play vital roles in Bangladeshi agriculture and food production. They work in fields where pesticides are applied and also sometimes apply

pesticides themselves. They launder clothing contaminated with pesticides and live and cook in homes where pesticides are stored. Women are involved in fish drying operations and are known to apply pesticides to keep flies off drying fish. Women are also the primary carers, food providers and nurses in families and are therefore concerned with the adverse health impacts that pesticides may cause. Women are therefore important targets and beneficiaries of project activities.

136. The ProDoc also briefly explains the situation of indigenous people in Bangladesh. The project intends to support indigenous people in the two ways:
- by specifically dedicating a tailored awareness raising initiative to them, in order to inform them on the risks associated with the use of hazardous pesticides including DDT;
 - by involving indigenous people in the safeguarding activities at the pesticides depot in Chattogram who are or were living nearby, if relevant.
137. Recently a gender expert has been hired, as well as a communication specialist and monitoring officer. The project communication strategy will include specific parts related to awareness raising for women, and the data that will be monitored within the M&E plan will be disaggregated by gender. The project manager indicated that half of the persons that will be involved in project meetings and trainings will be women.
138. GEF core indicator 11 on the "number of direct beneficiaries aggregated by gender" has not been taken into account yet by the project management and will still need to be filled out. Project management is aware of this issue and will define the number of direct beneficiaries for the project now that the project activities can start to be implemented.

Environmental and Social Safeguards

139. Environmental and Social Risks have been identified in annex 4 of the ProDoc. The following risks are described for the safeguarding and disposal operations of the DDT stockpile at Chattogram:
- Risk of U-POPs generation during the disposal of pesticide stockpiles;
 - Risk of improper or incomplete disposal of the DDT stockpiles;
 - Risk of worker exposure to chemicals during clean up;
 - Risk of DDT release before project starts in case of flood events;
 - Risk of DDT release during safeguarding activities;
 - Risk of accident or release during transportation of the repackaged DDT to the destruction facility.
140. The risk classification for each of these risks is ESS 5. Although in the PIR the overall project rating is qualified as low, the Environmental and Social Risk classification is defined as high. Risk mitigation measures are described for each risk, taking into account the relevance international standards and directives, compliance with the Stockholm and Basel Conventions, as well as the relevant FAO's Environmental Management Tool Kits, and for transport also the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code.
141. Safeguarding, transport and disposal of the DDT stockpiles has yet to be taken place and is currently being prepared. The safeguarding company Polyeco has developed a Health, Safety and Environmental Plan as well as an Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRRP) for the safeguarding operations.

5. Conclusions and recommendations

5.1. Conclusions

142. Based on the findings of the project, the MTR team has drawn the following main conclusions:

Conclusion 1 (Relevance): The project is strategically relevant and in line with national priorities as well as donor strategic priorities, existing interventions, and with the FAO strategic Framework and the FAO Country Programming Framework. The project was designed well and the interviewees confirmed the continued relevance of the project and the project activities for the country. Few activities could be implemented, and besides (essential) preparations for safeguarding and disposal of the DDT stockpiles at Chattogram, the project has effectively been at a standstill due to the COVID19 pandemic and late approval of the TAPP. The MTR assessed whether all project activities, outputs and outcomes were still fully relevant and whether the project as it was designed should be implemented now that implementation is currently intensified. Representatives of the executing agencies that were interviewed for the MTR confirmed that the project is very important and relevant; some respondents also made proposals for how specific project activities could be implemented.

There has been an overall low and slow response to the requests for interviews for the MTR and this has clearly been a limitation. Although the executing partners expressed commitment to the project, both to the MTR team as well as in recent meetings with FAO staff, this commitment is not corroborated by the low response to the MTR. It is therefore essential that FAO ensures that effective relationships and coalitions are built and the project executing and oversight structures are made operational (such as the Project Steering Committee and Project Implementation Committee).

The MTR also assessed whether the project is in line with GEF strategic priorities, national policies and priorities, and with the FAO Frameworks, which were described in the ProDoc, and whether the project has complementarities and synergies with other initiatives. The MTR found that the project is highly relevant and that there are certainly complementarities with existing interventions and projects, although the implementation status of existing interventions is not fully clear. The newly appointed project manager is currently discussing with the executing agencies and other stakeholders how other initiatives have been progressing during the COVID19 pandemic and how the project can cooperate with these initiatives and projects.

(see Findings 1, 2, 16)

Conclusion 2 (Effectiveness): The project has made good progress regarding preparation for safeguarding and disposal of the DDT stockpiles at the Medical Sub-depot in Chattogram under component 1 and outcome 1. A selection and bidding process was carried out and a company to undertake safeguarding and disposal was selected. This company, Polyeco, has been preparing to start safeguarding as soon as the COVID19 situation allows and the necessary equipment will have been shipped to Chattogram and cleared at customs.

Safeguarding and disposal of the DDT stockpile in Chattogram is an essential part of the project (and also a considerable cost, as 60% of the planned budget was reserved for this outcome) and therefore it is crucial that progress has been made for this part of the project. The actual safeguarding is planned to be implemented by March 2022, before the start of the rainy season. Although many of the lockdown regulations have been lifted, the COVID19 situation may still affect safeguarding and elimination of the DDT stockpile. For instance, there

is currently a lack of shipping containers worldwide and there is a congestion at the harbour of Chattogram. It is unclear how the pandemic will develop in the near future.

An Environmental and Social Safeguard mitigation plan for this outcome has been prepared at project design and is included in the ProDoc. Risk mitigation measures are described for each risk, taking into account the relevance of international standards, conventions and directives. The safeguarding company Polyeco has developed a Health, Safety and Environmental Plan as well as an Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRRP) for the safeguarding operations.

(see Findings 4, 5, 21)

Conclusion 3 (Effectiveness and Efficiency): The project implementation has been severely hampered by the COVID19 lockdown. No field work could take place, and currently no outputs or outcomes have been delivered, and limited progress has been made towards achieving the project objectives. In addition, the late approval of the TAPP also means that most of the project activities could not start. It is therefore not feasible to implement the project before its current end date (June 2022).

The TAPP has been approved in August 2021 and the most severe regulations of the last lockdown were lifted at approximately the same time. Currently, the new project manager and the other FAO project staff in Bangladesh have started to plan for all project components to be implemented, and have regular meetings with all executing agencies. It is expected that the Letter of Agreements with the individual executing agencies will be finalised soon. An Inception Workshop is planned to be organized in November this year. Several specialists, including a monitoring officer, a communication specialist and a gender expert, as well as an international and national consultant to further assess laboratory capacity, have been hired. For the MTR it is too early to assess the actions currently taking place as they are of a preparatory nature, but it is clear that the project is currently gaining momentum and that it is possible, if the project is extended, to achieve all project outputs and outcomes.

The limited implementation status is also reflected in the absence of co-finance materialized until now. As the TAPP was not approved, no formal co-finance has been reported, even though executing agencies have already invested resources (time, staff, logistics) during the approval process of the TAPP. A record of co-finance would help illustrate ownership at national level, and serve as a means of accountability. A more detailed level of recording expenditure would also assist in assessing cost-effectiveness of particular actions and outputs.

Furthermore, as only few activities could be implemented, component 4 on Awareness and Communication was not taken up yet. Although (informal) discussions between FAO and executing agencies on for instance communication with local people at Chattogram were discussed, a strategic communication strategy was not developed and no communication or awareness raising activities have taken place.

(see Findings 3, 5, 6, 13, 15, 18)

Conclusion 4 (Sustainability): The risks to financial sustainability are considered to be medium, provided that the financial mechanisms and incentive schemes as described in the ProDoc will be set up and maintained. Aspects related to institutional sustainability need to be further considered now that the project activities can start to be implemented.

As the project activities have hardly started, it was not possible at this point to assess all sustainability aspects for the MTR report. Therefore, the MTR assessed the sustainability

aspects as described in the ProDoc and reflected on the suggestions of interviewees related to institutional sustainability.

Environmental and financial sustainability are described in the project document. The MTR considers that the risks to achieving environmental and financial sustainability are medium, if the project as defined in the original project document is followed and a financially sustainable mechanism for empty container management as well as an incentive scheme for the safe manufacturing of dry fish is established. These mechanisms would need to be discussed early on during the remaining project period, as the mechanisms need the involvement of many stakeholders and the mechanisms will need time to be set up properly. Environmental sustainability is likely if the DDT stockpile at Chattogram is safeguarded and eliminated.

Interviewees mentioned that the executing partners at the moment do not always have the capacity to undertake all project activities. They need technical and coordination support as well as trainings from FAO. Respondents also said that it is important to ensure that capacity will be built within the project (within executing partners and of other stakeholders) and sustained after the project ends. Government departments and other stakeholders may sometimes lack institutional sustainability (due to regular changes in staff, and other priorities in their work).

(see Findings 9, 10, 11)

Conclusion 5 (progress to impact): As so few activities were implemented, and no outputs and outcomes have been achieved, it was difficult to assess most of the criteria for this MTR. The current implementation status of the project is very limited. The MTR rated the different criteria based on factual implementation status, and took into consideration the exceptional circumstances related to the COVID19 pandemic (as well as the late approval of the TAPP, and the momentum the project is currently gaining).

The quality of project management and execution, for instance, was difficult to assess; those few activities that were implemented, were executed overall well, but as no outputs and outcomes could be achieved until now, it remains difficult to evaluate these criteria. The overall assessment of the project’s progress is considered to be moderately unsatisfactory. This assessment follows from the lack of achievement of outputs and outcomes, but the MTR team realises that activities could not have been achieved due to COVID 19 and the late approval of the TAPP. The MTR team also recognizes that important progress has been made to one of the most essential components of the project (safeguarding and disposal of the DDT stockpile at Chattogram) and that the project is gaining momentum now, since the two main reasons that have prevented the project from achieving progress are solved (although it cannot be predicted what will happen to the COVID19 situation). Therefore, the MTR team considers that it is moderately likely that the project will reach its main targets and objectives if an extension is granted until at least December 2023 (in line with the TAPP), and preferably until December 2024, bearing in mind that many interviewees proposed an extension of 2,5 to 3 years, and also considering that the original project duration of 3 years could be considered too short for the implementation of the large number of activities, outputs and outcomes as defined at project design.

(see Findings 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14)

5.2. Recommendations

Recommendation 1 (Efficiency)	The MTR recommends an extension of the project until December 2024, in order to make it possible for the project team and the executing partners to achieve the project outputs and outcomes.
Rationale for recommendation	<p>The project has not achieved any outputs or delivered any outcomes. The main reasons for this are the COVID19 pandemic in Bangladesh and the strict lockdowns that did not allow for any field work to be implemented. In addition, the approval process of the TAPP has taken a long time (in part probably also due to the COVID19 situation, making it more difficult for governmental agencies to have meetings) and was only approved recently, in August 2021. Now that these two issues have been solved (although it cannot be predicted how the COVID19 situation will evolve) and coincided with the appointment of a project manager, the project is starting to gain momentum. However, since the project is only at the start of implementing most activities, it is not feasible to conduct these activities and reach the anticipated project results by the original project end date (June 2022).</p> <p>The MTR has assessed that the project is very relevant to all stakeholders and in line with GEF, FAO and country priorities. Interviewees confirmed the importance of implementing the project activities and achieving the main project results. Taking into account all of the above, the MTR team considers that the project results, and the outputs and outcomes, can be achieved if the project is granted an extension.</p> <p>The extension should be until at least December 2023, as this would be in line with the end date as defined in the TAPP. Taking into account that most interviewees proposed an extension for a longer period (2,5 to 3 years), and also because there are many activities, outputs and outcomes defined at project design (and so the original project duration of three years would likely have been too short), it is recommended that the project be extended until December 2024.</p>
Responsibility	FAO PTF, FAO GEF Coordination Unit
Proposed timeframe	As soon as possible
Cross-references	Findings 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 Conclusions 1, 2, 3

Recommendation 2 (Factors affecting performance)	FAO to ensure that the coordination and monitoring mechanisms will be set up and start as soon as possible, including the meetings of the Project Steering Committee. The Inception Workshop needs to be the start of building strong coalitions.
Rationale for recommendation	<p>Over the last years, there have been no meetings of the Project Steering Committee or the Project Implementation Committee, as the TAPP was not approved.</p> <p>The response of the different stakeholders to participate in the MTR process was overall very low and slow. This showed that some stakeholders are not aware of the project, and that other stakeholders,</p>

	<p>such as the executing agencies, are not yet well engaged, even though they expressed commitment to the project results.</p> <p>Now that the project is gaining momentum, it is especially important that the project coordination and supervision structures become well established as soon as possible, and that all stakeholders will be involved in and regularly informed about the project. It is vital that strong coalitions are built, so the momentum will not be lost, and the project outputs and outcomes can be achieved. It is recommended that the coordination structures, specifically the Project Steering Committee, will meet regularly, in the beginning once per two months. The Inception Workshop that is planned for November 2021 should be the start of building coalitions; FAO Bangladesh should ensure that all relevant stakeholders participate in the meeting and that the coordination and supervision structures will start to operate immediately after the Inception Workshop. The agreements made within the consultation mechanisms on activities, outputs and outcomes should be reflected in the Monitoring and Evaluation plan by the newly appointed Monitoring Officer, so the project’s performance can be tracked regularly.</p> <p>The Result Matrix as presented in the ProDoc is overall coherent and logical. The individual indicators (including for instance number of people trained and participating in activities and meetings) should be reviewed now that the TAPP has been approved and all project activities can start soon, and it is thus more clear if the numbers/amounts mentioned are still fully relevant.</p> <p>This recommendation is planned to contribute to the improvement of several “Factors affecting performance”, namely Quality of project execution and management arrangements, Project oversight by FAO and national partners, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Project Partnerships and stakeholder involvement.</p>
Responsibility	FAO PTF, PMU, Monitoring Officer
Proposed timeframe	As soon as possible, before end of December 2021
Cross-references	Findings 7, 13, 14, 16, 17 Conclusion 3, 5

Recommendation 3 (Sustainability)	FAO to ensure that exit strategies (what will happen after project end) will be prepared timely, to ensure sustainability of project results.
Rationale for recommendation	It was difficult to assess all sustainability aspects, as the project has implemented only few activities, no outputs were achieved and there has been no progress towards delivery of outcomes (except for outcome1, as essential preparatory activities for safeguarding and disposal were conducted). The MTR assessed how sustainability aspects were considered at project design. Overall, the risks to achieving financial and environmental sustainability are considered to be medium, provided that the mechanisms as described in the ProDoc (the financial mechanism related to empty container management and the incentive scheme for safe dry fish manufacturing) are set up. As many

	<p>stakeholders will need to be involved in setting up such mechanisms, and these mechanisms require cooperation of different agencies, organizations, institutions and other stakeholders, it is recommended that financial sustainability is already addressed early on in further project implementation of these activities.</p> <p>Several pilot and demonstration activities are foreseen to be implemented within the project. Although these pilot activities generally have a potential for replication and upscaling, sustainability of such pilot and demonstration projects can be problematic if no timely discussions and agreements are made between FAO, the executing agencies and relevant stakeholders on responsibilities of replication and upscaling, and on ownership, also after the project ends. Institutional sustainability is not explicitly described in the ProDoc. Interviewees stated that the executing agencies need coordination and technical support from FAO, and that capacity building activities such as trainings are important for the government agencies (and other stakeholders). Respondents also indicated that it is important to sustain the built capacity after project end. Departments and institutions may sometimes lack institutional sustainability (for example, due to regular changes in staff, and other priorities in their work).</p> <p>Long-term results depend on the sustainability of project results and therefore it is recommended that exit strategies are prepared. The strategies need to be developed in time well before the activities to which the exit strategy refers are completed, and should include factors related to institutional as well as financial sustainability. The strategy should also clarify the responsibilities of the different partners involved, the expectations, responsibilities, and ownership after project end.</p>
Responsibility	FAO PTF and PMU, in consultation with the PSC
Proposed timeframe	Within the next year
Cross-references	Findings 9, 10, 11 Conclusion 4

