



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock  
د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت  
د کرنې، اوبولګولو او مالدارۍ وزارت



## OPPORTUNITY FOR MAXIMIZING AGRIBUSINESS INVESTMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT (OMAID) PROJECT

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Developed by



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	FUNCTION AND SCOPE OF ESMF .....	1
1.2	RATIONALE AND PURPOSE OF THIS ESMF.....	2
1.3	POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES AND USERS OF THE ESMF .....	2
1.4	METHODOLOGY FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE ESMF .....	3
<b>2</b>	<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION .....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES.....	5
2.2	PROJECT COMPONENTS .....	5
2.3	TYPICAL SUB-PROJECT TYPES UNDER THE PROJECT .....	6
2.3.1	<i>Integrated Agri-Food Parks</i> .....	8
2.3.2	<i>Farmer Collection Centers</i> .....	9
2.3.3	<i>Rural Transformation Hubs</i> .....	10
2.4	SUB PROJECT ACTIVITIES INELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING .....	11
2.5	PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS .....	1
<b>3</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT IN AFGHANISTAN AND THE PROJECT AREA.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CONTEXT .....</b>	<b>4</b>
4.1	LOCATION AND REGIONAL CONTEXT .....	4
4.2	PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT .....	4
4.2.1	<i>Topography</i> .....	4
4.2.2	<i>Climate</i> .....	6
4.2.3	<i>Geology and Earthquakes</i> .....	7
4.2.4	<i>Soils</i> .....	8
4.2.5	<i>Drainage and Hydrology</i> .....	10
4.2.6	<i>Land-Use</i> .....	11
4.2.7	<i>Climate change</i> .....	14
4.3	BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT .....	15
4.3.1	<i>Main Habitats (GEF, UNEP, 2014)</i> .....	15
4.3.2	<i>Biodiversity</i> .....	17
4.3.3	<i>Protected Areas</i> .....	18
4.4	SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION .....	19
4.4.1	<i>Population Profile</i> .....	19
4.4.2	<i>Household Composition</i> .....	19
4.4.3	<i>Housing and Living Conditions</i> .....	20
4.4.4	<i>Employment</i> .....	20
4.4.5	<i>Livelihoods (Agriculture)</i> .....	21
4.4.6	<i>Tenure Rights to Farmland</i> .....	23
4.4.7	<i>Food Security</i> .....	24
4.4.8	<i>Poverty</i> .....	24
4.4.9	<i>Gender and Gender Based Violence</i> .....	25
4.4.10	<i>Migration and Internally Displaced Persons</i> .....	25
4.4.11	<i>Historical and Cultural Heritage</i> .....	27
4.4.12	<i>Community Health and Safety</i> .....	28
4.5	PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE .....	31
4.6	AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY .....	32
<b>5</b>	<b>WORLD BANK SAFEGUARD POLICIES.....</b>	<b>34</b>
5.1	WORLD BANK SAFEGUARDS LIKELY TO BE TRIGGERED BY THE PROJECT .....	37
5.2	ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (OP4.01).....	37
5.3	PEST MANAGEMENT (OP4.09) .....	39
5.4	INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT (OP4.12) .....	40
5.5	STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION (OP4.00).....	40
5.6	NATURAL HABITATS (OP4.04) .....	41
5.7	PHYSICAL CULTURAL RESOURCES (OP4.11) .....	41
5.8	REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE .....	42

5.9	WORLD BANK GROUP ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.....	42
<b>6</b>	<b>LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT.....</b>	<b>44</b>
6.1	LEGAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK .....	44
6.1.1	<i>The Constitution of Afghanistan.....</i>	44
6.1.2	<i>Development Agenda.....</i>	44
6.1.3	<i>Environmental and Natural Resources Laws.....</i>	45
6.1.4	<i>Land Use.....</i>	46
6.1.5	<i>Historical and Cultural Resources.....</i>	47
6.1.6	<i>Occupational Health and Safety.....</i>	47
6.1.7	<i>Pesticides.....</i>	48
6.2	ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONVENTIONS AND PROTOCOLS .....	49
6.3	INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK .....	50
<b>7</b>	<b>ESMF GUIDING PRINCIPLES .....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CONCERNS OF TARGETED AREAS .....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES .....</b>	<b>55</b>
9.1	POTENTIAL POSITIVE IMPACTS .....	56
9.2	POTENTIALLY ADVERSE IMPACTS.....	57
9.2.1	<i>Low Risk.....</i>	57
9.2.2	<i>Medium Risk.....</i>	58
9.2.3	<i>High Risk.....</i>	59
9.3	MEASURES TO MITIGATE NEGATIVE IMPACTS.....	61
9.4	NO PROJECT SCENARIO.....	66
<b>10</b>	<b>GUIDELINES FOR SUB-PROJECT SCREENING, PREPARATION, APPRAISAL, APPROVAL AND MONITORING</b>	<b>67</b>
10.1	SCREENING OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND SITES .....	67
10.1.1	<i>Sub-Project Screening.....</i>	67
10.1.2	<i>Assigning Appropriate Environmental and Social Categories.....</i>	68
10.1.3	<i>Environmental and Social Checklist .....</i>	70
10.1.4	<i>Screening decision .....</i>	74
10.2	ESIA STUDY.....	74
10.2.1	<i>Scoping .....</i>	75
10.2.2	<i>ESIA.....</i>	76
10.2.3	<i>Public Review of ESIA Report .....</i>	78
10.3	SUB-PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.....	78
10.4	PARTICIPATORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND DISCLOSURE.....	82
10.4.1	<i>Stages of Stakeholder Consultation.....</i>	82
10.4.2	<i>Key Stakeholders .....</i>	83
10.5	ANNUAL MONITORING REPORTS AND REVIEW.....	84
10.6	ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL AUDIT.....	93
10.7	OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES .....	93
10.7.1	<i>Management of Environmental, Social and OHS Issues .....</i>	93
10.7.2	<i>Contractual Obligations.....</i>	94
10.7.3	<i>Environmental, Social and OHS Advisory Panel.....</i>	94
<b>11</b>	<b>CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION .....</b>	<b>96</b>
11.1	CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT .....	96
11.2	ENGAGEMENT UNDERTAKEN AS PART OF THE ESMF.....	98
11.3	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM.....	99
11.3.1	<i>Grievance Redress Committee.....</i>	99
11.3.2	<i>Grievance Process.....</i>	101
11.3.3	<i>Grievance Awareness Building .....</i>	102
11.3.4	<i>Grievance Recording and Reporting .....</i>	103
11.3.5	<i>Participation of Women and Vulnerable People .....</i>	103
<b>12</b>	<b>GUIDELINES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AND MONITORING</b>	<b>107</b>
	<b>REQUIREMENTS .....</b>	<b>107</b>

12.1	ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.....	107
12.2	PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN .....	107
12.3	INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT .....	108
<b>13</b>	<b>INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING .....</b>	<b>110</b>
13.1	INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS .....	110
13.1.1	<i>High Economic Council .....</i>	<i>110</i>
13.1.2	<i>Agriculture Steering Committee / Agribusiness Executive Secretariat .....</i>	<i>110</i>
13.1.3	<i>Independent Third-Party Monitor.....</i>	<i>112</i>
13.1.4	<i>Ministry of Industry and Commerce .....</i>	<i>113</i>
13.1.5	<i>Capital Region Development Authority (CRIDA) .....</i>	<i>114</i>
13.1.6	<i>Construction and Operator Contractors .....</i>	<i>114</i>
13.1.7	<i>Tenant Businesses.....</i>	<i>114</i>
13.1.8	<i>Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock .....</i>	<i>115</i>
13.1.9	<i>Grant Operations Management Entity.....</i>	<i>115</i>
13.1.10	<i>FCC and RTH Private Developers .....</i>	<i>116</i>
13.2	INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT .....	116
13.3	TRAINING AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS.....	118
13.4	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.....	119
<b>14</b>	<b>ESMF MONITORING, REVIEW AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS .....</b>	<b>122</b>
14.1.1	<i>Internal Monitoring and Review (IAFPs).....</i>	<i>122</i>
14.1.2	<i>Internal Monitoring and Review (FCCs and RTHs).....</i>	<i>122</i>
<b>15</b>	<b>PROPOSED ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION BUDGET .....</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>CONCLUSION.....</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>129</b>

## ANNEXURES

ANNEXURE A: ESMF METHODOLOGY – FIELD WORK ACTION PLAN

ANNEXURE B: IAFP LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

ANNEXURE C: OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPACTS AND RISKS

ANNEXURE D: RESETTLEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK

ANNEXURE E: HERITAGE CHANGE FIND PROCEDURE

ANNEXURE F: LABOR INFLUX MANAGEMENT PLAN

ANNEXURE G: TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ESIA AND SIA

ANNEXURE H: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS

ANNEXURE I: FRAMEWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

**LIST OF FIGURES**

<i>Figure 1: Methodological Approach</i>	4
<i>Figure 2: Integrated Agri-Food Park Concept (Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, 2018)</i>	7
<i>Figure 3: Integrated Agri-Food Park Broader Catchment Area (Committee, June 2019)</i>	8
<i>Figure 4: Location of the Project Infrastructure</i>	4
<i>Figure 5: Topography of Afghanistan (Jennings, n.d.)</i>	5
<i>Figure 6: Afghan Map of Köppen Climate Regions (Ali_Zifan, 2019)</i>	7
<i>Figure 7: Earthquake Occurrence in Afghanistan (USAAID_IMMAPP, 2019)</i>	9
<i>Figure 8: Soils of Afghanistan (US_Dept_Agric, 2013)</i>	10
<i>Figure 9: Major River Watersheds of Afghanistan</i>	12
<i>Figure 10: Land-Use in Afghanistan</i>	13
<i>Figure 11: Natural Vegetation of Afghanistan Modified from Freitag (Breckle, 2004)</i>	17
<i>Figure 12: National Protected Areas in Afghanistan</i>	18
<i>Figure 13: Employment by Key Economic Sectors (Central Statistics Organization, n.d.)</i>	21
<i>Figure 14: Households with Agricultural Land (Central Statistics Organization, 2018)</i>	22
<i>Figure 15: Distribution of Households Owning Irrigated or Rain-Fed Farmland</i>	23
<i>Figure 16: Food Insecurity Rates (Central Statistics Organization, 2018)</i>	24
<i>Figure 17: Internal Migration Rate by Province (Central Statistics Organization, 2018)</i>	26
<i>Figure 18: Reason for Migration (Central Statistics Organization, 2018)</i>	26
<i>Figure 19: Ethnolinguistic Groups (Source: Central Intelligence Agency, n.d.)</i>	28
<i>Figure 20: Conflict Severity (UNOCHA, 2019)</i>	30
<i>Figure 21: Irrigated Areas of Afghanistan</i>	32
<i>Figure 22: National ESIA Process</i>	79
<i>Figure 23: ESMF ESIA Process</i>	80
<i>Figure 24: Grievance Mechanism</i>	102
<i>Figure 25: Organisational Structure for IAFPs</i>	111
<i>Figure 26: Organisational Structure for FCCS and RTHs</i>	112

