THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

Report No: PIDIAF0017

Project Information Document (PID)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 02-Jan-2025

BASIC DATA

A. Product Information

Main: Emergency Food Security Project (P178280)

Operation ID	Product/Financing Instrument
P178280	Investment Project Financing (IPF)
Beneficiary Country/Countries	**Geographical Identifier**
Afghanistan	Afghanistan
Practice Area (Lead)	
Agriculture and Food	
Borrower(s)	**Implementing Agency**
FAO	FAO

Additional Financing Request 3

Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
13-Jan-2025	20-Mar-2025

Development Objective

Current Development Objective (Approved as part of Additional Financing package on 23-Feb-2024)

To restore production of food security crops for the targeted smallholder farmers.

Proposed New Development Objective (Additional Financing)

Improve food security through promoting resilience and commercialization of agriculture production systems for target beneficiaries.

Components

Restoring Agriculture Production
Provision of Water and Resilience Services
Implementation Support
Promote Commercialization of Farmers

COSTS & FINANCING (US$, Millions)

SUMMARY

	Last Approved	Proposed	
		Addition	Total
Total Operation Cost	295.00	115.00	410.00
Total Financing	295.00	115.00	410.00
Of which IBRD/IDA	0.00	95.00	95.00

FINANCING DETAILS

World Bank Group Financing	Last Approved	Additional Financing	Total
International Development Association (IDA)	**0.00**	**95.00**	**95.00**
IDA Grant	0.00	95.00	95.00
Non-World Bank Group Financing			
Trust Funds	**295.00**	**20.00**	**315.00**
Afghanistan Resilience Trust Fund	295.00	20.00	315.00

IDA Resources

	Credit Amount	Grant Amount	SML Amount	Guarantee Amount	Total Amount
National Performance-Based Allocations (PBA)	0.00	55.00	0.00	0.00	55.00
Crisis Response Window (CRW)	0.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	40.00
Total	**0.00**	**95.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**95.00**

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. **In response to the events of August 15, 2021, in Afghanistan, the World Bank Group (WBG) has found pragmatic ways to provide essential basic services and livelihoods for the Afghan people. The WBG has reached more than 25 million Afghans following a stepwise approach**. First, Approach 1.0 (November 2021) provided humanitarian gap financing. Approach 2.0 (March 2022) provided basic services and livelihoods support for critical health, food security, livelihoods and jobs, education, NGO capacity development and water services nation-wide at scale, off-budget and outside of Interim Taliban administration (ITA) control through United Nations (UN) agencies and international NGOs using the "principled approach" of delivery by and to women adopted by the international community. Both Approaches were financed through the Afghanistan Resilience Trust Fund (ARTF), with the Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents (GFF) joining to support health services. The WBG's independent third-party monitoring agent verifies all project activities. Approach 3.0 (February 2024) deploys IDA to complement trust fund financing of the basic services and livelihoods projects. The WBG has led aid coordination and mobilized co-financing of these activities with the Asian Development Bank, European Union, and bilateral partners. This has been critical in a situation of multiple global crises and overall declining aid in Afghanistan. The nationwide at-scale design allows projects to respond to crises like the Herat earthquakes and the increased repatriation of Afghan returnees.

2. **The international aid response helped maintain core services and livelihoods for the Afghan people at scale and mitigated the humanitarian crisis but will be difficult to sustain in the context of expected aid declines, restrictive ITA policy positions, and a depressed economy.** While economic conditions stabilized after the sharp reduction in international aid following the events of August 2021, employment opportunities and incomes remain inadequate amid depressed demand, disruptions to public services, and a nonfunctional banking sector, with little buffer for natural disasters, returnee and refugee flows or other crises. Conditions for Afghans, and prospects for broader international support, have been worsened by the policy positions of the ITA, including harsh restrictions on women and girls. These challenges have been further exacerbated by the promulgation of the 'Morality Law,' which has further aggravated an already difficult situation. Currently, an estimated 12.4 million people are acutely food-insecure while around two and a half million Afghans are on the brink of starvation. This makes continued coordination of aid across the humanitarian-development nexus, with a sharp focus on cost-effectiveness and sustaining services and livelihoods critical.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