Recommendation 4 (Financial management and co-financing)	Start to record co-finance at a detailed level, and possibly still record co-finance contributed by the executing partners from the period before approval of the TAPP.
Rationale for recommendation	<p>The co-financing table shows that there has been no co-finance reported until now. One of the reasons is that official reporting of co-finance from executing partners was not possible as the TAPP had not yet been approved. The PIR also mentions that co-finance is related to completed projects. However, the projects from which co-finance would contribute to this project, and that are mentioned in the co-finance letters of the executing partners and FAO, have not all been finalised yet, or the implementation status of these projects is unclear. It is likely that some of these projects could still generate co-financing. Also, the executing agencies have already invested resources (time, staff, logistics) during the approval process of the TAPP that can be considered as in-kind co-finance. Now the TAPP has been approved</p>

	recently (in August 2021) and the lockdown restrictions lifted, the opportunities for co-finance from and cooperation with existing project and interventions will need to be verified and (re)initiated. It is recommended that FAO: 1) clarifies the amounts of co-finance already generated (and if possible also include possible co-finance already provided by executing agencies before the approval of the TAPP), 2) updates the numbers of co-financing already generated, and 3) assesses whether the original amounts of co-finance pledged are still valid, if the sources of co-finance (e.g. other projects) are still valid and if any other/additional co-finance can be found and generated.
Responsibility	FAO PTF and PMU, in consultation with the PSC
Proposed timeframe	Within the next 6 months
Cross-references	Finding 15 Conclusion 3

Recommendation 5 (Financial management and co-financing)	Start to record expenditure on a more detailed level, if possible per output but at least per outcome, so it will be easier to assess cost-effectiveness of particular actions and of the final results.
Rationale for recommendation	The MTR team received an expenditure overview per oracle code (budget line) and an overview of expenditure per component. Although this gives some insight into the actual expenditure and the expenditure ratio, it is difficult to assess how cost-effective specific actions were, and e.g. which activities were relatively costly. Recording expenditure at a more detailed level, for example of pilot projects, will provide a deeper understanding of the funds needed to upscale such activities and if it would be realistic to continue these activities after project end. As the project is now gaining momentum and it can be expected that important progress towards achieving outputs and outcomes will start to be made, it seems the right moment to start recording expenditure at a more detailed level.
Responsibility	PTF and FAO operational management
Proposed timeframe	As soon as possible
Cross-references	Finding 8, 15 Conclusion 3

Recommendation 6 (Communication)	FAO to ensure that a methodical/strategic communication and awareness raising strategy for the entire project is prepared and implemented, including budget for the communication activities. Additionally, the M&E as well as gender plans need to be updated and brought in line with the communication and awareness raising strategy.
Rationale for recommendation	As few activities were implemented, awareness raising activities have not yet taken place and communication with stakeholders has been ad hoc. Communication and Awareness is a specific component of the

	<p>project (component 4) which is meant to strengthen and support the results of the other three components. These aspects are a vital part of the project, and many interviewees also mentioned that awareness raising should get specific attention and is crucial for attaining sustainable project results and for changing attitudes and behaviours. Specific target groups have already been identified in the ProDoc: farmers, government extension and technical staff, agricultural and public health private sector providers, and consumers. The ProDoc also explains that two key messages will be developed related to the benefits of using non-chemical, less hazardous chemicals and technologies, as well as the hidden costs and risks associated with the use of illegal chemicals including POPs pesticides.</p> <p>Within component 4 it is planned that a communication strategy will be developed. Until now, a methodical strategy taking into consideration the key target groups and messages has not been developed. Recently a communication specialist has been appointed who is preparing communication activities related to the safeguarding and disposal of the DDT stockpile at Chattogram. It is also planned to prepare a film of the safeguarding activities.</p> <p>It is recommended that: 1) communication and awareness raising will receive immediate and specific attention and that a comprehensive methodical and result based communication strategy for all three components will be developed that will elaborate on the specific target groups (with specific attention being paid to gender issues and women, as was also planned at project design), on key messages and communication tools. The most relevant aspects of this strategy can be presented and discussed during the Inception Workshop (which is planned for November 2021). 2) Additionally, it is recommended that the gender and M&E plans are revised and updated now that a gender expert and M&E officer have been appointed. It is important that the communication strategy and the M&E and gender plans are in line with each other and that the communication strategy and gender aspects are well monitored.</p>
Responsibility	FAO Bangladesh/Communication and Knowledge Management specialist/Gender expert/M&E officer
Proposed timeframe	Within the next 6 months
Cross-references	Finding 18, 19, 20 Conclusion 3

6. Lessons learned

As few project activities have been executed and there is little progress towards achieving project results, the MTR did not produce many lessons learned as it is too early in the project’s implementation. Nevertheless, the MTR generated the following three lessons learned:

Lesson Learned 1	When a project can be expected to be influenced by long (administrative) procedures, and complex organizational structures, it is necessary to plan the timeframe of the project realistically and allow for a longer start-up phase.
Context	The TAPP approval process is generally a longer process that affects the implementation of projects in Bangladesh. There are usually also other administrative and contracting issues that need to be addressed before projects (everywhere) can really start to be implemented. Often these aspects are not considered thoroughly when a project is developed. When a project is designed where it can be expected that administrative procedures will take a long time during the start-up phase, and certainly when the organization structure is complex (in this case, four governmental executing agencies), the project duration should be planned more realistically.
Cross-references	Findings 3, 7, 12 Conclusions 2, 3

Lesson Learned 2	As long as no actual activities can be implemented due to valid reasons, it is important to keep executing partners, as well as other stakeholders, updated regularly to make them aware of/keep them engaged in the project.
Context	The limited and slow response of stakeholders to participate in the MTR process showed that stakeholders are not very engaged yet, even if they consider the project results as relevant to their work and to the country. Stakeholders – besides FAO and the executing partners – were not really aware of the project. It is important to keep stakeholders engaged, also when no or not all project activities can be implemented yet, or the coordination and supervision structures of the project are not (fully) operational. Keeping stakeholders informed and engaged will ease the process of getting them involved and committed when project activities can start.
Cross-references	Findings 14, 16, 17 Conclusion 1, 3

Lesson Learned 3	The project needs a project manager to provide oversight, run the project and take decisions.
Context	FAO staff in Bangladesh and FAO consultants have worked hard in complicated and unprecedented circumstances, and therefore important preparatory activities for safeguarding and disposal of the DDT stockpile at Chattogram could be conducted. Although a project manager was hired previously, this person did finally not work for the project and a new project manager had to be appointed, which took some time. Now the TAPP is approved and the lockdown restrictions lifted, the new project manager has started to have discussions with the executing agencies and hired specialists such as a monitoring officer, communication specialist and gender expert. In general, projects need a (experienced) project manager to provide oversight, run the project and take decisions. It is important that there is a person responsible,

	managing the project, coordinating, discussing, and taking decisions. This also makes the project more visible and clear to other stakeholders.
Cross-references	Findings 3, 12 Conclusion 3

7. Appendices

Appendix 1. Terms of reference for the MTR (May 2021)

Terms of reference for the mid-term review of *Pesticide Risk Reduction in Bangladesh GCP/BGD/060/GFF*

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Representation in Bangladesh
May 2021

Acronyms and abbreviations

ADB : Asian Development Bank
BARI : Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute
BCPA : Bangladesh Crop Protection Association
BCSIR : Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
BFSA : Bangladesh Food Safety Authority
BH : Budget Holder
CAB : Consumers Association of Bangladesh
CMSD : Central Medicine Storage Depot
DAE : Department of Agriculture Extension
DDT : Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane
DGHS : Directorate General of Health Services
DoE : Department of Environment
DoF : Department of Fisheries
ESS : Environmental and Social Safeguards
FAO : Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLO : Funding Liaison Officer
FAO GEF CU : FAO GEF Coordination Unit
GEF : Global Environmental Facility
HYV : High Yield Variety
IFRB : Institute of Food and Radiation Biology
LOA : Letter of Agreement
LTO : Lead Technical Officer
MoEFCC : Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
MSD : Medical Sub-depot
MTRs : Mid-Term Reviews
NIP : National Implementation Plan
NPD : National Project Director
OFP : Operational Focal Point
PMU : Project Management Unit
POPs : Persistent Organic Pollutants
PPW : Plant Protection Wing
PSC : Project Steering Committee
PTF : Project Task Force
RM : Mid-term Review Manager
TOC : Theory of Change
UNEG : United Nations Evaluation Group
WHO : World Health Organization

Section 1: Introduction

This document provides the template for the terms of reference for mid-term reviews (MTRs) of FAO “Pesticide Risk reduction in Bangladesh” project.

The objective of the evaluation is to provide an assessment of progress made towards realizing the project’s objectives. Assess progress made towards achievement of the project’s results, identify challenges, major problems, difficulties and constraints encountered during the first half of the project implementation. To propose recommendations for resolving the identified difficulties so that they do not negatively impact upon the project’s implementation, and to enhance positive impacts/results.

1.1 Project background and context

The use of pesticide started in Bangladesh in 1955 with the application of three tonnes of endrin for the cultivation of a high yielding variety (HYV) of rice. The use of pesticides gradually increased for almost all crops. Other crops for which large amounts of pesticides are used include sugarcane, cotton and vegetables. Pesticides contributed to increasing the productivity of the agricultural sector in Bangladesh and achieving self-sufficiency in food production.

In 1985 the Government of Bangladesh, through the Asian Development Bank (ADB) financed project implemented by the World Health Organization (WHO), imported around 500 tonnes of the notoriously toxic and currently illegal pesticide Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), which were, however, considered not in compliance with the technical requirements and therefore, were stored in Chattogram Government Medical Sub-depot (MSD). The stockpile has remained there since, where due to the adverse effect of a humid tropical climate on DDT molecular stability the stock has become severely degraded and largely obsolete. In addition, in 1991 the area was exposed to the severe floods that exacerbated greatly the problem by flushing DDT into the surrounding environment. DDT persists in soil, water and bio-accumulates in organisms through the food chain. Eventual consumption by humans has toxic and likely carcinogenic effects. Bangladesh has one of the highest population densities of any country in the world and the port city of Chattogram is the second largest city of Bangladesh. DDT stockpile is in the centre of the city. People living in slums surrounding the depot until recently, very likely have been exposed to DDT. The stockpile poses a very high risk to human health and ecosystem function. The increased frequency of flooding in the area driven by climate change makes action to prevent further release very urgent.

Bangladesh’s NIP (2007) has reported that illegally imported DDT had been misused until 2005 for dry fish preservation. However, tests of dry fish in the year 2010 from 24 samples from six marketplaces in Chattogram showed that they contained DDT and heptachlor.¹ This suggests that these chemicals may have been continued to be used beyond 2005 to dry fish being spoiled by insects. Use of other obsolete pesticides to prevent fly infestation during drying has been reported. People apprehend that illegal DDT comes from neighbouring countries, allegedly from India through the border.

In general, in Bangladesh there is neither strategy nor capacity for collecting and disposing of hazardous waste such as (obsolete) pesticides and national regulations and border customs practice contain loopholes that allow hazardous substances to escape attention. At the same time the population and also the use of pesticides in Bangladesh are increasing significantly. This project intends to support the Government of Bangladesh in updating its national regulations in relation

to the Stockholm Convention and developing the national capacity for the management and safe disposal of hazardous wastes, in order to safeguard people and environment.

Existing stockpiles of POPs pesticides in Bangladesh

The collection center comprises of the Government Medical Sub-depot (MSD) in the city of Chattogram (previously known as Chittagong) in Bangladesh. The MSD is a brick and concrete constructed complex of buildings in a gated compound, which can be secured. The DDT is located in four areas of the MSD complex, three of which are at ground floor level and one at first floor level.

The storage facility is located in the middle of a residential area, which is currently undergoing urban development and improvement. The area is prone to flooding due to a combination of frequent high tides and heavy rain. During the disastrous flooding event which occurred in 1991 in Bangladesh, a large amount of DDT was released into the surrounding environment as a consequence of the flooding. The probability of the recurrence of severe floods in that area is high, and as three of the four storages of DDT are located on the ground floor, there is a high probability of release of DDT as a consequence of even less severe floods.

The total net quantity of remaining inventoried stockpile of obsolete DDT pesticides is approximately 500 tonnes, while the total quantity of waste to be handled during the current contract is estimated to reach 750 tonnes, along with the DDT associated wastes. The waste is located in four areas of the Government Medical Sub-depot (MSD) complex, three of which are at ground floor level and one at first floor level.

Section 2: Description of the project, project objectives and components

Project Title:	Pesticide Risk Reduction in Bangladesh
FAO Project symbol:	GCP/BGD/060/GFF
FAO Project ID:	635605
GEF Project ID:	9076
Recipient Country(ies):	Bangladesh
GEF Implementing Agency:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Executing Agencies:	Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Department of Agricultural Extension, Ministry of Agriculture; Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.
Expected EOD (Starting Date):	1 January 2019 (<i>or from the date of signing</i>)
Expected NTE (End Date):	31 December 2021 (<i>or 3 years from date of signing</i>)
Contribution to FAO’s Strategic Framework: (Indicate as appropriate)	<p>Strategic Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SO2: Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable <p>Regional Initiative/Priority Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing equitable, productive and sustainable natural resources management and utilization.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coping with the impact of climate change on agriculture and food and nutritional security. <p>Country Programming Framework(s) Output:</p> <p>Priority 2: Enhance agricultural productivity through diversification/intensification, sustainable management of natural resources, use of quality inputs and mechanization</p> <p>Outcome 2B: Strengthened technical capacity (institutional and individual) for developing and implementing sustainable production programmes and</p> <p>Outcome 2F: Sustainable natural resources management practices promoted for protection of environment and conservation of natural resources and biodiversity.</p>
Contribution to GEF TF Focal Area Strategic Objectives and Programs:	
Environmental and Social Risk Classification	low risk <input type="checkbox"/> moderate risk <input type="checkbox"/> high risk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Category C: No physical construction, structural renovation
Gender Marker ²	G0 <input type="checkbox"/> G1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G2a <input type="checkbox"/> G2b <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing Plan: GEF allocation:	USD 8 295 000
Co-financing:	
FAO Grants:	USD 7 841 050
DoE/MoEFCC:	USD 840 000
DAE/MoA:	USD 20 862 000
DGHS/MoHFW:	USD 2 200 000
DoF/MoFL:	USD 2 000 000
Sub-total co-financing:	USD 33 743 050
Total budget:	USD 42 038 050

2.1 Project Objectives

The project objective is to reduce risk to human and animal health and the environment from Stockpiles of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), other obsolete pesticides and from ongoing excessive use of new POPs and other Highly Hazardous Pesticides. More specifically, the project aims to reduce the risk to human and animal health and the environment through the environmentally sound elimination of 1000 tonnes (approx.) of POPs pesticides including DDT and through the reduction of exposure to POPs pesticides, Highly Hazardous Pesticides and other toxic chemicals achieved through a better management of empty pesticide containers, better food preservation and agricultural practices, and an improved legislation on chemical management. The project proposes collecting, cleaning up and safely disposing of the large stockpile of obsolete DDT in Chattogram, while developing national capacity on emergency preparedness, safe practice in the management of hazardous wastes, risk assessment, and sampling and analysis in the field and laboratory for environmental monitoring.

2.2 Project components

Component 1: Disposal of legacy stockpiles of POPs

This component will address the elimination of stockpiles of POPs pesticides in the agriculture and public health sectors. More specifically, the DDT stockpile currently stored in the Medical Sub-depot of DGHS in Chattogram will be safeguarded, packaged and destroyed in an environmentally sound manner. In addition, this component will cover the disposal and management of POPs pesticides including empty pesticide containers. Component 1 is composed of three outcomes. Outcome 1.1 deals with the safe disposal of the DDT stockpile in Chattogram, outcome 1.2 focuses capacity building training for government officials on the characterization and site-specific risk assessment of pesticide contaminated areas and outcome 1.3 deals with the safe disposal of empty pesticide containers.

Outcome 1.1 Elimination of a legacy stockpile of DDT in Bangladesh

Outcome 1.2 Capacity developed to characterize and assess risk from POPs pesticide contaminated sites.

Outcome 1.3 Management options for empty pesticide containers developed

Component 2: Governance and enforcement

This component aims to strengthen controls on pesticide imports, production and sale with a view to stop illegal uses of POPs (in particular DDT). Component 2 is composed of one outcome with four interrelated outputs. The outcome 2.1 addresses to stop illegal uses of POPs. A better control over pesticides used in Bangladesh will provide the foundation that is needed to more effectively implement the Stockholm Convention and reduce risks from pesticides, improve the sustainability of agricultural production and generate economic, environmental and social benefits.