**LIST OF TABLES**

<i>Table 1: Potential Environmental and Social Impacts</i>	4
<i>Table 2: Area, Elevation and Topographical Region of Project Location (adapted from (MAIL_GoIRA, May 2017)</i>	6
<i>Table 3: Köppen Climate Classification for Five Project Provinces</i>	6
<i>Table 4: Summarised Climate Statistics in the Project Locations</i>	7
<i>Table 5: Assessment of Geological Risk for IAFPs (USAAID_IMMAPP, 2019)</i>	8
<i>Table 6: Assessment of Flood Risk for IAFPs (USAAID_IMMAPP, 2019)</i>	11
<i>Table 7: Land Use of Provinces where Project to be Located (hectares) (FAO, 2012)</i>	13
<i>Table 8: Natural Vegetation Type at Project Locations</i>	16
<i>Table 9: Number of species known to exist in Afghanistan (GEF, UNEP, 2014)</i>	18
<i>Table 10: Population Profile</i>	19
<i>Table 11: Urban, Rural and Nomadic Population Profile (Percent)</i>	19
<i>Table 12: Multidimensional Poverty Index</i>	24
<i>Table 13: World Bank Safeguard Policies and Objectives and Triggers</i>	34
<i>Table 14: General Mitigation Measures to Reduce Impacts</i>	61
<i>Table 15: Stages of ESIA and Institutional Responsibilities</i>	81
<i>Table 16: Priority Stakeholders</i>	83
<i>Table 17: Project monitoring indicators and responsibilities</i>	86
<i>Table 18: Stakeholder Engagement Groups, Notification Process and Consultation</i>	98
<i>Table 19: Training Requirements</i>	120
<i>Table 20: Capacity Building, Training and Technical Assistance Cost</i>	126

**LIST OF BOXES**

<i>Box 1: World Bank Safeguard Policies triggered by Project</i>	37
<i>Box 2: List of Relevant International Commitments</i>	49
<i>Box 3: Outline of a Scoping Report</i>	75
<i>Box 4: Contents of an ESIA Report</i>	77

**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

ABC	Agri-Business Charter
ALCS	Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey
ANDMA	Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority
ASC	Agriculture Steering Committee
AWEC	Afghanistan Wildlife Executive Committee
BP	Bank Procedure (World Bank)
CERC	Contingent Emergency Response Component
CERD	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
CESCR	Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRIDA	Capital Region Development Authority
DGIP	Directorate General of Industrial Parks
EA	Environmental Assessment
EASO	European Asylum Support Office
EHS	Environment Health and Safety
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EPRP	Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
FWAP	Field Work Action Plan
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Green House Gas
GIIP	Good International Industry Practice
GoIRA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
GP	Good Practice (World Bank)
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
HEC	Afghan High Economic Council
HSEC	Health, Safety, Environment and Community
IDA	International Development Association
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IPGD	Industrial Parks General Directorate
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IVM	Integrated Vector Management
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature

LALRP	Land Acquisition and Livelihoods Restoration Plan
LEDS	Low Emission Development Strategies
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
mamsl	metres above mean sea level
MEW	Ministry of Energy and Water
MIC	Ministry of Information and Culture
MMI	Ministry of Mines and Industry
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoIC	Ministry of Industry and Commerce
MoLSAMD	Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and the Disabled
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
MoPW	Ministry of Public Works
MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
MUDL	Ministry of Urban Development and Land
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHLP	National Horticulture and Livestock Project
NSIA	National Statistics and Information Authority
NPP	National Priority Program
OMAID	Opportunity for Maximizing Agribusiness Investments and Development
OP	Operational Policies (World Bank)
PAP	Project Affected People
PCR	Physical-Cultural Resources
PDO	Project Development Objective
PMP	Pest Management Plan
PMU	Project Management Unit
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PPP	Private-Public-Partnership
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
SACEP	South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SME	Small- and Medium-sized Enterprise
SMME	Small-, Medium- and Micro-sized Enterprise
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

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UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UN-FAO	United Nations – Food and Agriculture Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organisation

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Despite notable progress, Afghanistan remains in a fragile state with almost constant conflict for over 35 years and no durable political settlement established. GDP per-capita is among the lowest in the world, poverty is deep and widespread, and Afghanistan continues to perform poorly against many social indicators. A large percentage of Afghanistan's population live in rural areas and almost all of these depend on some form of agricultural production. Agriculture offers significant potential for creating jobs and diversifying economic opportunities.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) has developed a strategy for promoting agribusiness - the Afghanistan Agribusiness Charter – with a number of projects to stimulate the agribusiness sub-sector. The Opportunity for Maximizing Agribusiness Investments and Development (OMAID) Project, as one of the projects under this Charter, and it seeks to provide structural and financial support to the agro-processing segments of the horticulture and livestock sector in Afghanistan. The Project will be funded by an International Development Association (IDA) grant in the amount of US\$25 million and a US\$150 million contribution from the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund over a five-year period.

### Project Description

The aim of the OMAID Project is to develop an enabling environment for increased private sector investment in agribusinesses. This includes investment in agro-processing value chains from production, market access and processing to marketing on the domestic and regional markets, as well as for the export to international markets. To meet this objective, the Project is divided into several interrelated components including:

- **Component 1** – Improving the Enabling Environment and Quality of Support Services for Agribusiness Development.
- **Component 2** – Support of Agri-spatial Solutions (including the Development of Integrated Agri-Food Parks, Farmer Collection Centers and Rural Transformation Hubs) and Access to Finance.
- **Component 3** – Crisis Prevention and Management, Project Management and M&E, and Governance Structure.

Under Component 2, the Project proposes to support the development of a range of physical infrastructure across 5 provinces (Balkh, Kandahar, Kabul, Herat, and Nangarhar) in Afghanistan. This physical infrastructure (or sub-projects) will comprise a network of the following:

- **Integrated Agri-Food Parks (IAFPs):** Self-standing agro-industrial zones that will be developed as a Public-Private-Partnership and will provide agro-processing facilities and services. The Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC) and the Central Regional Development Agency (CRIDA) will be the implementing agencies and are expected to establish five IAFPs in Afghanistan.
- **Farmer Collection Centers (FCCs):** The FCCs will function as collection points, support primary processing and function as distribution points for agricultural inputs. The centers will function as a network of strategically placed sub-provincial satellite centers feeding

into the IAFPs. The Ministry of Agricultural, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) have the primary responsibility for these centers and is expected to provide funding grants to private developers to establish 25 FCCs in these five provinces.

- **Rural Transformation Hubs (RTHs):** The RTHs will serve as outreach buying points in remote regions and also function as distribution points for farm inputs. The RTHs will have basic infrastructure for primary processing and facilities for the distribution of supplies to farmers. The MAIL will have the primary responsibility for these hubs and is expected to provide funding grants to private developers to establish the RTHs in Afghanistan.

The Project will have oversight from the Afghanistan High Economic Council (HEC) and the Agriculture Steering Committee with overall co-ordination and implementation of Project activities by MoIC, MAIL and CRIDA. A phased implementation approach will be adopted with sequential development in the selected provinces. The likely locations of the sub projects within the OMAID Project are not all known with confirmed locations of only three IAFPs and two proposed IAFP locations. Locations for the RTHs and FCCs are still unknown. Further preparatory work needs to be concluded as to the specific geographic reach of all the proposed sub projects with more detail on the specific districts affected and their social-biophysical characteristics.

The Project should result in an improved governance structure; increased agro-industrial infrastructure, increased investment in agro-processing and related services, improved food safety compliance and an increase quality of services to agri-enterprises.

### **Function and Scope of ESMF**

The aim of the ESMF is to ensure that timely measures are taken to avoid or minimize any harm to the environment or human health; to avoid, reduce, mitigate or compensate any loss of livelihoods; and to enhance positive environmental and social outcomes. The ESMF is a guide to the procedures for mitigating and managing environmental and social risks and impacts of the planned sub-projects of the main Project and the responsibilities for implementing these procedures. In particular, the ESMF outlines a method of environmental and social screening. With the present lack of detail on the specific sub projects at this stage, the ESMF provides a general framework for implementing agencies.

The ESMF has been developed in alignment with World Bank (WB) safeguard policies on social and environmental management and takes cognizance of the relevant GoIRA policies, regulatory and institutional framework. Preparation of the ESMF consisted of reviewing existing literature and reports, collecting and analyzing data and consultation with a broad spectrum of stakeholders.

### **Policy, Legal and Institutional Framework**

The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been prepared to assist role-players in managing the environmental and social risks and legal obligations associated with the proposed the IAFPs, FCCs and RTHs. It specifically defines the key principles, steps and procedures that are to be followed to ensure compliance with Afghanistan national law as well as conforming with the World Bank Safeguard Policies, *inter alia*, environmental assessment (OP/BP4.01), natural habitats (OP/BP4.04), pest management (OP/BP4.09), physical cultural resources (OP/BP 4.11), involuntary resettlement (OP/BP4.12), and forests (OP/BP4.36). It is also mandatory to apply the World Bank Group (WBG) General and Sector-

specific Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) guidelines as well as Good International Practice (GIIP). These address community, as well as worker health and safety.

Guided by the Constitution, the Afghanistan development agenda has a keen focus on agriculture to achieve self-reliance and improve human welfare, with a change from an economy of import and distribution to one with a thriving private sector investment and an emphasis on export. The Project addresses one of the four strategic interventions in the agribusiness sub-sector described by the Afghanistan Agribusiness Charter, i.e. agri-spatial solutions, with the development of infrastructure, in the form of IAFPs, RTHs and FCCs, to improve supply chains and stimulate industrialization that improves livelihoods of rural farmers and provides opportunities to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The national Environmental Law enforces the need to consider the social and environmental environment in all development decision-making and requires an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) procedure to be undertaken and a permit obtained from the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) for developments that could have a significant impact. Other licenses will also be required, such as, pollution control, waste management, hazardous waste management storage of petroleum products, construction of septic tanks and drainage, discharge of animal waste, use of materials which damage the ozone layer.

Land management is covered by the national Land Policy and the national laws on Land Management and Land Acquisition which establish ownership of land and property and defines the process of expropriation. A Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) has been developed for this Project to guide this process and, where displacement is likely, the sub-project will have to develop a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) as specified in the RAP document. In addition, the management of pesticides is required by law and a Pesticide Management Plan (PMP) has been prepared for the Project in alignment with national legislation (regulations still outstanding) and the WB safeguards. Other pertinent legislation is that on Historical and Cultural Resources, and Labor (Occupational Health and Safety in the workplace). There is a legal requirement for the integration of resource management and decision making and inter-ministerial committees are set up to address multi-issue matters. International conventions are recognized.

In line with these WB policies and Afghanistan law the ESMF outlines a mechanism to determine and assess future potential environmental and social impacts during the implementation of Project activities and then sets out a guide to mitigation, monitoring and institutional measures to be taken during operations of these activities so that adverse environmental and social impacts are eliminated, offset or reduced to acceptable levels. Both the WB and Afghanistan law follow a process of screening of projects to determine the level of environmental and social assessment that would be required and this process is outlined in the ESMF. Each sub-project will undergo this screening procedure, although the WB has categorized the overall project as a Category A (equivalent to a Category I for NEPA) due to its complexity – a project the potential to cause significant environmental and social impacts and requiring a full ESIA.

