



Additional Financing Appraisal Environmental and
Social Review Summary
Appraisal Stage
(AF ESRS Appraisal Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 11/30/2023 | Report No: ESRSAFA653



I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)
Afghanistan	SOUTH ASIA		
Project ID	Project Name		
P181480	Additional Financing For Afghanistan Emergency Food Security Project		
Parent Project ID (if any)	Parent Project Name		
P178280	Emergency Food Security Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Agriculture and Food	Investment Project Financing	12/14/2023	2/9/2024
Estimated Decision Review Date	Total Project Cost		
12/12/2023	0		

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Proposed Development Objective

To restore food security and resilience of targeted beneficiaries

B. Is the project being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?

Yes

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project Activities

The availability, access, and the stability of food supply have become critically compromised since August 2021. From November 2021 to March 2022, an estimated 55 percent of the population (22.8 million people) are facing a major food security crisis, classified under the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 3 (IPC3) and above. Out of this, 8.7 million people across 22 out of 34 provinces, face food emergency - IPC Phase 4 conditions. About 3.9 million people were estimated to require malnutrition treatment services in 2021, including 1 million children under five with severe acute malnutrition, 2.2 million children under five with moderate acute malnutrition, and 700,000 pregnant and lactating women with acute malnutrition. Income opportunities are limited. The World Food Program (WFP) monitoring from the end of December 2021 revealed an average unskilled daily labor rate of just AFN 279 (less



than US\$3) per day, and that labor availability for those seeking it has sunk to just 1.3 days per week on average. In response to the crisis, the international community is providing humanitarian assistance, including through food distribution and the creation of cash-for-work schemes.

The Bank is seeking to develop a proposed Food Security operation, that complements these ongoing humanitarian efforts by supporting recovery of the production base and creating short term income opportunities. In recovering the sector, there are also opportunities to “build back better” and create conditions for a resilient and inclusive sector able to deliver sustained growth, jobs, and livelihood security, while providing a source for safe and nutritious food and contribute to wider economic growth. The project will be financed by an ARTF grant in the amount of US\$195 million using an Investment Project Financing (IPF) instrument and will be implemented for 24 months. The project is structured around the following three components:

Component 1: Restoring Agriculture Production (US\$106 million) to finance - (i) provision of quality production packages and technical assistance to restart crop production targeting about 300,000 HHs; (ii) the provision of input packages seeds, basic tools for backyard kitchen gardening and technical training on improved and climate smart production practices and basic nutrition and food hygiene targeting 150,000 female headed households and (iii) technical assistance support to private sector seed companies in planning, on-site support for multiplication, marketing and certification of seeds.

Component 2: Provision of Water and Resilience Services (US\$62 million) to finance rehabilitation and improvement of around 130,00 hectares of irrigation schemes and watershed areas in all 34 provinces of the country. This will ensure better access to irrigation water and improved soil and water conservation. These activities will also generate short-term employment opportunities of 6.250 million person-days for unskilled labor, including opportunities specifically dedicated for female unskilled laborers including gabion weaving.

Component 3: Implementation support (US\$27 million) to finance (i) indirect costs; (ii) direct project monitoring and supervision costs required to support implementation of the Project; (iii) project monitoring, evaluation, and coordination at the national and regional levels; (iv) mobilization of farmers’ associations, mirabs, and community development councils to facilitate consultation and community sensitization; and (iv) establishment and maintenance of a grievance redress mechanism. This component will also finance the cost (US\$218,160) of unarmed national security guards employed by FAO to provide security to their offices.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

The additional Finance will maintain FAO as the main implementation agency as the parent project. The activities will not change significantly and will be scaled up as per the scope of the Parent project.

D.2 Overview of Borrower’s Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

FAO has performed Moderately satisfactorily in the parent project and some short comings are due to the lack of capacity to address environmental risk management issues after the departure of the previous environmental specialist. Other relevant E&S staff are in place in the PIU. There will be a need for FAO to complete the hiring of an



Environmental Specialist as soon as possible in order to bridge the gaps in the implementation of the requirements of the ESF.