Outcome 2.1 Strengthened control on POPs pesticides imports, production and sale.

Component 3: POPs pesticides uses addressed

This component consolidates three outcomes that aims to reduce risks to people, including consumers and the environment from pesticide use. Pesticide use in Bangladesh is considered to be high and there is widespread concern about pesticide residues in food, reduced biodiversity in agricultural areas and environmental contamination from pesticides. There is illegal use of POPs pesticides that may be smuggled into the country or removed from stockpiles. POPs appear as residues in widely consumed food items and there is low capacity and poor enforcement of environmental monitoring, import controls and appropriate use practices. There also continues to be exposure of the population to POPs of unknown origin.

Outcome 3.1. Ongoing and illegal uses and unintentional exposures to POPs pesticides addressed.

Outcome 3.2. Improved monitoring and reporting of POPs pesticides residues in food, POPs pesticides poisoning and POPs pesticides contamination in the environment.

Outcome 3.3. Promotion of alternative, low hazard pest control options in agriculture and public health

Component 4: Awareness and communication

Communication and awareness in relation to pesticide risks and ways of reducing those risks is extremely limited in Bangladesh. Interestingly, a recent campaign led by food retailers aims to reassure consumers about the presence of formalin in fish. It provides an interesting example of how consumer concern can drive changes in food production practices.

The purpose of the awareness and communication component will be to provide information concerning:

- Benefits for the society, human and animal health and the environment of using safe approaches in all stages of agriculture and food production;
- Means of reducing risks while using registered pesticides; and
- Unsustainability and risks associated with the use of POPs pesticides.

The awareness and communication component will be an important tool to inform about the gender-specific risk associated to the presence of POPs pesticides including DDT in the environment, and the way to reduce it.

Outcome 4.1. Awareness of risks of continued and illegal use of POPs pesticides and about alternatives, developed among farmers, extension staff, agricultural input traders and consumers.

Section 3: Project stakeholders and their role

In Table 1, the list of key stakeholders, their role, and their contribution to the implementation of the project is summarized.

Stakeholder	Stakeholder role	Role in the project
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is the nodal agency in administrative structure of the Government for planning, promotion, coordination and overseeing the implementation of environmental and forestry programmes. The mission of MOEFCC is to ensure sustainable environment and forest through conservation of ecosystem and biodiversity; controlling environmental pollution; addressing climate change; research, floristic survey and development of forest resources. MoEFCC oversees all environmental matters in the country and is a permanent member of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council.	Secretary, MoEFCC will Chair the Project Steering Committee to provide guidance to overall implementation of the project in line with country needs and obligations. Secretary, MoEFCC is the GEF Operation Focal Point as well.
Department of Environment (DoE)	DoE is the technical wing under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and is statutorily responsible for the implementation of the Environment Conservation Act, 1995 (amendment 2010). DoE is national focal point of the Stockholm Convention and of the Basel Convention.	DoE, as national focal point of Stockholm Convention, is the lead Government Executing Agency for this project and responsible will be accountable for the GoB in cooperation with FAO and GEF for ensuring (1) successful implementation of the project; (2) Coordination with other three associated executing agencies namely DAE, DGHS, DoF and other stakeholders involved in project activities. DOE is the coordinating agency and playing overall leading role in execution of project activities as well as overall coordination and monitoring at national level. DoE has accommodated the Project Management Unit (PMU) office and deployed on deputation one official as the National Project Director (NPD).

Stakeholder	Stakeholder role	Role in the project
		<p>The Ministry is responsible for ensuring overall coordination of the project’s implementation, as well as coordination and collaboration with associated partner departments and other entities participating in the project.</p>
<p>Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)</p>	<p>DAE, under Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), is the largest public extension service provider in crop sub-sector of Bangladesh. DAE aims to provide efficient and effective needs-based extension services to all categories of farmer, to enable them to optimize their use of resources, in order to promote sustainable agricultural and socio-economic development. The Plant Protection Wing (PPW) of DAE implement & establish integrated pest management in farmer’s level for preserving environment, provide registration certificate and licenses for different types of agricultural pesticide and public health products as well as its production & marketing, ensure quality production and distribution of pesticides for judicial use of pesticide in farmer’s level.</p>	<p>DAE is one of the Executing Agencies for implementation of the project and also represent in Project Steering Committee and Project Implementation Committee. The key interventions of DAE under project are related to POPs pesticide regulation and registration; risk reduction POPs pesticides used in agriculture; demonstration of alternative to POPs pesticides, and awareness raising and communication strategy.</p> <p>DAE agreed to mobilise resources and support to deliver necessary services under this project and will provide co-financing contribution.</p>
<p>Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)</p>	<p>The DGHS is one of the agencies under the Health Services Division of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh. The main functions of this agency are implementation of different health programs, health management, planning & execution of different policies through administration. In addition to this, DGHS provides technical assistance to the Ministry; National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) under Director, Disease Control Department; plays a key role in controlling communicable diseases such as malaria, kala-azar, dengue, chikungunya etc. in the country.</p>	<p>DGHS is one of the Executing agencies for implementation of the project and also will represent in Project Steering Committee and Project Implementation Committee. The Medical Sub-depot Storage Facility in Chattogram in under the DGHS. Under the project DGHS will carry-out activities related to compliance of health and safety requirements during safeguarding and packaging of DDT stockpiles, and will provide coordination with local communities including workers involved in activities, to identify alternative location(s) for the employees of Health Services Department. DGHS will be also in charge of further dissemination of IVM and holistic approaches for malaria control envisaged under component 3 of the project. Office of Director (Disease Control) and Director, Central Medicine Storage Depot (CMSD) under</p>

Stakeholder	Stakeholder role	Role in the project
		DGHS will play a key role in the implementation of this project.
Department of Fisheries (DoF)	DoF, under Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL) is the responsible agency for dissemination of improved aquaculture technologies through training and demonstration and to extend extension advisory services to the focal stakeholders; enhance fisheries resources through enacting conservation and management measures; assist the administrative ministry to formulate policies, acts etc. and enforce quality control measures and issuance of health certificates for exportable fish and fish products.	DoF is one of the Executing Agencies of the project and dully represent in Project Steering Committee and Project Implementation Committee. DoF has already developed and piloted technologies for safe manufacturing of dry fish. As main extension provider in fisheries sector, DoF is going to implement activities related to the demonstration, incentivizing and dissemination of safe practices of dry fish production.
Bangladesh Crop Protection Association (BCPA)	BCPA is the representative organization of business enterprises who are involved in Import/Formulation /Marketing of Plant Protection Chemicals and non-profit business organization established in 1976 recognized by Ministry of Commerce. The vision of BCPA is to safeguard the interest and developing plant protection chemical business in the country complying local and international rules and regulations for achieving food security livelihood through protecting environmental pollution and reducing health hazard.	BCPA through their members will provide support in implementation of empty pesticide container management and stewardship program of the project utilizing its trained manpower and established network of BCPA members with retailers of pesticides. Syngenta Bangladesh, an important BCPA member provided their expression of interest to work on this issue on a partnership basis.
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI)	BARI is a member of National Agricultural Research System (NARS) under Ministry of Agriculture and is the largest multi-crop research institute conducting research on a wide variety of crops, such as cereals, tubers, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables, fruits, spices, flowers, etc.	BARI has already carried out a first monitoring including sampling and analysis of DDT stockpile in Chattogram. BARI, through its departments, can assist in the implementation of surveys and monitoring envisaged in several components of the project, as well as demonstration of nontoxic alternatives to pesticides, such as use of pheromone traps.
Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR)	BCSIR is under the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST). Its Mission is to support industrialization and development of the country through establishment of international standard laboratories, skilled manpower, technological innovation and handover.	BCSIR could be involved in research and training activities related to certification of laboratories.

Stakeholder	Stakeholder role	Role in the project
Institute of Food and Radiation Biology (IFRB)	IFRB is under Ministry of Science and Information Technology that conducts pesticide residue studies in different food matrices.	Potential partner in conducting pesticide residue studies and training.
Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB)	CAB maintain liaison and create awareness among consumers regarding harmful effects of POPs pesticides through seminar	To sensitize consumers regarding harmful effects of POPs pesticides
Farmers/Growers	Farmers are backbone of the economy of Bangladesh and one of the most important components of society.	As one of the most important beneficiaries of the project, farmers will participate actively in component related to collection of empty pesticide containers. Farmers will be involved in training and awareness-raising activities, which will allow them to increase farmer to farmer communication about new alternative technologies for pests and disease management. Women and children that work in the farms will benefit from reduced exposure to pesticides through adoption of improved pest management practices and general improvements in pesticide management via increased awareness about the risk of pesticides. Vulnerable groups including seasonal workers and their families will be explicitly targeted.
Manufacturers of dry fish products	Manufacturing and commercializing of dry fish products.	The manufacturers of dry fish products will be involved in demonstration of non-chemical technologies for preservation of fish, and in piloting of an incentive mechanism for the sector.
Local population nearby the Chattogram pesticide depot	People, who are currently living or were living until recently (people living in slums near the depot were resettled in 2017) in the vicinity of the Chattogram depot is potentially affected by DDT exposure.	As suggested by the manager of MSD facility in Chattogram, local population may be involved in repackaging and safeguarding activities, upon a transparent recruitment process and extensive training provided by specialized international provider.
Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA)	Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) is an autonomous national regulatory agency under the Ministry of Food established on 2 February 2015. Bangladesh National Parliament passed the Food Safety Act 2013 on 10 October 2013. Under this law Bangladesh Food Safety Authority was established on 2 February 2015 and it is governed by a five-member decision-making committee. BFSA has been established	BFSA will be the beneficiary of many training activities to be carried out in the course of project implementation, with specific regards to training under outcomes 3.2 and 3.3.

Stakeholder	Stakeholder role	Role in the project
	for regulating through coordination, the activities relating to food production, import, processing, stockpiling, supplying, marketing and sales as well as to ensure people’s right of access to safe food.	
The members of the Project Task Force (PTF)	Budget Holder (BH), FAO project funding liaison officers (FLOs) and lead technical officers (LTOs)	Management and monitoring successful completion of MTR

Section 4: Theory of change

No explicit theory of change (TOC) has been developed during the project formulation phase. The project team has developed a preliminary TOC, based on project document, relevant articles, reports, policy papers and legal frameworks. However, the MTR team will reconstruct a comprehensive theory of change after the fact as part of the inception report, based on the project’s log frame and review of other project documents.

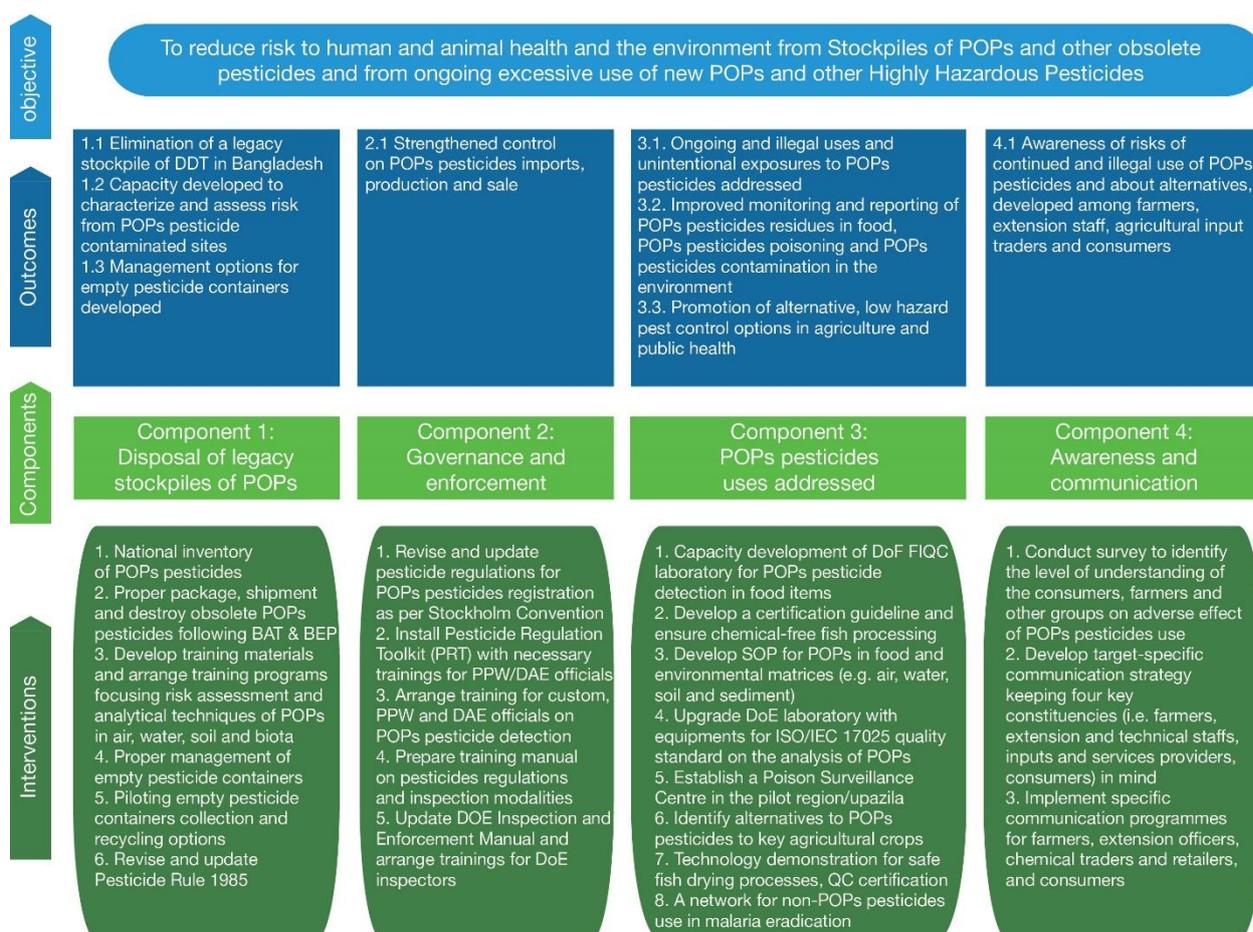


Figure 1. Preliminary theory of change for the Pesticide Risk Reduction in Bangladesh project

Section 5: Implementation progress and main challenges to date

Overall, the implementation of project activities has been severely hampered by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, the progress has been slow.

Under component 1, communication with DAE and DGHS has been initiated to do an inventory of POPs status in Bangladesh. However, field visits, assessments and trainings could not be undertaken due to travel restrictions. On the other hand, there is good progress in the tendering process (done on 31 March 2020) for “Provision of Safeguarding, Transport, and Final Destruction of Pesticide Stockpile”. The project site was surveyed, and sample collection was done by the international bidders on 25 August 2020. In addition, a contract for DDT disposal was signed with POLYECO S.A. on 25 January 2021.

The process of identifying the quantity and location of obsolete pesticides has started. Correspondence with government agencies is underway. In addition, the process to conclude a Letter of Agreement (LoA) with (i) Department of Environment (DoE), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC); (ii) Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA); (iii) Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), (iv) Department of Fisheries (DoF), Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL) has started and is progressing well.

Activities related to the management options for empty pesticide containers have not yet started due to prevailing COVID-19 pandemic.

Component 2: Governance and enforcement

Activities under this component have not yet started.

Component 3: POPs pesticides uses addressed

During this reporting period, the processes for signing LOAs with government agencies to speed up the analysis of POPs Pesticide residue in foods and to strengthen POPs pesticide residues monitoring and reporting have started. Once this process is completed, the project will be able to put in place an environmental pesticide monitoring and incident reporting system.

There is, however, no progress in identifying ongoing and illegal uses of POPs pesticides and sources of unintentional exposures to POPs pesticides as this would require conducting an assessment on the field. Currently, filed activities remain under restriction due to the pandemic. In addition, for the same reason, the activities related to the promotion of alternative, low hazard pest control options in agriculture and public health have not yet started.

Component 4. Awareness and communication

There is no progress to be reported under this component. Awareness and communication activities could not be undertaken as field activities have not yet started.