## Guiding Principles

The Project is guided by the core principles of geographic concentration of economic activities, sequencing of field operations and targeting key value chains. In terms of this ESMF, good governance, sustainable development, and the safeguarding of environmental and human rights form the underlying principles, amongst others.

## Potential Environmental and Social Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The Project is being developed in a country with multiple environmental and social concerns. Those pertinent to the Project are – air pollution in urban areas, impacted water resources, unsafe drinking water, over-exploitation of natural resources such as rangelands and forests, threatened biodiversity, inadequate waste management, poor sanitation, variable living conditions, lack of security of tenure, limited livelihoods and lack of employment, security, conflict and internal displacement, vulnerable people, gender and gender-based violence and risk to the rich cultural and historical artifacts.

The Project infrastructure may result in a range of environmental and social impacts or benefits. The assessments of each sub project will need to give full consideration of the range of potential environmental and social impacts and benefits, and where impacts are found to occur establish suitable mitigation measures. The range of impacts and benefits may include, but not be exclusively limited, to the following:

**Table 1: Potential Environmental and Social Impacts**

Impact	Risk / Benefit
<b>Environmental</b>	
Community Health (Air Emissions)	Low
Community Health (Odour)	Low
Community and Environmental Health (Biological Waste)	Low
Community and Environmental Health (Hazardous and General Waste)	Medium
Community and Environmental Health (Surface Water - Supply)	Low
Community and Environmental Health (Surface Water - Contamination)	Low
Community and Environmental Health (Groundwater)	Medium
Chemical spills (Soils, Surface water, Groundwater)	High
Loss of a resource (vegetation, soils and land-use)	Low
Loss of integrity of structures causing a Release	High
<b>Social</b>	
Physical Displacement	High
Economic Displacement	High
Loss of Community Facilities or Service.	High
Loss of Access to Communal / Public Land	High
Loss of Access to Communal Natural Resources	Low
Loss of Tangible Cultural Heritage	Medium
Loss of Intangible Cultural Heritage	Medium
Indigenous and Nomadic People	Low
Traffic Safety	Low
Restriction of Mobility and Public Thoroughfares.	Low
Labour Rights	High
Labor Influx	Low

<b>Impact</b>	<b>Risk / Benefit</b>
Pressure on Basic Services and Public Infrastructure	<b>Low</b>
Market / Trade Links	<b>High Benefit</b>
Improved Access to Input Support and Extension Services	<b>High Benefit</b>
Promoting SMME Business Development	<b>High Benefit</b>
Promoting Local Employment	<b>High Benefit</b>
Promoting Local Content	<b>High Benefit</b>
Improved Representation of Women	<b>High Benefit</b>
Conflict and Insurgency	<b>High Risk</b>
<b>Occupational Health &amp; Safety</b>	
Physical Hazards	<b>High Risk</b>
Chemical Hazards	<b>High Risk</b>
Biological Hazards	<b>Medium Risk</b>
Radiological Hazards	<b>Low Risk</b>
Special Hazard Environments	<b>High Risk</b>

All negative impacts will require active mitigation to avoid, reduce or compensate for such impacts. This mitigation covers waste management (biological, hazardous and general waste), air emissions, noise and vibration, water supply and contamination, land contamination, loss of natural resources, displacement (physical and economic), access to land, communal facilities and services, public safety and traffic, cultural heritage, human rights, conflict and insurgency and occupational health and safety. A practical set of mitigation measures will be developed as part of the ESIA and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), and will need to be adopted during the planning, construction and operation of the IAFPs, FCCs and RTHs. Mitigation options may include project modification, provision of alternatives, project timing, pollution control, compensation and relocation assistance. Where the effectiveness of mitigation is uncertain, monitoring programs should be introduced. A generic set of mitigation measures is provided in the main document.

### **Project Screening, Appraisal and Monitoring**

The OMAID Project Implementing Agencies, in this case MoIC and CRIDA (for IAFPs) and MAIL (for FCCs and RTHs), are ultimately responsible, and will verify through its own staff, outside experts or existing environmental, social and OHS institutions, that any sub-project meets the environmental, social and OHS requirements of appropriate national and local authorities and is consistent with WB policies and this ESMF. Where necessary, the WB will strengthen the capabilities of the coordinating entity and conduct their own review of the sub-projects. The implementation of identified sub-projects that are carried out by sub borrowers (i.e. private developers), as is the case for IAFPs, FCCs and RTHs in Sub-Component 2 of the OMAID Project, should include the appropriate environmental and social assessment.

Screening of sub-projects will occur at project inception, as soon as sufficient detail on the sub-project is known. This will include the nature and scope, proposed location and area, and associated activities. Screening happens concurrently with project feasibility and any potential risks identified at this stage can immediately be incorporated into the engineering study. Screening checklists are provided which will need to be filled in and submitted to NEPA for a decision, after being reviewed by the environmental and social management of the Project Management Unit (PMU) for the IAFPs and to the Matching Grants Managers (Private Operators) for the FCCs and RTHs. MAIL, MoIC and CRIDA will review the reports and escalate

them to the Secretariat and the World Bank. The extent of environmental and social work that might be required for sub-projects prior to implementation will depend on the outcome of the screening process. NEPA will issue a Certificate of Compliance. The Terms of Reference for the environmental assessment phase should be developed and confirmed immediately after the Screening decision. The Environmental and Social Screening Checklist could also be used to assist in the go/no-go decision points at the initial stages of analysis of IAFP site selection during the Project implementation.

### **ESIA Study**

The ESIA study follows the stages of Scoping (identification of scope of the evaluation, identifying initial impacts and preparing TOR for the ESIA study); Impact Assessment (investigation and analysis of the social and bio-physical environment, assessment of potential impact, providing mitigation and management options); and Public Disclosure (public participation process informing and including all stakeholders from Scoping to ESIA reporting). Outlines of TORs and report contents are provided.

Where the draft ESIA reports are found to be acceptable, the implementing agency of the Project will be notified to finalize reports. NEPA would once again issue a Certificate of Compliance, with or without conditions or advise that further information is required or refuse the application. Subsequent to this, various permissions and authorizations may be required for different activities, such as water use etc. The ESMF will be implemented by the implementing agencies for the sub-projects. The implementing agency will collaborate with the Safeguard specialist at MoIC, MAIL, NEPA and WB to ensure effective execution.

### **Public Consultation, Participation and Document Disclosure**

The implementing agency at each Project component will support ongoing stakeholder engagement and participation in order to build positive community relations and establishing open communication channels with potential beneficiaries. The Project is legally required to inform and consult stakeholders during the preparation of the relevant ESIA processes. Public consultation is mandatory at the Scoping and ESIA phase under both national law and World Bank requirements. A full range of stakeholders will be identified for consultation and detailed stakeholder profiling will need to be undertaken for each sub-project. The reports produced through the environmental and social assessment process should be published to the wider public in a timely manner, at an accessible place and in a form and language understandable to key stakeholders.

Stakeholder engagement does not end at the finalization of the environmental and social assessment. The implementing agency at each sub-project will be required to support ongoing citizen engagement for the life of the sub-project, and the level of consultation will be commensurate with the level of public interest and risks associated with the sub-project. Citizen engagement, or the two-way and iterative interaction between the citizens of Afghanistan and the implementing agencies at IAFPs, FCCs and RTHs, will build constructive relationships, and continue to maintain them over time. There are multiple avenues in terms of supporting citizen engagement, and they may be customized to the needs of each sub-project and the target stakeholders. The Project will ensure that all forms of stakeholder and citizen engagement will be undertaken in an appropriate, culturally sensitive manner, tailored to the characteristics and interests of different stakeholders. This include presenting any

information in the appropriate language(s), and accessible and understandable to citizens with differing levels of literacy and skills.

In addition, to support ongoing engagement, the implementing agency at each sub-project will establish a Grievance Mechanism – or a procedure for receiving and facilitating the resolution of public concerns and grievances. The mechanism will provide a credible and accessible means for stakeholders to raise any grievances, issues, or objections specific to the Project or Sub-Projects.

The development of this ESMF was supported by a focused interview program. Once the draft ESMF is finalized it will be disclosed as part of a structured stakeholder engagement process.

### **Monitoring, Management and Review**

To ensure the effective implementation of the sub-projects, the implementing agencies will undertake regular monitoring, reviews and multi-level reporting. The aim of monitoring is to allow Project impacts to be tracked so that the effectiveness of the mitigation and management measures can be measured and adjusted where necessary. Monitoring indicators will depend on the specific project contexts and monitoring criteria will be developed together with the policy and safeguard specialists.

A generic monitoring plan should be developed for the overall Project by the Health, Safety, Environment and Community (HSEC) Managers. The plan should be adapted to meet the needs of each sub-project or group of sub-projects. At sub-project level monitoring will cover the ESIA, environmental permits and monitoring and evaluation. Annual monitoring reports will be produced to satisfy the requirements of the WB, NEPA and line ministries and the investor.

The control and mitigation of potential adverse effects of sub-project development in every case will be supported by an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) that will be prepared with the ESIA, or as prescribed by the screening process conducted during the sub-project appraisal. The purpose of the ESMP is to set out a clear set of actions and responsibilities for the control of impacts affecting the environment within the operations' area of influence for any proposed sub-project. It should also consider the cumulative impacts of the sub-project activities together with other surrounding activities to ensure that a proactive approach to the effective management of environmental impacts during all phases of the sub-project activities from construction, operation, to decommissioning and closure. The implementing agencies and/or their consultants will prepare the ESMP in consultation with the Safeguards specialists.

Audits will be conducted by NEPA and by an external auditor appointed by the Agricultural Steering Committee. The external audit will be undertaken on an annual basis from the commencement of Project construction and will cover all active construction or operational sites for the IAFPs, FCCs, RTHs.

MoIC, CRIDA and MAIL as well as all third-parties will support ongoing monitoring, review, and auditing during the development, construction and operational phases of the Project and associated sub-projects.

## **Involuntary Resettlement**

In principle, the Project will attempt to secure any land required for the physical infrastructure via voluntary land agreements (i.e. willing-buyer, willing-seller agreements) and all forms of compulsory land acquisition will be avoided to the maximum extent possible. However, there may be cases where the Project is required to compulsorily acquire land. In such cases, the GoIRA will need to expropriate the land consistent with the Law on Land Acquisition of 2017.

Involuntary resettlement may cause severe long-term hardship, impoverishment, and environmental damage unless appropriate measures are carefully planned and carried out. The Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) developed for the Project establishes the principles, rules and procedures to be followed in the management of all forms of compulsory land acquisition, compensation, and resettlement consistent with national law and WB safeguard policies. It functions as a precursor document to a full Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) that will need to be prepared on a sub-project by sub-project basis.

Implementation of the RPF requirements will be the mandate of the GoIRA and relevant ministries, such as MoIC (DGIP for 4 IAFPs), CRIDA (1 IAFP) and MAIL (all GCCs and RTHs). These parties are defined as the Expropriating Authorities or Implementing Agencies on all land acquisition and resettlement matters. The implementing agencies will be required to provide ongoing and comprehensive stakeholder engagement and participation.

