

Stronger Services for Equal Participation and Inclusive Development

MPTF OFFICE GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY 2022 – 31 DECEMBER 2022

<p>Programme Title & Project Number</p> <p>Programme Title: “Stronger Services for Equal Participation and Inclusive Development”</p> <p>Programme Number (if applicable) n/a</p> <p>MPTF Office Gateway Project Reference Number: 00123042</p>	<p>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results¹</p> <p>Country/Region: <i>Armenia/ countrywide</i></p> <p>Priority area/ strategic results:</p> <p>UNDAF Programme Results and Resource Framework:</p> <p><i>Outcome 2: By 2020, people benefit from improved systems of democratic governance and strengthened protection of human rights, and</i></p> <p><i>Outcome 5: By 2020, vulnerable groups have improved access to basic education and social protection services and participate in their communities</i></p> <p><i>UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome 2</i></p> <p><i>UNICEF Country Programme Outcome 3: Children with disabilities</i></p> <p>UNSDCF Strategic Priority 1: People’s Well-Being and Capabilities</p> <p><i>Outcome 1. People benefit from a universal, affordable, accessible, and quality health system, while adopting healthy lifestyle practices</i></p> <p><i>Outcome 2. People benefit from a progressively universal, inclusive, and shock-responsive social protection system across the lifecycle</i></p> <p><i>Outcome 3. People exercise their talents and skills, benefitting from age-appropriate, life-long learning, inclusive and quality education in an enabling and safe environment.</i></p>
<p>Participating Organization(s)</p> <p>Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme</p> <p>UNDP and UNICEF</p>	<p>Implementing Partners</p> <p>National counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations</p> <p>Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, Armenian State Medical University, Armenian State Pedagogical University, Yerevan State University (Dep of Sociology and Social Work), American University of Armenia,</p> <p>Local NGOs and OPDs (Organization of persons with disabilities) providing services to persons/children with disabilities</p> <p>UNFPA</p> <p>WHO</p>

¹ Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

Programme/Project Cost (US\$)		Programme Duration	
Total approved budget as per project document:	3,082,320 USD	Overall Duration (<i>months</i>):	36 months
MPTF /JP Contribution ² : <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i>	<i>UNICEF: 1,500,120</i> <i>UNDP: 1,582,200</i>	Start Date ³	01 July, 2020
Agency Contribution: <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i>	<i>UNICEF: 80,000 USD</i>	Original End Date ⁴	31 December, 2022
Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i>		Current End date ⁵	31 July, 2023
Other Contributions (donors) <i>(if applicable)</i>			
TOTAL:	3,162,230		
Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval. Assessment/Review- if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i> Mid-Term Evaluation Report – if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>		Report Submitted By o Name: Natia Natsvlshvili Title: UNDP Resident Representative Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP Email address: natia.natsvlshvili@undp.org	

² The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

³ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁴ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁵ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

List of abbreviations

AT	Assistive technologies
CWD	Children with disabilities
IEP	Individualized education plan
JP	Joint Programme
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Services
MoESCS	Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
MoTAI	Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NK	Nagorno-Karabakh
OPD	Organizations of Persons with Disabilities
RPPC	Republican Pedagogical-Psychological Center
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEN	Special Education Needs
SER	Socio-economic response
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UNDP and UNICEF joint project aims to strengthen the basic service provision system in Armenia, through a *life-cycle approach* and provision of continuous care and support to children and adults with disabilities. This includes habilitation and rehabilitation, health, social and developmental services, all of which are extremely weak or not available in most regions of Armenia. Persons with disabilities (including children with disabilities) have very limited choice when it comes to the needs-based services and support, especially in areas far from the capital city. The project assists the Armenian Government in its efforts to reform the disability assessment and service provision system by enhancing equitable access to services and participation of persons with disabilities in public life.

The programme has contributed to a greater inter-sectoral collaboration on the issues of disability and served as catalyst for integration of disability issues in specific projects/programming, as well as for mobilizing additional resources from Government, the UN systems, the international community and other partners. Agreement was reached between three main counterparts – Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoH), Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (MoESCS), and Ministry of Health (MoH), on data exchange and data management for assessment and service provision.

During 2022 the Project made a significant progress towards establishing a pilot Center for Independent Living (CIL) as per the developed concept. The target community has been identified in Metsamor, Armavir marz and the architecture and design development are underway.

In order to ensure that inclusive education is supported by enhanced social support schemes, significant efforts were made in 2022 to advance the National Disability System reform agenda in line with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Following the adoption of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Law on Functional Assessment, the sectoral policy frameworks were aligned making a transformational change in the perceptions of the society towards persons with disabilities and enables the Government to have a clear picture of the demand for needs-based services for children with disabilities and the necessary measures for their social inclusion. The Project assisted in the development three packages of SoPs, guidance notes, forms and M&E packages on ICF, CILs and Assistive Technologies.

The project contributed to the pilot testing of the disability assessment and certification scheme modelling and costing a setup of one testing unit in Unified Service Provision Center equipping it with assistive devices and items, capacity building of multidisciplinary assessment teams (including health, social and education/developmental professionals), development of e-disability system and engaging OPDs in national development coordination mechanisms and accountability frameworks aimed at ensuring UN CRPD compliance of the national disability agenda.

The Project has also supported capacity building for medical and paramedical staff, adaptation and distribution of ICF manuals and development of the new E-Disability information system. The Government will scale up the interventions through state funding and funding received from WB, ADB and other developmental partners in 2023.

Purpose

The project aims to deliver comprehensive support to advance the rights of persons and children with disabilities, to improve and strengthen the service provision and support the GoA in the implementation of the UNCRPD.

The overarching goal of the ongoing programme is to create a system of disability assessment and service provision that in addition to providing services to address issues identified by a medical diagnosis, includes the right of people with disabilities to participate fully in social and economic life.