Main challenges to date

- Emergence of COVID-19 pandemic that does not allow field activities,
- Government agencies engaged in this project are occupied with managing COVID-19 situation as urgent and top priority,
- The overall staff recruitment process has been delayed due to COVID-19 and conditions are not conducive to deliver field activities,
- UN agencies (e.g. WHO, FAO, UNDP) moved into teleworking modality instead of physical presence in the field,
- Project staff/consultants movements are restricted/stopped due to pandemic situation in the country and due to instructions from national authorities and the UN. However, initiatives are taken to start movements whenever the situation appears to have eased,

- ❑ Project activities have started but progress is hampered/stopped due to lockdowns, red zone restrictions, etc.

Section 6: MTR purpose and scope

The purpose of MTR is to provide an independent assessment of progress in the implementation of POPs project’s current strategy, evaluation criteria of relevance, efficiency, sustainability and impact, to review the performance, governance structure and operation system. Also, to inform the FAO GEF team and other stakeholders about project progress and effectiveness in achieving expected project objectives and outputs.

6.1 The main purpose of the MTR:

- provide accountability – to respond to the information needs and interests of actors with decision-making power;
- improve the project/programme – project/programme improvement and organizational development provide valuable information to managers and others responsible for regular project/programme operations; and
- contribute to knowledge – in-depth understanding and contextualization of the project/programme and its practices, of particular benefit to the FAO GEF, FAO staff and future developers and implementers.

The main audience and the intended users of the MTR are:

The Government of Bangladesh, responsible for project execution in close collaboration with the FAO as GEF Implementing Agency, under the direct execution modality (DEX).

FAO Bangladesh and the Project Task Force that will use the findings and lessons identified in the MTR to continue and improve the project activities and plan for sustainability of the results achieved.

The Government counterparts such as the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Department of Environment (DoE), Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Department of Fisheries (DoF), Bangladesh Crop Protection Association (BCPA), Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI), Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), Institute of Food and Radiation Biology, (IFRB), Ministry of Science and Information Technology, Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), Farmers/Growers, Manufacturers of dry fish products, Local population near the Chattogram pesticide depot and Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) that will use the review findings and conclusions for future practice.

This will be done bearing in mind the possible delays that may have affected implementation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The MTR will draw specific findings and conclusions and formulate recommendations to help identify any needed course corrections in the approach and activities; it will bring valuable external reflections to help strengthen the program. The MTR may also identify

specific good practices and lessons to be learned for the formulation and execution of other similar projects.

6.2 The scope of the MTR:

The MTR will cover project implementation period since its start of the project until June 2021 and will analyse all project components. It will cover all geographical areas where the project has been implemented although not all the project locations might be visited by the MTR team.

Section 7: MTR objectives and key questions

7.1 MTR objectives

The MTR objectives describe precisely what it should achieve and what it should examine in relation to the GEF evaluation criteria. It will address and rate the following:

Relevance – the extent to which the intervention’s design and intended results are consistent with local, national, sub-regional and regional environmental and development priorities and policies and to GEF and FAO strategic priorities and objectives; its complementarity with existing interventions and relevance to project stakeholders and beneficiaries; its suitability to the context of the intervention over time.

Effectiveness – the degree to which the intervention has achieved or expects to achieve results (project outputs, outcomes, objectives and impacts, including Global Environmental Benefits) (GEF, 2019c) taking into account key factors influencing the results, including an assessment of whether sufficient capacity has been built to ensure the delivery of results by the end of project and beyond and the likelihood of mid- and longer-term impacts.

Efficiency – the cost-effectiveness of the project and timeliness of activities; the extent to which the intervention has achieved value for resources by converting inputs (funds, personnel, expertise, equipment, etc.) into results in the timeliest and least costly way compared with alternatives.

Sustainability – the (likely) continuation of positive effects from the intervention after it has ended and the potential for scale-up and/or replication; any financial, socio-political, institutional and governance, or environmental risks to sustainability of project results and benefits; any evidence of replication or catalysis of project results.

Factors affecting performance – the main factors to be considered are:

- project design and readiness for implementation (e.g. sufficient partner capacity to begin operations, changes in context between formulation and operational start);
- project execution, including project management (execution modality as well as the involvement of counterparts and different stakeholders);
- project implementation, including supervision by FAO (BH, LTO and FLO), backstopping, and general PTF input;
- financial management and mobilization of expected co-financing;
- project partnerships and stakeholder involvement (including the degree of ownership of project results by stakeholders), political support from government, institutional support from operating partners (such as regional branches of agricultural extension services or forestry authorities);
- communication, public awareness and knowledge management; and

- application of an M&E system, including M&E design, implementation and budget.

Cross-cutting dimensions – considerations such as gender, indigenous-peoples and minority-group concerns and human rights; the environmental and social safeguards applied to a project require, among other things, a review of the Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) risk classification and risk-mitigation provisions identified at the project’s formulation stage.

Section 8: MTR questions

The following evaluation questions should be considered. Further questions should be developed by the evaluation team in cooperation with the Implementing Agency and Executing Partner during the inception phase to tailor it to the particular needs and context of project.

<p>1. Relevance (rating required)</p>	<p>Are the project outcomes congruent with country priorities, GEF focal areas/operational programme strategies, the FAO Country Programming Framework, the POPs project objectives and the needs and priorities of targeted beneficiaries (government institutions, local communities, farmers)?</p> <p>Has there been any change in the relevance of the project since its formulation, such as the adoption of new national policies, plans or programmes that affect the relevance of the project's objectives and goals? If so, are there any changes that need to be made to the project to make it more relevant?</p> <p>How appropriate and relevant is the project approach and intervention logic in terms of its objectives and anticipated outcomes, and within the project region context? To what extent is the project fit-for-purpose to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eliminate of the legacy stockpile of DDT in Bangladesh. - Strengths control on POPs pesticides imports, production and sale. - Illegal and ongoing uses and unintentional exposures to POPs pesticides. - Raise awareness of risk of continued and illegal use of the POPs pesticides and about the alternatives develop among the farmers, extension services staff, agriculture input traders and consumers.
<p>2. Effectiveness of project results (rating required)</p>	<p><i>(Delivery of results)</i> To what extent has the project delivered on its outputs, outcomes and objectives? What broader results (if any) has the project had at regional and global level to date? Were there any unintended consequences? Is there any evidence of environmental stress reduction (for example, in direct threats to biodiversity) or environmental status change (such as an improvement in the populations of target species), reflecting global environmental benefits or any change in policy, legal or regulatory frameworks? To what extent can the achievement of results be attributed to the GEF-funded component?</p> <p>How effective has been the project so far in engaging with key decision makers and other key stakeholders in country to mainstream the project in implementation and decision making?</p> <p>What are the enabling/constraining factors influencing the achievement and non-achievements of the outcomes? In particular,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">What constrain factors underlie postponing elimination of the DDT stockpiles?</p>

	<p>What enabling factors underlie successful implementation and conversely, what barriers hinder successful implementation?</p> <p><i>(Targets)</i> To what extent has the project delivered on achieving the set targets? How were the targets developed and set? To what extent the set targets are relevant to the project? To what extent the targets need to be readapted in line with the project progress to date?</p> <p><i>(Likelihood of impact)</i> Are there any barriers or other risks that may prevent future progress towards and the achievement of the project’s longer-term objectives? What can be done to increase the likelihood of positive impacts from the project? To what extent can the progress towards long-term impacts be attributed to the project?</p>
<p>3. Efficiency (rating required)</p>	<p>To what extent has the project been implemented efficiently and cost effectively? To what extent has project management been able to adapt to any changing conditions to improve the efficiency of project implementation?</p> <p>To what extent has the project built on existing agreements, initiatives, data sources, synergies and complementarities with other projects, partnerships, etc. and avoided duplication of similar activities by other groups and initiatives?</p>
<p>4. Sustainability (rating required)</p>	<p><i>(Sustainability)</i> What is the likelihood that the project results will be useful or persist after the end of the project? What are the key risks that may affect the sustainability of the project results and its benefits (consider financial, socioeconomic, institutional and governance, and environmental aspects)? What efforts are being made to ensure sustainability of TRI results in the long term?</p> <p><i>(Replication and catalysis)</i> What project results, lessons or experiences have been replicated (in different geographic areas) or scaled up (in the same geographic area, but on a much larger scale and funded by other sources)? What results, lessons or experiences are likely to be replicated or scaled up in the near future?</p>
<p>5. Factors affecting progress (ratings required)</p>	<p><i>(Project design)</i> Is the project design suited to delivering the expected outcomes? Is the project’s causal logic coherent and clear? To what extent are the project’s objectives and components clear, practical and feasible within the timeframe allowed? To what extent was gender integrated into the project’s objectives and results framework? Were other actors – civil society, indigenous peoples or private sector – involved in project design or implementation and what was the effect on project results?</p> <p><i>(Project execution and management)</i> To what extent did the executing agency effectively discharge its role and responsibilities in managing and administering the project? What have been the main challenges in terms of project management and administration? How well have risks been identified and managed? What changes are needed to improve delivery in the latter half of the project?</p> <p><i>(Achievements and challenges)</i> To what extent has the project progressed in achieving the expected outcomes in each of its components?</p> <p>What are the early markers of changes among decision/policy makers, and other relevant partners that demonstrate the project is on its way to deliver on its intended outcomes?</p> <p>What are the enabling/constraining factors influencing the achievement and non-achievements of the outcomes?</p>

	<p>What are the early markers of the project being on track to achieve its environmental and development objectives?</p> <p>Are there any unintended consequences as a result of the actions of the project program and its partners?</p> <p><i>(Financial management and co-financing)</i> What have been the financial-management challenges of the project? To what extent has pledged co-financing been delivered? Has any additional leveraged co-financing been provided since implementation? How has any shortfall in co-financing or unexpected additional funding affected project results?</p> <p><i>(Project oversight, implementation role)</i> To what extent has FAO delivered oversight and supervision and backstopping (technical, administrative and operational) during project identification, formulation, approval, start-up and execution?</p> <p><i>(Partnerships and stakeholder engagement)</i> To what extent have stakeholders, such as government agencies, civil society, indigenous populations, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, people with disabilities and the private sector, been involved in project formulation and implementation? What has been the effect of their involvement or non-involvement on project results? How do the various stakeholder groups see their own engagement with the project? What are the mechanisms of their involvement and how could these be improved? What are the strengths and challenges of the project’s partnerships? Has the stakeholder engagement plan been adhered to and documented? Have all stakeholders been made aware of the ESS plan and the grievance complaint mechanism?</p> <p><i>(Communication and knowledge management)</i> How effective has the project been in communicating and promoting its key messages and results to partners, stakeholders and a general audience? How can this be improved? How is the project assessing, documenting and sharing its results and lessons learned and experiences? To what extent are communication products and activities likely to support the sustainability and scaling up of project results?</p> <p><i>(M&E design)</i> Is the project’s M&E system practical and sufficient? How has stakeholder engagement and gender assessment been integrated into the M&E system? How could this be improved? To what extent are the Monitoring, Review and Learning (MEL) strategy and relate tools adequate and effective?</p> <p><i>(M&E implementation)</i> Does the M&E system operate per the M&E plan? Has information been gathered in a systematic manner, using appropriate methodologies? How effectively has TRI been able to report against the 9 core indicators required by GEF? To what extent has information generated by the M&E system during project implementation been used to adapt and improve project planning and execution, achieve outcomes and ensure sustainability? Are there gender-disaggregated targets and indicators? How can the M&E system be improved?</p>
<p>6. Cross-cutting priorities (ratings required)</p>	<p><i>(ESS)</i> To what extent were environmental and social concerns taken into consideration in the design and implementation of the project? Has the project been implemented in a manner that ensures the ESS Mitigation Plan (if one exists) has been adhered to?</p>
<p>7. Gender</p>	<p><i>(Gender and minority groups, including indigenous peoples, disadvantaged, vulnerable and people with disabilities)</i> To what extent were gender considerations taken into account in designing and implementing the project? Has the project</p>

	been designed and implemented in a manner that ensures gender-equitable participation and benefits? Was a gender analysis done?
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8.1 Questions on Covid-19 impacts

- # In what ways has the Covid-19 pandemic impacted the work of the project (delays, cancellation, etc.)?
- # What impacts did the Covid-19 pandemic have at different country levels? (national, provincial, local)
- # Given impacts from Covid-19, at this point in time, will all project activities be successfully completed by the current project end date, or will there be a need for adjustments (in time frame and/or targets)?
- # What are the adaptive measures that the project has taken (e.g., budget reallocations, timeline adjustment, etc.), and anticipate taking going forward, to address Covid-19 impacts?
- # Given the underlying links between human pressure on nature and natural systems and exposure to health risks including Covid-19, and the potential contribution that restoration can make to reducing these risks, are there ways in which the Covid-19 pandemic can be seen as an opportunity for the project and for national restoration efforts more broadly? If so, please explain.
- # What kind of support from the project support partners and FAO, if any, would be most helpful in addressing Covid-19 impacts and challenges for the national project?

Section 9: MTR Methodology

The MTR should adhere to the UNEG Norms & Standards (UNEG, 2016) and align with the FAO–GEF MTR Guide and annexes detailing methodological guidelines and practices.

The evaluation will adopt a consultative and transparent approach, keeping internal and external stakeholders informed throughout the MTR process. The evidence and information gathered will be triangulated to underpin its validity and analysis and to support its conclusions and recommendations.

1. The main evaluation tools and methods will include the following:

Review of existing project documents and reports both at project and program levels including project document, project implementation reports, project progress reports etc.

Remote interviews with key project stakeholders, including representatives of the project task force, international and national consultants, government/ministry representatives. An online questionnaire may be applied where stakeholders cannot be interviewed due to restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic. The first draft of the MTR report will be developed based on the desk-review and the interviews, and will be shared with FAO for internal reviews and comments.

Field visit – in case the Covid situation allows – to the project site will be carried out to verify project implementation and results on the field. Face-to-face meetings will be carried out during the visits.

Final decisions about the specific design and methodology for the MTR should emerge from consultations between the project team, the MTR consultants and key stakeholders on what is appropriate and feasible in order to meet the MTR’s purpose and objectives and answer the MTR’s questions.

As part of the MTR inception phase, the evaluation team will be expected to develop an inception report that will include a methodological note based on the suggested MTR questions above and suggesting additional questions or modifications to tailor the MTR to the project needs.

The link between evaluation questions, data collection, analysis, findings and conclusions must be clearly made and set out in a transparent manner in the presentation of the evaluation findings.

Conclusion and recommendations should be underpinned by a strong set of evidence. The evaluation team should ensure that the sample of project stakeholders consulted equitably represent the various possible perspectives, including in terms of gender balance.

9.1 Roles and responsibilities

The **FAO Representation in Bangladesh** and the **FAO Representative** (Budget Holder of the project) are responsible for managing the MTR process. Depending on availability and commitments, the BH may designate another individual, the RM, to act on their behalf.

With the assistance of the project’s **LTO** and the **FAO GEF CU, FLO and MTR focal point**, and guidance from this document and the main MTR Guide, the BH/RM is responsible for the drafting and finalizing the terms of reference and providing input to the background and context section.

The terms of reference should be based on a document review, discussions with the PTF and, if possible, a face-to-face or Skype meeting with the LTO to get a good understanding of the project. The BH/RM is also responsible for identifying and recruiting the MTR team members, in consultation with the FAO GEF CU and the LTO.

In collaboration with the FAO GEF CU, the BH/RM also briefs the MTR team on the MTR methodology and process and leads the organization of MTR missions. The BH/RM and the FAO GEF CU’s MTR focal point review the draft and final MTR reports to assure their quality in terms of presentation, compliance with the terms of reference, timely delivery, quality, clarity and soundness of evidence and analysis supporting the conclusions and recommendations.

The BH is also responsible for leading and coordinating the preparation of the FAO Management Response and the associated follow-up report, supported by the LTO and other members of the PTF. Further details on the Management Response can be found in the MTR Guide.

The **FAO GEF CU** will appoint a focal point to provide technical backstopping throughout the MTR process, including guidance and punctual support to the BH/RM and MTR team on technical issues related to the GEF and the MTR. This includes support in identifying potential MTR team members³ reviewing candidate qualifications and participating in the selection of consultants, as well as briefing the MTR team on the MTR process, relevant methodology and tools. The FAO GEF CU also follows up with the BH to ensure the timely preparation of the Management Response.

PTF members, including the BH, are required to participate in meetings with the MTR team, make all necessary information and documentation available and comment on the terms of reference

and MTR report. However, their level of involvement will depend on team members’ individual roles and level of participation in the project.

