

PROJECT STATUS REPORT

JULY 2011 - DECEMBER 2011

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

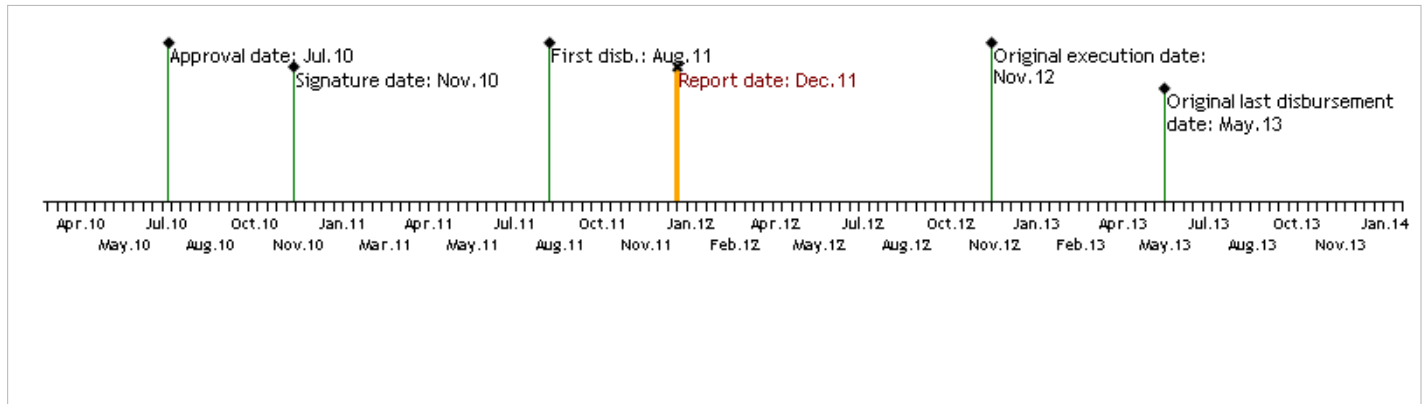
Group
SME - Small and Medium Enterprise
Development

Subgroup
TECH - Technology for Business
Development

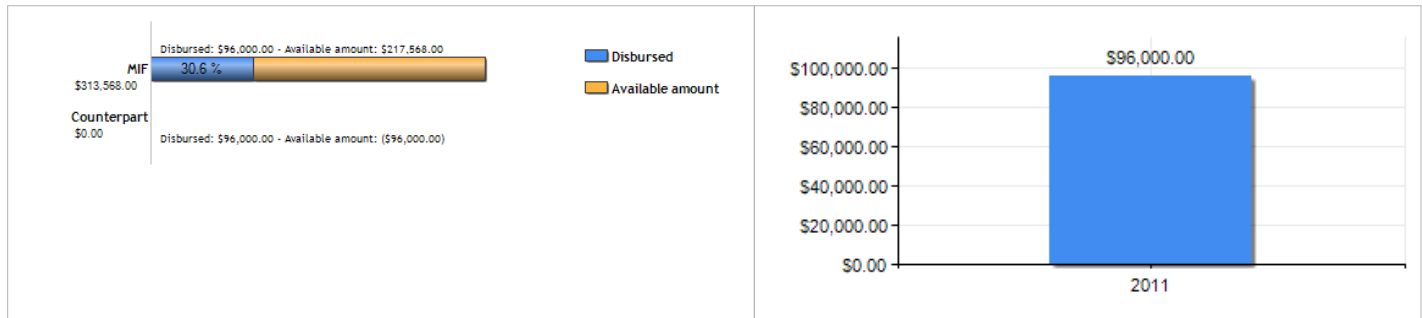
Executing Agency: Bahamas Chamber of Commerce