3. Afghanistan faces profound food security challenges due to climate volatility, political instability, and limited agricultural productivity. As of March, to April 2024, approximately 32% of Afghanistan's population, equating to 14.2 million people, were experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). Afghanistan has faced significant agricultural challenges due to droughts. In recent years, drought conditions have led to substantial reductions in crop yields, with some areas experiencing up to a 50% decrease in production during severe drought periods.
4. **The World Bank engagement in response to the food insecurity crisis since the events of August 2021 has made significant contribution to scaling emergency food production support across the country.** Evidence from the recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report shows marginal improvements in Food security since the worst situation following the political transition in 2021. Currently, a third of Afghanistan's population (14.2 million) are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC phase 3 or above) compared the same period in previous

years (for example 18 million in 2022 and 15 million in 2023). These improvements can be attributed to the scale of coordinated food emergency agricultural production assistance, including EFSP's national wide interventions to stabilize food production.

5. **Despite these improvements, food insecurity levels remain high.** Afghanistan ranks among the top 5 food insecure countries requiring support to prevent further deterioration of food and nutrition security crisis. Afghanistan has one of the world's highest rates of stunting in children under five, at 41 percent (UNICEF 2020). The rate of wasting, the extreme manifestation of severe acute malnutrition, in Afghanistan is extremely high: 9.5 percent, one in three adolescent girls suffers from anemia, and only 12 percent of Afghan children aged 6-24 months receive the right variety of food in the quantity needed for their age[1].

6. **Climate change is expected to increase temperatures, exacerbate drought conditions, and alter precipitation patterns.** Afghanistan ranks 4th in terms of climate risk and is considered the most vulnerable country with the least coping capacity.[2] The frequency of droughts has increased, from an average of once every 3 years over 1986–2012 to once every other year over 2013–2013. The droughts have also become more severe and prolonged, diminishing the productive capacity of the land. Farmers face other climate risks, including lower precipitation, shorter rainy seasons, and a higher incidence of pests and diseases. Climate projections indicate increased temperatures in all parts of the country, of about 0.9 to 2.2 degrees. Winter months are likely to see a greater relative increase in average temperature. Precipitation is expected to remain relatively stable, but unlikely to keep up with the evapotranspiration expected by increased temperatures. Shifts in agroecological zones are possible, with increased potential for multi-cropping opportunities in higher elevations, provided irrigation water is available in sufficient volumes when needed.

7. **This increasing trend of climate shocks, including drought and changing precipitation, has further threatened the food security, by negatively affecting productivity of major crops such as wheat, barley, maize in Afghanistan through multiple facets.** Increased annual temperature is likely to reduce average wheat yields by 12% during the period of 2025-2100.[3] On the other hand, changing patterns and intensity of precipitation impacts directly the water availability for agriculture production to different extremes (i.e. either water shortage or floods), especially under rainfed areas given the limited control of water management. While areas with irrigation system will help farmers to adapt better to climate change, it also faces the increasing risk of flood as it poses destroying threat to the intakes structure of irrigation that channel water from river to the land. Warming is seen as an opportunity in the northeastern, central and west-central regions, but high temperatures during the growing-period may negatively affect crop production potential, even under irrigation conditions. This is particularly concerning, considering that these are among the main production zones in the country.

8. **There are significant gender gaps in the agriculture sector due to deeply rooted inequalities between men and women in the country which are worsening as a result of ITA restrictions.** Despite constituting 54 percent of Afghanistan's agricultural workforce, women face substantial barriers hindering their full participation and benefit from the sector. Financial inclusion is low, with just 7 percent of Afghan women having access to a bank account[4],