The **National Project Director** (NPD) facilitates the participation of government partners in the MTR process and supports the PMU in ensuring good communication across government. The **Project Steering Committee** (PSC) facilitates government and other partner and stakeholder participation in the MTR process.

The **MTR team** is responsible for developing and applying the MTR methodology, producing a brief MTR inception report, conducting the MTR and producing the MTR report. All team members will participate in briefing and debriefing meetings, discussions and field visits (if possible). They will contribute written inputs to the draft and final versions of the MTR report, which may not reflect the views of the government or of FAO. The MTR team leader will guide and coordinate the MTR team members in their specific tasks and lead the preparation of the draft and final reports. The team leader will consolidate team inputs with his/her own and will have overall responsibility for delivering the MTR report. The MTR team will agree with the FAO GEF CU MTR focal point on the outline of the report early in the MTR process, based on the template provided in Annex 12 of the MTR Guide. The MTR team is free to expand the scope, criteria, questions and issues listed above, and develop its own MTR tools and framework, within the timeframe and resources available and based on discussions with the BH/RM and PTF. Although an MTR report is not subject to technical clearance by FAO, the BH/RM and FAO GEF CU do provide quality assurance checks of all MTR reports.

The relevant **GEF Operational Focal Point** (OFP) must be involved in any GEF project or programme evaluation process, in accordance with the GEF Evaluation Policy (2019). The BH should inform the OFP of the MTR process and the MTR team is encouraged to consult with him/her during the review process. The team should also keep the OFP informed of progress and send him/her a copy of the draft and final MTR reports.

More detailed guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the key individuals and groups involved in the MTR can be found in Annexes 2 and 3 of the MTR Guide.

Section 10: MTR team composition and profile

The Mid-Term Evaluation is to be conducted by a team of 2 consultants, with the profiles outlined below. The evaluation team may also benefit from the input of a gender consultant (to be confirmed).

Annex 1 Lead consultant

Profile:

- International comparative experience in the field of POPs projects.
- Professional degree (e.g. Masters/PhD) in POPs management, Environmental Sciences, Social Sciences or relevant disciplines
- At least 5 years of relevant experience in elimination of environmental risk from POPs.
- At least 2 years of experience in GEF projects evaluation and monitoring.
- At least 5 years of relevant experience in international environmental projects in developing countries.
- Excellent English communication skills (speaking and writing).

Responsibilities:

- Documentation review
- Leading the evaluation team in planning, conducting and reporting on the evaluation, in coordination with the Team leader and National project coordinator
- Deciding on division of labour within the evaluation team
- Use of best practice evaluation methodologies in conducting the evaluation
- Leading presentation of the draft evaluation findings and recommendations in-country
- Conducting the debriefing for FAO Bangladesh and regional staff
- Leading the drafting and finalization of the evaluation report

Annex 2

Annex 3 National consultant

Profile:

- Good understanding of POPs projects, process and issues in Bangladesh.
- Experience in the area of pesticide pollution, environment degradation and natural resources management in Bangladesh.
- Experience in conducting evaluations – applied knowledge of evaluation methods and tools.
- Excellent English (oral and written). Able to effectively communicate with local stakeholders in English and local language.

Responsibilities:

- Documentation review
- Contributing to the development of the evaluation plan and methodology
- Conducting those elements of the evaluation determined by the lead decentralization consultant
- Contributing to presentation of the evaluation findings and recommendations at the evaluation wrap-up meeting
- Contributing to the drafting and finalization of the evaluation report.

Both consultants are expected to demonstrate the following competencies:

- results focus
- teamwork
- excellent communication skills (both written and oral) in English
- building effective relationships
- knowledge sharing and continuous improvement

The MTR consultants should be independent of any organizations that have been involved in designing, executing or advising on any aspect of the project being evaluated in the MTR and should not have been involved in any aspect of the project previously.

Section 11: MTR products (deliverables)

The MTR inception report. The MTR team should prepare an inception report before beginning data collection. This should detail the MTR team’s understanding of what is being assessed and why, and their understanding of the project and its aims (set out in a theory of change). It serves as a map and reference for planning and conducting an MTR and as a useful tool for summarizing and visually presenting the MTR design and methodology in discussions with stakeholders. The inception report details the GEF evaluation criteria, the questions the MTR seeks to answer (in the form of an MTR matrix), the data sources

and data collection methods, analysis tools or methods appropriate for each data source and data collection method, and the standard or measure by which each question will be evaluated. The inception report should include a proposed schedule of tasks, activities and deliverables, designating a team member with lead responsibility for each task or product. The inception report will take into consideration the Theory of Change developed by the Global child management unit.

The draft MTR report. The project team, BH/RM, FAO GEF CU and key stakeholders in the MTR should review the draft MTR report to ensure its accuracy and quality in two review rounds: (a) a first review, taking around 10 working days, by the project team and FAO (BH, LTO, FLO and FAO GEF CU MTR focal point), then a second review, also taking around 10 working days, by the government counterpart(s), key external partners and stakeholders.

The final MTR report. This should include an executive summary and be written in English. It is important that the executive summary is presented in both the official national language (if different from English) and in English. Supporting data and analysis should be annexed to the report, if deemed important, to complement the main report. Translations into other official UN languages, if required, will be FAO’s responsibility. The executive summary should include the following paragraphs in order to update the GEF Portal: (1) information on progress, challenges and outcomes on stakeholder engagement; (2) information on progress on gender-responsive measures; and (3) information on knowledge activities and products. The template for the MTR report can be found in Annex 11 and guidance on writing the report in Annex 12 of the MTR Guide.

A two-page summary of key findings, lessons, recommendations and messages from the MTR report will be produced by the MTR team, in consultation with the RM and PMU, that can be disseminated to the wider public for general information on the project’s results and performance to date. This can be posted as a briefing paper on the project’s website but more creative and innovative multimedia approaches, such as video, photos, sound recordings, social media, short stories (for suitable cases or country studies), infographics or even comic or cartoon format, may be more effective depending on the circumstances.

A PowerPoint presentation. For a webinar targeted to key stakeholders in which the key finding and recommendations from the MTR will be presented.

Participation in knowledge-sharing events, such as stakeholder debriefings, as needed.

Section 12: MTR timeframe

12.1 Suggested MTR timeline

Task	Duration (recommended)	Tentative date	Responsibility
Terms of reference preparation	2 weeks before the MTR field mission	June 10, 2021	BH/RM, LTO, FLO and FAO GEF CU MTR focal point
Terms of reference finalization	1 week before the MTR field mission	June 17, 2021	BH/RM
Team identification	1 month before the MTR field mission	May 25, 2021	BH/RM, LTO, FLO and FAO GEF CU MTR focal point
Team recruitment	1 week before the MTR field mission	June 17, 2021	BH with input from the FAO GEF CU for international and national consultants

Reading background documentation	1 week	June 21-27, 2021	MTR team in preparation for the MTR
Briefing of MTR team	1 week before the MTR field mission	June 17, 2021	BH/RM, supported by PTF and FAO GEF CU as necessary
MTR inception report		July 8, 2021	MTR team
Quality assurance and clearance of the MTR inception report		July 23, 2021	BH/RM and the FAO GEF CU MTR focal point
MTR conduction of interviews, questionnaires (if necessary), meetings and visits (if the COVID-19 situation allows for face-to-face meetings)	8 weeks	July 19 to September 15, 2021	MTR team with the support of the PMU
Debriefing session on initial findings, conclusions and recommendations	As soon as possible after completion of the MTR interviews and meetings	September 29, 2021	MTR team
Production of first draft report for circulation	Approximately 3 weeks after completion of interviews/meetings	October 7, 2021	MTR team
Circulation and review of first draft MTR report	Approximately 7 working days for review	October 14, 2021	BH/RM, PMU, FAO GEF CU MTR focal point, LTO, FLO for comments and quality control (organized by BH/RM)
Production of second draft MTR report	2-3 working days for the inclusion of feedback	October 22, 2021	MTR team
Circulation of second draft MTR report	7 days for review	November 10, 2021	BH/RM and key external stakeholders (organized by BH/RM)
Production of final MTR report	2 working days for the inclusion of final feedback	November 12, 2021	MTR team
Management Response	1-2 weeks after the final report is issued	November, 2021	BH
Follow-up reporting in FAO PPR or GEF PIR	Maximum 2 months after the MR is issued	December, 2021	BH
Stakeholder webinar to present results	1 month after management response	December, 2021	Evaluation team/ Implementing Agency and Executing Partner

Section 13: Annexes

Annexes to the MTR terms of reference can be used to provide additional detail about the background to the MTR and requirements to facilitate the work of MTR consultants. Some examples include:

- *Project results framework*– This provides additional information on the structure and causal logic of the project being assessed.
- *Documents to be consulted* – This is a list of important documents and web pages the MTR team can consult at the outset, before finalizing the MTR’s design and inception report.

Documents to be provided to the MTR team (“project information package”)

1. Pesticide Risk Reduction in Bangladesh (GCP/BGD/060/GFF) – Project Document, 156 pp.
2. Pesticide Risk Reduction in Bangladesh (GCP/BGD/060/GFF) – Technical Assistance Project Proposal (TAPP), Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, Dhaka, 47 pp.
3. Letter of Agreements (LoAs) with government implementing partners i.e. DoE, DAE, DoF and DGHS
4. Co-financing letters from FAO and government departments i.e. DoE, DAE, DoF and DGHS
5. Endorsement letters from government departments i.e. DoE, DAE, DoF and DGHS.
6. Contract Document between POLYECO SA, Greece and FAO. FAO procured services for Safeguarding, stowage and disposal of Dichloro Diphenyl Trichloroethane (DDT) stocks in Bangladesh”. CONTRACT NO. 2021/BGD/FABGD-CPA 1507227, 86 pp.
7. POLYECO, 2021. Health, Safety and Environmental Plan. Safeguarding, stowage and disposal of Dichloro Diphenyl Trichloroethane (DDT) stocks in Bangladesh. POLYECO S.A., Aspropyrgos, Greece, 93 pp.
8. POLYECO, 2021. Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRRP). Safeguarding, stowage and disposal of Dichloro Diphenyl Trichloroethane (DDT) stocks in Bangladesh. POLYECO S.A., Aspropyrgos, Greece, 33 pp.
9. Relevant legal documents (e.g. The Stockholm Convention, Environment Policy 1992, Environment Conservation Act 1995 (Amendment in 2010), Environment Conservation Rules 1997, National Environment Management Action Plan (NEMAP), Customs Act 1969, Import Policy Order (2015-18), National Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP) 1996, IPM Policy 2002, Pesticides (Amendment) Act 2009, Pesticides Rules (Amendment) 2010, Pesticides Rules 1985).
10. FAO, 2011. Environmental Management Tool Kit for Obsolete Pesticides. FAO Pesticide Disposal Series 15, Volume 3, 113 pp, FAO, Rome.
11. GEF, 2011. Building Partnerships for Sound Management of Chemicals. Global Environment Facility, 40 pp. <http://www.thegef.org/>.
12. WHO, 2020. The WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard and Guidelines to Classification. 2019 edition, 98 pp, WHO.
13. UNDP, 2018. Comprehensive Reduction and Elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants in Pakistan. Final Report of Reconfirming the Amount and Location of Pops Stockpiles in AJK, GB and KP, Pakistan. UNDP Pakistan, 115 pp.
14. UNEP/DTIE, 2015. Road Map for the Development of Alternatives to DDT. UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE Science Team International Environment House, Switzerland, 76 pp.
15. World Bank Group, 2016. Africa Stockpiles Program: ETHIOPIA, MALI, MOROCCO, SOUTH AFRICA, TANZANIA, TUNISIA. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank, Washington DC, Report No. 108524, 57 pp.
16. UNEP, 2017. The 16 New POPs: An introduction to the chemicals added to the Stockholm

Convention as Persistent Organic Pollutants by the Conference of the Parties. Stockholm Convention Secretariat United Nations Environment International Environment House, Geneva, Switzerland, 13 pp.

17. ADB 2010. Managing Hazardous Wastes. Final Report, Project Number: 38401, Asian Development Bank.

18. ESDO, 2005. POPs Hotspots in Bangladesh. International POPs Elimination Project: Fostering Active and Efficient Civil Society Participation in Preparation for Implementation of the Stockholm Convention. Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO), Dhaka.

19. NIRAS, 2012. Country Environmental and Social Assessment (CESA) for Safeguarding and Disposal of Obsolete Pesticides in Tanzania. National Environment Management Council, Dar es Salaam. Niras Finland Oy, 265 pp.

20. Chowdhury et al., 2017. Bans of WHO Class I Pesticides in Bangladesh—Suicide Prevention without Hampering Agricultural Output. International Journal of Epidemiology, 1-10, doi: 10.1093/ije/dyx157.

21. UNEP, 2017. Toward Alternatives to DDT, 8 pp.

22. Bouwman et al., 2012. Lessons from health hazards. DDT: fifty years since Silent Spring. Late lessons from early warnings: science, precaution, innovation, 20 pp.

Stakeholder analysis matrix

Key stakeholders (disaggregated as appropriate) ⁴	What is their role in the project?	What is the reason for their inclusion in or exclusion from the MTR?	Priority for MTR (1-3) ⁵	How and when should they be involved in the MTR?
1. Active stakeholders with direct responsibility for the project, e.g. FAO, executing partners				
Name Stakeholder group 1				
Name Stakeholder group 2				
Etc.				
2. Active stakeholders with authority to make decisions on the project, e.g. members of the PSC				
Name Stakeholder group 1				
Name Stakeholder group 2				
Etc.				
3. Secondary stakeholders (only indirectly or temporarily affected)				
Name Stakeholder group 1				
Name Stakeholder group 2				
Etc.				
4. Stakeholders at grassroots level who benefit directly or indirectly from the intervention (gender disaggregated where possible)				
Name Stakeholder group 1				
Name Stakeholder group 2				

⁴ Include the names of relevant individuals, if known, and be as specific as possible

⁵ 1 = essential; 2 = desirable; 3 = if time and resources allow

Key stakeholders (disaggregated as appropriate) ⁴	What is their role in the project?	What is the reason for their inclusion in or exclusion from the MTR?	Priority for MTR (1-3) ⁵	How and when should they be involved in the MTR?
Etc.				
5. Stakeholders at grassroots level who do not benefit from the intervention (gender disaggregated where possible)				
Name Stakeholder group 1				
Name Stakeholder group 2				
Etc.				
6. Other interest groups that are not participating directly in the intervention, e.g. development agencies working in the area, civil-society organizations				
Name Stakeholder group 1				
Name Stakeholder group 2				
Etc.				

Section 14: Budget

The available budget for this review is USD 25,000.00. The evaluators shall be paid by GCP/BGD/060/GFF upon completion of the following milestones:

- 20% upon signing of the contract;
- 40% after presentation of the draft report;
- 40% after the approval of the final report.

Section 15: Submission and applications

International consultants will be selected from an organizational roster of FAO or will be a known individual considered most suitable to undertake the assignment by the hiring unit. The national consultants will be selected in accordance with the FAO representation in Bangladesh.

Consultants will send:

- Personal CV indicating all relevant past experiences and main competencies.
- A brief description (max 2 pages) of why the consultant is the most suitable for the assignment, including a short description of the plan and methods envisaged to meet the mid-term review objectives.

Appendix 2. MTR itinerary, including field missions (agenda)

No field mission was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For persons interviewed, see appendix 3.