The programme has four main objectives:

1. Improved access to services and programmes **for persons with disabilities (with special attention on children) at the/or close to the place of their residence** through modernized and strengthened service centers.
2. Establishment of a policy **framework to support the modernized and strengthened multi-disciplinary service provision** in habilitation, rehabilitation, assistive technology, and assistance and support services at community level.
3. Strengthened **capacities at national and local levels for policy makers and service providers** to ensure quality and timely service provision to children and persons with disabilities.
4. Raise society's awareness of disability issues and **foster greater knowledge among children and adults with disabilities on their rights** and on how to exercise them.

The programme logic is built in line with the Government reform agenda and support the implementation of measures that are designed to meet Armenia's commitments for the rights of persons with disabilities and the rights of the child as enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and will be strongly aligned with the Global Development Agenda 2030.

The activities of the programme directly target multiple articles of UNCRPD, those are: Articles 9 (Accessibility), 12 (Equal recognition before the law), 19 (Living independently and being included in the community), 20 (Personal mobility), 25 (Health), 26 (Habilitation and rehabilitation), 28 (Adequate standard of living and social protection), 31 (Statistics and data collection), 32 (International cooperation) and 33 (National implementation and monitoring). It also supports Articles 4 (General obligations), 5 (Equality and non-discrimination), 6 (Women with disabilities), 7 (Children with disabilities) and other articles indirectly.

The disability reform roadmap for the transition period highlights an urgent need for improvement and strengthening of the services provision system in Armenia to meet the needs of persons/children with disabilities. As such, the availability of accessible and affordable rehabilitation plays a fundamental role in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), mainly SDG 3, "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages"⁶ and SDG 4 "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" at the same time paving way to achievement of other related SDGs.

The programme also fed into the overall Strategic UN Planning Framework, particularly the 2021-2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Armenia. Disability inclusion is specifically reflected in the **Strategic Priority 1: People's Well-Being and Capabilities**.

CF outcome indicators are disaggregated by disability, sex, and age to the extent possible, including disability disaggregated data on enrolment as well as child-, disability- and gender-sensitive integrated social services system countrywide.

The current program is also in line with the strategic directions of UNICEF Armenia Country Programme for 2021-2025, particularly with the Output 3.2: Affordable and quality cross-sectoral social policies, schemes and services for children with disabilities and their families are strengthened and support their development, a quality education and transition to independent living.

⁶ *United Nations. Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. Sustainable Development Goals. Available from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>*

Results

Narrative reporting on results

Outcome

JP Outcome: By 2022, Institutions and systems strengthened to improve protection of human rights through enhancement of access to services and inclusive environment for participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities.

The National Disability System reform agenda was advanced significantly in line with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Following the adoption of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Law on Functional Assessment, the sectoral policy frameworks were aligned making a transformational change in the perceptions of the society towards persons with disabilities and enabled the Government to have a clear picture of the demand for needs-based services for children with disabilities and the necessary measures for their social inclusion. Specific interventions included the revision of the disability assessment/certification and individual service provision planning procedures, updating the list of Assistive Technology (AT) addressing the needs of children throughout their lives and across settings such as home, school, and community, facilitated and contribution to the public awareness raising activities among government stakeholders, CSOs and specialists on newly adopted legal framework regulating the social protection of children with disabilities. The Armenian version of ICF was revised and uploaded into the WHO web platform.

Outputs

Output 1. Access to services and programmes for persons with disabilities (with special attention on children) close to the place of their residence through modernised and strengthened service centers improved. Support development of regional modernised Centers of Excellence for Independent Living (including support for assistive technologies) to provide across the life-cycle continuum care to persons with disabilities (including children with moderate and severe disabilities) and include the establishment of the institute of personal assistants and provision of mobile services.

In 2022, the Project made significant progress towards establishing a pilot Center for Independent Living (CIL) as per the developed concept. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), under the guidance of the Project and with the assistance of a national expert, conducted assessments of several communities and available buildings to identify the best location for the pilot CIL. Metsamor community in Armavir marz was identified as the most suitable due to its high number of adults and children with disabilities, as well as the lack of access to quality services in proximity.

After careful consideration, taking into account the budget required for reconstruction and seismic reinforcement of the existing building, as well as the specificities of the requirements for the CIL, the Project estimated that it would be more cost-efficient and beneficial to construct a new building rather than to reconstruct an existing one. Therefore, procurement for the architectural and design services for the construction of the CIL was initiated towards the end of 2022 and the design is expected to be completed by mid-2023. In order to complete the construction, the Project shall require a no-cost extension till the end of 2024, which will be confirmed during the upcoming Board Meeting on April 5, 2023.

Close collaboration was established with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA) in the development of a regulatory framework to operationalise for the Disability Assessment System reforms with focus on children with

disabilities. The Project contributed to the pilot testing of the disability assessment and certification scheme, modelling and costing a setup of one testing unit in Unified Social Service to be scaled up in 2023. 49 USS units were equipped with testing packages for functional assessment of children.

In partnership with the Republican Pedagogical and Psychological Support Center, the pedagogical-psychological support system for children with special educational needs and children with disabilities was strengthened. A set of assessment tools for 4 age groups and 7 types of SEN assessment were developed and piloted among preschool/school age children aiming to make the process of SEN assessment more measurable, accurate, and informative. Support was provided to MESCS with modelling the Special School for children with hearing impairments as a Resource Center, as an additional support to inclusive practices in the education system.

Strengthen capacity of healthcare professionals in early identification and early intervention at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of the health care system.

UNICEF continued to work on advancing early identification and intervention practices. The training module and practical guide on "Child development, developmental delays, and basics of early intervention" for 25 health staff at primary health care level that was pre-tested in Amasia consolidated community, was accredited by the Ministry of Health and introduced into the continuous professional development for doctors and nurses. In 2023 the Project will support expanding these trainings in other regions as well.

Modelling a system of provision of rapid psychological (posttraumatic) services for families (mothers, fathers, and caregivers) in crisis due to birth of a child with disability or newly diagnosed as child with disability or adult with disability.