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

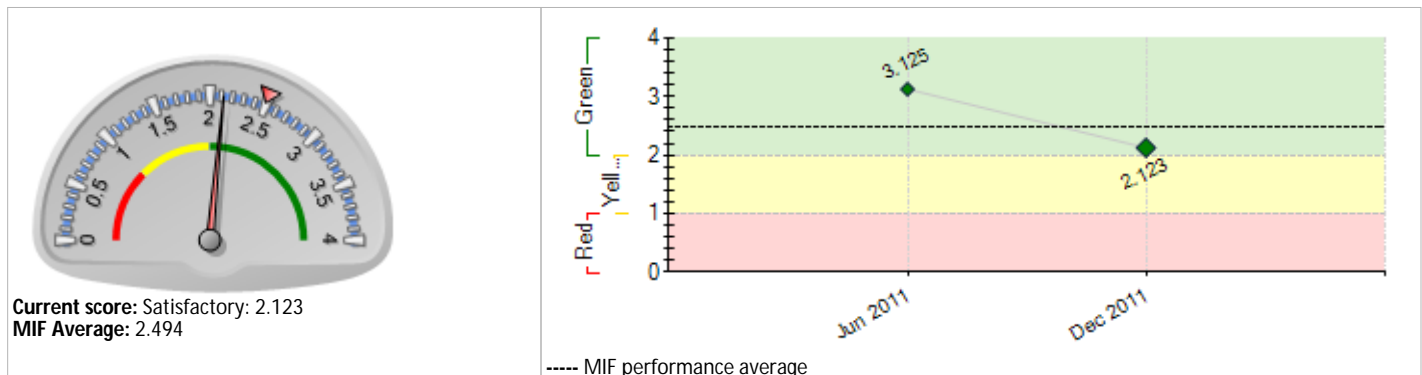
TIMELINE



FUNDS



PERFORMANCE SCORE



EXTERNAL RISKS

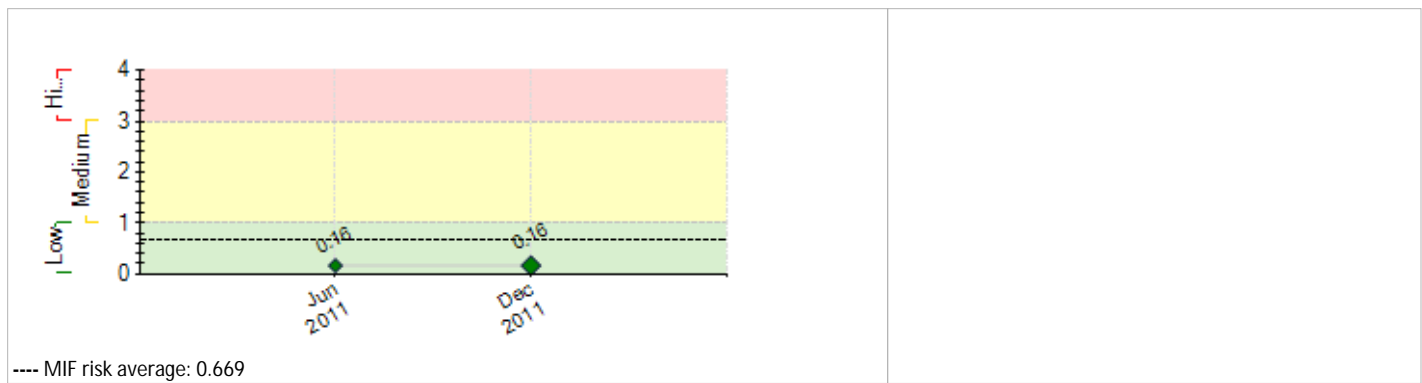
INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Risk

Financial Management: Low

Procurement: Low

Technical Capacity: Low



SECTION 2: PERFORMANCE

Summary of project performance since inception

Notable Achievements: 1) Completion of beneficiary need analysis 2) Completion of Handicraft Survey Report 3) 168 artisans (MSMEs) trained in e-commerce 4) Completion of IT & Business Requirements Specification Documents; 5) Board Approval of Specification Documents. **Project difficulties observed in the following areas:** Possibility of project scope-creep, as the Technical Committee work develops. **Additional Risk Identified:** Harnessing the energies of technical committee members & stakeholders to ensure broad focus on Logical Framework objectives. **Mitigating Actions:** Coordinator & Board Members to continue to provide proactive focused oversight to the Technical & Sub-Committee efforts. **The project has a high chance of success, with the continual input and support of the stakeholders.** The Executing Unit's efforts over the next six months will be focused on the following: a) Mobilizing the technical sub-committees, to engage key players from the handicraft and related sectors; b) Identifying second stakeholder, &/or accessing resources to fund identified marketing efforts.