## **Institutional Roles and Responsibilities**

The Project will be administered by the GoIRA. The MoIC and CRIDA will be the implementing agencies for the five IAFPs, while the MAIL will be the implementing agency for the FCCs and RTHs. The construction and operation of the physical infrastructure will largely be undertaken by private contractors via various Private-Public-Partnership structures or via financing grants. Both public and private agencies will be required to meet to requirements of this ESMF and will be expected to make provision for the staffing and resourcing to manage day-to-day environmental and social requirements.

The High Economic Council (HEC) will be the primary oversight body with the Agriculture Steering Committee, a centralized national body, established under the HEC providing strategic guidance, allocating funding and reviewing the implementation of the sub-projects. The Agribusiness Executive Secretariat will assume much of the technical and day-to-day operational requirements on behalf of the Committee and ensure coordination and supervision of the implementation of Project action plans in collaboration with the various agencies and role-players. An independent third-party monitor may be appointed to regularly monitor the sub-projects for these national bodies and on behalf of the WB.

MoIC will be the primary planning and implementing agency for 4 Integrated Agri-Food Parks and CRIDA for the Barikab IAFP in Kabul. To support the Project, MoIC will establish a Project Management Unit (PMU) under the Industrial Parks General Directorate (IPGD), with the mandate to manage day-to-day planning and operational requirements. A similar structure is likely to be developed under CRIDA. MoIC, via the PMU, will be the primary agency that will need to comply with legal and World Bank safeguard measures during the planning and implementation of the Parks. In addition, MOIC will be the legal expropriating authority with respect to any compulsory land acquisition. Private construction and operation contracts will

be appointed by MoIC and CRIDA for the life of the sub projects. The day-to-day management of environmental and social requirements will be deferred from MoIC or CRIDA to the construction and operational contractors.

MAIL, via the Private Sector Development Directorate, will be the primary agency with respect to the provision of funding grants to private investors of the FCCs and RTHs. MAIL will function solely as a funding agency with appoint private contractor (the Grant Operations Management Entity) appointed by MAIL to administer the grants system and provision of technical assistance to potential developers.

### **Training and Capacity Building Arrangements**

The implementing agency at each sub-project is expected to establish a functional Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) that is appropriately scaled to the nature of the project impacts. The ESMS will used to manage environmental aspects, fulfil compliance obligations, and address risks and opportunities of each sub-project. The ESMS will define the staffing requirements, support staff and backstopping, training and technical assistance, and funding arrangements to ensure the effective management of environmental and social impacts at each sub-project. In addition, it will support regular monitoring, reviews and multi-level reporting.

The implementing agencies will have varied capacity for environmental and social management. It is expected that the Government ministries will establish the needed expertise in the relevant PMU's, while private operators will include suitable management staff to manage day-to-day environmental and social requirements during construction and operational phases. This capacity is anticipated to be additional to that which already exists in these institutions. Depending on the unique environmental and social risks at each Project site, the implementing agencies may appoint external specialists on a casual or short-term contract to provide additional expertise.

Capacity building requires the development of individuals with the understanding, skills and access to information, knowledge and training to perform their roles effectively. Organizational development will be key to realizing this capacity with focus on relevant management structures, processes and procedures, not only within organizations but also the management of relationships between the different organizations and sectors (public, private and community). It is anticipated that capacity building will take the form of training workshops.

The implementing agencies will provide training to build the awareness and technical knowledge of environmental and social matters across all management, technical, support and safeguards staff.

### **ESMF Monitoring and Reporting**

To ensure the effective implementation of this ESMF, the implementing agencies will undertake regular monitoring, reviews and multi-level reporting:

- **IAFPs** - Internal monitoring of day-to-day activities and the level of compliance with environmental and social requirements will be the direct responsibility of the

construction and operator contractors appointed by MoIC or CRIDA at the 5 IAFPs, as well as all licensed businesses or operators located in the IAFPs. The construction contractor will provide monthly monitoring reports to the MoIC PMU or CRIDA PMU for the duration of the construction phase, while the operational contractor will provide bi-annual (every 6 months) monitoring reports to the relevant PMUs. Quarterly and bi-annual inspections will be conducted by MoIC and CRIDA and a consolidated monitoring report submitted to the Agricultural Steering Committee twice a year. Monitoring and audit reports to be submitted to NEPA annually.

- **FCCs and RTHs** - Internal monitoring of day-to-day activities and the level of compliance with environmental and social requirements will be the direct responsibility of the construction and operator contractors appointed by the Private Developers with support from MAIL. As for IAFPs monthly and annual reports submitted to the Agricultural Steering Committee twice a year. Monitoring and audit reports to be submitted to NEPA annually.

### ***Proposed Estimated Implementation Budget***

Given the present uncertainty of costs without details of the studies required, it is recommended that financing is provided in multiple tranches to allow the implementing agencies to fund initial feasibility studies or assessment – tranche 1: funding of ESIA, ESMP and associated studies (amount not known); tranche 2: funding to commence construction of sub projects; and tranche 3: annual funding for sub project operations.

The internal costs of resourcing, capacity building, training and technical assistance of MoIC and MAIL is broadly estimated to be – Staffing USD 2,370 010 and Training USD 255 000.

### **Conclusion**

The OMAID Project is part of a suite of projects initiated by the GoIRA to stimulate the agricultural sector of the country with a focus on agribusiness development. With the objective to provide structural and financial support to the agro-processing segments of the horticulture and livestock sectors, the Project is aiming for sustainable development whilst safeguarding environmental and human rights. This ESMF outlines how the potential impacts of the activities proposed under this Project can be managed and mitigated to enhance environmental and social outcomes.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

With more than 80% of the population living in rural areas, Afghanistan's agricultural sector accounts for approximately 25% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employs about 40% of the national workforce. Political instability in the country has led to structural constraints and low productivity with undeveloped value chains and a low ratio of food processing to primary agriculture. In response to this, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) developed a strategy for promoting agribusiness - the Afghanistan Agribusiness Charter - which is aimed at addressing the high cost of doing business in the country; the challenges of market access for agri-food enterprises; the limited access of agri-food small and medium enterprises to industrial serviced land; the lack of access to finance; and inefficient producer organizations.

The Opportunity for Maximizing Agribusiness Investments and Development (OMAID) Project (the OMAID Project or the Project), as one of the projects under this Charter, seeks to provide structural and financial support to the agro-processing segments of the horticulture and livestock sector in Afghanistan. The Project will be funded by an International Development Association (IDA) grant to the amount of US\$25 million and a US\$150 million contribution from the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund over a five-year period with the World Bank (WB) assisting the GoIRA to implement this Project. The overall responsibility for the Project implementation, including procurement and financial management, will be with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC), with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) implementing a sub-component of the Project and the Central Region Development Agency (CRIDA) working closely with MoIC. For this Project these three institutions will be referred to together as the Implementing Agencies.

The Project has three components *viz.* (1) improving the enabling environment for agribusiness development; (2) supporting the development of integrated agri-spatial solutions; and (3) project coordination, monitoring and crisis management. The agri-spatial interventions consist of developments in concentrated agro-industrial zones (industrial agri-food parks – IAFPs) linked to producers in catchment areas via a network of strategically placed rural transformation hubs (RTHs) and farmers collection centers (FCCs). These interventions are initially planned for the five provinces of Balkh, Kandahar, Kabul, Herat, and Nangarhar.

The second component of the Project (agri-spatial solutions) includes the development of infrastructure in the form of sub-projects of the main Project. With the agri-spatial solutions still evolving and few details being known, the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) outlined here is the appropriate instrument to guide the environmental and social aspects of these activities within this sub-component of the Project.

## 1.1 FUNCTION AND SCOPE OF ESMF

The ESMF sets out the principles, rules, guidelines and procedures to assess the environmental and social risks and impacts; the systems, resourcing, management controls and plans required to reduce, mitigate and/or offset adverse risks and impacts; the public agencies and private entities responsible for addressing sub-project risks and impacts; and available background on the area in which sub-projects are expected to be sited. The ESMF also considers policy and legislative context, citizen and stakeholder consultation, capacity

building, occupational health and safety, institutional measures and monitoring requirements, and the Project funding needed to implement the ESMF requirements.

The ESMF, in particular, outlines a method of environmental and social screening that will guide the organizations charged with the implementation of the sub-projects in the process required to identify, assess and mitigate the environmental and social impacts of the proposed developments.

## **1.2 RATIONALE AND PURPOSE OF THIS ESMF**

The aim of this ESMF is to ensure that timely measures are taken to avoid or minimize any harm to the environment or human health; avoid, reduce, mitigate or compensate any loss of livelihoods; and enhance positive environmental and social outcomes.

As the potential impacts from the Project's sub-project construction and operational activities are anticipated to be complex, they are considered Category A projects in terms of the WB categorization and will trigger the WB environmental assessment policy (OP4.01), as well as being subject to the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) regulations of the Afghanistan National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA).

With a lack of detail on the specific sub-projects at this stage, the ESMF provides a general framework. Once more specific information on the sub-project type, location, land requirement, bio-physical and social context is known, the preparation of an ESIA will be triggered.

## **1.3 POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES AND USERS OF THE ESMF**

The primary target group for this Project are agri-business investors as well as operators of co-operatives and small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Project areas (Balkh, Kandahar, Kabul, Herat, and Nangarhar). These will benefit from the Project investments in IAFPs and satellite centers (FCCs and RTHs) and related services and capacity-building activities (access to inputs, storage, processing facilities, markets, organization, etc.). The key institutions overseeing agri-business development in the country will also benefit from the project interventions. Benefits include: (i) strengthening the capacity of institutions as well as service providers involved in project implementation; and (ii) capacity building of relevant food safety agencies that have clearly defined roles and responsibilities for food control management.

The potential users of the ESMF are:

### ***Directly***

- The Project itself, in terms of providing funding and technical support;
- The Implementing Agencies in terms of all planning, construction and operational control of the developments; and
- Private entities contracted and/or funded by the Implementing Agencies to plan, construct and/or operate the developments.