FAO has its own Environment and Social Management Guidelines (ESMG) and a policy that contains 9 environmental and social safeguards standards. While these policies are mostly well aligned with the World Bank’s ESF in substance, there are a few gaps including the following: the guidelines do not mention specific provisions such as Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEP), Labor Management Procedure (LMPs) and worker’s Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM). As the Emergency Food Security project will follow the ESF, further granularity of these gaps will be described and further specific measures will be included in the revised ESMF to ensure compliance with the ESF.

FAO has well-demonstrated operational capacity to deliver time-critical development actions across all 34 provinces of Afghanistan. Currently, FAO has 225 national staff in Afghanistan and 15-18 international staff at any one time incountry. FAO has four offices in Kabul, 5 regional offices, and 2 district-level offices. Approximately 71 staff are based in the regional and district offices.

NGOs and contractors will be engaged by FAO to implement project activities and work closely with local communities who will contribute to the project’s implementation through the existing Community Development Councils (CDC). FAO will ensure cascading responsibility of E&S requirements through relevant contractual provisions with contractors and other implementing partners.

The World Bank MA will continue to monitor and report on implementation and compliance with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and other environmental and social (E&S) risk management measures.

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II. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC) Substantial

A.1 Environmental Risk Rating Substantial

The environmental risk is considered Substantial. The scope of the additional finance includes scaling up of activities already under implementation in the parent project. Key environmental risks and impacts include: (i) impacts on riverbeds and flood plains associated with the extraction of sand, gravel, and stone that will be used for rehabilitation activities of select secondary and tertiary canals under component 2 ; (ii) generation of waste and open pits due to improper management of materials that will be used for rehabilitation activities; (iii) noise and dust generation associated with the rehabilitation work of existing irrigation schemes; (iv) Improper storage, use, and disposal of agrochemicals (pesticides and Fertilizers) and empty containers; (v) OHS risks related to poor handling of land leveling equipment and (vi) soil and groundwater contamination from leaching due to excessive application of fertilizers. All proposed project interventions are planned to take place within existing footprints of irrigation schemes, farms, and fields. Associated environmental risks and impacts are thus expected to be site-specific, reversible, and generally of moderate magnitude that can be mitigated following appropriate mitigation measures.

A.2 Social Risk Rating Substantial



The Social Risk classification is maintained as Substantial (S). Key social risks and impacts are similar to the original project and include: (i) social inequalities, exclusion, and discrimination of certain categories of people, such as vulnerable and marginalized groups; (ii) forced and child labor; (iii) occupational health and safety (OHS) risks and risk of exposure to infectious diseases for project workers; and (iv) minor labor influx affecting community safety including sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) risks. Possible incidents of terrorist attacks on project workers, rehabilitated community-level facilities and beneficiary communities are also an important contextual risk that continue to affect the safety of the project workers and the community at large. Construction that would require land acquisition or voluntary land donation will continue to be excluded from financing.

B. Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Relevant

Project activities under component 1 will distribute wheat and vegetable seeds along with the provision of complementary inputs (e.g., fertilizer, foundation, seeds, etc.), equipment, and services (e.g., extension). Under component 2, the project will finance the rehabilitation of secondary and tertiary canals , which will entail small-scale civil works in existing schemes. All project activities are planned to take place within existing footprints of irrigation schemes, farms, and fields. On-farm climate resilient and agroforestry activities under component two are expected to have positive environmental impacts. Key environmental and social risks include exposing project workers and communities to health and safety risks associated with the rehabilitation and maintenance of on-farm water harvesting facilities (underground reservoirs and open pits); watershed management/rainwater harvesting structures in mountainous areas; spate irrigation works in lower mountains and foothills (small spate diversion canals, shallow wells, and springs), and irrigation canals; potential impacts on riverbeds and flood plains associated with the extraction of sand, gravel, and stone; generation of noise, dust, and solid wastes as well as an increase in traffic and road safety risk; elite capture of benefits; labor issues in terms of discrimination, child labor, and labor influx. Security risks at the project level also remain substantial contextually.

An Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) have been prepared and disclosed by appraisal. The ESCP outlines the commitment of FAO, which will be cascaded down to implementing NGOs and contractors, to screen, assess, and manage E&S risks and impacts while the SEP embodies the consultation and engagement processes to be undertaken by the project throughout at all stages.

