

Reporting Agency: UNDP “Modernization of Vocational Education and Training System in Armenia” Project

Country: Armenia

## STANDARD PROGRESS REPORT

No. and title: **Modernization of Vocational Education and Training System in Armenia (VET Project)**

Reporting period: January 2007-December 2007

### I. PURPOSE

- The main purpose of the Project is to achieve significant change with sustainable results by modernizing Vocational Education and Training System in Armenia. Main objectives of the VET Project are work towards reduction of poverty and income inequity; to provide with normative and content support for vocational education, upgrade facilities and premises of VET establishments and training system in Armenia to enhance quality of vocational education; to work on the both sides of demand and supply of the rapidly developing requirements of domestic labor market to match existing work force to the needs of the growing economy.
- The Project is contributing to socially-oriented economic growth by helping government authorities to implement pro-poor policies and programmes in Vocational Education and Training sector; to increase employment and business opportunities for the country’s remote marzes by helping them to create an enabling environment for acquiring modern knowledge and occupational skills for learners to promote their labor market access and to create possibility for establishment of their own businesses.
- The Project is strengthening the capacity of the poor and socially disadvantaged to contribute to the country’s growth by rising youth employability, broadening awareness on different opportunities to obtain vocational education in colleges and craftsmanship colleges; enhancing PPP network by establishment of sound links between private business and vocational institutions, and increasing participation in the development of vocational education and training system policy development and implementation, increasing public awareness on the Project activities.

The objectives of the Project are to upgrade facilities and furnish with new equipment the selected country’s vocational training institutions; and provide labor market with skilful workforce to be trained based on updated qualification standards, modular programs and text books according to modern and innovative educational technologies. The Project is designed to cover 4 vocational education institutions with the purpose to assess the potential and needs of selected VET institutions, upgrade their facilities, modernize the curricula for selected vocational subject areas, develop and produce new training materials/guidelines and train the faculty staff on new curricula.

- **Main implementing partners:** Ministry of Territorial Administration of the RA.
- **Other partners:** Ministry of Education and Science of the RA (Responsible Party), National Institute of Education, Ministry of Social Affairs, State Employment Agency, Vocational Institutions; Donor Organization (EU, WB, USAID), private educational funds and NGOs.

## II. RESOURCES

Total approved budget: **USD 1, 157, 315**

UNDP VET Project financing is provided by the Government of Norway in amount totaled USD 1,102,315.

## III. RESULTS

The UNDP VET Project is implementing through 2 main components resulting into the following:

- Component 1: Upgrade facilities and provide new equipment for the selected vocational training institutions.
- Component 2: The poor and most socially-disadvantaged get access to the innovative methods of education; acquire occupational skills and vocational knowledge with the purpose to raise employability and/or establish their own businesses.

The Project is designed to cover 4 vocational education institutions (VETIs) one out of which should be located in Yerevan city and the rest - in marzes with the purpose to assess the potential and needs of selected VET institutions, upgrade their facilities, provide with equipment and modernize whole chain of educational process starting from development of National Qualification Standards and ending up with new training materials/guidelines and training programs for trainees on new curricula.

The selection of 4 groups of vocational specialties included in the framework of the Project was mainly based on current trends of labor market demand and reflects results of both recently made research works and analytical papers on both labor market and Vocational Education System in Armenia dated back to 2006. The following four groups of specialties having highest demand in current labor market (beginning of 2006) in comparison with other specialties have been identified: 1. Construction specialties; 2. Craftsmanship technical specialties; 3. Agricultural industry and food processing; 4. Tourism and service including business hospitality and public catering<sup>1</sup>.

The following Vocational Education Institutions (VETI(s)) are included in the UNDP VET Project:

**Yerevan State Industrial College** was chosen as a Project site and approved by RA Minister of Education and Science.

**Guymri State Technical College and Guymri N2 Craftsmanship College (Shirak marz)** being mainly focused on artisan occupations and located next to each other are also included in the framework of the Project and considered as a single site for the Project Implementation activities and approved by RA Minister of Education and Science.

**Hrazdan State College (Kotayk marz)** was chosen as a Project site and approved by RA Minister of Education and Science with the potential to develop tourism sector in Kotayk marz.

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<sup>1</sup> Detailed analyses of the selection process is available upon request.

**Nor Geghi Agricultural State College After Academic Aghajanyan (Kotayk marz)** was chosen as a Project site and approved by RA Minister of Education and Science with the purpose to enhance agricultural preliminary and middle professional education in regions.