**Indirectly**

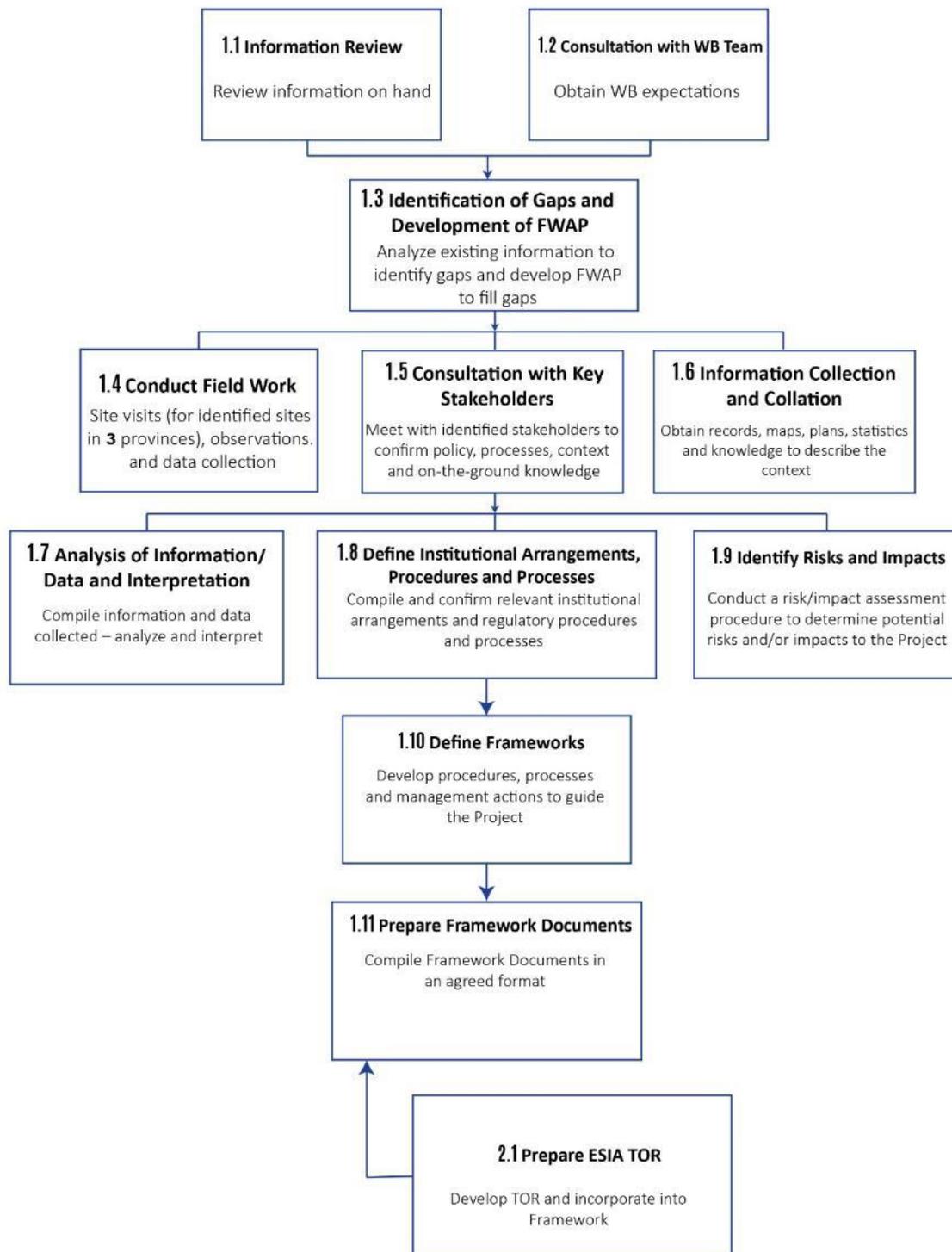
- Suppliers of goods and services;
- Providers of infrastructure services and connections; and
- Primary supply chains.

**1.4 METHODOLOGY FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE ESMF**

The methodology for the preparation of the ESMF document consisted of:

- Review of previous reports, published and unpublished works on the environment and social aspects of the study area and consultation with the World Bank team;
- Review and analysis of the national legal framework and World Bank policies;
- Identification of gaps existing in the available information and the development of the field work action plan (FWAP);
- Field investigations, consultation with key stakeholders and collation of collected information;
- Analysis and interpretation of information/data, definition of institutional arrangements; procedures and processes, and the identification of positive and negative environmental and social impacts and mitigation measures; and
- Definition of the frameworks for environmental and social screening, assessment and monitoring.

The methodology for the preparation of the ESMF document is summarized in **Figure 1** while the detailed FWAP is contained in Annexure A.



**Figure 1: Methodological Approach**

## 2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION<sup>1</sup>

### 2.1 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

The Project Development Objective (PDO) (World\_Bank, 2019) is to develop an enabling environment for increased private sector investment in agribusiness in selected provinces of Afghanistan. This includes investment in agro-processing value chains, from production, market access and processing, to marketing in the domestic and regional markets, as well as the export to international markets. In this way the GoIRA aims to achieve poverty alleviation, wealth creation through increased income for farmers, greater employment, value addition and the creation of a competitive agri-business sub-sector through public-private partnership. The PDO indicators are an improved governance structure; the amount of agro-industrial infrastructure developed; increased investment generated in agro-processing and related services; improved compliance with food safety standards; and an increased percentage of agri-enterprises satisfied with the quality of services provided.

Project implementation is based on the core principles of (i) *Geographic concentration to crowd in economic activities* with specific support provided to the provinces of Balkh, Kandahar, Kabul, Herat and Nangarhar due to their comparative advantages of economic potential, access to basic infrastructure, trade and transit routes, and market opportunities; (ii) *Sequencing of field operations* based on a set of pre-requisites and built-in decision points along the critical path with Project activities implemented sequentially; and (iii) *Targeting of key value chains* identified as priorities for promotion, specifically horticulture products (dried fruits and nuts, fresh fruits and vegetables, mostly for exports), and livestock products (poultry, eggs, and dairy, for domestic markets).

In terms of this ESMF, good governance, sustainable development, and the safeguarding of environmental and human rights form the underlying principles. These are described further in Section 7 of this document.

### 2.2 PROJECT COMPONENTS

The key challenges identified as binding constraints for sustainable agri-business developments to be addressed by the Project are (a) the complexity of promoting agri-business activities; (b) lack of an enabling environment for promoting and sustaining the growth of agri-business; (c) limited availability of infrastructure; and (d) weak access of Afghan agri-firms to appropriate services (both financial and non-financial).

The Project will finance a combination of soft and hard investments – (i) *soft investments* to support improvement in the delivery and coordination of agribusiness support services (including food safety and quality and certification control systems) and (ii) *hard investments* to create modern agri-processing environments (agri-food parks linked to satellite centers such as warehouses, cold storage facilities etc.) that can be used to catalyze private sector investments for value addition activities; stimulate product and process innovations; and create ready, structured marketing offer, through organized linkages between farmers and processors.

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<sup>1</sup> Information extracted directly from the OMAID Project "Project Appraisal Document" (PAD3136, 2019)

The Project will focus on WB corporate cross cutting priorities, *inter alia* (i) gender issues and empowerment of vulnerable groups (women and youth); (ii) mitigation and adaptation to climate change and adherence to environmental safeguards; and (iii) public health and nutrition. The Project will also work with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to (i) promote responsible food and agriculture investments, (ii) improve the policy and regulatory environment for private sector investments and (iii) help increase private sector activity and investment in agricultural value chains. The Project will undertake several specific conflict mitigating activities and build synergies with current WB agricultural projects which are more focused on addressing farm-level production constraints and agriculture production.

Reflecting the above approach and targeted principles, the Project is divided into three interrelated components:

- **Component 1 – Improving the Enabling Environment for Agribusiness Development (US\$22.5 Million):** Promote regulatory environment and government policy development to support a competitive agribusiness sector in Afghanistan. This will include the strengthening of the government capacity to deliver enhanced agribusiness-oriented services and to promote an enabling environment, while addressing food safety and sanitary and phytosanitary issues.
- **Component 2 – Support for the Development of Integrated Agri-Spatial Solutions (US\$142.5 Million):** Enhance the productivity of the Afghan smallholder farmers and the competitiveness of agribusinesses in domestic and international markets and maximize their ability to access formal financial services. This component includes investing in critical agri-industrial infrastructure in selected provinces (*Sub-Component 2.1*) and supporting agribusiness investments in the Integrated Agri-Food Parks' (IAFPs) broader catchment areas (*Sub-component 2.2*).
- **Component 3 – Project Coordination, Monitoring and Crisis Management (US\$10 Million):** Strengthen crisis preparedness and management mechanisms of relevant institutions. This would also include the establishment of a Project Management Unit (PMU) (or Directorate General of Industrial Parks (DGIP)) directly responsible for the implementation of the Project. In addition, this component would support the formation of an Agribusiness Value Chain Task Force Unit that will provide strategic direction and coordination between government ministries, public entities and development partners. Emergency activities will be funded through the Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) in the event of natural or human induced disaster, should the need arise.

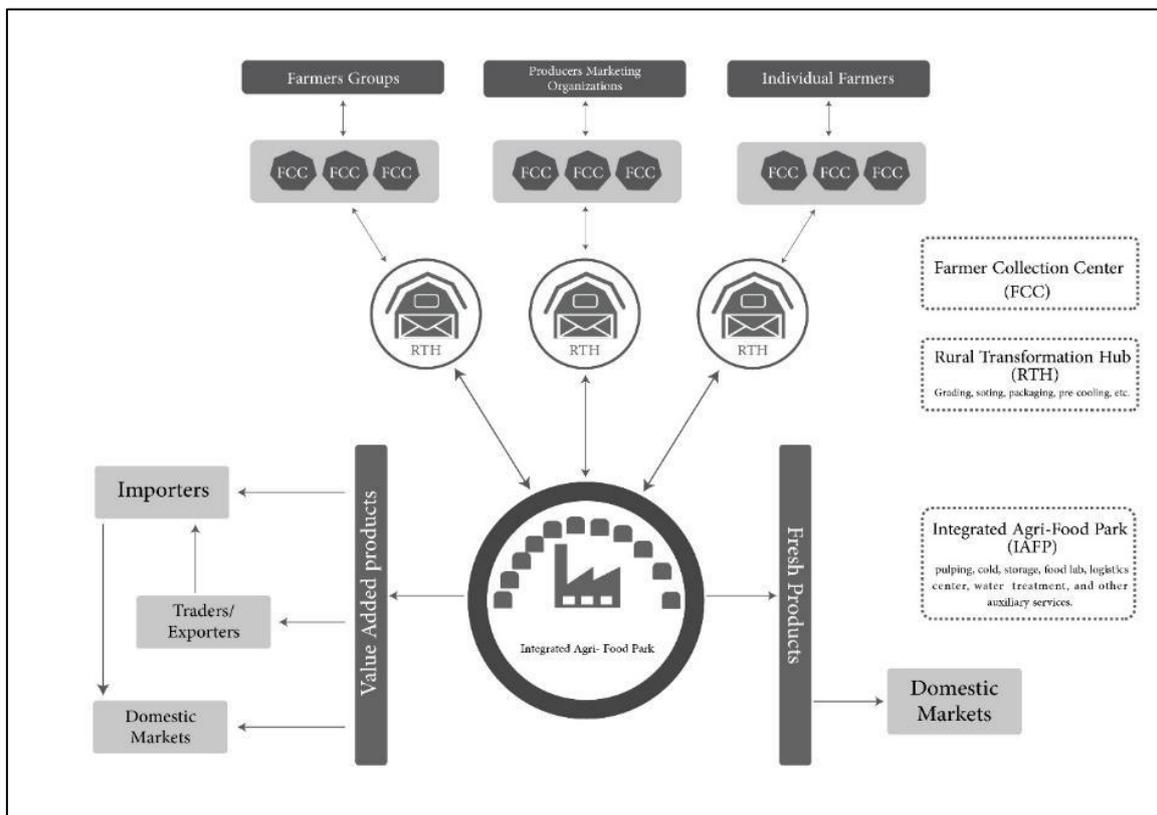
### 2.3 TYPICAL SUB-PROJECT TYPES UNDER THE PROJECT

Sub-component 2.1 involves the establishment of the following infrastructure within the IAFP concept (see **Figure 2** and **Figure 3**) as a concentrated agro-industrial zone linked to producers in catchment areas via a network of strategically placed RTHs and FCCs. It is also based on a private-public-partnership (PPP) scheme aimed at facilitating private sector investment in agribusiness by providing access to basic industrial infrastructure; shared common services and facilities to obtain economies of scale; specialized agro-technical services (i.e. laboratory testing etc.); improved access to technical support, information and management services; and facilitation of partnerships through effective networking.