Development of the modelling system of provision of rapid psychological services for families is underway.

Support needs assessment for Assistive Technology (AT), update the national list and build capacities for low-cost solutions.

Tech2Life initiative has been launched in 2021 to support the development of an enabling environment for assistive technology in Armenia for people with disabilities to live healthy, productive, independent, and dignified lives, and to participate in education, the labour market and civic life.

In the framework of the initiative, as a pilot project within the ideation phase of the AT production value chain, the Assistive Technology Design Engineering Contest (ATDEC) was developed in late 2021 and launched in early 2022 with Armenian National Engineering Laboratories of National Polytechnic University of Armenia as an implementing partner.

The contest represented a unique challenge for young researchers and engineering teams from across the country to come up with innovative ideas of different AT products and solve real-life technological problems in an enabling environment to support assistive technology development and improvement opportunities for people with disabilities in the country. Aiming at the development of the assistive technology industry in Armenia, ATDEC provided, in particular, an opportunity for the youth to (1) improve its awareness of the challenges people with disabilities face and (2) get real-world engineering experience by developing people-centred solutions. The competition was conducted in two categories: assistive electronic devices and assistive software. Out of 38 applicants 22 teams, who provided their initial solutions were selected to solve additional problem sets set for each of the products provided and given all the necessary resources in an enabling environment of a three-day workshop, which took place on April 08-11, 2022, at Sport and Concert Complex after Karen Demirchyan. As a result, speech communication, vision, hearing and mobility devices, as well as software for vision, learning and cognition, speech communication and recreation were developed.



<https://www.facebook.com/lurer1tv/videos/1105815003330040/>

<https://polytech.am/event/>

<https://infoport.am/am/news/society/tigran-avinyany-masnakcel-e-ajakcogh-tekhnologianeri-nakhagtsman-inzhenerakan-atdec-mrcuytin>

<https://armeniasputnik.am/20220409/hhum-ajakcvogh-tekhnavogianeri-mrcujt-e-anckacvum-vovqer-en-shaharunern-u-masnacnery-40723877.html>

To better understand the current level of need and unmet need, the access to APs and the barriers to access in Armenia, the UNDP supported the implementation of a rapid Assistive Technology Assessment (rATA). The rATA is an interviewer-administered, population-based survey tool developed by the World Health Organization (WHO). The fieldwork was conducted using face-to-face interviews by the Caucasus Research Resources Centre (CRRC). In the framework of this engagement the WHO Regional team conducted online trainings for the CRRC enumerators on new GIS methodology of data collection. Overall, 57 trained and experienced enumerators were involved in the fieldwork. The rATA survey was conducted between 27 April 2022 and 1 June 2022 throughout Armenia; the survey team visited 3 309 households in all regions of Armenia and interviewed 8 296 people. The report is presented as an Annex to this document.

In addition, at the request of the MoLSA, in collaboration with the Disability Rights Agenda NGO, the recommended list of the assistive devices and their descriptions by disability was developed ([Link](#)). This will further assist the MoLSA in the efforts to update the national AT list.

UNICEF Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Regional Office jointly with UNICEF Armenia office provided technical support in generating data and policy development aimed at enhancing functioning, participation in learning and social inclusion of children with disabilities from early years through adulthood. These resulted in a research report on Strengthening the national ecosystem for the provision and use of assistive technologies (AT) and alternative

augmentative communication (AAC) for children with disabilities in Armenia and the Mapping of disability system reforms.

Link to the report: <https://www.unicef.org/eca/media/22061/file/Case%20study%203.pdf>

The Project provided technical support to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in development of a proposal on the remuneration of the required staff for Functional Assessment Commissions of USSCs, and in updating the list of Assistive Technology (AT), as well as in development of a matrix with financial reflection of services and social guarantees provided to persons with disabilities in Armenia within the framework of the current legislation. Besides, market research and costing of the list of Assistive Technologies equipment for Functional Assessment of Disability Assessment Centers, including the technical specifications was realized.

Strengthen personal assistants and family support skills

UNICEF supported modelling the Special School for children with hearing impairments as a Resource Center, which included an assessment of educational and developmental difficulties of 10 children with hearing impairments (9 boys and 1 girl). Coaching/mentoring support was provided to prevent entry of these children into special schools and pedagogical- psychological support was provided to ensure their smooth inclusion into mainstream schools, including for prevention, or alleviation of learning problems.

Output 2. Policy framework to support the modernized and strengthened multi-disciplinary service provision in habilitation, rehabilitation, assistive technology, and assistance and support services at community level established.

In the framework of the reforms implemented in the field of rights of people with disabilities in 2021, the Law “On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” and the Law “On Assessment of Person’s Functionality” were adopted in May 2021, followed by PM Decree N 1316-A, ensuring the implementation of the Law “On Assessment of Person’s Functionality” and PM Decree 1317-A, ensuring the implementation of the Law “On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”. For this purpose, a series of supporting documents, including procedures and legal acts, were developed:

- ✓ Ministers’ order "On the adoption of referral procedures and the referral forms" and the procedure of referrals and referral forms (this has already been adopted, <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=169915>)
- ✓ Minister’s order “On the adoption of the characteristics of the positions of specialists assessing the functionality” and the characteristics of the positions of specialists assessing the functionality. ([Link](#))
- ✓ Minister's order "On adopting the guidelines on the data protection during the assessment of the functionality" and guidelines on the data protection during the assessment of the functionality. ([Link](#))
- ✓ Minister’s order "On the adoption of the procedure for creating and maintaining a register of specialists assessing functionality" ([Link](#))
- ✓ Decree “On the adoption of statistical summary reports on the functionality assessments and disabilities” ([Link](#))
- ✓ A package of Government decrees on the establishment of the Centers for Independent Living (This has already been approved, [Link](#))
- ✓ Assessment report of the regulatory framework on the provision of assistive technology (identified gaps and recommendations for improvement, [Link](#))

Following the adoption of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Law on Functional Assessment, the Government Decree (No. 1777- N) on Validation of Functional Assessment of Individuals; Measurements and Tools was approved on 28 July 2022. Besides, the Government Decree (No. 1777- N) on

approval of the Procedure and Terms of Provision of Personal Assistant Services was approved on 11 August 2022. The new model of Functional Assessment of Disability and the introduction of personal assistant service makes a transformational change in the perceptions and attitude of the society at large towards persons with disabilities and enables the State to have a clear picture of the demand for needs-based services for children and persons with disabilities and the necessary measures for their social inclusion.

