

PROJECT STATUS REPORT

JANUARY 2012 - JUNE 2012

SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT NAME: Bahamas Virtual Platform

Project Number: BH-M1008 - Operation Number: ATN/ME-12265-BH

Purpose: To develop a virtual platform to facilitate easier access to regional and global material sourcing and sales markets.

Country Administrator
BAHAMAS

Beneficiary Country
BAHAMAS

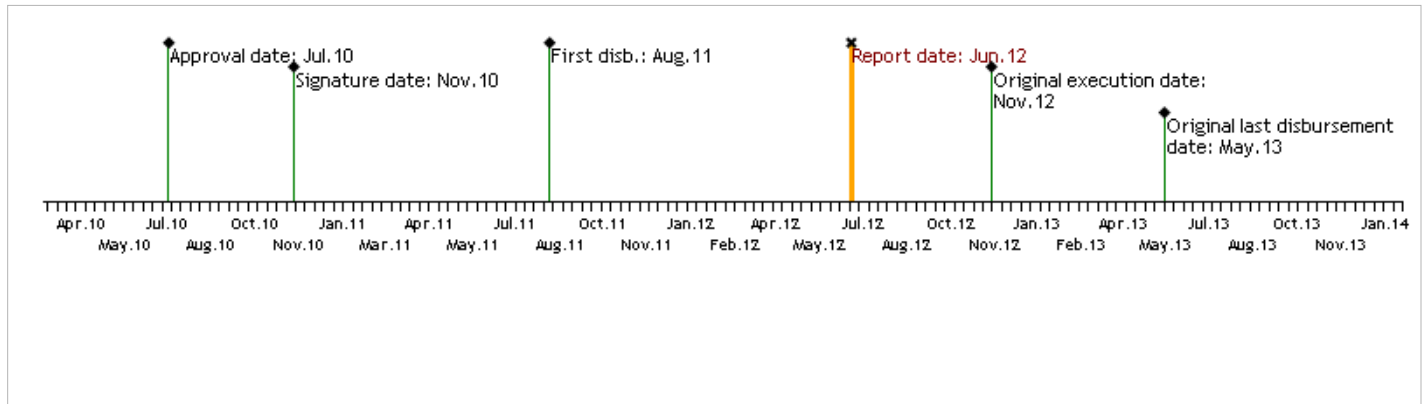
Group
SME - Small and Medium Enterprise
Development

Subgroup
TECH - Technology for Business
Development

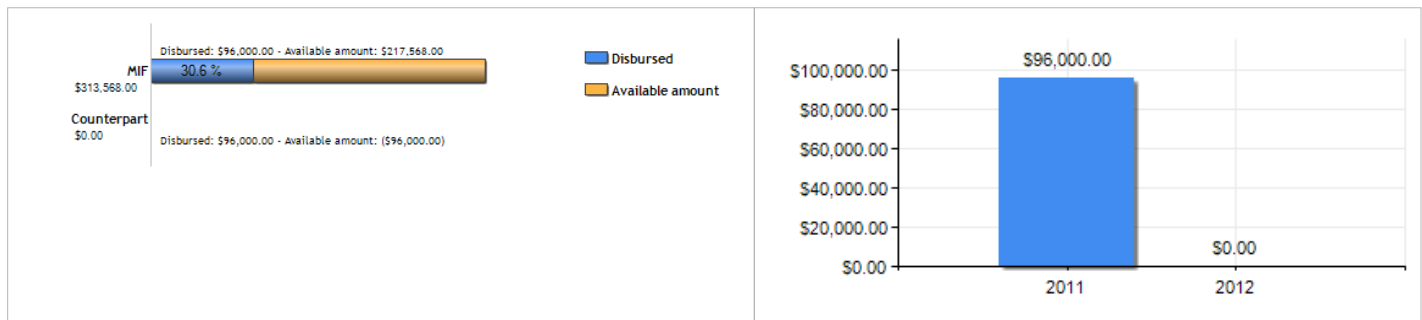
Executing Agency: Bahamas Chamber of Commerce