Appendix 3. Stakeholders interviewed during the MTR

	Name	Position	Organization/location
1	Mr. M. Sayeduzzaman	Chairman	Bangladesh Crop Protection Association (BCPA)
2	Mr. Mark Davis	Senior technical advisor	Consultant
3	Mr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman	Deputy Director	Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Agrabad, Chattogram
4	Mr. KJ Ferdouse		Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)
5	Mr. Shamim Hossen	Additional Deputy Director (Pesticide Quality Control)	Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)
6	Dr Mohammad Maqueshudul Haque Bhuiyan	Senior Assistant Director Fish Inspection and Quality Control	Department of Fisheries (DoF)
7	Dr Afsana Alamgir Khan	Deputy Programme Manager (CDC)	Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)
8	Mr. Bidhan Baral	Deputy Secretary	Economic Relation Division (ERD)
9	Dr Humayun Kabir	Assistant Director Port Clearance	Medical Sub Depot (MSD), Agrabad, Chattogram
10	Ms Rafaela Bregu	Tender & Contract Manager International Services Dept.	Polyeco
11	Mr. Kostas Tsirikos	Head of Tender and Project Management	Polyeco
12	Ms. Lianchawii Chhakchhuak	Funding Liaison Officer	FAO
13	Mr. Sridhar Dharmapuri	Lead Technical Officer	FAO
14	Mr. M. Shahadat Hossain	National Project Coordinator/Fisheries Specialist	FAO
15	Mr. Sameer Karki	(previous) Funding Liaison Officer	FAO
16	Mr. Nur Ahamed Khondaker	Assistant FAO Representative (Programme)	FAO

	Name	Position	Organization/location
17	Mr. Saso Martinov	Senior technical Coordinator/project manager	FAO
18	Mr. Robert D Simpson	Budget Holder	FAO
19	Ms. Samia Rahman	Monitoring Officer	FAO
20	Ms. Dilruba Sharmin	National Pest Management Expert	FAO

Appendix 4. MTR matrix (review questions and sub-questions)

Evaluative questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
1. Strategic relevance			
<u>Key question:</u> To what extent are the project objectives relevant and suited to the priorities, policies and strategies of the executing and implementing agencies, donors, stakeholders and target groups?			
<u>Sub-questions FAO:</u> - Is the project in line with FAO's mandate and how? - Is the project responding to FAO strategies and programme of work, and how (qualitative and quantitative contributions)?	- Degree of alignment with FAO strategic documents	- Project document - PIR progress report - FAO strategy documents - Project staff	- Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO staff - Interviews with GEF FAO CU staff
<u>Sub-questions GEF:</u> - Is the project responding to GEF strategic priorities, and how (qualitative and quantitative contributions?)	- Degree of alignment with GEF strategic documents	- Project document - PIR progress report - GEF strategy documents - Project staff	- Desk-review of documents (GEF policies and strategies) - Interviews with FAO staff - Interviews with GEF FAO CU staff
<u>Sub-questions countries/regions:</u> - Is the project responding to the stated environmental concerns and needs of the countries/sub-regions/regions?	- Degree of alignment with national and (sub) regional plans, strategies, policies and agreements	- Project document - PIR progress report - National/ regional strategies and agreements - Project staff - project partners	- Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team - Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners (key government departments)
<u>Sub-question synergy with other initiatives:</u> - To what extent did the project, at design and/or mobilization phase, take account of ongoing and/or planned initiatives? - To what extent did the project team make efforts to ensure that the project is complementary to other interventions, and optimize any synergies?	- Degree of potential synergies identified - Absence of duplication of efforts - Potential duplications identified at design stage - Degree of identified complementarities with other projects	- Project document - PIR progress report - Relevant document of other projects - Project staff - Project partners	- Desk-review of documents; - Interviews with FAO project team and other FAO staff - Questionnaires/Interviews with other stakeholders
2. Effectiveness – progress towards results			
<u>Key question:</u> To what extent did the project achieve the expected (reconstructed) outputs (and outcomes) at mid-term?			

Evaluative questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
<p>Output level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Were outputs and milestones delivered on time and as planned according the mid-term targets? If not, what were the reasons of delay/changes? - What is the quality of these outputs? - To what extent do the outputs contribute to their planned outcomes? - How useful, relevant and appropriate do beneficiaries find the outputs (planned to be) produced by the projects? - Which factors contributed to the achievement of outputs (and/or what were the reasons outputs were not achieved)? - Would these have been achieved without the direct involvement of the GEF FAO project? Why (not)? - Is the project on track to delivering the GEF core indicator targets? - How did COVID-19 influence the project? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concrete examples of milestones and outputs achieved (and being used by end users) - Involvement of stakeholders in the production/achievement of outputs - Coherence of project design and implementation approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Other project documents - Core Indicators updated at Mid-Term 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team - Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/Interviews with other stakeholders
<p>Outcome level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have any outcomes (as per the reconstructed ToC) already been achieved? - Are these outcomes a result of project intervention? - Would these have been achieved without the direct involvement of FAO? Why? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level of achievement of specific activities and outputs - Number of exchanges with stakeholders/beneficiaries and participation in meetings and workshops - Coherence of project design and implementation approach - Number and quality of capacity building activities undertaken within the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Project document - Other project documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team - Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/Interviews with other stakeholders
<p>Impact/longer-term results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the likelihood of expected positive longer-term impacts to be realized? - To what extent have any possible negative effects/barriers been identified in the project as risks? - What are the barriers that may prevent progress towards and achievement of the longer-term objectives? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level of achievement of specific activities and outputs - Coherence of project design and implementation approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Project document - Other project documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team - Interviews with/questionnaires for main executing partners - Interviews with/questionnaires for other stakeholders

Evaluative questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How successful is the project thus far in playing a catalytic role and/or promoting the scaling up or replication of project results? 			
3. Efficiency			
<p><u>Key question:</u> To what extent and how are cost-effectiveness and timeliness considered during project implementation? How do these factors affect project performance?</p>			
<p><u>Sub-questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are any cost or time-saving measures put in place to maximise results within the secured budget and agreed project timeframe? - Does the project make use of / build upon pre-existing institutions, agreements and partnerships, data sources, etc. to increase project efficiency? How? - What factors have caused delays (if any) and have affected project execution, costs and effectiveness? How? - Has the project team shown adaptive management to changing circumstances to improve the efficiency of project implementation? - Are events leading to completion of activities/outputs sequenced efficiently? - What is the role of the project's governance structure and management approach on its efficiency? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of project extensions and amendments, and budget adjustments - Number of agreements with partners - Number and quality of measures to mitigate delays - Timeliness of report submission - Coherence of project design and implementation approach - Specific activities conducted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Project document - Other project documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk-review of documents, including financial reports and procurement plans - Interviews with FAO project team - Interviews with/questionnaires for main executing partners - Interviews with/questionnaires for other stakeholders
4. Factors affecting performance			
Project design and readiness			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is the project design adequate for delivering the expected outcomes within the planned timeframe? - Are appropriate measures taken to either address weaknesses in the project design or respond to changes that took place between project approval, securing of the funds and project mobilisation? Which measures? - What was the nature and quality of engagement with stakeholder groups by the project team during project preparation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number and quality of appropriate measures taken (if necessary) - Quality of partner agreements - Implementation approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Other project documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team - Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/interviews with other stakeholders

Evaluative questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What process was followed to assess the capacities of implementing partners and develop the partnership agreements? - Were initial staffing and financing arrangements sufficient to drive implementation? 			
Quality of project execution and management arrangements			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is project management by FAO pro-active and responding timely and adequately to any issues encountered within the project? - Are the project management arrangements in line with the arrangements defined at project design? If not, what was the reason for this change? - What have been the main challenges and successes in managing the project until now? - What is the nature of communication and collaboration with stakeholders? - How are risks identified and managed? Did this require use of problem-solving and/or project adaptation? How? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of issues complicating sound project implementation solved timely (as opposed to unsolved issues) - (Amount of) evidence of adaptive management being applied - Coherence of project design and implementation approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Other project documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team - Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/interviews with other stakeholders
Project oversight by FAO as the GEF Agency and national partners			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To what extent and how do FAO and partners provide oversight, supervision and backstopping? - To what extent and how is the Project Steering Committee involved in decision making? - What is the nature of communication and collaboration with stakeholders? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation approach - Number of exchanges with stakeholders/beneficiaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Other project documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team - Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/interviews with other stakeholders
Financial management and co-financing			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is the project implemented in compliance with financial management standards and procedures? - Is the project's key financial information complete (including co-finance overview) ? - Is the actual expenditure to date? - To what extent are the project expenditures in line with the corresponding approved budget? - To what extent has the planned co-financing been provided until mid-term? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approval of contracting documents, project reports and financial reporting (including co-finance) - Alignment of expenditures during project implementation with approved budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project document - PIR progress report - Financial progress reports - Project staff - Project partners - Other project documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team and FAO staff - Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/interviews with other stakeholders

Evaluative questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has any additional co-finance been leveraged? - What changes, if any, have been made to the projects' budget and why? - Have any financial management challenges been identified, and, if so, how are they being handled? 			
Project partnerships and stakeholder engagement			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Were all important project stakeholders properly identified at project design and duly involved in project design, implementation and decision-making? - What consultation and communication mechanisms are put in place to ensure an active stakeholder engagement and ownership? Are these effective? - What is the level of support provided to maximize collaboration and coherence between stakeholders? - What measures are taken to ensure inclusion and participation of all differentiated groups, including gender groups? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of stakeholders identified and actively involved in project implementation - Number of stakeholders satisfied with the stakeholder participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Other project documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team and FAO staff - Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/interviews with other stakeholders
Communication, visibility, knowledge management and knowledge products			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How is learning and experience sharing communicated between project partners and interested groups? - How effective is the project in communication key messages to stakeholders and beneficiaries? - Which (public) awareness activities have been/will be undertaken during project implementation? - To what extent do they influence attitudes or shape behavior among project stakeholders, including local population? How? - To what extent are (existing) communication channels and networks used effectively, including meeting the differentiated needs of gendered or marginalized groups? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operative communication strategy - Degree of awareness of stakeholders - Number and quality of communication activities implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Other project documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team and FAO staff - Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/interviews with other stakeholders
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), including M&E design, implementation and budget			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To what extent were the monitoring plans designed to track progress against SMART indicators? - To what extent are the allocated funds adequate for monitoring purposes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality of monitoring plan - Number and quality of monitoring documents - Number and quality of reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team and FAO staff

Evaluative questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To what extent are the monitoring plans operational? - To what extent does the monitoring system/methodology facilitate the timely tracking of results and progress towards project objectives? - To what extent is the information, generated by the monitoring methodologies, used to adapt and improve project execution, achievement of outcomes and ensure sustainability? - Were the PIR reports prepared adequately and timely? - To what extent have other FAO and donor reporting requirements been fulfilled? - Does the monitoring methodology/system monitor stakeholder involvement and gender-disaggregated data? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> delivered in line with reporting requirements - Number and quality of approved reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other project documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/interviews with other stakeholders
5. Sustainability of project results			
<p><u>Key question:</u> How do socio-political, financial, institutional and environmental factors affect the probability of project outcomes being maintained and developed after the project ends?</p>			
<p><u>Sub-questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the level of ownership, interest and commitment among the main stakeholders? - What is the likelihood that the project achievements will be taken forward by the main stakeholders? - What is the likelihood that capacity development efforts continue? How will increased capacity be sustained? - To what extent are project outcomes dependent on future funding for the benefits they bring to be sustained? - What efforts are being made to secure funding for future complementary activities? - To what extent are institutional frameworks, policies, and legal and accountability frameworks in place and are they considered robust enough to support the sustainability of project outcomes? - Are there any adverse environmental factors that could hinder the achievement of project outcomes and long-term results? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of follow-up activities initiated by stakeholders involved in the project - Implementation approach - Exit strategy/risk mitigation strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Other project documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team and FAO staff - Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/interviews with other stakeholders

Evaluative questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the key risk factors that may affect the sustainability of project results? - Is an exit strategy prepared or is this planned to be done? 			
6. Cross cutting issues – equity issues (e.g. gender, youth, vulnerable groups) and environmental and social safeguards (ESS)			
Equity issues (e.g. gender, youth, vulnerable groups)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To what extent does the project intervention adhere to FAO/GEF's policies and strategies for gender and human rights? - To what extent does project design, implementation, project structure and monitoring take into consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Possible inequalities (especially gender-related) * Specific vulnerabilities of disadvantaged groups (such as women, youth, children) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of gender and human rights stakeholders identified and actively involved in project implementation - Number of stakeholders satisfied with the stakeholder participation realized - Evidence that sensitivity in gender has been observed in project design, implementation and monitoring of activities, including gender distribution in participation in project activities and events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Other project documents - FAO and GEF gender and human rights policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team and FAO staff - Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/interviews with other stakeholders
Environmental and social safeguards (ESS)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To what extent are FAO's requirements, with respect to environmental and social safeguards, met (through the process of environmental and social screening at project approval stage, risk assessment and management) of potential environmental and social risks and impacts associated with project and programme activities? Has an ESS (and ESMF/ESMP) plan been prepared? - Is the Environmental and Social Risks table as annexed to the project document monitored? - To what extent are the following activities carried out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Review of risk ratings on a regular basis; * Monitoring of project implementation for possible safeguard issues; * Providing responses to safeguard issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frequency of review of risk ratings - Number/quality of monitoring reports that include monitoring of safeguard issues - Evidence of adequate responses to safeguard issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project document - PIR progress report - Project staff - Project partners - Other project documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk-review of documents - Interviews with FAO project team and FAO staff - Questionnaires/Interviews with main executing partners - Questionnaires/interviews with other stakeholders

Appendix 5. List of documents consulted (“Reference list”)

Pesticide Risk Reduction in Bangladesh (GCP/BGD/060/GFF) – Project Document.

Pesticide Risk Reduction in Bangladesh (GCP/BGD/060/GFF) – Technical Assistance Project Proposal (TAPP), Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, Dhaka.

Letter of Agreements (LoAs) with government implementing partners, i.e. DoE, DAE, DoF and DGHS.

Co-financing letters from FAO and government departments, i.e. DoE, DAE, DoF and DGHS.

Project Implementation Report (PIR), July 2020/June 2021.

Project Implementation Report (PIR), July 2019/June 2020.

Endorsement letters from government departments i.e. DoE, DAE, DoF and DGHS.

Contract Document between POLYECO SA, Greece and FAO.

FAO evaluation guidance documents.

PowerPoint presentation “Pesticide Risk reduction in Bangladesh, a Project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), July 2021.

GEF-6 Programming directions (Extract from GEF Assembly Document GEF/A.5/07/Rev.01, May 22, 2014).

POLYECO, 2021. *Health, Safety and Environmental Plan. Safeguarding, stowage and disposal of Dichloro Diphenyl Trichloroethane (DDT) stocks in Bangladesh*. POLYECO S.A., Aspropyrgos, Greece, 93 pp.

POLYECO, 2021. *Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRRP). Safeguarding, stowage and disposal of Dichloro Diphenyl Trichloroethane (DDT) stocks in Bangladesh*. POLYECO S.A., Aspropyrgos, Greece, 33 pp.

ESDO, 2005. *POPs Hotspots in Bangladesh. International POPs Elimination Project: Fostering Active and Efficient Civil Society Participation in Preparation for Implementation of the Stockholm Convention*. Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO), Dhaka.

FAO, 2011. *Environmental Management Tool Kit for Obsolete Pesticides. FAO Pesticide Disposal Series 15, Volume 3*. Rome. 113 pp.

FAO. 2020. *Country Programming Framework for Bangladesh 2019–2020*. Dhaka.

FAO. 2019. *Our priorities – The Strategic Objectives of FAO*. Rome. 28 pp. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

FAO. 2021. *Strategic Framework, 2022-31*. Rome.

GEF, 2011. *Building Partnerships for Sound Management of Chemicals*. Global Environment Facility, 40 pp.

Department of Environment (DoE), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. 2007. *Bangladesh National Implementation Plan (NIP) for Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)*. Dhaka. 216 pp.

Appendix 6. Results matrix showing achievements at mid-term and MTR observations

Please note that this matrix shows the progress towards achieving outputs and outcomes until the start of the MTR process. During the MTR, the project was intensified and accelerated (due to lifting of the lockdown, approval of the TAPP, and appointment of a project manager) and many preparatory actions are undertaken to start implementing all project activities.