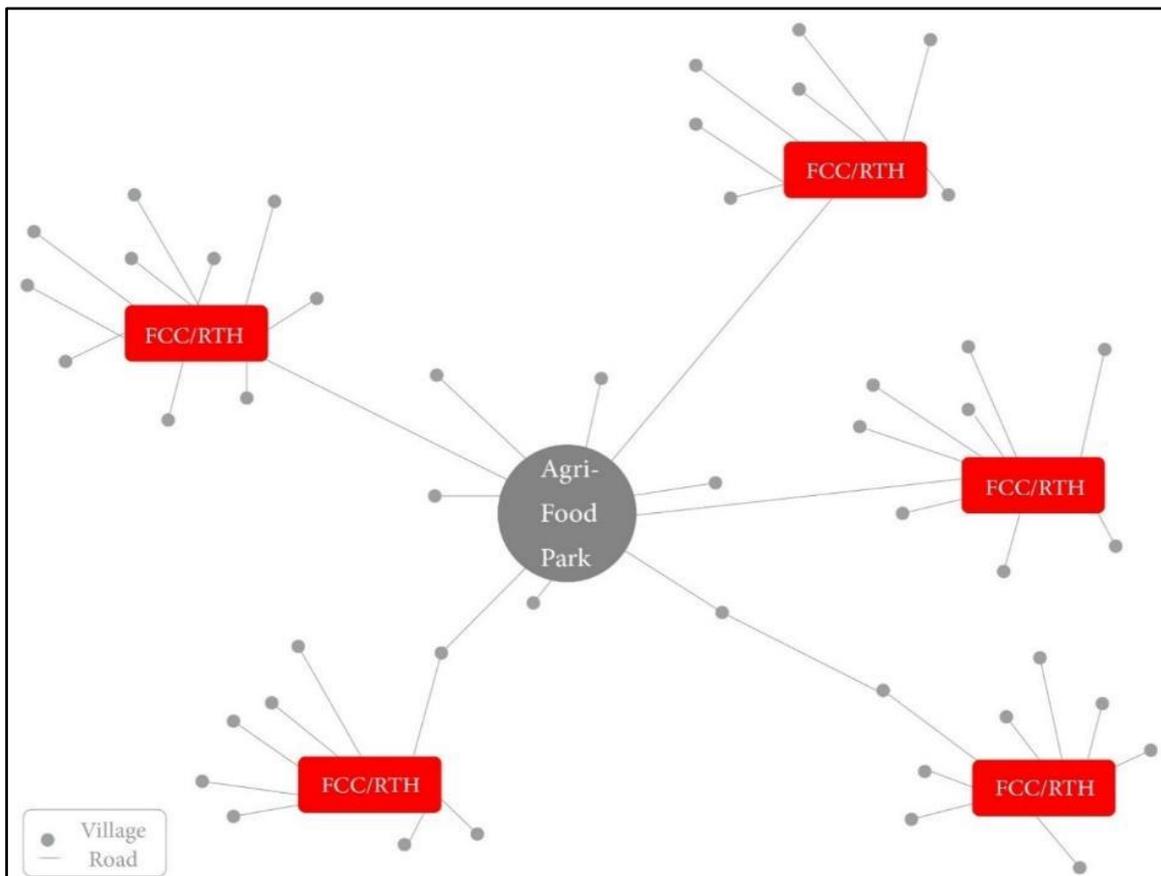
This Sub-component 2.1 forms the focus of this ESMF and consists of the following developments:

- **Integrated Agri-Food Parks (IAFPs):** The establishment of several Integrated Agri-Food Parks at provincial level which would be linked to producers in selected catchment areas via a network of strategically placed Farmers Collection Centers and Rural Transformation Hubs.
- **Farmer Collection Centers (FCCs):** The establishment of a network of strategically placed sub-provincial satellite Farmer Collection Centers which will serve as collection points for local farmers and function as central buying points for local farmers as well as distribution points for farm inputs.
- **Rural Transformation Hubs (RTHs):** The establishment of a network of strategically placed sub-provincial satellite Rural Transformation Hubs which will allow for the primary processing and sale of agricultural goods, the supply of agricultural inputs, and support in the form of further investment to local farmers.

These three types of intervention are described further below.



**Figure 2: Integrated Agri-Food Park Concept (Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, 2018)**



**Figure 3: Integrated Agri-Food Park Broader Catchment Area (Committee, June 2019)**

### 2.3.1 Integrated Agri-Food Parks

The *Integrated Agri-Food Parks* (IAFPs) are conceptualized as self-standing agro-industrial zones located at strategic areas in the Balkh, Kandahar, Kabul, Herat, and Nangarhar Provinces. The parks will be developed as a PPP and will provide agro-processing facilities and services, including:

- Agro-dealers and input supply stores.
- Extension services and training, by GoIRA bodies, donors, and NGOs.
- Testing and certification laboratories.
- Warehousing, grain silos, and cold storage providers.
- Truck parking, container stacking, and rail yards.
- Agro-processing units, including for the packaging and/or processing of fresh fruit.
- Dairy processing.
- Commercial and auction center/ wholesale market.
- Green area/ parks, vehicle parking, service buildings.
- Maintenance and repair facilities and shops.

The Project, via the Implementing Agencies (in particular, MoIC and CRIDA), will be the primary proponent in the development of the parks. The Project will provide funding to cover:

- all required feasibility studies;

- the construction of critical onsite and offsite infrastructure<sup>2</sup>;
- the development of onsite standard factory buildings, warehouses, canteens, workforce retail, auditoria and showrooms where there is sufficient demand;
- the development of offsite infrastructure (such as connecting roads to the main highway and utility connections to the perimeter of the park);
- the development and implementation of an investment promotion plan for each park, including targeted outreach with firms that could be potential tenants, suppliers or buyers for each park; and
- the capacity building of relevant GoIRA stakeholders to ensure effective IAFP operations.

It is expected that the park site development will be contracted by the Project to private developers with experience in industrial zones through a competitive bidding process. Development of specific agro-processing facilities and services within the park will be an entirely private initiative, supported by the Project.

The sites of the planned IAFPs are presented in Annexure B.

### **2.3.2 Farmer Collection Centers**

The Project will support the establishment of a network of strategically placed sub-provincial satellite centers feeding into the IAFPs. One type of satellite center will be *Farmer Collection Centers* (FCCs) which will function as collection points, support primary processing and function as distribution points for agricultural inputs. Infrastructure may include transit storage, warehousing for raw materials, quality testing equipment, weighing, drying yard, packaging, pre-cooling unit, milk collection point, etc.

The Project foresees supporting the development of 25 FCCs in total, or 5 centers allocated to each of the 5 targeted provinces. The Project will provide funding for the installation and upgrading of equipment and buildings, skill development and other types of training needed for the establishment of the FCCs.

The overall intent of the FCCs is to improve local farmers' access to the formal supply chain by providing better access to buying points and improve their exposure to better prices, training, and inputs. These centers are critical in linking more remote producers to peri-urban industrial areas and key markets.

While the Project, via the Implementing Agencies (in particular, MAIL), will be the primary proponent in the development of the FCCs, it is expected that much of the processing infrastructure will be established by private operators and the centers will be privately owned and managed.

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<sup>2</sup> *Critical onsite infrastructure may include perimeter boundary walls; internal roads and footpaths; power distribution networks, including power substations; potable water, including water source conveyance, treatment, storage, and distribution systems; sewerage collection, canalization, and treatment systems; industrial effluent collection, canalization, and treatment systems; rain and storm water canalization and collection systems; street lighting; solid waste collection and management systems; telecommunications systems; and administration buildings*

### **2.3.3 Rural Transformation Hubs**

The Project will support the establishment of *Rural Transformation Hubs* (RTHs) which will feed into the FCCs and the IAFPs (see **Error! Reference source not found.**). The RTHs will serve as outreach buying points in remote regions and also function as distribution points for farm inputs.

The RTHs will have basic infrastructure for primary processing (sorting, grading, packaging, cold storage, etc.) which may include a small facility for the distribution of supplies to farmers (seeds, approved pesticides, fertilizers, mechanization, animal feed, etc.), nurseries for the production and distribution of certified planting materials, feed grain production, etc. Depending on the production basins, the RTHs may also include animal health and artificial insemination services.

While the Project, via the Implementing Agencies (in particular, MAIL) will be the primary proponent in the development of the RTHs, it is expected that much of the infrastructure will be established by private operators and the hubs will be privately owned and managed.

## 2.4 SUB PROJECT ACTIVITIES INELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

The sub-project with and of the following attributes would be ineligible for funding:

Attributes of Ineligible Sub-projects
<p>Involves significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats including, but not limited to, any activity within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Khulm Landmark Protected Area (Balkh);</li> <li>• Kole Hashmat Khan Waterfowl Sanctuary (Kabul);</li> <li>• Northwest Afghanistan Game Managed Reserve (Herat); and</li> <li>• Registan Desert Wildlife Managed Reserve (Kandahar &amp; Helmand).</li> </ul>
<p>Will significantly damage non-replicable cultural property, including but not limited to any activities that affect the following sites and listed for each province below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monuments of Herat (including the Friday Mosque, ceramic tile workshop, Musallah complex, Fifth Minaret, Gawhar Shah mausoleum, mausoleum of Ali Sher Navaii, and the Shah Zadehah mausoleum complex);</li> <li>• Minaret of Jam;</li> <li>• Mosque of Haji Piynda/Nu Gunbad, Balkh province; and</li> <li>• Stupa and monastery of Guldarra (Kabul).</li> </ul>