Connect electronic systems of healthcare, education, and social sectors to ensure smooth data exchange and data management for assessment and service provision systems.

Within the framework of Disability Assessment System Reforms the person's functionality assessment should be conducted by the Unified Social Service (USS). Hence, the 49 regional USS centers will have all necessary conditions, facilities, tools, equipment, and multidisciplinary team to properly carry out the assessment processes based on the WHO ICF. In this context, the development of a new e-Disability information system and its smooth operation are very important. The new e-Disability system is intended to address the challenges of the old system, such as the incomplete information about a person's health, limited composition of assessment commissions, subjective criteria for defining disability status, lack of consideration for environmental factors, inadequate coordination of services, etc. by introducing a completely re-engineered process covering all the technical and procedural issues.

At the request of the MoLSA, the Project has supported Nork Technology Center in the development of the e-Disability platform (<https://e-disability.am/home>). Specifically, in the framework of the engagement, the Bank/Register of Medical Vignette Development Specialists and Medical Experts module of the platform has been developed. This allows specialists to register and be certified by the USS as a Medical Expert or Medical Vignette Development Specialist to work in the functionality assessment processing module. These certified specialists will use the E-Disability information system to perform functionality assessments. The Register of Specialists has two platforms: one for managing specialists that assess functionality of persons, and another for professionals assessing functionality based on inclusion in social life, measured by internationally accepted standards.

In order to ensure the rights of all children, including children with severe disabilities, and to promote their smooth transition to mainstream schools, the Project further supported development of a SEN module of EMIS, which was adjusted to CRPD and the new disability framework for enhancing data collection on CWD and their participation in school. 400 staff of the Regional Pedagogical-Psychological Support Centers were capacitated on application of new SEN assessment tools.

Establish research centers in relevant academic institutions, assessment and service provision center, to support evidence-based service delivery.

UNICEF partnered with ESI in revision of the disability assessment/certification and individual service provision planning procedures, which is in line with the principles of UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and based on the conceptual framework of the WHO International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). The ICF model of disability assessment will be introduced in the country as of February 1, 2023. The translation, adaptation and validation of standardized tests was undertaken, which will be used by medical and paramedical staff for functional assessment of disability in all 49 Unified social service centres (USSC) in Armenia. The Armenian version of ICF was revised and entered into the WHO web platform. Methodological guides for assessing s/b and d codes of the protocols were revised with new tests to assure more precise and objective assessment. Methodological guide for assessing e- environmental barriers and facilitators is still under development. 49 Territorial Social Service Centers were assessed, and recommendations were provided for the prospective Disability Assessment Commissions on the set-up and furnishing.

Through technical support of UNICEF Innocenti technical team, UNICEF Armenia office and the Republican Pedagogical-Psychological Center (RPPC) a package of 5 educational guides on support to organisation of inclusive education for teachers, caregivers/parents of children with disabilities, school staff, a directory of resources and a

directory of organisations were developed, adapted, pretested, printed in 25 000 copies to be disseminated in all schools and preschools in Armenia.

Below is the list of resources:

- ✓ [Caregivers guide to Inclusive Education](#)
- ✓ [How teachers can support parents of students in difficult life circumstances](#)
- ✓ [Tools for schools, teachers, and caregivers to assess inclusion of students with disabilities](#)
- ✓ [Organisations supporting children with disabilities and their parents or caregivers](#)
- ✓ [Auxiliary tools and references for supporting primary school and preschool students with disability](#)
- ✓ Link to resources: <https://www.unicef.org/armenia/en/reports-and-resources>

Improve the Individual Service Delivery Plans in line with best international standards, with due consideration of gender specifics in service provision.

Through partnership with RPPC a comparative data review and mapping of children (344 children mapped, of which 111 were from special school for children with hearing impairments, 233 from inclusive schools) according to severe and profound hearing impairments was undertaken to define the required scope of services. A set of assessment tools for 4 age groups and 7 types of SEN assessment were developed and piloted among 100 children (54 boys, 46 girls) aiming to make the process of SEN assessment more measurable, accurate, and informative. The new Individual Educational Development Plan (IEDP) was tested among 100 preschool children (66 boys, 34 girls) and the new Individual Educational Plan (IEP) was tested among 6–18-year-old 100 children that proved to be more user-friendly for provision of pedagogical and psychological support services. The IEDP form was approved by the Minister of ESCS on 17 September 2022 to facilitate the learning process of 0-6-year-old children.

Research on challenges in the work with SEN children in secondary schools according to severe and profound hearing impairments and a study on sign language was conducted. The study revealed the linguistic features of the Armenian sign language by studying the basic vocabulary, grammatical and syntactic rules and the features of their application. Furthermore, the existing contradictions between sign language and oral speech and the features and difficulties of using sign language in the process of organizing the education of children and persons with hearing disorders were revealed.

Output 3. Capacities at national and local levels for policy makers and service providers to ensure quality and timely service provision to children and persons with disabilities strengthened.

Conduct capacity development training courses for policy makers to ensure joint vision and policy formulation on multi-disciplinary approach to service provision.

The Project supported capacity building about 1068 social workers of the 49 USS countrywide on functional assessment, child development delays and disability, collaboration with health, education, and community services.