Project strategy	Indicator	Baseline level	Level at first PIR (self-reported) June 2020	Mid-term target	End-of- project target	Mid-term level & assessment	Achievement rating (outcomes)	Justification for rating
Component 1								
Outcome 1.1 Elimination of a legacy stockpile of DDT in Bangladesh.	Number of technical staff capacitated for environmentally sound disposal options for POPs pesticides incl. DDT.	There is no national technical staff trained on POPs management and disposal in the country.	Not yet started; prevailing COVID-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	- Thirty national technical staffs capacitated.	Sixty national technical staffs capacitated.		MS	The rating for outcome 1 and the corresponding outputs below is Moderately Satisfactory. Essential preparations for safeguarding and disposal were made through the selection of a safeguarding company. The safeguarding and disposal has not yet taken place as the COVID19 pandemic lockdowns did not allow it.
	Quantity of POPs pesticides incl. DDT destroyed in an environmentally sound way.	The DDT stored in the MSD stockpile, consists of 1 000 (approx.) tonnes of DDT waste to be eliminated.	Tender process, ground assessment of bidders and tender evaluation completed • Correspondence with government agencies completed for verification of the existence of other obsolete pesticide stockpiles	- Selected process for the shipment and disposal of POPs pesticides, including contract for the disposal services, in place - Reassessment and verification of the existence of other obsolete pesticide stockpiles	1 000 tonnes (approx.) of POPs pesticides incl. DDT destroyed in an environmentally sound way.			

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESIA not yet started due to prevailing COVID-19 pandemic. 	- ESIA and other relevant assessments carried out.				
Output 1.1.1 Inventory of POPs pesticides in Bangladesh updated.	National inventory conducted and validated by DoE and DAE.	Inaccurate and outdated information on POPs pesticides available.	Not yet started; prevailing COVID-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inventory methodology agreed by all key government stakeholders. - One database containing data from three surveys of POPs pesticides completed. Survey reports validated by DoE and DAE. 				
Output 1.1.2 All POPs pesticides identified, packaged and centralized in preparation for destruction.	Quantity of POPs pesticides identified, packaged and centralized in preparation for destruction.	The DDT stored in the MSD stockpile, consists of 1 000 tonnes (approx.).	Tasks are underway.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Temporary office space and storage for MSD/DGHS identified. - ESIA is undertaken to the ESM of DDT stockpile. 	At least 1 000 tons, the exact amount will be better specified upon completion of the POPs inventory (output 1.1.1).			
	Availability of approved Social Management plan, Emergency preparedness plan, Environmental and Social Impact assessment (ESIA).	Absence of documents for prevention and preparedness, ESIA and ESM documents.	Not yet started due to prevailing COVID-19 pandemic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergency prevention and preparedness plan developed. - Report on ESIA findings completed. 	3 documents finalized and approved by FAO and ESUN: 1) Social Management Plan 2) Emergency Preparedness Plan 3) Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)			

					prevention and preparedness.			
	Availability of a functional HW Manifest system.	No system is currently established.	Not yet started due to prevailing COVID-19 pandemic.	Contract for disposal services, HW manifest system, safeguarding training, packaging and transportation completed.	One Manifest system is established.			
Output 1.1.3. Environmentally Sound Destruction of all POPs obsolete pesticides particularly DDT identified.	Quantity of POPs pesticides shipped for environmentally sound destruction to a facility compliant with the Stockholm convention.	Absence of facilities for POPs pesticides disposal.	Work processes have started and in good progress.	- Suitable facility compliant with the Stockholm Convention Guidelines on BAT and BEP identified Shipment of the DDT stockpile to the identified facility. - Issuance of contract for shipment and destruction.	Approximately 1 000 tons. The exact amount will be better specified upon completion of the POPs inventory (output 1.1.1).			
Outcome 1.2 Capacity developed to characterize and assess risk from POPs pesticide contaminated sites.	Number of Government technical staff trained on the characterization and risk assessment for POPs pesticides	Government and academic institutions have limited capacity and knowledge on characterizing and assessing the risk from	Not yet started; prevailing COVID-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	- Training materials on characterizing and assessing the risk from POPs pesticides contaminated sites developed.	- 60 government technical staff from DAE, DoE, DGHS, PTAC and sub- PIC, academic institutions are trained. - Two training sessions carried out		MU	No progress towards achievement of the mid-term and end-of-project targets has been made, due to the COVID19 pandemic and the strict lockdowns. These exceptional circumstances have

	contaminated sites.	POPs pesticides contaminated sites.		- At least one training event completed. - 30 participants trained.	- Full package of training materials developed.		been taken into consideration when rating the progress towards outcomes and outputs. Furthermore, no activities could be implemented until the TAPP was approved. It is recommended to extend the project so outputs and outcomes can be achieved (now that the TAPP has been approved and the severe lockdown restrictions have been lifted).
Outcome 1.3 Management options for empty pesticide containers developed.	Quantity of empty pesticides containers recycled in environmentally sound way.	Empty pesticide containers are re-used, buried or burnt, not recycled. Each year, around 860 tonnes of plastic container and around 1 250 tonnes of glass pesticide containers are generated.	Not yet started; prevailing COVID-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	Nationwide Survey of pesticide containers and other agricultural plastics is undertaken.	- Process and incentives for the recycling of empty containers, including incentive mechanism, implemented in at least one region, with at least 100 tonnes of empty pesticide container recycled in an environmentally sound way through recycling programme developed by the project. - Recommendations of environmentally sound options for managing the		No progress towards achievement of the mid-term and end-of-project targets has been made, due to the COVID19 pandemic and the strict lockdowns. These exceptional circumstances have been taken into consideration when rating the progress towards outcomes and outputs. Furthermore, no activities could be implemented until the TAPP was approved.

					pesticide waste developed and approved by the GoB.			It is recommended to extend the project so outputs and outcomes can be achieved (now that the TAPP has been approved and the severe lockdown restrictions have been lifted).
	Number of staff from DAE, BCPA and policy makers trained on preferred option on plastic recycling.	No staff is trained in plastic recycling.	Not yet started; prevailing COVID-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	40 staff from DAE, BCPA and policy makers trained on plastic recycling.	80 staff from DAE, BCPA and other stakeholders trained on plastic recycling.			
Output 1.3.1. Survey on empty containers and other agricultural plastics in Bangladesh.	Availability of at least one survey on empty pesticides containers and agricultural plastic.	No Official data available.	Not yet started; prevailing COVID-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	- Survey design completed and approved by FAO - Survey results dissemination plan developed.	- At least one survey completed and the results are disseminated.			
Output 1.3.2. Recommendations for recycling, energy recovery or environmentally sound disposal of	Availability of a guideline for the implementation of article 56 of the Pesticide Rule 1985.	Absence of guidelines.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	Output to start after midterm.	One draft guideline for the implementation and enforcement of article 56 of the Pesticide Rule 1985 is completed.			

agricultural plastics developed and one pilot in place plastics are developed one pilot in place.	Number of trainees trained on the FAO guidelines on ESM of Empty Containers.	Absence of trainees trained on the FAO guidelines on ESM.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	- Training materials developed - Participants identified.	80 trainees including DAE field officers, BCPA, other stakeholders trained.			
	Quantity of empty pesticide containers collected and stored in preparation for recycling.	Baseline data not available.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	Identification of recycling options.	100 tonnes of empty pesticide containers collected.			
	Level of awareness of farmer on triple rinsing as measured by questionnaire survey before and after the implementation of the awareness raising campaign.	No awareness campaign available on triple rinsing.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	One awareness-raising campaign on triple rinsing and proper management of empty pesticide containers designed.	One awareness-raising campaign on triple rinsing and proper management of empty pesticide containers implemented.			

	Number of farmers enrolled in the plastic recycling compensation scheme (disaggregated by gender).	No recycling compensation scheme available.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	Financial analysis and design of a compensation scheme developed.	A pilot compensation scheme implemented.			
Component 2								
Outcome 2.1 Strengthened control on POPs pesticides imports, production and sale.	Availability of official evidence that all POPs pesticides have been de-registered.	Pesticides are registered or banned as brand.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	Initiative taken by the appropriate authority to ban POP pesticides which are not yet banned. Active ingredients in POPs pesticides declared in Stockholm Convention submitted to the GoB.	Recommendation regarding the cancellation of active ingredients is expected to be implemented within the Pesticide (Amendment) Rules 2010.		MU	No progress towards achievement of the mid-term and end-of-project targets has been made, due to the COVID19 pandemic and the strict lockdowns. These exceptional circumstances have been taken into consideration when rating the progress towards outcomes and outputs. Furthermore, no activities could be implemented until the TAPP was approved. It is recommended to extend the project so

								outputs and outcomes can be achieved (now that the TAPP has been approved and the severe lockdown restrictions have been lifted).
Output 2.1.1. Regulatory frameworks for pesticide registration reviewed and recommended.	Evidence that an additional clause addressing has been recommended to GoB.	The regulations on pesticides was updated in 2010 but it does not include the provisions of the Stockholm Convention regarding the POPs pesticides Bangladesh's regulations require further review in order to identify loopholes and shortcomings in view of the ratification of the new amendments of the Stockholm Convention.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	Gap analysis of the current legislation completed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The existing regulation improved by adding the list of new POPs pesticides in all of the relevant regulations. - The regulation on the pesticide registration is amended to ensure consideration of active ingredients in all the registration and de-registration steps. 			
Output 2.1.2 Pesticide Registration Toolkit deployed.	Evidence that the PRT is properly installed and functional.	Absence of an electronic toolkit to facilitate the	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at	Procurement and installation of the PRT software completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All the people in charge of pesticide registration have been trained on the use of PRT 			

	Evidence that registration / cancellation is routinely carried out by means of the PRT.	registration of pesticides.	ground.	PRT software installed, and training carried out.	- PRT integrated as a day-to-day tool for the registration / cancellation of pesticides.			
	Number of individuals (disaggregated by gender and age) trained on the use of PRT.	0	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	Training materials on the use of PRT developed.	20 participants on using PRT trained.			
Output 2.1.3 Improved pesticide import control deployed at entry points.	Number of trainings conducted for PPW and customs inspectors and Lab staffs on verification of pesticides import related document and analytical procedure for detection and identification of POPs pesticides	No record available	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	Needs assessment completed and training document preparation.	40 custom and PPW staff and 20 laboratory staff technicians from 10 entry ports trained on analytical procedures for the detection and identification of POPs pesticides.			
Output 2.1.4 Post registration inspection and enforcement training manual developed and training delivered.	Number of DAE inspectors trained on pesticides inspection modalities.	DAE staff not sufficiently trained in the modality of pesticide inspection.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	Training materials developed.	40 DAE inspectors trained.			

	Number of assisted inspections carried out by DAE.	None	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	Identification of inspection sites and preparation of inspection schedule.	At least eight assisted inspections carried out at key entry ports and 20 inspections at pesticide formulators and at least 10 inspections at farmers' field per year after the first year of implementation by DAE.			
	Number of assisted inspections at chemical production sites carried out by DoE on environmental aspects.	None	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	Identification of inspection sites and preparation of inspection schedule, training materials developed. 20 DAE & 20 DoE inspectors trained.	At least eight inspections at chemical production sites to verify whether the production of chemicals are compliant with Bangladesh regulation on pollution control and waste management by DoE 40 DAE & 40 DoE inspectors trained.			
Component 3								
Outcome 3.1 Ongoing and illegal uses and unintentional exposures to POPs pesticides addressed.	Availability of updated monitoring data on dry fish and other food items.	No official data available.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	Research including analysis of trace of pesticides in food with particular reference to dry fish is designed.	- At least one report on the use of DDT in dry fish production and at least one report on DDT contamination around DDT factories has been completed. - One research including analysis of trace pesticides in		MU	No progress towards achievement of the mid-term and end-of-project targets has been made, due to the COVID19 pandemic and the strict lockdowns. These exceptional circumstances have been taken into consideration when

					food with particular reference to dry fish is completed.			rating the progress towards outcomes and outputs. Furthermore, no activities could be implemented until the TAPP was approved. It is recommended to extend the project so outputs and outcomes can be achieved (now that the TAPP has been approved and the severe lockdown restrictions have been lifted).
Output 3.1.1 Ongoing and illegal uses of POPs pesticides and sources of unintentional exposures to POPs pesticides identified.	Number of surveys, questionnaires, interviews based on dry fish production areas developed and implemented.	No report is available.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	Surveys, questionnaires, interviews designed.	Three Surveys (one on dry fish producers, one POP contents in dry fish and one consumer survey) implemented.			
	Number of test or samples analysed to identify the sources of POPs pesticides as a source of food contamination and analysis of food items.	Baseline data not available.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	50 samples analysed. (the number will be determined in inception phase).	100 samples analysed. (the number will be determined in inception phase).			
Output 3.1.2 Strategy for eliminating or	Availability of a strategy for eliminating or	No strategy is currently in place	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not	- Assessment of best practices for reducing use or	At least one strategy developed and implemented			

reducing use or exposure to POPs pesticides developed.	reducing use or exposure to POPs pesticides.		allow initiating project work at ground.	exposure to POPs Pesticides. - Revision of the existing regulations on chemical residues in fish processing - Development of guidelines.				
Outcome 3.2. Improved monitoring and reporting of POP pesticide residues in food, POP pesticide poisoning and POP pesticide contamination in the environment.	Number of areas monitored as per technical and financial plan for nationwide monitoring and reporting of POP pesticides residues in dry fish and environment.	No nationwide plan available.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	- DoE Laboratory adequately equipped and staffed. - Assessment of DOF FIQC Labs' capacity for a better implementation of a routine monitoring of pesticides in fish and dry fish. - One financial planning for the nationwide and pilot designed.	At least in one division of the country the POP pesticides residues in dry fish and environment are monitored as per the technical and financial plan.		MU	No progress towards achievement of the mid-term and end-of-project targets has been made, due to the COVID19 pandemic and the strict lockdowns. These exceptional circumstances have been taken into consideration when rating the progress towards outcomes and outputs. Furthermore, no activities could be implemented until the TAPP was approved. It is recommended to extend the project so outputs and outcomes can be achieved (now that the TAPP has been approved and the severe lockdown restrictions have been lifted).

Output 3.2.1. Sources of POPs pesticide residues in food identified and addressed through regulatory and technical intervention.	Number samples of different dry fish samples analysed.	Sample Analysis Reports are not available.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	At least 50 samples of dry fish analysed.	At least 100 samples analysed.			
	Number of financial plans designed for extended monitoring of quality of dry fish.	N/A	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	Financial Plan designed and approved by DoF and the PMU.	Target achieved in midterm milestone.			
Output 3.2.2 Capacity developed for POPs pesticide residues monitoring and reporting.	Number of technical staff from DoE, DAE, DoF, BFSa and other relevant organizations trained in risk assessment methodologies for tracing pesticides in environmental matrices.	Low level of technical and analytical skills.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	Training materials prepared. 20 participants trained on risk assessment methodologies for traces of pesticide in environmental matrices (disaggregated by gender and age).	40 Government Officials trained on risk assessment methodologies for traces of pesticide in environmental matrices.			
	Number of samples of environmental matrices (soil crops, fish dry fish, air, water) analysed	Data not available.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	At least 50 samples analysed.	At least 100 samples on environmental matrices (soil crops, fish dry fish, air, water) analysed and the report is produced.			

	Number of laboratories accredited with ISO/1EC/17025.	No laboratory exists with international accreditation.	Not yet started due to Covid-19 pandemic.	Request for accreditation submitted.	At least one laboratory submitted the request for ISO/1EC 17025 accreditation to undertake POPs pesticide monitoring in the environment.			
Output 3.2.3 Environmental pesticide monitoring and incident reporting system established.	Number of districts/sub-districts where pesticide monitoring plan is being piloted.	No district has pesticide monitoring plan.	Not yet started due to Covid-19 pandemic.	- Monitoring and incidents surveillance plan designed. - Implementation of POPs and organic chemical incident surveillance. - Stakeholder workshop to discuss preliminary achievements.	- Surveillance centre established in one pilot division. - Stakeholder workshop to discuss final achievements under this output.			
	Availability of poisoning surveillance centre established by the project.	No poisoning surveillance centre available.	Not yet started due to Covid-19 pandemic.	All the preparatory work for the establishment of the surveillance poisoning centre completed.	Poisoning cases surveillance centre established and operational.			
Outcome 3.3 Promotion of alternative, low hazard pest control options in agriculture and public health.	Number of project beneficiaries who adopted alternative technologies for crops.	Alternatives to the use of hazardous pesticide fish drying process and agriculture are already available however they	Not yet started due to Covid-19 pandemic.	- Identification of the available alternative technologies. - Alternative technology is transferred to project beneficiaries.	- 2 000 households received and use alternative technologies. - At least 50 percent increase in the number of project beneficiaries using		MU	No progress towards achievement of the mid-term and end-of-project targets has been made, due to the COVID19 pandemic and the strict lockdowns. These exceptional circumstances have

		are not fully demonstrated or implemented and there is still the risk that POPs pesticides including DDT are used in some areas.			alternative technologies.		been taken into consideration when rating the progress towards outcomes and outputs. Furthermore, no activities could be implemented until the TAPP was approved.
	Number of project beneficiaries who adopted LLINs and IVM.	TBD – Baseline not yet conducted.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	At least 20 percent beneficiaries' households received LLINs and IVM (TBD).	At least 50 percent beneficiaries adopted LLINs IVM (TBD).		It is recommended to extend the project so outputs and outcomes can be achieved (now that the TAPP has been approved and the severe lockdown restrictions have been lifted).
Output 3.3.1 Alternatives to POPs pesticides in use proposed and tested.	Number of alternatives technologies involving low hazard pest control demonstrated to farmers.	TBD – some alternative technologies are present but not report is available.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment of the available alternatives in key agricultural crops in Bangladesh. - Selection of the most promising alternatives. - Identification of farmers/or pilot areas for testing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The number of alternative low hazard pest control alternatives will be decided based on the alternative technology. - The number of most promising alternatives tested will be based on the results from the alternative technology assessment. - Results and the methods disseminated. 		