<p><b>Kabul:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Guldarra</li> <li>2. Hashmatkhan</li> <li>3. Amir Abdul Rahman Khan Mausoleum</li> <li>4. Bala Hissar</li> <li>5. Chaman-e-Hazuri</li> <li>6. Darulaman Palace</li> <li>7. Shah Do Shamshira Mosque</li> <li>8. National Museum</li> <li>9. Sher Darwaza</li> <li>10. Tape maranjan</li> <li>11. Timur Shah Museum</li> <li>12. Khair khana</li> <li>13. Kurrindar</li> <li>14. Minar-e-Chakri</li> <li>15. Mir Bacha Kot</li> <li>16. Shlwaki</li> <li>17. Surkh Minar</li> <li>18. Tape Skandar</li> </ol> <p><b>Herat:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Azadan</li> <li>2. Bagh-e-Nazargah</li> <li>3. Chisht</li> <li>4. Deh-e-Minar</li> <li>5. Gazurgah</li> <li>6. Ghuriyan</li> <li>7. Qala-e-Ikhtiyar al-Din (Citadel)</li> <li>8. Grat Mosue</li> <li>9. Gawharshad Musalla Compex</li> <li>10. Abdullah Al-Valid Shrine</li> <li>11. Abdullah Bin Musawlyah Complex</li> <li>12. Abdul Qasim Shrine</li> <li>13. Karukh</li> <li>14. Kuhsan – Tomb of Gauharshad</li> <li>15. Kush Rabat</li> <li>16. Qala-IDukhtar</li> <li>17. Rabat-i-Sahib Zada</li> <li>18. Zindajan</li> </ol>
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<p>19. Ziyaratqah</p> <p><b>Balkh:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Altin Dilyar Tape</li> <li>2. Aq Kupruk</li> <li>3. Aq Tape, Narawid</li> <li>4. Bala Hissar</li> <li>5. Haji Pirada Mosue</li> <li>6. Khwaja Abu Nasr Parsa Shrine</li> <li>7. Khwaja Aghacha Mosque</li> <li>8. Sayyid Saubhan Quli Khan Madrasa</li> <li>9. Darra-eDadil</li> <li>10. Emam Sahib</li> <li>11. Jiga Tape</li> <li>12. Kilift</li> <li>13. Kuhna Khulm</li> <li>14. Mazar-e-Sharif</li> <li>15. Nadir Tape</li> <li>16. Tash Guzar</li> <li>17. Zadiyan</li> </ol> <p><b>Kandahar:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bad-i-Sah Ghundai</li> <li>2. Deh Morasi Ghundai</li> <li>3. Kandahar</li> <li>4. Mirwais Baba</li> <li>5. Mundigak</li> <li>6. Said Qala Tape</li> </ol> <p><b>Nangarhar:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ahin Push Tape</li> <li>2. Chahar Bagh</li> <li>3. Chakanur</li> <li>4. Dakka</li> <li>5. Filkhana</li> <li>6. Hada</li> <li>7. Jalalabd</li> <li>8. Kama Dakka</li> <li>9. Kuhna Deh</li> <li>10. Nagara Ghundi</li> <li>11. Tape Khwaja Lahori</li> </ol> <p>Source: <a href="https://www.cemml.colostate.edu/cultural/09476/afgh05b.html">https://www.cemml.colostate.edu/cultural/09476/afgh05b.html</a></p>
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<b>Attributes of Ineligible Sub-projects (continued)</b>
<p>Requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• equipment or materials that are included in the annual implementation plans by other agencies (e.g. by other government or NGO sub-projects that are operating in the area);</li> <li>• political campaign materials or donations in any form;</li> <li>• weapons including (but not limited to), mines, guns and ammunition;</li> <li>• chainsaws;</li> <li>• pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals<sup>3</sup>, in particular those falling into WHO classes 1A, 1B or II.</li> <li>• investments detrimental to the environment;</li> <li>• motorized extraction of groundwater<sup>4</sup>;</li> <li>• construction, rehabilitation, or maintenance of any government office buildings;</li> <li>• payments of salaries to government servants or the salaries of the staff of government subsidized organizations;</li> <li>• any activity on land that is considered dangerous due to security hazards or the presence of unexploded mines or bombs;</li> <li>• any activity on land or affecting land that has disputed ownership, tenure or user rights<sup>5</sup>; and</li> <li>• any activity that will support drug crop production or processing of such crops.</li> </ul>

## 2.5 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The OMAID Project will have oversight from the Afghanistan High Economic Council (HEC) and the Agriculture Steering Committee with overall co-ordination and implementation of project activities by MoIC, MAIL and CRIDA. Institutional arrangements are detailed in Section 13.

A phased approach will be adopted with Project activities being implemented sequentially in the selected five provinces. This approach will be based on a set of pre-requisites and an unbiased evidence-based decision-making process.

Minimum zone selection criteria have been identified for IAFPs and these are an unencumbered land title, suitable site topography, access to basic infrastructure, connectivity to centers and networks, domestic and export market access, existence or evidence of the development of land use plans, consideration of environmental and social impacts, management of the IAFP and security. In addition, there must be alignment of objectives and priorities, positive feasibility results and a balance of the need for social and development support and commercially viable business solutions.

Sequenced Feasibility Studies will have a series of go/no-go decision points at the initial stages of the analysis with the possibility of reallocating the funds to alternative IAFPs if the analysis shows “deal-breakers” such as unacceptable site assessment or a lack of demand. These steps are 1) site validation; 2) detailed demand assessment; and 3) full feasibility. It is anticipated that the Environmental and Social Screening Checklist (Section 10.1.1) could be used to support decision-making for step 1.

<sup>3</sup> Exceptions may be considered based on an assessment by the Safeguard Specialist (with specialized consultant assistance, if required, and after no objection from IDA) in special situations such as eradication of infestations of locusts or sen pest.

<sup>4</sup> Indiscriminate installation of irrigation wells using motorized extraction of ground water have in some areas contributed to lower the ground water table, and constitute a threat to the traditional sustainable irrigation by karez. Until water resource assessments of a particular catchment area or basin has been undertaken and has established that irrigation is feasible, investments in motorized irrigation wells is not permitted.

<sup>5</sup> Thus, investments involving an expansion of the command area of an irrigation system can only take place with agreement from the owners (or users in case of tribal common land) of the land brought under new irrigation.

### 3 DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT IN AFGHANISTAN AND THE PROJECT AREA<sup>6</sup>

Despite notable progress, Afghanistan remains in a fragile state with almost constant conflict for over 35 years and no durable political settlement established. GDP per-capita is among the lowest in the world, poverty is deep and widespread, and Afghanistan continues to perform poorly against many social indicators. The country remains heavily reliant on aid, and the security situation remains dire. Progress has been achieved through reconstruction efforts since 2001, however, with gains including: (i) re-establishment of basic public finances; and (ii) massive expansion in access to services, with accompanying improvements in social outcomes, including reductions in maternal and infant mortality, improved education access, and increases in life expectancy.

Growth is projected to accelerate to around 2.3 percent in 2019, increasing slightly to 3.0 percent in 2020. Improved growth in 2019 reflects the easing of drought conditions, with prospects remaining constrained by political and security conditions. Slightly stronger growth in out-years is predicated on improvements in security and reform progress against a backdrop of declining aid levels. Realization of a peace deal with the Taliban may lead to substantially improved growth prospects, possibly supported by repatriation of overseas capital, return migration of skilled workers, and improvements in investor confidence. Realization of such benefits, however, will depend heavily on the nature of any peace deal and the extent to which it leads to a significant improvement in the security environment. Based on historical experience, rapid population growth in the context of unevenly distributed and weak economic growth is expected to drive further increases in poverty.

The latest numbers from the Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey (ALCS) released by the National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) show that poverty in Afghanistan has increased from 38.3 percent in 2012-13 to 54.5 percent in 2016-17. It is expected to remain high in the medium-term, owing to a weak labor demand (against an increasing labor offer) and security-related constraints on service delivery. Living standards are further threatened by the worsening drought conditions and displacement (more than 1.7 million Afghans are internally displaced, and more than 2 million have been returning to Afghanistan – mostly from Pakistan and Iran – since 2015).

Afghanistan's economy is poorly diversified and relies heavily on foreign aid and public expenditure. With aid expected to decline from around 46 percent of GDP in 2017 to 20 percent of GDP by 2030, and in the context of a rapidly growing population, new sources of growth, employment, revenues, and exports are needed. In the foreseeable future, agriculture and minerals are the two sectors with the greatest potential to drive economic growth, and to generate foreign exchange earnings and domestic revenues needed to help offset the projected decline in foreign aid flows. Of the two, agriculture offers significantly greater potential for creating jobs and diversifying economic opportunities. It also has prospects for raising labor productivity, benefiting women and other disadvantaged groups, and reducing poverty. Moreover, promoting agribusiness and value-addition along the agriculture value chain will not only have a positive impact on food security and employment, but also will offer market access to smallholder farmers, create business linkages for SMEs, and generate export revenues.

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<sup>6</sup> Information extracted directly from the OMAID Project "Project Appraisal Document" (PAD3136, 2019) (World\_Bank, 2019) unless referenced separately.

A large percentage of Afghanistan's population live in rural areas and almost all of these depend on some form of agricultural production, with the agricultural sector providing employment for at least 40 percent of the population. Unemployment and high levels of rural poverty have led to one third of the population facing food insecurity, with chronic malnutrition rates and more jobs need to be created. The strengthening of the agricultural sector is important for the improvement of livelihoods and noticeable progress has been made. Notwithstanding, the agriculture sector continues to suffer from recurring and long-lasting political instability leading to structural constraints and low productivity. Agribusiness value chains are under-developed with a low ratio of food processing to primary production and it is poorly positioned to compete in international markets. With its production of a wide range of dried fruit and nuts, its long tradition of horticulture production, its strategic position to derive a competitive advantage through trade and its recent admittance to the World Trade Organization and ratification of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, Afghanistan offers substantial opportunities for agribusiness development. Its growing urban population and increasing per capita income is also creating a domestic market for fresh fruits, vegetables, certain livestock products such as poultry, eggs and dairy.

The Afghanistan Agribusiness Charter (Government\_of\_Afghanistan, October 2018) has been adopted by the Afghan HEC to provide a comprehensive and strategic plan (2019-2024) to enable growth of agri-enterprises and promote greater job opportunities in rural and urban areas. The Charter is designed to facilitate and improve policy, partnerships and private sector activity in agribusiness, improve effectiveness and transparency in state support for the development of agribusiness, and offer a platform for improved coordination. The vision of the Agribusiness Charter is of *"a competitive agribusiness sector generating sustained economic growth and diversifying employment opportunities, benefiting the Afghan population"* with planned interventions in policy and regulation, agri-spatial solutions, access to finance and institutional strengthening (Government\_of\_Afghanistan, October 2018). The Charter constitutes a main pillar of the GoIRA growth agenda for transformative change and self-reliance and this Project is an integral part of the Charter.