[1] Afghanistan Building Resilient Food Systems, 2024 unpublished.
[2] https://www.unocha.org/news/afghanistan-alarming-effects-climate-change
[3] Homayoon Raoufi, Hamidreza Jafari, Wakil Ahmad Sarhadi, Esmail Salehi, 2024, *Assessing the impact of climate change on agricultural production in central Afghanistan, Regional Sustainability, Volume 5, Issue 3,* https://doi.org/10.1016/j.regsus.2024.100156.
[4] Global Findex Database, 2023

constraining their ability to invest in agriculture or expand businesses. As a result of ITA restrictions, many women-owned business have temporarily or permanently ceased operations and those under operation function below capacity. ITA restrictions, cultural norms, and a scarcity of female extension agents also restrict women's access to agricultural services, impeding the adoption of climate-resilient technologies promoted by the project. Among pregnant and lactating women, food insecurity has increased since 2021, with about 804,365 of them suffering from acute malnutrition. As of March 2024, WFP data, 86 percent of female-headed households are experiencing poor food consumption, which is 34 percentage points higher than that observed in male-headed households. Food insecurity leads to negative coping strategies which disproportionately impact women. According to UN Women, Afghan women often take on the role of "societal shock absorbers" -- in times of crisis their unpaid work burden in the household increases, food intake decreases, girls are sold into marriage, and the risk of GBV increases. Early marriage, high fertility rates, and GBV reduce opportunities for education and economic participation and adversely affecting women's health and capacity to engage in productive activities.[5] Mobility restrictions and safety concerns further impede women's access to markets and participation in economic activities.

9. **Agriculture is poised to be a key driver of growth and poverty reduction, potentially creating jobs and positively impacting income distribution[6].** About 70% of the population live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, as such improving agricultural productivity can directly increase incomes for majority of the population. Agriculture, as a major contributor to Afghanistan's GDP (36%) and leading export sector during major economic stagnation (food exports increased to $1.25 billion in 2023), can be the engine for economic resilience and stimulate growth in other sectors through increased demand for goods and services.

10. **With Afghanistan grappling with economic challenges and a significant reduction in public services for the agriculture sector, the role of agribusiness in supplying production inputs and services, processing, and distributing food remains more important than ever**. A review of the horticulture sector, conducted as part of the Resilience PASA, indicates that the agribusiness sector is better positioned to adapt to the new business environment than other sectors, with some businesses reporting expansions in capacity and increased exports. Interviews with agribusinesses revealed growing opportunities for working in rural areas and smallholders, facilitated by improved security, and rising external market demand due to disruptions in the global food market. Among other areas of agriculture, the horticulture sector continues to demonstrate growth, and in 2023, provided 36.5 percent of the country's total, and about 61 percent of agricultural exports for the same year. Horticultural crop production, processing, and trade provides nearly 200,000 full-time equivalent jobs and seasonal income to as many as 2 million Afghans.

Project Scope

11. **In this context, strategic incremental interventions across the food system are required to ensure sustainable food security for millions of Afghans**. The second additional financing is proposed to further scale up the project's impact on food security by improving food production and expand the scope of interventions to leverage the private sector in agriculture value chains - recognizing its imperative role for growth and job creation to maximize improved access

[5] Latest available data shows that 28.7 of women married before age 18, the adolescent birth rate is 62 per 1,000 women aged 15-19, and 34.7% of women aged 15-49 have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the last 12 months (UN Women Data Hub).
[6] Afghanistan Development Update April 2024.

to food. It will also support farmers to cope better with increasing climate shocks (i.e. direct or indirect impacts of drought intertwined with water shortage), through more specifically introducing climate-resilient (i.e. drought-resistance) crop varieties, improved climate-smart irrigation system which support farmers to deal with water stress, connecting climate-smart agriculture products to market under and strengthen crop diversification as a climate adaptation strategy by farmers.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Original Development Objective

To restore production of food security crops for the targeted smallholder farmers.

Current Development Objective

Improve resilience of agriculture production system for target beneficiaries

Proposed New Development Objective

Improve food security through promoting resilience and commercialization of agriculture production systems for target beneficiaries.

D. Project Description

12. The project adopts the global definition of food security which is defined as 'all people having physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary requirements and food preferences for an active and healthy life'. Within this framework, the additional financing proposes to scale up investments in actions that increase availability/production of food (staple and non-staple nutritious food) and economic opportunities for people to have the means to access or acquire food. As such the project will address 'availability' and 'access' elements of food security through the proposed additional financing. To do this, the project will scale up interventions to increase production of food, promote diversification, connect beneficiaries with economic opportunities in agriculture value chains for income generation. The project development objectives and components will be revised to reflect this approach. The PDO will be revised to "Improve food security through promoting resilience and commercialization of agriculture production systems for target beneficiaries". The project's updated theory of change is outlined below. End targets for indicators that will be scaled up will be extended and new indicators relating to the new activities will be added.