Comments from the Supervision Team Leader

Agree with the Executing Agency comments

Summary of project performance in the last six months

Achievements: 1) Completion of Milestone 2 - Baseline Work & Capacity Analysis 2) Completion of Component 1 & onset of Component 2 3) Addition of Min of Tourism as Strategic partner 4) 168 artisans (MSMEs) trained in e-commerce 5) 240 MSMEs identified for Pilot Project 6) Onset of Platform Design & Development Procurement. **Areas with significant delays include:** Marketing Framework Review - **some delay experienced** as a result of the broad scope of the subject matter and various approaches. **Next Semester's Focus:** The project is projected to conclude Q4 2012 and has a high probability of success, with the continued support of the stakeholders. the appropriate level and amount of resources to project's strategy sessions & sub-committees. **The project has a high chance of success, with the continued focus on project deliverables and support of the stakeholders.** The Executing Unit will focus on: a) Expanded technical sub-committee work b) securing resources to fund the evolving marketing efforts; c) Agreeing & creating the legal structure that the Platform will operate under. It is envisaged that the platform design will be completed this semester ensuring the onset and completion of the development phase for Q3 2012.

Comments from the Supervision Team Leader

Agree with the Executing Agency comments

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	0	
	P.I3 2 additional strategic partners in place	0				2	1	
						Nov 2012	Sep 2011	
Component 1: Business Requirements Identification Weight: 25% Classification: Unsatisfactory	C1.I1 30 handicraft associations are aware of the project	0				30	30	Finished
	C1.I2 7 associations and 200 MSME are participating in the requirement identification phase	0				200	200	Finished
	C1.I3 150 people trained on e-Commerce and collaborative work	0				150	168	Finished
	C1.I4 Business requirement document defined and validated by					May 2011	Dec 2011	Finished

	the participants					May 2011	Jul 2011	
Component 2: Platform Technical Design Weight: 25% Classification: Unsatisfactory	C2.I1	Complete legal framework for platform operations					No	Delayed
						Aug 2011	Jul 2011	
	C2.I2	Platform design completed according to business requirements					No	Delayed
						Nov 2011	Jul 2011	
Component 3: Platform Development Weight: 25% Classification: Satisfactory	C2.I3	Portal design and system configuration approved by board					No	Delayed
						Nov 2011	Jul 2011	
	C3.I1	Virtual platform released					No	On Course
						May 2012	Jul 2011	
Component 4: Portal launch and promotion Weight: 25% Classification: Unsatisfactory	C4.I1	214 MSME trained on the virtual Platform	0			214		
						Aug 2012		
	C4.I2	Develop Virtual Platform Marketing Plan						
						Aug 2012		
	C4.I3	Platform Promotion Events						
						Aug 2012		
	C4.I4	Official launch of the Bahamas Virtual Platform						
						Aug 2012		
	C4.I5	Virtual Platform sustainability plan						
						Nov 2012		

Milestones	Planned	Due Date	Achieved	Date achieved	Status
M0 Attainment Of Eligibility for Disbursements	1	Nov 2010	1	Jul 2011	Achieved late
M1 [*] 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	168	Dec 2011	Achieved
M3 [*] Platform design & prototype completed and approved by Project Board	1	Jul 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] Executing agency institutional capacity

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**Issue**

[X] Lack of a sustainability plan or its inadequate implementation

Comments

Sustainability Plan not yet defined

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

Notable Actions To Date:

- 1) Engagement of Craft Market Vendors (leaders) in technical committee activities, to promote cluster efforts and familiarize them with project objectives
- 2) Initiate dialogue with shippers, regarding potential strategic partnerships for distribution network;
- 3) Introduce labeling & packaging expert to sector, to expose players to best practice
- 4) Engagement of Ministry of Tourism on both Steering (Project Board) & Technical Committee levels. (Key to marketing positioning)

SECTION 6: PRACTICAL LESSONS

	Relative to Implementation	Author Demeritte, Donald
<p>1. 1) All members of the Project Board should have been exposed to the IDB project methodology, to ensure a collective understanding of the project's logistics and maximum benefit from the project experience. Training was limited to the Coordinator and Executing Agency, despite the hybrid composition of the project's ownership/ sponsorship (3 organizations). This enhances the replicator factor of the project.</p> <p>2) More emphasis could have been placed in the project design on general outputs, e.g.. marketing framework document value chain research (for the Business Requirement Document), to avoid 'project scope creep' during Project Board reviews and other exercises.</p> <p>3) Stakeholder buy-in for 100% commitment of a permanent resource to the project - where required - for committee work and preferably in a Secretariat setting.</p>		