Output 3.3.2 Fish drying practices reviewed and low risk options deployed.	Number of nationwide technical and financial plans to deploy the selected technology for fish drying process developed.	No nationwide technical or financial plan available.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	- Procurement of the identified technology for the safe fish drying. - Pilot sites for the testing of alternatives to pesticides in the fish drying process selected.	One technical and financial plan for the deployment of the selected technology for safe fish drying countrywide developed.		
	Number of dry fish processors (equally represented by men and women) using alternative fish drying technology.	No data available.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	- Demonstrations of the technology held. - At least 800 dry fish processors using safe fish drying technology.	2 000 dry fish processors using safe fish drying technology.		
	Number of entrepreneurs using the fish drying technology.	No official data available.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	20 entrepreneurs / operator using safe fish drying technology (equal share between male and female).	40 entrepreneurs / operator using safe fish drying technology (equal share between male and female).		
	Number of DoF staff trained.	Low capacity of DoF staff.	Not yet started due to Covid-19 pandemic.	Training materials.	20 relevant DoF staff trained.		
Output 3.3.3 Network for promotion of sustainable non-POPs pesticide control measures	Availability of official act stating the establishment of the network for the promotion of sustainable non-	No existent network and the VM approach for mosquito borne disease need to be further	Not yet started due to Covid-19 pandemic.	- Mandate includes rules and requirements for the network and members developed.	- A network for the promotion of sustainable non-POP Pesticide and public health established, and non-POPs malaria material		

in public health established.	POP Pesticide and public health. Number of meetings held by network participants.	strengthened and disseminated.		- Identification of the most suitable network members. - Design network communication mechanisms. - First network conference.	eradication material distributed. - Network communication mechanisms implemented.			
Component 4								
Outcome 4.1 Awareness of risks of continued and illegal use of POPs pesticides and about alternatives, developed among farmers, extension staff, agricultural input traders and consumers.	Number of people (segregated by farmers, extension officers, input traders and consumers) who demonstrated increased levels of awareness behaviour change at community level.	The awareness level on POPs pesticide issue and in general risk associated to the use of hazardous substances is low among the general population and the farmers.	Not yet started due to Covid-19 pandemic.	A preliminary survey to assess awareness baseline level conducted among farmers, extension officers, traders and consumers. Design of the final survey to quantify the effectiveness of the communication activity.	At least 50 percent of respondents of a final survey understands the risk associated with the use of POPs pesticides and willing to adopt alternative technologies.		MU	No progress towards achievement of the mid-term and end-of-project targets has been made, due to the COVID19 pandemic and the strict lockdowns. These exceptional circumstances have been taken into consideration when rating the progress towards outcomes and outputs. Furthermore, no activities could be implemented until the TAPP was approved. It is recommended to extend the project so outputs and outcomes can be achieved (now that the TAPP has been approved and the severe lockdown restrictions have been lifted).

Output 4.1.1 Communication strategy developed.	Number of target-specific communication strategy on POPs pesticides reduction.	Target specific communication strategy does not exist.	Not yet started; prevailing Covid-19 pandemic does not allow initiating project work at ground.	One web-based platform developed. One target-specific communication strategy developed.	One specific communication programme for each category of actors: farmers, extension officers, traders and retailers of chemicals, the general public, the consumers and women, implemented.			
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Indicator assessment key

Green = Achieved	Yellow = On target to be achieved	Red = Not on target to be achieved
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* As presented in the results framework in the original project document or subsequently updated by the Project Steering Committee (PSC) at project inception

Appendix 7. Co-financing table

Sources of co-financing	Name of co-financer	Type of co-financing	Amount confirmed at CEO endorsement/ approval (in USD)		Actual amount materialized as of 30 June 2021 (PIR report)* (in USD)		Actual amount materialized at Mid-term (31 December 2020)* (in USD)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project** (in USD)
			Cash	In kind	Cash	In kind		
GEF agency	FAO	Contribution		7 841 050		0	0	7 841 050
Government	DoE/ MoEFCC	Contribution		840 000		0	0	840 000
Government	DAE/ MoA	Contribution		20 862 000		0	0	20 862 000
Government	DGHS/ MoHFW	Contribution		2 200 000		0	0	2 200 000
Government	DoF/ MoFL	Contribution		2 000 000		0	0	2 000 000
		TOTAL		33 743 050		0	0	33 743 050

*The TAPP was only approved in August 2021, no co-finance by executing agencies could be materialized until approval.

** The amounts of co-finance pledged by all partners will be rediscussed now that project activities are expected to start (after approval of the TAPP and easing of the COVID19 lockdown). Therefore the expected reimbursement is currently the same as amounts confirmed at CEO endorsement.

Appendix 8. GEF evaluation criteria rating table and rating scheme

GEF criteria/sub-criteria	Rating	Summary comments
A. STRATEGIC RELEVANCE		
A1. Overall strategic relevance	HS	The project is strategic relevant and is fully in line with national and global priorities, as well as GEF and FAO strategic objectives.
A1.1. Alignment with GEF and FAO strategic priorities	HS	The project adheres to the GEF-6 Chemical and Waste focal area strategy, the strategic objectives of FAO (specifically “Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable”) and the most recent FAO Country Programming Frameworks (for the period 2014-2018 and 2019-2020).
A1.2. Relevance to national, regional and global priorities and beneficiary needs	HS	The project is fully in line with the key priorities of the Bangladesh National Implementation Plan for the Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants, as developed within the framework of the Stockholm Convention. These priorities include improvement of the existing legal framework and legislative provisions for POPs, safe repackaging, labelling and storage of DDT obsolete stockpiles, DDT sampling in dry fish, as well as awareness raising, outreach and education. The project also adheres to several key objectives of the Bangladesh Seventh Five year Plan.
A1.3. Complementarity with existing interventions	S	The project shows complementarities with several projects already being implemented by the project executing partners and by FAO (within their Country Programming Framework). As few activities have been implemented and the project can really only start now the TAPP has been approved and the lockdown restrictions lifted, the opportunities for cooperation with existing project and interventions will need to be verified and taken up.
B. EFFECTIVENESS		
B1. Overall assessment of project results	MU	At the mid-term point of the project, no outputs or outcomes have been achieved, although important progress was made related to the preparatory activities for safeguarding and disposal of the DDT stockpiles at Chattogram. There are exceptional circumstances (COVID19 pandemic) and this has been taken into consideration when assessing the project results.
B1.1 Delivery of project outputs	MU	No outputs have been delivered. Few activities could be implemented due to COVID19 (and late approval of the TAPP) and this has been considered when assessing this criterion.
B1.2 Progress towards outcomes and project objectives	MU	There has been progress towards achieving the first outcome, but no progress towards achieving the

		other seven outcomes. The MTR team decided to rate the delivery of project results and outputs as Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), having taken into consideration that although in fact no project results and outcomes have been achieved (and thus the rating should have been Highly Unsatisfactory), the project was severely affected by very difficult circumstances pertaining to the COVID19 lockdowns in Bangladesh (which were beyond the control of the project management), and the project was also affected by the late approval of the TAPP. Progress towards the individual outcomes has therefore also been rated as MU, except for progress towards outcome 1, which was rated as Satisfactory (see below).
- Outcome 1: Legacy stockpiles of DDT in Bangladesh eliminated.	S	A selection procedure to hire a company to undertake safeguarding and disposal of DDT has been successfully completed, and this company is taking preparations to start safeguarding. Now that the lockdown in Bangladesh has been lifted, it is planned to finalise safeguarding by March 2022, before the rainy season starts.
- Outcome 2: Increased capacity on risk assessment of contaminated sites	MU	See B1.2.
- Outcome 3: Increased capacity on management options for empty containers.	MU	See B1.2.
- Outcome 4: Strengthened capacity to control POPs pesticides imports, production and sale.	MU	See B1.2.
- Outcome 5: Increased capacity to address ongoing and illegal uses and unintentional exposures to POPs pesticides.	MU	See B1.2.
- Outcome 6: Improved monitoring and reporting of POPs pesticides residues in food, POPs pesticides poisoning and POPs pesticides contamination in the environment.	MU	See B1.2.
- Outcome 7: Strengthened understanding of alternative, low hazard pest control options in agriculture and public health.	MU	See B1.2.
- Outcome 8: Increased awareness of risks of continued and illegal use of POPs pesticides and about alternatives, developed among farmers, extension staff, agricultural input traders and consumers.	MU	See B1.2.

- Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes	MU	See B1.2.
B1.3 Likelihood of impact	Not rated at MTR	-
C. EFFICIENCY		
C1. Efficiency	MU	Very few activities have been implemented (due to the COVID19 pandemic and the late approval of the TAPP), except for activities related to preparation for safeguarding and disposal). The project is well behind schedule. As few activities have been implemented, and no outputs and outcomes have been achieved, it is difficult to assess cost-effectiveness. The costs for the safeguarding and disposal company are lower than budgeted in the ProDoc. But as such activities are generally highly complex, there can be unforeseen costs, for example related to logistics (limited available shipping containers and congestions at harbours due to COVID19).
D. SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECT OUTCOMES		
D1. Overall likelihood of risks to sustainability	ML	Although it is too early to make any definite statements on sustainability as few activities have been executed, the MTR assesses it moderately likely that there are some risks to achieving sustainability, in particular institutional and also financial sustainability (see below). However, these risks can be reduced if they are taken into account early during implementation of the relevant activities and if exit strategies are prepared timely.
D1.1. Financial risks	ML	There are some financial risks to sustainability. The ProDoc describes two mechanisms (on empty container management and incentives for safe dry fish processing) that can support the financial sustainability of the project if they are indeed set up.
D1.2. Socio-political risks	UA	The MTR did not find major socio-political risks that currently influence the sustainability of the project. However, as these aspects are not described in the ProDoc, and the project has implemented few activities, the MTR team is unable to assess the socio-political risks to sustainability.
D1.3. Institutional and governance risks	ML	Interviewees indicated that stakeholders need technical and coordination support to execute activities in the project and that their capacity needs to be built (further). If these needs are met, and the capacity built sustained, the institutional sustainability will be increased.

D1.4. Environmental risks	ML	The main environmental risk as described in the ProDoc is especially related to safeguarding of POPs pesticides and the Environmental Sound Destruction of POPs pesticides in Chattogram. The ProDoc describes how these risks will be mitigated, and this is also explained in the annex on Environmental and Social Risks. Specific measure have already been taken during the preparatory activities for safeguarding.
D2. Catalysis and replication	ML	It is too early to assess changes in behaviour and practice that the project helped to catalyse, as no outputs and outcomes have been achieved. The ProDoc contains a chapter on Potential for Scaling Up in which catalysis and replication aspects are described. Replication is not expected for safeguarding and disposal as the largest DDT stockpile in Chattogram will likely already be disposed of within this project. The ProDoc identifies a number of activities which will be piloted, and which could have significant scale-up potential. If the project outcomes will be achieved, it may well be that certain (demonstration) activities will be scaled-up after project end, provided that responsibilities and financial aspects related to upscaling after project end are discussed and addressed timely.
E. FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE		
E1. Project design and readiness	MS	The project was overall designed well. However, there have been considerable delays in implementation of project activities, as the TAPP was not approved when the project started (but only in August 2021). Therefore the executing agencies are only now ready to start coordinating the activities they are expected to manage.
E2. Quality of project implementation	MS	Few activities have been implemented. Therefore it is difficult to assess this criterion. Those activities that have been implemented, related to safeguarding and disposal, have been implemented satisfactorily. However, the level of project implementation is low and the executing agencies have not yet started to implement activities.
E2.1 Quality of project implementation by FAO (BH, LTO, PTF, etc.)	MS	Few activities have been implemented. The support provided by FAO for those activities that were executed (preparations for safeguarding and disposal) was satisfactory.
E2.2 Project oversight (PSC, project working group, etc.)	MU	No project oversight structures have been set up (as the TAPP was not approved). As few activities could be implemented, the level of project oversight was limited.
E3. Quality of project execution	MS	Few project activities have been executed. Those activities that have been executed, i.e. selection of a

		safeguarding/disposal company and other preparatory activities related to elimination of the DDT stockpile at Chattogram, have been executed well.
E3.1 Project execution and management (PMU and executing partner performance, administration, staffing, etc.)	MU	As the TAPP was not yet approved (until August 2021) and due to the COVID19 situation in Bangladesh, few project activities were executed. The executing partners have not yet coordinated any of the project components and activities.
E4. Financial management and co-financing	MS	The financial management followed the normal FAO procedures and a financial status of the project was shared with the MTR in August 2021 (by oracle code and per component). Co-finance from the executing partners has not yet been officially reported as the TAPP was not yet approved, even though some in-kind resources were provided during the TAPP approval process and discussions with FAO. Co-finance will need to be reassessed now that the TAPP has been signed.
E5. Project partnerships and stakeholder engagement	MS	The stakeholders were properly defined at project design; an elaborate stakeholder analysis was prepared. However, during the MTR process it became clear that several stakeholders were not aware of the project. Also, the overall low and slow response from all stakeholders to the MTR showed that the stakeholders are not yet well engaged in the project, even though they showed commitment to the project results.
E6. Communication, knowledge management and knowledge products	MU	As only few activities could be executed, component 4 on Awareness and Communication was not taken up yet. Although (informal) discussions between FAO and executing agencies on for instance communication with local people at Chattogram were discussed, a communication strategy was not developed and no strategic communication or awareness raising activities have taken place.
E7. Overall quality of M&E	MS	The M&E plan at project design was of a satisfactory level and reporting to GEF has been done via the PIRs. However, as very few activities were undertaken, consequently the M&E activities were of a limited level.
E7.1 M&E design	MS	The M&E at project design was of an adequate level. The ProDoc contained an M&E plan, indicating type of M&E activity, responsible parties, timeframe and budget.
E7.2 M&E plan implementation (including financial and human resources)	MU	As few activities were implemented, the M&E plan as described in the ProDoc could not be fully implemented. Recently a monitoring officer was hired, and it can be expected that now all project activities can start soon, M&E will be intensified and

		implemented according to the plan prepared by the new monitoring officer.
E8. Overall assessment of factors affecting performance	MS	As few activities were implemented, it was difficult to assess factors affecting performance when looking at the aspects that need to be considered according to the MTR guidelines. The MTR team tried to balance the assessment based on the quality of the information provided in the ProDoc and on what was actually implemented (also taking into consideration that the project is currently gaining momentum as the TAPP has been approved and the strict lockdown regulations were lifted).
F. CROSS-CUTTING CONCERNS		
F1. Gender and other equity dimensions	MS	The project has not considered these aspects during implementation as few activities could be conducted. However, gender aspects have been considered well in the ProDoc, including a gender mainstreaming plan. A gender expert has recently been hired, and gender aspects are also expected to be reflected in the project communication strategy that is being developed, as well as in the M&E plan.
F2. Human rights issues	MS	The project has not considered these aspects during implementation as few activities could be implemented. A chapter on indigenous people is included in the ProDoc and it is planned that awareness arising activities will focus on indigenous people where relevant.
F2. Environmental and social safeguards	S	The ProDoc contains a chapter on ESS where the main risks and mitigation measures are described. These measures have been taken into account during the preparatory work on safeguarding and disposal that has already been executed.
Overall project rating	MU	