13. **The current component 1 "Restoring Agriculture Production" title will be revised to "Building Resilience for Food Security".** This component will continue to respond to food security crisis by financing provision of input packages to ensure the production of food by farmers in IPC3+ areas. The proposed additional financing will allocate additional resources to scale up food security crisis response support to an additional 343,000 food insecure HHs. The input packages will include seeds, fertilizer and technical advice on production practices. In addition to the technical assistance support for seed enterprises, this component will roll out an input voucher mechanism to promote market-based input supply system between agro-dealers and farmers as well as improve the efficiency of food crisis response

instruments. A subcomponent will be added to component 1 to scale up transformative climate resilient crop varieties with technical support to FAO from the CGIAR[7]. As such, component 1 will be structured around the following 3 subcomponents.

14. **Subcomponent 1.1: Food crisis response support. This subcomponent, previously named as 'Emergency Wheat Production Support'** will finance provision of input packages for wheat, maize, legumes and vegetable production and other crops to an additional 343,000 acutely food insecure households (20 percent FHHs). The input package will cover high yielding and drought resistance seed varieties. This will be done to promote diversification, climate resilience and provide targeted assistance to women farmers, particularly FHHs, producing vegetables in their backyards. This sub-component will include an impact evaluation of the backyard gardening packages for FHHs, as these are a key entry point to reach FHHs who face the greatest food insecurity, have poor nutrition, and face increasingly severe mobility restrictions that prevent them from engaging in work outside of the home.

15. **The distribution of inputs to target beneficiaries will be implemented through a voucher system and in-kind input package**. The voucher distribution system will be used in areas where private seed enterprises (PSEs) are operating with easy access to farmers. Due to mobility and other restrictions, women farmers will have a choice of receiving inputs through vouchers or the in-kind support delivered at home or via women-only distribution points, regardless of availability of PSEs. The voucher system will cover only the cost of the seeds on a cost sharing basis. In regions where the market is not yet well-developed, the in-kind input packages will be provided. The in-kind input package will include seed and fertilizers. The voucher intervention is informed by successful experiences from previous World Bank financed projects in Afghanistan, including the Afghanistan Agricultural Inputs (AAIP) Project, which partnered with several PSEs to reach farmers with improved seed packages on a cost-sharing basis using vouchers. This experience demonstrated that voucher delivery mechanism increases delivery efficiency and ensure linkages between farmers and input providers. A voucher implementation manual detailing the operational modalities for beneficiary targeting criteria, registration, selection of reliable suppliers, capacity building to key delivery participants and M&E to ensure accountability will be prepared.

16. **Subcomponent 1.2: Promote improved crop varieties and production practices.** Increasing agricultural productivity is essential for enhancing food security. Providing farmers with access to quality seeds of preferred varieties and equipping them with knowledge on improved production practices adapted to current agroecological conditions is crucial. This will be done with technical support from selected CGIAR centers. The following activities will be implemented:

    (i) **Introduction of improved and climate-resilient crop varieties and seed value chain development**. In collaboration with selected CGIAR centers, the project will support promotion of released varieties of various crops (wheat, barley, potato, chickpea, lentil, perennial sorghum, forage/fodder crops). The collaboration with the CGIAR is a direct implementation of the second pillar of the WBG's Knowledge Compact on developing partnerships to meet client needs. Adaptive testing and farmer participatory trials will assess cultivars that were introduced to Afghanistan in recent years, as well as evaluate newly introduced lines, to identify the most productive, adapted to climate change, such as drought resistant, and farmer-preferred varieties. for further scaling up through seed enterprise and farmer groups. Demonstration plots will be used to showcase the performance of new varieties in comparison with varieties available in the local markets (local and imported varieties, where relevant). These plots will also be used to generate local evidence of

[7] Potential partner CGIAR agencies include : CIMMYT, CIP, ICARDA, ICRISAT.

suitable production packages for these new varieties to inform further outreach and promotion. CGIAR centers will support FAO by facilitating transfer and testing of previously released climate-resilient crop and forage germplasm/varieties from CGIAR gene banks and providing technical assistance for seed production of such varieties in compliance with national seed regulations. Technical experts from the respective CGIAR's centers based in the region will be engaged to support implementation.