Within the UNDP VET Project framework, the following main activities have been undertaken during the reporting period (October 2007- December 2007):

**Project Component (Activity 1):**

1. Establishment of heating system in Yerevan State Industrial College (YSIC)
2. Windows replacement at YSIC to rise effectiveness of the newly introduced heating system and minimize heating loss
3. Establishment of heating system for Gyumri State Technical College and N2 Craftsmanship College
4. Windows replacement at Gyumri State Technical College to rise effectiveness of the newly introduced heating system and minimize heating loss
5. Ongoing renovation works for toilets reconstruction at Gyumri State Technical College
6. Ongoing painting and doors replacement at Gyumri State Technical College
7. Completion of construction works to lay out educational orchard at the premises of Nor Geghi State Agricultural College
8. Roof Renovation in State Hrazdan College
9. Rehabilitation of 6 toilets in Hrazdan State College
10. Ongoing procurement of state-of-art welding laboratory equipment
11. Ongoing procurement of state-of-art laboratory equipment for construction and maintenance of buildings
12. Ongoing procurement of state-of-art laboratory equipment for agricultural mechanization vocational occupations.

**Project Component (Activity 2):**

1. Development of Unified Competency-Based Qualification Standard (CBQS) and 7 CBQSs for the following VET occupations:
  - a) Electro-welder
  - b) Constructor Technician
  - c) Tractor Driver
  - d) Tractor Plumber
  - e) Food Inspector
  - f) Public Catering (waiter qualification)
  - g) Business Hospitality
2. Development of corresponding to the already developed CBQSs Modular Programs for the same occupations
3. Development of manual on “Pedagogy” for faculty staff engaged in VET system
4. Initiation of publishing of manual on “Pedagogy”
5. Development of Manual on Welding
6. Initiation publication of Manual along with CD Modular Program

7. Carrying out 9 capacity building sessions for the public employees from Social and Educational sectors
8. Development of Technical Specifications for laboratory equipment to be procured for three vocational specialties of the Project focus (welding, construction and maintenance of building, maintenance of agricultural vehicles (tractor plumber) performed by International Consultancy
9. Maintenance of VET Project web site as promotional and awareness tool for vocational education ([www.vet.am](http://www.vet.am))
10. Design and Publication of the UNDP VET Project flyer as promotional and awareness tool for the Project activities and vocational education in general

For the reporting period all activities were carried out in time and in accordance with the work plan.

Key partnership relationships are developed with the Ministry of Education and Science and National Institute of Education. Strong ties are established with considerable number of vocational institutions; Ministry of Social Affairs and State Employment Agency, representatives of donor organizations like ILO, EU, WB, USAID, representatives from Finish consulting companies and Dutch Government sub-contractors in VET sector. All the above-mentioned organizations are very supportive and cooperative.

*It is worth to mention that the Project is tighten with the commitment set out in the MOU signed on February 26, 2007 between the UNDP, the Ministry of Education and Science of the RA and Center for Educational Projects to pilot two high schools with artisan educational flow in light of Government Reforms on High School. The Government concept was eventually finalized by the end of September 2007, which considerably prolongs the selection of the said two high schools resulting in allocation of the Project funds more than \$US 100 000) aimed at renovation works and technical upgrade for the next year.*

#### IV. FUTURE WORK PLAN

##### **Component 1:**

- To monitor and complete civil works aimed at toilets rehabilitation in Gyumri State Technical College
- To equip 3 educational laboratories with corresponding equipment for the following 3 qualifications having highest demand in the labor market: welding, construction and maintenance of building, and tractor- plumber
- To initiate design works for the already selected two Craftsmanship Colleges in Yerevan and Gyumri in light of the Government Strategy on High School Reforms
- To initiate rehabilitation works in the already selected Craftsmanship colleges included in the 30 pilots of the Government reforms on High School
- To upgrade facilities of the newly included in the Project Colleges
- To arrange a number of official openings of the colleges, which are direct beneficiaries of the VET Project
- Official Opening of Educational Orchard in Nor Geghi Agricultural College

##### **Component 2:**

## DRAFT DOCUMENT

- To finalize development of corresponding 2 Modular Programs based on the already developed CBQS for tourism
- To publish 2-volume Manual on Electro-Welding
- To publish 2-volume Manual on Construction and Maintenance of Buildings
- To publish 2-volume Manual on Agro-Mechanization for tractor- drivers and tractor-plumbers
- To officially present Manual on “Pedagogy: Vocational Education”
- To organize country wide training course on Pedagogy for VET faculty staff
- International Advice to the Government on the Draft Law on Informal Education
- Running PR campaign of the Project including raising awareness and prestige of Vocational Education in Armenia
- Regular update of the UNDP VET Project web site

### V. FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION

As it was mentioned above, the total budget for the Project is USD 1,102,315.  
USD 342 848 are budgeted from January, 2008 until May, 2008.

<b>2007</b>	<b>Approved Budget, USD</b>	<b>Revised Approved Budget, USD</b>	<b>Expenditures by the end of the year USD</b>
<b>Government of Norway</b>	<b>717 221</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>597 361 USD</b>

**The Project delivery rate is more than 83% by the end of 2007.**