



**The World Bank**

Additional Financing for Afghanistan Emergency Food Security Project (P181480)

# Project Information Document (PID)

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Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 11-Jan-2024 | Report No: PIDA36842



## BASIC INFORMATION

### A. Basic Project Data

Country Afghanistan	Project ID P181480	Project Name Additional Financing for Afghanistan Emergency Food Security Project	Parent Project ID (if any) P178280
Parent Project Name Emergency Food Security Project	Region SOUTH ASIA	Estimated Appraisal Date 16-Jan-2024	Estimated Board Date 09-Feb-2024
Practice Area (Lead) Agriculture and Food	Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) FAO	Implementing Agency FAO

Proposed Development Objective(s) Parent

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

Proposed Development Objective(s) Additional Financing

To improve resilience of agriculture production system for target beneficiaries

### Components

Restoring Agriculture Production  
Provision of Water and Resilience Services  
Implementation Support

## PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

### SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	100.00
Total Financing	100.00
of which IBRD/IDA	0.00
Financing Gap	0.00

### DETAILS

#### Non-World Bank Group Financing



Trust Funds	100.00
Afghanistan Resilience Trust Fund	100.00

## Environmental and Social Risk Classification

Substantial

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, ARTF donors, the Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents (GFF), and international partners have found pragmatic ways to provide support for essential basic services to the Afghan people. On March 1, 2022, the World Bank Board approved Approach Paper 2.0, which aims to protect the vulnerable, help preserve human capital and key economic and social institutions, reduce the need for future humanitarian assistance, and improve gender outcomes. A key element of this support is Recipient-Executed (RE) grants to United Nations (UN) agencies and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs). To ensure the principles of equitable access for women and women's participation in project activities, Entry Criteria for Access (ECA) have been included for each project. The World Bank has led a coordinated aid response, pooling donor resources, and supporting critical service delivery. The nationwide at-scale design allowed projects to respond quickly to crises like the Herat earthquakes and the increased repatriation of Afghan returnees.

2. The international aid response helped maintain core services for the Afghan people 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. Development gains made over the last two decades are eroding. Employment opportunities and incomes remain inadequate. One in two Afghans is poor and about two-thirds of households cannot afford food and other basic non-food items, forcing many adults to engage in low-productivity activities to generate income. Currently, an estimated 15.3 million people are acutely food-insecure while more than six million Afghans are on the brink of starvation.

3. The Bank and ARTF have taken a programmatic approach of engaging in priority basic services. To date this includes agriculture, livelihoods, health, education, and NGO capacity building. To ensure the principles of equitable access for women, and to ensure women participation in project activities, Entry Criteria for Access (ECA) have been included for each project financed by ARTF.<sup>1</sup> Together, these five activities were designed to respond rapidly to the

<sup>1</sup> Entry Criteria for Access provides a platform around which ARTF donors, implementing agencies and the World Bank can assess whether the situation on the ground continues to provide the required conditions under which activities can be implemented.



situation in Afghanistan and help reduce the need for future humanitarian assistance.

**4. Afghanistan's development gains from the past twenty years are now at high risk, with Afghanistan facing a major economic crisis.** The August 15, 2021, political crisis resulted in the cessation of most international aid and all international security assistance. This has led to major disruption to core services and a massive contraction in aggregate demand across the economy. The crisis is having impacts on firms and households. Poverty was already high at 47 percent in 2019-2020. Recent data shows that in 2023, about two-thirds of Afghan households could not afford food and other basic non-food items, forcing many adults to engage in low-productivity activities to generate income. Currently, an estimated 20 million people, 46 percent of the total population are acutely food-insecure, while more than 6 million Afghans are on the brink of starvation.<sup>2</sup> The UN estimates that more than 28 million Afghans require humanitarian assistance. Living conditions during the recent harsh winter months appear to have worsened partly because of significant electricity shortages in cities.<sup>3</sup>

#### Sectoral and Institutional Context

**5. Food insecurity remains persistently high in Afghanistan, where nearly half of the population face crisis or worse conditions (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above).** The most affected are the poor and over 70 percent of the population living in rural areas who depend on crop and livestock production for their livelihoods. The percentage of food insecure people doubled from 2015 to 2020/21, and the percentage of people facing acute food insecurity has remained between 40 to 50 percent of the total population. The food security situation is further endangered by recent emerging key risks, recent earthquake in Herat Province, Moroccan locust outbreak affecting crop production, the recent outbreak of animal diseases, and the uncertain future of the Black Sea Grain Deal. In this context, it is important to continue emergency response support to secure food production in highly food insecure areas and prevent further crisis. At the same time, to address the drivers of food insecurity related to climate change and to build resilience, the uptake of climate adaptation measures, and strategies to expand sustainable rural livelihood opportunities is essential.

**6. An important consideration in the food security context is the need for alternative agricultural livelihoods for farmers no longer engaged in ITA-banned poppy production.** A large share of Afghan farmers, mainly in the southern and eastern regions, have been engaged in poppy production for years and are dependent on income generated from this commodity. While the ITA control of poppy<sup>4</sup> has made available more land to produce food crops, the ban is not complemented with support programs for alternative livelihood options. With its national coverage and a key focus on vulnerable households, some of whom are likely to be former poppy growers, this additional financing, will provide eligible farmers access to inputs for alternative crop production and value addition.