Design Team Leader: Perez-Gold, Aminta
Supervision Team Leader: Beecher, Wayne

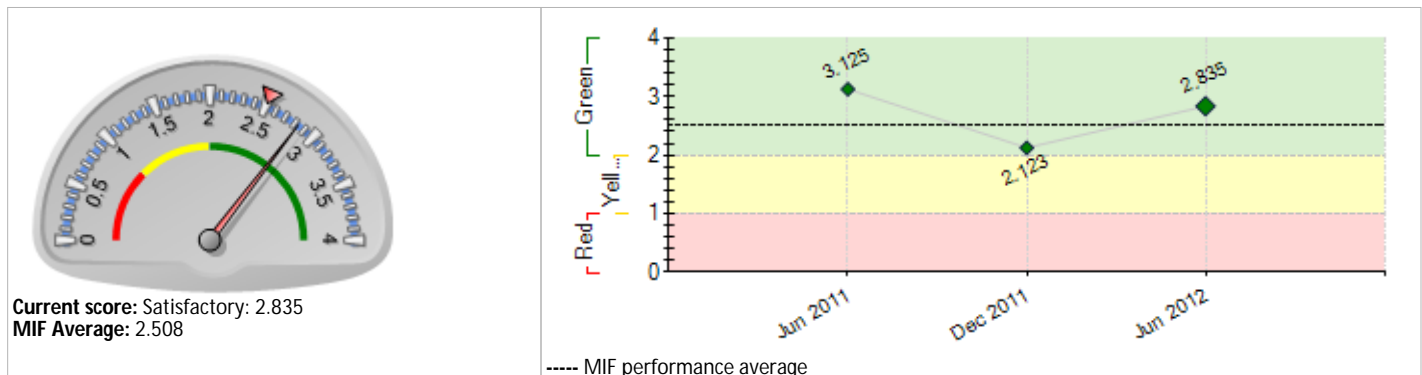
TIMELINE



FUNDS



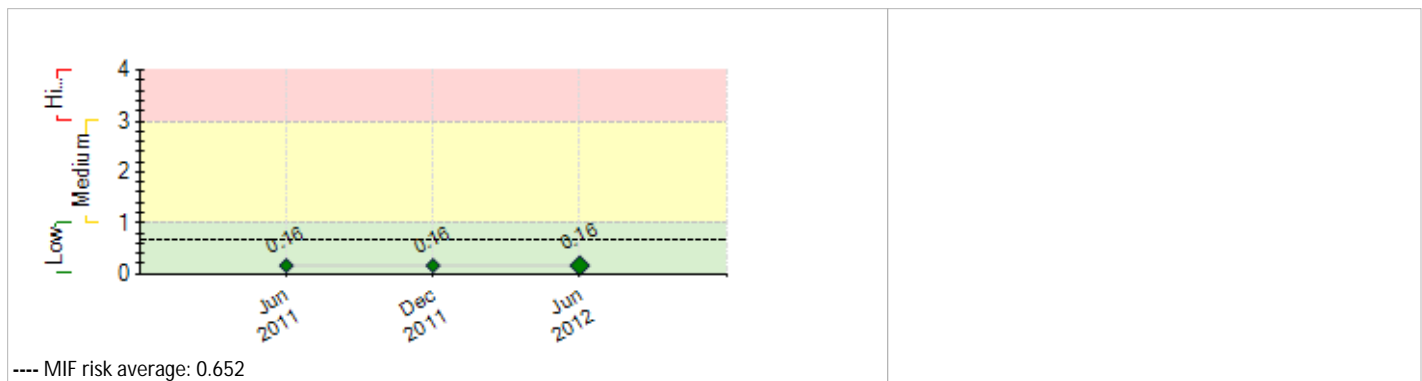
PERFORMANCE SCORE



EXTERNAL RISKS

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Risk
Financial Management: Low
Procurement: Low
Technical Capacity: Low



SECTION 2: PERFORMANCE

Summary of project performance since inception

Results to-date, include the following:

Milestones achieved include: The project is currently experiencing an unexpected delay that has impacted the IDB 'non-objection' approval process. A more prudent management of time driven activities by the Executing Agency may have avoided the delay. The likelihood of the project achieving its final objective remains highly optimistic, as the sector is aggressively seeking avenues to improve sales and grow and national interest in the project is increasing. The Executing Unit's effort to support the above must include:

- Completion of Capacity & Need Analysis Activity and production of Handicraft Survey Document (first such document produced)
- E-commerce training delivered to 150 MSMEs
- Completion of Business Requirement Document
- Completion of IT Specification Document
- Onset of RFP process for IT platform developer)
- Delivery of Marketing Framework Document
- Completed Benchmark Visit to Jamaica (Jamaican Business Development Corporation)
- Secured Strategic Partnership support of the Ministry of Tourism (1 of 2 targeted partners as indicated in the Purpose Statement)

- 1 (1) Attainment of Eligibility for Disbursement
- 2 (2) Completion of Baseline (island/ field) Work & Capacity Analysis

- Increased stakeholder engagement
- Increased sub-committee activity
- Heightened Government Participation
- Frequent Pilot Project Island Visits
- Consistent project documentation and 'Activity Overview'

Comments from the Supervision Team Leader

Agree with the Executing Agency comments

Summary of project performance in the last six months

Semester performance results to-date, include the following:

No Milestones achievements this semester. The project is currently experiencing an unexpected delay that has impacted the IDB 'non-objection' approval process. A more prudent management of time driven activities by the Executing Agency may have avoided the delay. The delay has impacted the achievement or progress of Milestone #3, completion of Component 2 activities and the onset of Component 3. Critical actions requiring the Executing Unit's focus for the next semester include: Expected results include:

- Completion of Business Requirement Document
- Completion of IT Specification Document
- Onset of RFP process for IT platform developer)
- Delivery of Marketing Framework Document

- Securing official IDB non-objection approval for IT Developer
- Increased sub-committee activity
- Increased Pilot Project Island Visits
- Increased industry stakeholder participation
- Official IDB non-objection approval for IT Developer procurement
- Attainment of Milestone 3
- Release of Virtual Platform Beta version
- Completion of Marketing Plan
- Completion of Site Disclaimer, Shipping Policy and Return & Refund legal work

Comments from the Supervision Team Leader

Agree with the Executing Agency comments

The procurement of the Web Design Consultancy was called into question which resulted in a reversion to ex-ante modality for that specific procurement activity. The investigation has delayed the process.

SECTION 3: INDICATORS AND MILESTONES

Indicators		Baseline	Intermediate 1	Intermediate 2	Intermediate 3	Planned	Achieved	Status
Purpose: To develop a virtual platform to facilitate easier access to regional and global material sourcing and sales markets.	P.I1 Live and fully functioning Bahamas Virtual platform					Nov 2012	No	
	P.I2 7 targeted associations and 210 MSMEs participating in the project	0				210 Nov 2012	0	
	P.I3 2 additional strategic partners in place	0				2 Nov 2012	1 Sep 2011	
Component 1: Business Requirements Identification Weight: 25% Classification: Unsatisfactory	C1.I1 30 handcraft associations are aware of the project	0				30 May 2011	30 Oct 2010	Finished
	C1.I2 7 associations and 200 MSME are participating in the requirement identification phase	0				200 Oct 2011	200 Nov 2011	Finished
	C1.I3 150 people trained on e-Commerce and collaborative work	0				150 May 2011	168 Dec 2011	Finished
	C1.I4 Business requirement document defined and validated by the participants					May 2011	Yes Feb 2012	Finished
Component 2: Platform Technical Design Weight: 25% Classification: Unsatisfactory	C2.I1 Complete legal framework for platform operations					Aug 2011	No Mar 2012	Delayed
	C2.I2 Platform design completed according to business requirements					Nov 2011	Yes Mar 2012	Finished
	C2.I3 Portal design and system configuration approved by board					Nov 2011	No Feb 2012	Delayed
Component 3: Platform Development Weight: 25% Classification: Satisfactory	C3.I1 Virtual platform released					May 2012	No Feb 2012	Delayed
Component 4: Portal launch and promotion Weight: 25% Classification: Satisfactory	C4.I1 214 MSME trained on the virtual Platform	0				214 Aug 2012		On Course
	C4.I2 Develop Virtual Platform Marketing Plan					Aug 2012		On Course
	C4.I3 Platform Promotion Events					Aug 2012		On Course
	C4.I4 Official launch of the Bahamas Virtual Platform					Aug 2012		Delayed
	C4.I5 Virtual Platform sustainability plan					Nov 2012		On Course