(ii) **Promotion of agronomic advisory services.** Improved, efficient, and agroecologically appropriate technologies that promote both climate mitigation and adaptation benefits, will be introduced and demonstrated to farmers. This includes conservation agriculture, precision agriculture, and NRM-based technologies (such as laser land leveling, mechanized crop establishment, weed control, and harvesting)[8]. These technologies will be scaled up through community-based knowledge dissemination mechanisms such as demonstration plots, farmers filed school, training of community-based groups through with NGOs, farmers' groups, and agribusinesses.

17. **Component 2: Provision of Water and Resilience Services.** This component will finance a scaling up of, improved off-farm and on-farm water management practices and watershed management interventions with a focus on water conservation interventions in mountainous terrain (rainfed) areas of Afghanistan to address soil erosion and depletion of ground water. In addition, building on the lessons learned from past projects, this component will finance the establishment of limited high-efficiency irrigation systems to promote the commercialization of locally produced high efficiency irrigation equipment which are available at a significantly lower cost.

(i) **Improve off-farm and on-farm irrigation systems.** The project will finance restoration of the irrigation system through both on- farm and off-farm water management interventions along the same canal system in a holistic manner. Improvement of main canal along with the lower tier of the canal systems such as secondary/tertiary (on-farm level) canal systems will be carried out to enhance the conveyance efficiency. On-farm level interventions will also be carried out to improve the application efficiency to ensure increased agricultural production and productivity. These measures will help farmers to have better control over the water management, reducing their climate vulnerability, including water shortage due to pro-long drought. A total of about 65 schemes would be supported covering about 10,000 ha of area with reliable irrigation. Under this activity, civil works such as Intake/headworks/diversion structures, cross drainage structures (aqueduct, super passage, siphon, road culverts), canal lining at the secondary/tertiary level canal system, improvement of the turn outs like *nucca pucca* structures, dividers, ponds, flumes, canal bank protection, regulating structures will be carried out.

(ii) **Support sustainable land and watershed management interventions.** The project will finance plantation of suitable plant species compatible to particular agro-climatic conditions to help stabilize the slope in the watershed, contribute to flood management and at the same time provide opportunities for earning income, including women. This will include planting of Pine, Olive, Pistachio, Almond, and Judas (Arghawan) trees. The intervention will target planting about 600, 000 saplings to cover 3,300 ha in about 100 districts to selected from all 34 provinces. Agroforestry users' groups (including at least 40 percent women participation) will be established in each of the sites and an umbrella association at the district level. Users' group will be responsible for planting and maintaining the plants. One supervisor selected

[8] These measures, while minimizing the soil disturbance and improving the efficient use of water and fertilizer, can help to improve soil quality, hence soil carbon sequestration, as well as help farmers to better deal with increasing climate-related water stress.

from the community will be deployed for regular monitoring/supervision and watering of the plant saplings in each of the 210 agroforestry sites for a nine-month period (10 percent of supervisors will be women). As part of this activity, the project will scale up establishing water harvesting structures, including improvement of upper catchment of Karezes to an additional 10, 000 ha of the watershed area (upper catchment).

(iii) **High efficiency irrigation schemes.** The project will finance the provision of high efficiency irrigation facilities such as pipes, emitters, fertigation units and filters to farmer groups growing high value crops such as Pistachio and Almonds. The facilities will be procured from the local market stimulating further demand for productivity enhancing agriculture equipment suppliers. This will cover about 100 drip irrigation schemes covering 70 ha of area. Additionally, to further increase irrigation application efficiency, 100 units of land laser levelers will be provided to private operators in low altitude plain areas. The beneficiary farmers for distribution of the Laser Land Level (LLL) units will be selected based on the selection criteria in consultation with the Irrigation Association (IA)/Mirabs those private operators/ farmers who have tactor and meet the criteria for selection. High-efficiency irrigation mostly will be considered for the orchard area which produces high-value crops. The source of water for the system will be mainly surface water.