**7. Women are suffering disproportionate impacts of the food security crisis and require distinct interventions to address their vulnerabilities and mitigate risks.** Nearly 100 percent of female headed household in Afghanistan are experiencing insufficient food consumption.<sup>5</sup> Compared to men, women report higher adoption of dietary changes and borrowing strategies as coping mechanisms to face the reduction in food available, and a higher use of food rationing strategies. Building upon the successes of the current project in reaching female headed agriculture households with

<sup>2</sup> UNOCHA (2023) World Food Programme Afghanistan: Situation Report, 18 January 2023.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/wfp-afghanistan-situation-report-18-january-2023>

<sup>3</sup> Ongoing ASA on Afghanistan Energy Study 2.0, World Bank

<sup>4</sup> The control measures include a decree banning the production of poppy and physical monitoring measures to enforce the decree.

<sup>5</sup> [WFP Afghanistan Situation Reports](#). World Food Programme, 2022.



production inputs and advisory services, the additional financing will include activities that will provide direct benefits to female farmers to build household food security and opportunities to earn income through value addition activities.

### C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Original PDO

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

Current PDO

To improve resilience of agriculture production system for target beneficiaries.

Key Results

8. The PDO level indicators remain unchanged. PDO level and intermediate results indicators targets will be increased to reflect the expanded activities. New intermediate results indicators at the component level will be created to capture outcomes from new activities.

### D. Project Description

11. The additional financing will support resilience<sup>6</sup> of production systems by (i) enhancing the availability of improved and climate-resilient production inputs and training, (ii) promoting access to improved irrigation facilities and water management practices which will improve water security for agriculture and (iii) providing resilience building support in watersheds through promoting agroforestry, erosion control facilities, which will ensure availability of water and resilience of landscapes e.g. through reduced degradation, erosion, or improved soil health, in the context of climate change. These measures will increase and stabilize production of wheat and support the diversification to horticulture production of targeted beneficiaries, which will enhance access to nutritious food and diversification of income sources. Production systems will become robust to economic, social, and environmental shocks, including climate shocks with an increased capacity to adapt to shocks. Resilient production system will contribute to beneficiaries' food security in the medium- to long-term, by increasing the availability of food and access to food in local markets, during crisis. Further, the additional financing contributes to food security in the short-term by providing cash-for-work opportunities and increases household's income and thus access to food.

### Proposed new activities by components.

12. **Component 1: Restoring Agriculture Production (US\$57 Million).** The Additional Financing will make the following adjustments under this component: a) scale-up the distribution of wheat cultivation package and crop production training to new food insecure households in selected districts under the existing subcomponent 1.1; b) expand Technical Assistance (TA) for Private Seed Enterprises (PSE) under subcomponent 1.3 focusing on strengthening their capacity to diversify production of seed and marketing beyond wheat and c) add a new activity under

<sup>6</sup> Resilient production systems have the ability to function in the face of complex and accumulating economic, social, environmental shocks, including climate shocks and stresses, through capacities of robustness, adaptability and transformability. Source: Meuwissen, M.P.M, et al. (2019): A framework to assess the resilience of farming systems.



subcomponent 1.2 to strengthen capacity for value addition by selected actors for horticulture commodities.

13. **Component 2. Provision of Water and Resilience Service (US\$26 Million).** This component will add the following new high impact watershed management and on-farm climate resilient irrigation activities:

- (i) **Watershed Management Interventions.** This includes agroforestry activities by planting 400,000 saplings of various agroforestry tree varieties suitable for the target agroecological zones (plant species such as pine, olive, almond, pistachio will be considered). Additionally, the activity will scale up construction of contour trenches, check dams, water harvesting ponds, and gully control structures to enhance water storage in areas with more than 5 mm rainfall. These activities will be carried out through a cash-for-work modality and are expected to benefit an estimated 54,000 beneficiaries, of which 20% will be female. Additionally, in response to the damage caused by the earthquake in Herat region, the project will support the rehabilitation of 40 Karezes and upper Karez watershed management with trenches, water ponds, cross drainage structures and check dams.
- (ii) **On-Farm Climate Resilient Water Management Practices.** This activity will finance rehabilitation of secondary and tertiary canals; small scale water distribution systems; training of Mirabs and irrigation associations on operation and maintenance of rehabilitated structures; and provision of laser land leveling equipment for irrigation associations based on the developed criteria. It will also support establishment of farmer field schools in each irrigation scheme to demonstrate improved climate resilient irrigation and agronomic practices. The irrigation schemes will be selected from the parent project ready for implementation design packages.

14. **Component 3: Project Management and M&E (US\$17 Million).** Additional allocation is proposed under this component to support project management and M&E for the additional activities proposed. No other changes will be made.

#### Legal Operational Policies

	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	Yes
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No

#### Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

### E. Implementation

#### Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

15. No changes are proposed to the implementation arrangement. More focus will be given to promoting better alignment and coordination with ARTF financed operations as well as other donor funded programs for convergence and maximizing impact.

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