In September 2022 a 2-week ToT was conducted by EU Socieux+ international trainers for 15 medical and 20 paramedical staff. Procurement of medical and paramedical AT equipment was undertaken and installed in Malatia-Sebastia USSC in Yerevan, where the 1st pilot of the new model of functional assessment of disability was undertaken among 5 children and 7 adults. The results of the pilot revealed that the new assessment system is well accepted by all actors- assessors and persons with disabilities who pass the assessment. The assessors have the ability to view the capacity and performance of the person with disability from various angles, share ideas among medical and paramedical experts and jointly come up to an agreed decision on the functionality of a person and the environment that hinders or facilitates his/her performance.

Besides, through collaboration of the Project with the EU Socieux+ supported projects, rounds of Training of Trainers have been undertaken for 160 medical and paramedical staff to be further engaged in the functional assessment of disability, the new model of disability assessment.

Establish professional training centers and/or training platforms (including innovative solutions) in acting institutions for continuous education and preparation of rehabilitation professionals, occupational therapists, social workers and other professionals for habilitation and rehabilitation service provision.

Through UNICEF ECA Regional Office commissioned initiative and technical support from international experts, UNICEF pretested a teacher training module on “Changing perceptions-empowering teachers” among 30 teacher-trainers, mentors, specialists (1 male, 29 female) working with children with disabilities at a 5-day ToT on” Interpersonal Communication and Community Engagement to promote Inclusive Education” in Yerevan on 4-8 June 2022.

The revised training module will be further adapted, translated and used for the scale-up of trainings among other teachers and specialists to facilitate the learning process of children with disabilities. The e-version of the adapted training module will be posted on UNICEF Armenia website and be actively promoted through UN agencies websites, schools administration and teachers among NGOs and OPDs, as agents of change, in promoting the rights of children with disabilities to build actionable knowledge and promote attitudinal changes among communities, parents and society at large on the disability-inclusive approach and address negative attitudes, beliefs and norms around children with disabilities, and to promote diversity.

At the request of the MoLSA the UNDP has supported the development of an online learning platform that integrates different training materials and provides various professional training programs for medical personnel and social workers. The platform will be further operated by the National Institute of Labor and Social Research SNCO, which will be providing ICF trainings and certification to a larger number of specialists, ensuring continuous capacity building and professional development of medical and para-medical personnel and social workers. The platform includes a variety of interactive learning materials, such as quizzes, and case studies, to ensure that users are engaged and actively learning. The platform will also serve as a resource for methodology and guidelines.

Output 4. Society’s awareness of disability issues and foster greater knowledge among children and adults with disabilities on their rights and on how to exercise them raised.

Raise awareness among persons with disabilities and their families: on types of services and assistive technology for informed choice tailored to their needs; and on their rights to be better prepared for meaningful participation at all levels: from service provision to decision making.

The Project has supported the MoLSA in development and implementation of the ICF reform communication strategy. In the framework of this strategy promotional materials were developed in collaboration with Publicis HEPTA LLC, such as animation videos depicting the changes in Disability Assessment Reform, guidelines on functioning of the new system, as well as the procedure for assessment of functionality of PWD. In addition, the Project has assisted the MoLSA in creating and disseminating an explanatory video interview that highlights the changes in Disability Assessment within the framework of the ICF reform. The videos were scheduled to go live in January-February 2023 as part of the MoLSA awareness campaign.

Links: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=720549169749735>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1317425652355045>

Under the umbrella of the 2022 global observance, the Project organized a webinar to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The webinar brought together around 50 representatives to co-create a platform for knowledge and experience exchange among key decision makers, namely the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, Ministry of High-Tech Industry and the Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), persons with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities on good examples of innovative and transformative solutions as a tool to increase the possibilities for social inclusion of persons with disabilities to both create and participate in education and employment and therefore

reduce the gap of inequalities. The panel discussions and experts' opinions were on the topics of CRPD implementation, Disability System Reform, Information/web content and environmental accessibility, Sports as a good example to promote the social inclusion of persons with disabilities and ATs/AACs to enable the learning process and access to services for children with disabilities, sharing latest data and research. 18-year-old Mariam Avetisyan talked about the importance of communication for persons with speech impairments and about ARMAV alternative communication app: the 1st ever application in Armenian that was recently introduced in Armenia. ARMAV App changed Mariam's life completely, enabling her, as well as other children and adults with speech impairments to communicate and have her voice be heard.

Link to the announcement of the event on FB:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/714459303059068/?ref=newsfeed>

Link to the article: <https://www.unicef.org/armenia/en/stories/inclusion-persons-disabilities-starts-me-you-all-us>

Raise society's awareness on disability issues with specific attention to childhood disability, acceptance of children with disabilities and their parents to foster early inclusion.

The Project, in collaboration with Publicis HEPTA LLC has developed an Assistive Technology communication strategy. The strategy will be used to raise awareness on policies, initiatives and available solutions related to AT and promote the use of assistive technology among general public, PWD, their families, and caregivers, through various communication channels such as social media, television, and print media. It aims to increase access to assistive technology and support the development of an inclusive society where people with disabilities can fully participate in all aspects of life.

A number of sensitisation events/meetings and trainings organised with multidisciplinary groups of professionals to be engaged in the functional assessment of disability, as well as teachers on the main issues related to organisation of the education process of children with hearing impairments, on empowering teachers on interpersonal communication and community engagement to promote inclusion of children with disabilities, were documented on social media (provided in the links below).

Links to events and project initiatives:

[A step forward towards substantive inclusivity in the field of education | UNICEF Armenia](#)

<https://www.mlsa.am/?p=39471>

<https://www.facebook.com/mlsa.am/posts/pfbid0aMRxULqhrNvkCt7wbeQ7vnZT1r7hXFUKyo5zj2zHG9k7tAnegkpgCz85jaRd2pJpl>

<https://www.facebook.com/mlsa.am/posts/pfbid022K7PCXNUrkFQkq2e7TsBTrukT5jD3zEBk9LitjFDzrY5RHXcZsEYpzMEuV7eVzZSl>

<https://www.facebook.com/hmkyerevan/posts/pfbid02hkBtTZPcwDeJgCoM9H3RrTgPsa6UvYZ7xq5zzHjY83bYy2vZZSdVhx3DhH27MuTl>

<https://www.facebook.com/hmkyerevan/posts/pfbid02G5Kvgb68UT8dQ9NDgWusDA45BhDpBRXxANX7he3TJTrSH8so9Qd29zxKuFkftqYsl>

Describe any delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned & best practices

Given the comprehensive disability reform process affecting three sectors – social, health and education, the UN team put an extra effort to bring all partners onboard again and to re-agree the operationalization and possible implications of the reform process on each of the sectors through close collaboration with and leadership of MoLSA.