18. **Component 3: Promote commercialization of farmers.** A new component is proposed that builds on past investments to enhance value addition, income, and market access for smallholder producers and their enterprises. Previous projects, like NHLP, supported many farmers diversifying to high-value crops, such as fruits and nuts, which are highly demanded in local and regional markets. However, farmers do not realize the full benefit due to limited post-harvest knowledge, lack of tools, and weak market connections. Processors and traders also face challenges working with fragmented farmers, raising transaction costs. In partnership with the key value chain actors this component will finance investments to improve the capacity of smallholder producers (20 percent women) and agriculture MSMEs (30 percent female-owned) to connect to established commodity supply chains by adopting climate smart production and value addition technologies.

19. **Subcomponent 3.1 Grants to small agriculture enterprises (including farmer groups) to improve productivity and value addition to connect with established supply chains.** This approach will enable producers to acquire the necessary inputs, technical assistance and infrastructure capability required to meet potential markets. The subcomponent will support 150 small anchor agriculture enterprises or farmer groups, of which 30 percent will be women-owned/led. The subcomponent will benefit over 15,000 commercially oriented smallholders, of which 20 percent will be women. These partnerships will help farmers secure long-term market relationships, increase their productivity, and reduce post-harvest losses through improved value chain infrastructures such as storage, processing facilities and business development services. Agriculture supply chains will benefit from a consistent supply of produce while contributing to value addition. Through this approach the project will promote the application of climate-smart agricultural practices to mitigate the effects of climate change, build resilience, and ensure sustainable agricultural production. Furthermore, the subcomponent will provide tailored support to women farmers to promote their active participation in agricultural value chains. As part of the IFC and Bank strategy to explore joint programming to support private sector solutions for food security, the teams will work together to identify opportunities for connecting target beneficiaries under this component with IFC's potential investments in agro-processing industries.

20. Minimum criteria for selecting enterprises or farmer groups for accessing grants evidence of operational linkages with farmers in production or primary processing, including female farmers; evidence of complementary investments to match the project support, integration of climate resilient technologies in the management of production and processing. The grants scheme will be implemented in accordance with FAO's Corporate Manual Section 703 on grants, which provides overarching policies, procedures and processes for use of grants in a project by FAO. Accordingly, a competitive grant application mechanism will be established through an open call for proposal application process to invite eligible beneficiaries apply to access the project grant. A project specific grant manual will be prepared and included in the updated PIM. FAO's TPMA and ARTF's MA will provide independent monitoring and evaluation of the grants and their implementation. Details of the grant procedure will be provided in the project grant manual.

21. **Subcomponent 3.2: will promote agriculture diversification and value addition.** This subcomponent was originally under component 1 and it will now move to component 3 to better align the activities with the outcomes envisaged for promoting high value crop production and competitiveness in related value chains.

22. **Component 4: Implementation Support.** Additional allocation is proposed under this component to support direct and in-direct cost of project management and M&E for the additional activities proposed.

Legal Operational Policies

Policies	Triggered?
	Current
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	Yes
Projects in Disputed Area OP 7.60	No

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The environmental and social risks of the Project remain substantial under the 2nd EFSP AF. The potential environmental risks and impacts are related to fatal incidents and serious injuries, Occupational, Health and Safety (OHS) risk due to labor-intensive activities, risks as a result of poor handling of agriculture inputs, such as agrochemicals and farm implements (storage processing, post-harvest handling),) risk of water pollution as a result of runoff, sedimentation of nearby water bodies, and soil compaction as a result of use of farm machinery in land preparation, health and safety issues associated with the safe use and handling of agrochemicals are also envisaged, security risk management at the project level remains a priority as engagement of various entities not covered by the UN security protocols further heightens human security risk. Key social risks and impacts are similar to the original project and AF1 and include social inequalities, exclusion, and discrimination of certain categories of people, such as vulnerable and marginalized groups, exposure of workers to unhealthy and unsafe working conditions, including the risk of child and forced issues, community health and safety risk around construction sites and risk of exposure to