FAO will update the ESMF of the parent project . The ESMF will include E&S screening checklist, exclusion list, generic ESMP for the Project, Infection Prevention and Control Plan (IPCP), measures related to occupational health and safety (OHS), community health and safety (CHS), and solid and hazardous waste management, a simplified LMP, an SEA/SH action plan. A separate security risk management plan will be prepared to address the project level security risks. For pest management, FAO’s Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures are materially consistent with the Bank’s requirements (ESS3 and EHS Guidelines on Annual Crop Production and Perennial Crop Production). The ESMF will include a brief description of FAO’s Pest and Pesticide Management Policy/Guidelines and any measures necessary to ensure consistency between the Policy/Guidelines and the ESS3 requirements.

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As the Project is being prepared under Paragraph 12 of the IPF Policy for Projects in the situation of urgent need of assistance, the updating of the ESMF will be deferred to the implementation stage but prior to signing of agreement/contract between implementing NGOs/contractors and FAO.

The implementation of E&S instruments will be regularly monitored and reported on by the FAO.

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

ESS2 is relevant. The project implementation will involve direct workers (consultants and staff recruited by FAO) and contracted workers (workers of implementing NGOs/contractors, laborers).

The project will provide temporary work opportunities to a large number of locally contracted workers within the local communities or community workers who are unskilled with little or no knowledge or experience in applying OHS measures. Discrimination in recruitment, child labor, unsafe working conditions, SEA/SH and potential physical safety risks as a result of the FCV context pose significant labor-related risks in the context of agriculture operations in Afghanistan. Labor Management Procedures (LMP) developed for and satisfactorily implemented in the parent project will be revised and strengthened with lessons learnt within 45 days after project effectiveness.

Furthermore, there is a risk of Covid-19 transmission among these workers if worksites are not managed appropriately.

The recruitment and assignments of the workers will be done in an inclusive manner, following World Bank and FAO policies, and keeping in mind the risks of discrimination towards women and marginalized and disadvantaged groups, and prohibiting child and forced labor. All conditions of contracts will be explicitly spelled out and agreed and abided by both the employers and the employees.

Labor Management Procedures (LMP) developed for and satisfactorily implemented in the parent project will be revised, streamlined and strengthened with lessons learnt within 45 days after project effectiveness. A succinct summary version will be included in the ESMF. This simplified LMP will cover basic nondiscriminatory policies, OHS training, PPE and management measures and code of conduct to prevent SEA/SH. FAO and implementing NGOs/contractors will implement adequate OHS measures (including emergency preparedness and response measures) in line with the ESMF and the ESCP. The OHS measures as spelled out in the ESMF will cover all relevant aspects of the World Bank Group's General Environment, Health, and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs) and ESS2.

The grievance redress mechanism (GRM) that is currently in place and through which beneficiaries can access the GRM system using multiple grievance uptake channels, including Awaaz Afghanistan, will continue to be strengthened to enable project workers and affected beneficiary communities to provide feedback and have possible grievances addressed.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Relevant



ESS3 is relevant. The project is expected to have multiple benefits related to improving water resource efficiency through rehabilitation of water conveyance and distribution systems (to be regulated by Irrigation Associations and farming communities) and more sustainable use of agricultural land in watershed areas. However, there could be negative impacts on soil and groundwater due to increased water use and contamination from leaching as a result of excessive application of fertilizers and small-scale, localized civil works to rehabilitate irrigation schemes. Although the project will not finance the purchase of pesticides, the expected increase in farming activity (fields and kitchen garden) enabled by the project may result in an increased use of such products by the farmers. The project will therefore promote good international practices in the handling, application, and storage of fertilizers and pesticide including an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to reduce the need for pesticides. The Bank Team has reviewed FAO's Pest and Pesticides Management against Bank requirements (ESS3 and EHS Guidelines on Annual Crop Production and Perennial Crop Production) and found them materially consistent with Bank requirements. The ESMF will include a brief description of FAO's Pest and Pesticide Management Policy/Guidelines and any additional measures necessary to ensure compliance with ESS3 requirements, The approach will include measures for (i) adequate transportation, storage, handling, and management of pesticides; (ii) management of stocks in an effective, efficient, and transparent way; (iii) managing the wheat seed treatment with fungicides for protecting human health from ingestion; (iv) suggested capacity building program that will be conducted for farmers on adequate storage, transportation, and management of pesticides, including OHS considerations; and (v) disposal of unwanted or surplus pesticides and waste resulting from applying pesticides. Furthermore, measures will be put in place to monitor and ensure that the usage of pesticides that fall under the World Health Organization's (WHO) Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard Classes 1a (extremely hazardous) and 1b (highly hazardous), or Annexes A and B of the Stockholm Convention are avoided.