The National Disability System reform agenda advanced significantly in line with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA) leadership was key during the programme implementation. Specifically, the Ministry was effectively chairing the Programme Steering Committee (SC), which is the highest body for the strategic guidance and management of the UNDP-UNICEF joint program.

While the change in action priorities and the innovative nature of the CILs and related services caused some delays in the MoLSA decision-making process for the location, status, and type of services required based on the developed Concept Note, the Project was able to overcome these challenges by leveraging the expertise and involvement of qualified experts. As a result, the Project was able to advise the MoLSA and get the final decision on the selection of the target community of Metsamor in Armavir marz. The design of the pilot CIL is underway. Given the progress made so far, the Project shall require an extension till the end of 2024 to complete the construction of the CIL as targeted.

Qualitative assessment

The National Programme Steering Committee (SC), which is the highest body for the strategic guidance and management of the JP, shall meet on April 5, 2023. The SC shall discuss potential extension for the Project till the end of 2024.

Indicator based performance assessment:

Programme Results Framework

	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
UNDAF Outcome 2: By 2020, people benefit from improved systems of democratic governance and strengthened protection of human rights.			
UNDAF Outcome 5: By 2020, vulnerable groups have improved access to basic education and social protection services and participate in their communities.			
Indicator I Number of persons with disabilities receiving rehabilitation services in the regions of project operation Baseline: TBD based on a baseline survey of 2020 Target: TBD based on a baseline survey of 2020	Indicator I: Baseline survey and evaluation of national policy and programmes for adults and children with disabilities in Armenia is in process, results will be available in 2022. The Inception report has been completed, MOU finalized, fieldwork activities of the baseline survey on children with disabilities will be completed in 2023.		MoLSA, MoH, MoTAI
Indicator II % of children with disabilities using Rehabilitation services	Indicator II 88% (2021)	Indicator II The reported result for this indicator reflects the percentage of children with SEN receiving services and support in the education sector	MoLSA and MoESCS reports

Baseline: 23 (2012) Target: 40 (2020)		only. There is no reliable resource to track % of CWD receiving rehab services overall, social protection, health and education sectors. So, the Result is calculated based on the Number of children with SEN received services in the education sector out of the total number of CWD.	
Indicator III Number of children with special education needs enrolled in inclusive schools Baseline: 3000 (2014) Target: 6000 (2020)	Indicator III 9327 (including 2,961 girls)		MoESC, NCET and RPPC reports
JP Outcome 1: By 2022, Institutions and systems will be strengthened to improve protection of human rights through enhancement of access to services and inclusive environment for participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities.			
Indicator 2: Number of 5-18 years old children with disabilities receiving need-based quality services and assistive devices and technologies. Baseline: TBD based on a baseline survey of 2020 Planned Target: TBD based on a baseline survey of 2020	Indicator 2: The Inception report has been reviewed, MOU finalized, fieldwork activities of the baseline survey on children with disabilities will be completed in 2023.	The evaluation schedule was postponed to 2023.	MoLSA, MoH, MoESCS
Indicator 3: Number of youth and adults with Disabilities receiving need-based quality services and assistive devices and technologies. Baseline: TBD based on a baseline survey of 2020 Planned Target: TBD based on a baseline survey of 2020	Indicator 3 Assistive devices and technologies: 2020: 4,643 people 2022: 6,325 people		MoLSA, MoH, MoESCS

<p>Indicator 4: Policy framework for provision of accessible and quality services developed and adopted.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: 1 (2020)</p>	<p>Indicator 4: Policy framework is under development. UNDP supported development of three packages of legal and sub-legal acts in three directions: ICF, AT and CIL, which should feed the policy framework for service provision.</p>		<p>MoLSA, MoH, MoESCS</p>
<p>Indicator 5: National system of data collection on disability is updated, functional and complies with international standards.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: 1 (2022)</p>	<p>Indicator 5: 1</p> <p>The e-Disability platform has been developed and launched</p> <p>https://e-disability.am/home</p>		<p>Gov. decision, MoLSA, MoH and MoESCS reports</p>
<p>Output 1: Access to services and programmes for persons with disabilities (with special attention on children) close to the place of their residence through modernized and strengthened service centers improved.</p>			
<p>Indicator 1.1.1. Existence of regional Centers of Excellence for Independent Living.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: 5 (2022)</p>	<p>Indicator 1.1.1</p> <p>The architecture and design of the CIL is underway. To be completed by mid-2023</p>	<p>While the change in action priorities and the innovative nature of the CILs and related services caused some delays in the MoLSA decision-making process for the location, status, and type of services required based on the developed Concept Note, the Project was able to overcome these challenges by leveraging the expertise and involvement of qualified experts. As a result, the Project was able to advise the MoLSA and get the final decision on the selection of the target community of Metsamor in Armavir marz.</p>	<p>Programme reports, MoLSA and MoESCS reports</p>
<p>Indicator 1.2.1. Number of regions with capacitated healthcare professionals in early identification and intervention at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of health care system.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: 2 (2022)</p>	<p>Indicator 1.2.1.</p> <p>Amasia consolidated community, with its 23 settlements in Shirak region has been the pilot community for organisation of training among 25 healthcare providers on early identification and intervention.</p>	<p>The training in Amasia is completed, however, the training in other regions will continue in 2023.</p>	<p>Programme reports, MoH reports</p>