Milestones		Planned	Due Date	Achieved	Date achieved	Status
M1	Attainment Of Eligibility for Disbursements	1	Nov 2010	1	Jul 2011	Achieved late
M0	[*] Conditions Prior	8	Jul 2011	8	Jul 2011	Achieved
M2	[*] Completion of Baseline Work and Capacity Analysis. 150 persons trained on e-commerce and collaborative work; 240 MSMEs participants identified for Pilot project program	150	Jan 2012	162	Jan 2012	Achieved
M3	[*] Platform design & prototype completed and approved by Project Board	1	Jul 2012	0	Feb 2012	
M4	[*] Release of final version of the Bahamas Virtual Platform	1	Jan 2013			

[*] Indicate that the milestone has been reformulated

CRITICAL ISSUES THAT HAVE AFFECTED PERFORMANCE

- [X] Purchase difficulties
- [X] Delays in fulfilling the contract terms

SECTION 4: RISKS**MOST IMPORTANT RISKS AFFECTING FUTURE PERFORMANCE**

	Level	Mitigation action	Responsible
1. Transitioning the 'individual' cultures of the stakeholders into a singular force, prior to 'beta-test' phase to ensure best project results.	Low	To mitigate this action, stakeholders have committed the appropriate level and amount of resources to the project, to serve on sub-committees and participate in strategy sessions.	Project Coordinator
2. Transforming the 'individual' culture of the Craft Vendors to a 'team' concept, predicated on the importance of maintaining a global marketplace for their products	Low	The strategy of offering 'shared ownership of the operations', via associations, and annual profit sharing, will mitigate this risk. This includes transitioning the vendors to rely on the business support services offered to maximize member benefits and minimize individual risks.	Project Coordinator

3. Natural disasters (hurricanes).	Low	To mitigate the impact of this risk, the system design will feature 'built in redundancy'. This will provide the functionality to run the program from an alternate site.	Project Coordinator
PROJECT RISK LEVEL: Low TOTAL NUMBER OF RISKS: 3 IN EFFECT RISKS: 3 NOT IN EFFECT RISKS: 0 MITIGATED RISKS: 0			

SECTION 5: SUSTAINABILITY

Likelihood of project sustainability after project completion: P - Probable

CRITICAL ISSUES THAT MAY AFFECT PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

[None reported in this period]

Actions related to sustainability which will be or have been implemented:

Project Board official discussion regarding strategy to approach Government Authorities for the awarding of crown land for the cultivation of raw materials for selected handicraft productions, e.g., Silver Top. The discussion was tied to the findings of the Handicraft (Needs Analysis) Survey conducted by the Project and focused on the cultivation of raw materials for straw products. (14 Aug 2012) Presentation made (by Project Coordinator) at a curriculum preparation session to a group of High School Teachers Workshop, re commercial opportunities in the handicraft sector for young persons. Details regarding value chain opportunities shared with the educators and commitments made by both sides to keep the next abreast with developments. Project Coordinator asked by Workshop Coordinator (Sharon Ferguson/ Min of Education) to participate in island visitations - to share BVP news and opportunities with educators and students around The Bahamas. (24 August 2014). Meeting - Executive Chairman - Bahamas Agricultural & Industrial Corporation and Project Coordinator to be held to begin discussion on land allocation strategy for (raw material) sustainability - 6 September 2012.

SECTION 6: PRACTICAL LESSONS

1. Official Communication Log is always required to record submission and receipt of all key project correspondence and documents. This step/ log is absolutely essential - as it provides an official "Audit Trail" for all key project activities, inclusive of submission/ receipt of official IDB documents, RFP documentation, etc.	Relative to Implementation	Author Demeritte, Donald
2. Project Buy-in from key players required for a seamlessly executed project. Official binding commitments required for both financial and personnel resources - from all players - to ensure full project participation. Commitments required from sufficiently senior person(s) to ensure compliance. Design to include mandatory reports (directly from the Project Coordinator) to the Project Champion and relevant Board of Directors. Lack of a binding commitment for human resources - from all parties - has had an impact on various Project Implementation activities. This has resulted in increased project activity hours for the Project Coordinator and in some instances contracted consultants.	Design	Demeritte, Donald