Management response to the Independent Evaluation of DA Project 2023X: Transport and trade connectivity in the age of pandemics

##### Overall response to the evaluation

In this section, Project Management presents its overall views on the evaluation, the report and its conclusions.

##### Response by recommendation

In this section, Project Management should address each recommendation that is addressed to their entity, discussing them in the order presented in the evaluation report. This should be done in the format of the Management Response matrix below (see Box 1) and include:

1. The recommendation number and text copied from the evaluation report;
2. Indication of whether the recommendation is accepted fully, partially, or rejected;
3. Description of the actions to be taken, with comments as required on the conditions to be met during implementation, or on reasons leading to a partial acceptance or rejection of a recommendation;
4. The responsible party for implementing the action/s;
5. The time-frame for implementation and/or an implementation schedule, if required;
6. Indication if and what resources are required for implementing the recommendation.
7. Management response matrix[[1]](#footnote-1)

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| Management response to the Independent Evaluation of DA Project 2023X: Transport and trade connectivity in the age of pandemics | Date |
| Evaluation Recommendation (a) | Management response (b)Accepted, partially accepted or rejected  | Management plan |
| Actions to be taken, and/or comments about partial acceptance or rejection (c) | Responsible unit (d) | Timeframe (e) | Resources required (Y or N) (f) |
| **Recommendation 1:***For the DA only* |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Recommendation 2:***For the DA only* |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Recommendation 3:**Strengthen the connectivity between trade and transport sections internally within the commissions/agencies as well as across regions with a view to enhance focus on the trade-transport nexus and the quality of support. This should include:- Enhanced internal interaction and development of joint agenda between trade and transport teams in the commissions to facilitate that government decision makers in trade and transport are addressed from the holistic transport-trade connectivity perspective. This, however, needs to take into consideration that trade and transport issues usually are managed separately in the countries, with different agencies and line ministries involved, representing an institutional development challenge.- More explicit focus on aspects related to change management processes and internal power relations (political economy) in planning and implementation of capacity building activities within governmental institutions and authorities.- Focus on identification/analysis of countries which could serve as geopolitical drivers/promotors/champions of the trade-transport nexus within regions to help promote the nexus agenda and the UN global conventions / agreements at higher-level political fora.- Enhance organization of cross-regional learning session with participation of piloted/targeted countries to allow for cross-learning across regions and countries. | Rejected | ESCWA has a high degree of connectivity within its trade and transport sections, which maintain a focus on regional collaboration and support. | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| **Recommendation 4:**In order to more strongly promote gender equality and human rights, DA projects need to ensure that projects clearly define whom the most vulnerable people are and that analysis of gender dimensions within a specific sector is included. This should further include clearly defined targets in results frameworks and development of data collection tools that allow for disaggregation by gender and vulnerability. It also includes a dedicated focus to ensuring consultations of women and people living with a disability (or organizations representing these groups) in research, law formulation and policy developments to ensure their perspectives and needs are duly taken into account. In addition, in order to fully reflect a focus on people living with a disability or other identified vulnerable groups the following recommendations should be integrated into future joint project designs:- Proper analysis of whom the most vulnerable people are and gender dimensions. - Collection of data that reports on not only how many women and men are reached but also youth, people living with a disability etc. and other vulnerable groups considered a target group for the specific intervention. The ongoing analysis of these data during implementation is essential to understand whether the intended target groups are reached or other strategies are required.- In order to ensure consideration of people living with a disability in trade facilitation, people living with a disability or organizations representing them should be included in NTFCs and measured to the same extent as representation of women. - In order to influence policy and advocate for a greater level of inclusion, it is crucial that research papers and studies include analysis of human rights, gender dimensions and considerations of whom the most vulnerable people are within a specific sector.- A dedicated outreach and communication strategy is required to ensure reaching of vulnerable groups and people living with a disability etc. In order to ensure enrollment of such target groups in training courses etc. a different outreach and communication approach is required (e.g. communication directly through organizations working with people living with a disability to ensure that the messages are being communicated to the right people/community). | Partially accepted | Development Account projects are designed in line with guidance provided by UN-DESA for each tranche, that explains the requirements to address issues affecting women and girls and other vulnerable populations. This includes a separate section to describe how the project will contribute to gender equality and enhance human rights, with particular emphasis on “leaving no one behind.” Wherever possible, projects disaggregate the data and measure its progress for women and girls, youth, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and internally displaced persons. ESCWA will continue to follow this approach and guidance in its development of DA projects.  | SPARK | Ongoing | N |

1. Each column is cross-referenced to the bullet letters above. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)