<p>Indicator 1.2.2. Number of regions where youth and adults with disabilities receive need-based quality services and assistive devices and technologies.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: 3 (2022)</p>	<p>Indicator 1.2.2.</p> <p>Targeted for 2023</p>	<p>Discussions with key line Ministries succeeded in that training will be expanded in other regions of Armenia.</p>	
<p>Indicator 1.3.1. Number of regions with modeling parent support services.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: 2 (2022)</p>	<p>Indicator 1.3.1.</p> <p>Targeted for 2023</p>	<p>To be completed in 2023.</p>	<p>Programme reports, MoLSA, MoESCS, MoH and MoTAI reports</p>
<p>Indicator 1.4.1. Number of regions with personal assistants, institutions and family support system.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: 3 (2022)</p>	<p>Indicator 1.4.1.</p> <p>Targeted for 2023</p>	<p>To be completed in 2023.</p>	<p>Programme reports, MoLSA, MoESCS, MoH and MoTAI reports</p>
<p>Output 2. Policy framework to support the modernized and strengthened multi-disciplinary service provision in habilitation, rehabilitation, assistive technology, and assistance and support services at community level established.</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.1.1 Systems of data collection on disability are functional and effectively feed evidence-based policy formulation.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: 1 (2022)</p>	<p>Indicator 2.1.1: 1</p> <p>An E-disability platform has been developed to enable data collection on disability.</p> <p>https://e-disability.am/home</p>		<p>Programme reports, MoLSA, MoESCS, MoH and MoTAI reports</p>
<p>Indicator 2.2.1. Existence of a national policy on service provision and assistive technology.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: 1 (2021)</p>	<p>Indicator 2.2.1.</p> <p>UNDP supported development of three packages of legal and sub-legal acts in three directions: ICF, AT and CIL, which should feed the policy framework for service provision.</p>		<p>Programme reports, MoLSA and MoH reports</p>

	<p>The Assessment report of the regulatory framework on the provision of assistive technology, the recommended list of the assistive devices and their descriptions by disability and update of the list of Assistive Technology (AT), including development of a matrix with financial reflection of services and social guarantees provided to persons with disabilities in Armenia, market research and costing of the list of Assistive Technologies equipment for Functional Assessment of Disability Assessment Centers, including the technical specifications was realized.</p> <p>The work on national policy is ongoing, to be finalised in 2023.</p>		
<p>Indicator 2.2.2 Existence of a national Strategy for Early Childhood Development.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: Strategy developed (2022)</p>	<p>Indicator 2.2.2</p> <p>Targeted for 2023</p>	<p>The Concept on Early childhood intervention and rehabilitation services for children has been developed to be agreed with line ministries (MoESCS, MoLSA and MoTAI) and become the basis for the development of the Action plan for strengthening early identification of developmental delays/ disabilities, early intervention and follow up.</p>	<p>Programme reports, MoLSA, MoESCS, MoH and MoTAI reports</p>
<p>Indicator 2.3.1. Survey on children with disabilities.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: 1 (2021)</p>	<p>Indicator 2.3.1</p> <p>Survey to be finalized in 2023.</p>	<p>The evaluation schedule was postponed to 2023.</p>	<p>Survey report</p>
<p>Indicator 2.3.2. Research and analytical capacity is built in 3 centers to ensure scientific support to the new policy framework on disability assessment and service provision.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: 3 (2022)</p>	<p>Indicator 2.3.2</p> <p>The project continuously supported building the research and analytical capacity of RPPC center through technical support in development of SEN assessment toolkit, IEP, IEDP for preschool children and children, as well as 5 educational guides on support to</p>		<p>Reports from 3 selected institutions, Programme reports, MoLSA, MoH statements</p>

	organisation of inclusive education for teachers, caregivers/parents of children with disabilities, school staff and IPC training module, and support to the capacity building of the staff at RPPC and TPPC . The work is planned to be completed in 2023		
<p>Indicator 2.4.1. Existence of gender-sensitive and age-specific Individual Service Delivery Plans for children/adults.</p> <p>Baseline: Individual Rehabilitation Plans are at initial stage of development to include gender sensitive and age-specifics.</p> <p>Planned Target: Gender sensitive and age-specific Individual Service Delivery Plans for children/adults developed (2022)</p>	<p>Indicator 2.4.1</p> <p>The new IEDP was tested among 100 preschool children and the new IEP was tested among 6-18 year-old 100 children and they proved to be more user-friendly for provision of pedagogical and psychological support services. The IEDP form was approved by the Minister of ESCS on 17 September 2022 to facilitate the learning process of 0-6-year-old children.</p> <p>The work in process,</p> <p>Completion targeted for 2023</p>		<p>Reports from 3 selected institutions, Programme reports, MLSA, MoH statements</p>
<p>Output 3. Capacities at national and local levels for policy makers and service providers to ensure quality and timely service provision to children and persons with disabilities strengthened.</p>			
<p>Indicator 3.1.1. Number of policy makers trained and applying the knowledge in the policy formulation.</p> <p>Baseline: 15 (2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: 100 (2021)</p>	<p>Indicator 3.1.1.</p> <p>76 specialists from RPPSCs, MoESCS, MoLSA</p> <p>To be finalized in 2023</p>		<p>Programme reports, MoLSA, MoESCS, MoH and MoTAI Reports</p>
<p>Indicator 3.2.1 Number of regions with trained health, social and education professionals /service providers/.</p> <p>Baseline: 15 (2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: 5 (2022)</p>	<p>Indicator 3.2.1.</p> <p>11 regions</p> <p>25 healthcare providers (nurses, doctors) trained on early identification and intervention trainings in Amasia consolidated community, Shirak region.</p>		<p>Programme reports, MoLSA, MoESCS, MoH and MoTAI Reports</p>