infectious diseases for project workers, minor labor influx risk, and sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) risk 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. Overall, the second AF interventions are expected to have significant positive impacts as the smallholders' farmers and water users will benefit most from the Project. The new activities will support local input traders as part of the food system. It will also include providing partial matching grants to agribusiness. The relevant World Bank ESSs are ESS1, ESS2, ESS3, ESS4, ESS5, ESS6 and ESS10. An Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) which were prepared under the parent and AF1 have been updated to reflect the new activity and disclosed before appraisal together with the appraisal ESRS. For E&S risk management, the Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and A Labor Management Procedure (LMP), which were prepared under the parent project and updated for the first AF have been further updated for the second AF and will be publicly disclosed within 30 days of the Effective Date of AF2. Furthermore, the project has PMP and a Security Risk Management Plan (SRMP) which have been developed for AF1 and will continue to be implemented for AF2. FAO will hire a dedicated OHS Specialist within 30 days of the Effective Date of AF2 to support OHS implementation and capacity building to all Implementing Partners, contractors and relevant Project staff. In addition, FAO will develop and adopt an OHS Management Plan no later than 60 days after the Effective Date of AF2. In the interim, the OHS Management Measures set out in the updated ESMF will be implemented. FAO will cause Implementing Partners/Contractors to update, adopt, and therefore implement an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) based on the ESMP template, as set out in the ESMF, for activities that require the adoption of such ESMPs, consistent with the relevant ESS2. The adoption of such ESMP will be prior to the carrying out any activities. The project will apply lessons learned from the parent and the first AF project to enhance the management of potential E&S risks and impacts; these lessons learned have already been reflected in the updated ESMF of AF2. The SEA/SH risk rating for this project is considered Substantial on account of the country context and risks arising from the cash and voucher assistance to female beneficiaries. To manage SEA/SH risks, FAO will update and implement the SEA/SH Action Plan within 30 days of the Effective Date, which shall include time bound and resourced actions with plans and indicators for monitoring. FAO, as the main implementation agency for the original EFSP project, will remain responsible for the implementation of the project components, with additional partnership with implementing partners e.g. INGOs, NGOs and Constructions Companies. FAO already has an existing management structure to implement the project which includes qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS of the project. The Implementation Partners (IPs), NGOs and contractors will continue to be engaged by FAO to implement project activities and work closely with local communities and farmers who will contribute to the project's implementation. The World Bank Monitoring Agent (TPMA) will continue to monitor and report on implementation and compliance with the E&S requirements.

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

23. **The project will continue to be implemented by FAO, maintaining current institutional arrangements.** FAO will continue to contract NGOs, CGIAR agencies and private sector service to support implementation of activities and deliver services to beneficiaries. Detailed implementation arrangements will be elaborated in the updated PIM.

24. **The current Entry Criteria for Access (ECA) will continue to apply under the additional financing with slight modification of the descriptions to align with the current design of the project. The two ECAs** are: (i) female beneficiaries are not restricted from participating in project activities; and (ii) there is no restriction on provision of

support to project beneficiaries according to the project targeting criteria (geographic and IPC). This is to ensure that the project facilitates the participation of women in project activities and selection of beneficiaries is carried out as per the project's targeting and selection criteria.

CONTACT POINT

World Bank

Azeb Fissha Mekonnen

Senior Agriculture Specialist

Amanullah Alamzai
Senior Agriculture Economist

Borrower/Client/Recipient

FAO
Fabrizio Fabrizio Cesaretti
Deputy Representative/Country Director
Fabrizio.Cesaretti@fao.org

Implementing Agencies

FAO
Kaustubh Kaustubh Devale
Emergency and Rehabilitation Officer
Kaustubh.Devale@fao.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 473-1000
Web: http://www.worldbank.org/projects

APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Azeb Fissha Mekonnen, Amanullah Alamzai

Approved By

Practice Manager/Manager:	Gayatri Acharya	15-Nov-2024
Country Director:	Hadia Nazem Samaha	02-Jan-2025