The rehabilitation works will entail extraction of raw materials such as sand, gravel, and stone, which may impact riverbeds and flood plains. A generic ESMP included within the ESMF will provide guidelines for reducing such impacts. Similarly, the construction contracts will include provisions for the management of dust, temporary on-site storage of chemicals as necessary, use of appropriate fuel quality, fuel-saving driving patterns and vehicle maintenance to reduce pollution of local air quality especially near schools, hospitals and other potentially sensible receptors. The ESMF, generic ESMP and the pest management guidelines will further specify the activities to be implemented at the level of each watershed area and irrigation scheme. FAO will monitor the implementation of site-specific ESMPs and provide the required oversight and support for capacity building on sustainable farming practices (extension services).

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

Relevant

ESS4 is relevant. Project activities under component 1 will support vegetable cultivation in kitchen or backyard gardens for daily use, which could entail the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. If not handled properly, this could potentially expose households including young children to harmful chemicals. To mitigate this risk, the agricultural extension services will include the provision of capacity support to female participants, which would include among other considerations for promoting the use of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to reduce negative health impacts to producers, their families, and the adjacent communities. FAO will put in place adequate measures to mitigate any form of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse to any project worker and to project beneficiaries. The project infrastructure for improving water use efficiency (e.g. canal lining) will consider community safety and security as well as social needs like access points for washing and water use for livestock.

The ESMF will include basic Life and Fire Safety (L&FS) and emergency preparedness and response (EPR) checklist to be covered in all project sites. Adequate safety training and safety gears will be provided for workers by the relevant



contractors with whom they will be working with and road safety issues will be addressed through appropriate provisions in works contracts.

The management of security issues particularly in conflict affected areas will be a challenge during implementation of activities in remote areas. The SEP (see ESS10) describes respective measures, including engagement with communities as well as security personnel, when needed, regarding communication and outreach. In order to manage the project level security risks, FAO will prepare and implement a stand alone Security risk management Plan consistent with the ESF. The Security risk management plan will include security risk assessment and any security management measures necessary for the implementation of the Project activities and for the provision of security to Project workers, sites and/or asset.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

Not Currently Relevant

The ESS5 is not relevant. The project is not expected to involve resettlement, land acquisition and/or asset loss all construction and/or rehabilitation work will be on existing footprint or on public and community land. The 750 zero-energy storage facilities and 180 raising-making houses planned for construction under component 1.3 are not site-specific, will only lead to very limited local environmental footprints and will only be on existing public or community lands. Construction of contour trenches and gully control measures, and the expansion of green cover under component 2.1 may occur on private lands if ownership has been established and on a voluntary basis only. The project may temporarily use private lands under component 2 for accessing and storing construction materials for a short period of time provided that this is on a voluntary basis only. The ESMF will be updated with an appropriate guidelines and procedures.

The project will not support any activity that would cause land acquisition or voluntary land donation. An exclusion list including prohibition of such land impacts is incorporated in the environmental and social screening checklist of the ESMF.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Relevant

ESS6 is relevant as the project involves the support of primary production and harvesting of living natural resources. The project intends to promote sustainable farming practices through the use of water-efficient agriculture and use of best practices in the handling, application, and storage of fertilizers including an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to reduce the need for pesticides. All proposed project interventions are planned to take place within existing footprints of irrigation schemes, farms, and fields, which entails significantly modified habitat and is unlikely to contain any critical habitat triggers. Although the original vegetation cover is likely to have been significantly altered or removed altogether, these areas may provide habitat for common fauna (e.g. birds, reptiles, small mammals). The ESMF will include checklists and guidelines for undertaking site and watershed-specific environmental risk screening to be used during project implementation to avoid potential adverse impacts on habitats within and around the irrigation schemes and in the watershed areas. Sites located in protected areas or that could be considered as Natural or Critical Habitat will be excluded from project interventions and the ESMF will include screening criteria during the site selection process. The generic ESMP will include measures to minimize and mitigate impacts on local fauna and flora.