	<p>1068 social workers from all 49 USSCs trained on functional assessment, child development delays and disability, collaboration with health, education, and community services.</p> <p>160 medical and paramedical staff on the new functional model of disability assessment.</p> <p>30 teacher-trainers, mentors, specialists trained on interpersonal communication and community engagement.</p>		
<p>Indicator 3.3.1. The modernized and strengthened service provision centers have sufficient technical and human resources to provide quality services to children and adults with disabilities.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: 3 (2022)</p>	<p>Indicator 3.3.1.</p> <p>Overall, 403 specialists from RPPSCs through the country and secondary schools have been capacitated on increasing participation of children with SEN in distance schooling.</p> <p>25 primary health care workers have been trained on identification of developmental delays and disabilities.</p> <p>The work will continue in 2023.</p>		<p>Programme reports, MoLSA, MoESCS, MoH and MoTAI Reports</p>
<p>Indicator 3.4.1. Model curricula for targeted groups of health care, rehabilitation and habilitation service providers developed.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: 2 (2022)</p>	<p>Indicator 3.4.1: 2</p> <p>1)An online learning platform that integrates different training materials and provides various professional training programs for medical personnel and social workers has been developed. The platform will be further operated by the National Institute of Labor and Social Research SNCO, which will be providing ICF trainings and certification to a larger number of specialists.</p> <p>2) The Project has supported the MoLSA in development, adaptation and dissemination of training materials in the framework of capacity building of medical and para-medical specialists.</p>		<p>Programme reports, MoLSA, MoESCS, MoH and MoTAI Reports</p>

Output 4. Society’s awareness of disability issues and foster greater knowledge among children and adults with disabilities on their rights and on how to exercise them raised.

<p>Indicator 4.1.1 Number of regions where persons/children with disabilities are informed about their rights and can exercise them effectively.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: 11 (2022)</p>	<p>Indicator 4.1.1.</p> <p>11</p>		
<p>Indicator 4.2.1 Number of public events on disability issues.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: 11 (2022)</p>	<p>Indicator 4.2.1.</p> <p>10 (links to events shared above)</p> <p>An additional event planned in 2023</p>		<p>Programme reports, Campaign Materials</p>
<p>Indicator 4.2.2 Stigma towards persons with disabilities and their families decreased among service provider professionals and community.</p> <p>Baseline: Needs a pre- and post-assessment</p> <p>Planned Target: Target to be determined based on initial assessment.</p>	<p>Indicator 4.2.2</p> <p>A follow up survey is planned 2023.</p>		<p>Survey and assessment materials, Programme reports, Campaign materials and records</p>

Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

UNICEF initiated the evaluation of the National Policy and Programmes for CWD in Armenia for generating evidence on impact of policy reforms focused on ensuring non-discrimination towards CWD and provision of conditions for full enjoyment of their fundamental human rights and decent life. The Inception Report was ready by June 2020, however COVID-19 pandemic outbreak and later the war over NK created difficulties and limitations in the process of programmatic data collection and the evaluation schedule was postponed to 2021. The study field work framework was developed in 2022 with an aim to analyse the data in 2023.

IV. Programmatic Revisions

Even though the Memorandum of Understanding between UNDP and UNICEF, and MPTFO on the programme was signed in December 2019 with the starting date of the programme as of 1st January 2020, the Standard Administrative Arrangement between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and UNDP's Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office has been signed in June 2020, and the financial resources have been transferred in July 2020. Therefore, the implementation of planned activities automatically had been shifted for 6 months. So, the National Programme Steering Committee (SC), which is the highest body for the strategic guidance, management, coordination, and advisory authority of the Joint Programme met for the 2nd SC meeting on July 7, 2021 and agreed on the scope of the approved Project including the objectives and results. The SC recommended keeping the initially agreed duration of the Project to three years, to ensure that the Project has sufficient time for implementation. With this, given the late start of six months, the SC suggested counting the three years from the actual implementation starting date and request the Donor/RF Government to add six months to the current end date, thus bringing project closure to July 2023 (Meeting Minutes available upon request).

V. Resources

Financial management and procurement procedures are conducted in accordance with the UNDP and UNICEF own regulations, rules, directives, and procedures. PUNOs have bank accounts set up in Armenia. These accounts are managed by authorized staff who maintain comprehensive records of local bank account transactions (including clearly labelled receipts) and produce monthly reconciliations. The operational departments in each organization support the financial management of the Programme by approving timesheets, expenses, and contractor invoices, and by preparing internal financial reports, including periodic financial reports. Both UNDP and UNICEF hired staff for administration of this JP, as it was planned.

The joint work conducted so far on support of disability reform and this JP helps to mobilize additional resources, particularly, UNDP and UNICEF jointly with other UN Agency (UNFPA) under the RCO coordination and in close collaboration with the OPDs/NGOs, parents of children with disabilities, government stakeholders developed the Expression of Interest to the UNPRPD's 4th Funding Round in September 2020, based on which the country team was selected (one of 26 selected countries out of 111) for the 2nd step to conduct the Situational Analysis for a comprehensive review of the national context. The Situational Analysis was conducted in 2021 based on which the full Proposal was approved for 2021-2023 with the budget US\$ 400,000.

UNICEF contributed to a greater UN inter-agency collaboration on the issues of disability and inclusive education as well as served as catalyst for integration of disability issues in agency specific projects and programming. UNICEF CO intensive negotiations with the developmental partners, the MoESCS, civil society organizations and the Global Partnership for Education secretariat eventually resulted in the Government of Armenia entrance into the global education constituency with initial US\$ 550,000 GPE grant for the development of education sector plan with focus on quality, equity, and inclusion.

UNICEF continued efforts at private sector engagement, continuing its partnership with ACBA bank and Hayastan All Armenia Fund to support social inclusion of CWD and promote early learning through building an inclusive playground in Vardenis town, which is the first big playground in the town that is also accessible for children with disabilities. Over 3000 children will benefit from this partnership. UNICEF also partnered with Ameriabank to provide 220 tablets to the MoESCS for students with and without disabilities who did not have access to technology to continue learning during the lockdown due to the COVID outbreak.