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ESS7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

Not Currently Relevant

This standard is not relevant as there are no Indigenous People that meet the criteria of ESS7 in the country that could potentially benefit or be adversely affected by the Project’s activities.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

Not Currently Relevant

ESS8 is not relevant. Currently, there is no indication of potential impacts on cultural heritage, either “man-made” cultural or archaeological resources as well as any natural features (such as water bodies), which may hold intangible cultural or religious value to local communities. The ESMF will include chance find procedures as a component of the generic ESMP.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

Not Currently Relevant

This standard is not relevant as the Project does not include financial intermediaries.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

The SEP that was prepared and implemented for the parent project in accordance with ESS10 and in line with the principles outlined in FAO’s own guidelines (Environmental and Social Management Guidelines, 2015 and the Guidance Note on Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) in Emergencies) has been updated to include the AF activities. The SEP describes the strategy and specific methods of engagement that would facilitate effective participation of the different affected groups. The SEP delineates the roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the SEP, as well as monitoring and reporting Mechanism(s). It describes the principles, processes, and structure of the project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism(s).

The key stakeholders for AF are the same as for the original project and include project beneficiaries, key social institutions such as village councils and women’s groups, formal Water Users Associations (IAs), Irrigation Association, Community Development Councils (CDCs), labor, Farmers’ Associations (FAs), contractors and subcontractors in the project areas. Vulnerable populations would include the elderly, internally displaced peoples (IDPs), war victims, low-income families, persons with disabilities, nomadic communities, farmers and women, especially women-headed households or single mothers with young children.

Due to the emergency situation, the SEP has been prepared with limited consultations. FAO will continue to identify and engage, through meaningful consultations, with all stakeholders, paying special attention to the inclusion of women, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. The SEP acknowledges the challenges with engaging marginalized and vulnerable social groups such as IDPs, returnees, pastoral nomads, and those living in remote or inaccessible areas and proposes strategies to engage with them.

The Project will also ensure that information disclosure takes place in an on-going and satisfactory manner with clear and accessible messaging on principles of fair, equitable and inclusive access to project benefits. While the channel of communication may be restricted to electronic/ virtual methods so that face-to-face interaction is minimized or avoided, the Project will ensure that stakeholder engagement and information disclosure takes place on an on-going basis, at different levels, with different partners, and in a culturally appropriate manner. Some of the methods used to engage with different categories of affected persons would include consulting through CDCs, radio, social media, SMS

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messaging, emails and phone calls. Official channels of communication and social media would be used to consult with other interested parties. Specifically, for vulnerable people, tailored methods of engagement would be adopted, such as through community elders, engagement activities for women and through social mobilizers. For information dissemination and disclosure as well, culturally appropriate and inclusive methodologies would be adopted. All such methods would take into account Covid-19 distancing protocols.

The grievance redress mechanism (GRM) that is currently in place and through which beneficiaries can access the GRM system using multiple grievance uptake channels, including Awaaz Afghanistan, will continue to be strengthened to enable project workers and affected beneficiary communities to provide feedback and have possible grievances addressed.

B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways Yes

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas No

B.3 Other Salient Features

Use of Borrower Framework No

The borrower framework is not being used for this project

Use of Common Approach No

A common approach is not being considered for this project

C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities

C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required during implementation?

FAO already has an existing ESMF which will be updated as needed to include the scale up activities. The SEP of the parent project will also be updated. FAO will need to prepare a security risk management plan prior to negotiation of the project given they have failed to prepare a plan for the parent project. The ESMF and SEP will be prepared and disclosed prior to the commencement of project activities.

III. CONTACT POINTS

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