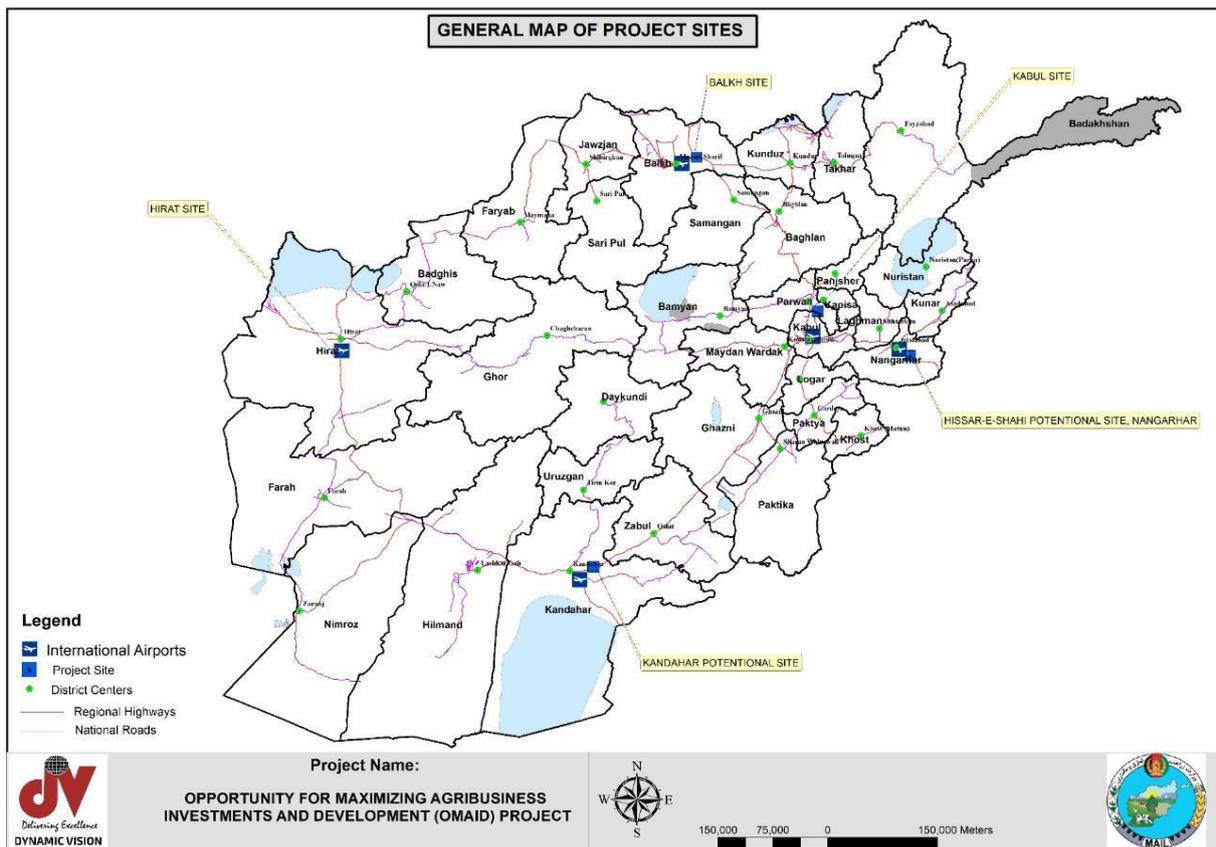
This Project seeks to increase investment in agribusiness, promote the growth of SMEs, public-private partnerships and production for export as well as import substitution. It also places considerable emphasis on the development of IAFPs and on the development of value chains that have comparative advantage (horticulture and livestock) and have potential to provide additional benefits to farmers. It supports the NES for trade-led growth on the value chains where the country has a comparative advantage, including dried fruit and nuts, fresh fruits and vegetables. The Project will focus on cross cutting priorities of gender, the empowerment of vulnerable groups (women and youth) and adherence to social safeguards; the mitigation and adaptation to climate change and adherence to environmental safeguard; and public health and nutrition.

The Project offers specific support to the provinces of Kandahar, Kabul, Herat, and Nangarhar which have comparative advantages of economic potential, access to basic infrastructure, transit routes and market opportunities.

## 4 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CONTEXT

### 4.1 LOCATION AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

Afghanistan is a landlocked country in South and Central Asia with a rich history and diverse population. Afghanistan shares borders with six countries: Pakistan to the south and east, Iran to the west, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to the north, and China in the far northeast. (See **Figure 5**). The Project is located in the five provinces of Balkh, Kandahar, Kabul, Herat, and Nangarhar with the IAFP locations shown on **Figure 4**.



**Figure 4: Location of the Project Infrastructure**

### 4.2 PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

#### 4.2.1 Topography

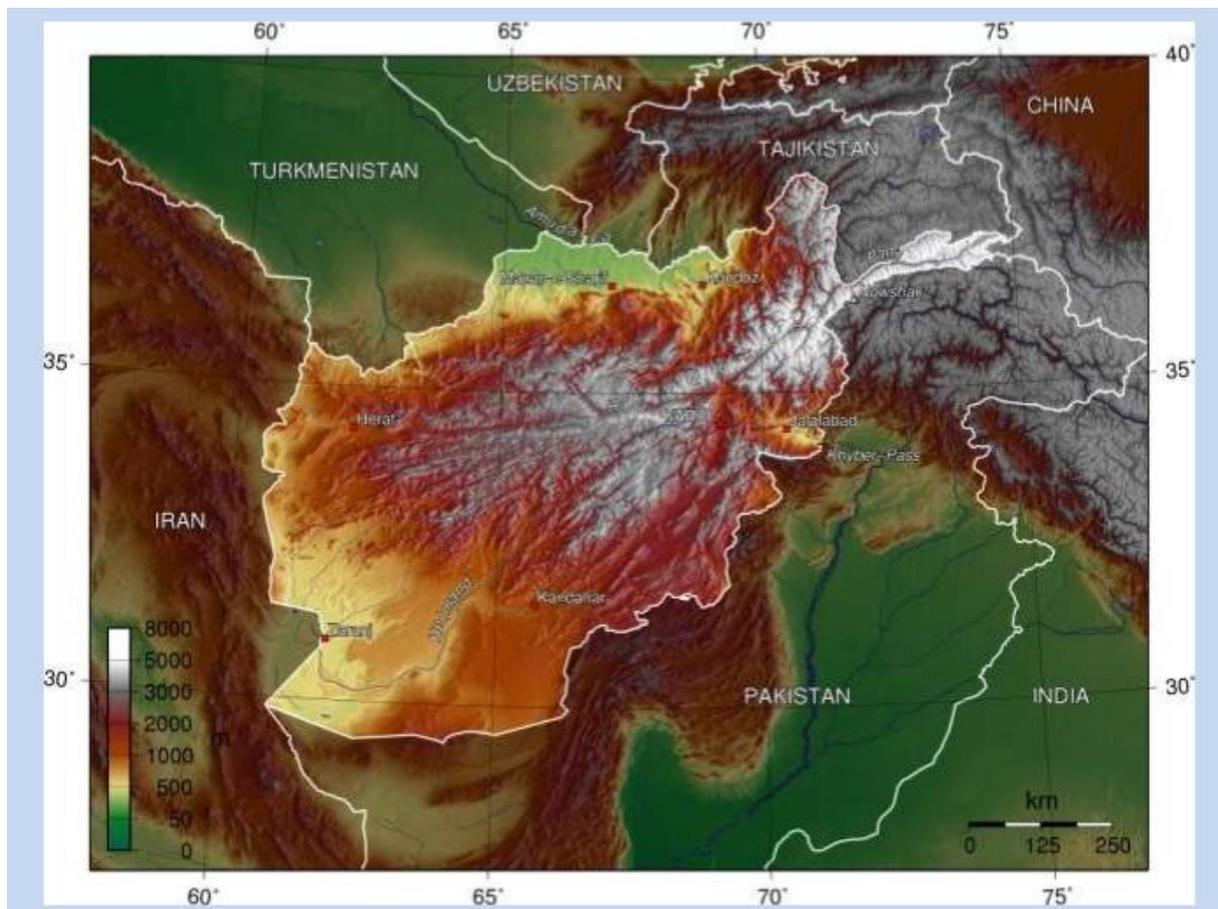
The Hindu Kush, a part of the Himalayan chain, is a major topographical feature extending from north-east to south-west of Afghanistan separating the northern provinces from the rest of the country. The country is divided into three distinct geographic regions, which roughly can be designated as the Central Highlands, the Northern Plains, and the Southwestern Plateau (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2019):

The *Central Highlands*, an area of about 414,000 square km, is a region of deep, narrow valleys and lofty mountains, some peaks of which rise above 6,400 meters. High mountain passes, generally situated between 3,600 to 4,600 meters above sea level (mamsl), are of strategic importance and include the Shebar Pass, located north west of Kabul where the Bābā Mountains branch out from the Hindu Kush, and the Khyber Pass, which leads to the Indian subcontinent, on the Pakistan border south east of Kabul. The Badakhshān area in the north eastern part of the central highlands is the location of the epicenter for many of the 50 or so

earthquakes that occur in the country each year. The soil in this region ranges from desert steppe to meadow steppe. (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2019)

The *Northern Plains* region, north of the central highlands, extends eastward from the Iranian border to the foothills of the Pamirs, near the border with Tajikistan. It comprises some 103,000 square km of plains and fertile foothills sloping gently toward the Amu Darya (the ancient Oxus River). This is the lowest part of the country with an average elevation of about 600 mamsl and less. The Northern Plains region has fertile foothills and plains and is intensively cultivated and densely populated. In addition to fertile soils, the region possesses rich mineral resources, particularly deposits of natural gas. (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2019)

The *Southwestern Plateau*, south of the central highlands, is a region of high plateaus, sandy deserts, and semideserts. The average elevation is about 900 meters. This plateau covers about 130,000 square km, one-fourth of which forms the sandy Rīgestān region. The smaller Mārgow Desert of salt flats and desolate steppe lies west of Rīgestān. Several large rivers cross the south western plateau; among them are the Helmand River and its major tributary, the Arghandāb. (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2019).



**Figure 5: Topography of Afghanistan (Jennings, n.d.)**

Of the five provinces to be considered for the Project, the provinces of Kandahar, Herat and Balkh are spread over vast land space, while Nangarhar and Kabul are relatively small in size. Kabul is located at a high elevation (1,800-2,275 mamsl), whilst Nangarhar and Balkh provinces have relatively low elevation, with Kandahar and Herat lies at a moderately high elevation (See **Table 2**).

**Table 2: Area, Elevation and Topographical Region of Project Location (adapted from (MAIL\_GoIRA, May 2017)**

Province	Geographic Region	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Main City/Town	Elevation (mamsl)
Kabul	Central Highlands	4,655	Kabul	2,276
Nangarhar	Central Highlands	7,397	Jalalabad	573
Balkh	Northern Plains	16,769	Maza-e-sharif	375
Kandahar	Northern Plains	53,921	Kandahar	1,010
Herat	South Western Plateau	54,406	Herat	1,066

#### 4.2.2 Climate

In general, Afghanistan has extremely cold winters and hot summers, typical of a semi-arid steppe and continental climate, with local variations strongly influenced by topography. The mountain regions of the north east have a subarctic climate with dry, cold winters, whilst the mountainous areas on the border of Pakistan are influenced by the Indian monsoons, usually occurring between July and September bringing maritime tropical air masses with humidity and rains. The weather in winter and early spring is strongly influenced by cold air masses from the north and the Atlantic low from the northwest; these two air masses bring snowfall and severe cold in the highlands and rain in the lower elevations.

In the *Central Highlands* the average temperatures are below freezing in winter (down to -10°C) with warmer summers (up to 26°C) and cool nights (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2019). Snowfalls are frequent in Kabul and sometimes heavy. Rainfall is low (around 300mm pa in Kabul) with main rains in spring and little rain in summer. On the western limit of the monsoon region, this can bring rains averaging around 400 mm pa to this region.

In the *Northern Plains* the climate is continental, with cold winters (lows of lower than -25°C) and very hot summers (highs of over 45°C) (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2019). Rainfall is scarce and occurs in winter and spring with a maximum in March, often accompanied by strong winds.

In the *Southwestern Plateau* region, the climate is warmer with daily average temperatures ranging from 6.5°C in January to 31.5°C in July in Kandahar. Winter is mild, with frost possible, whilst summer is very hot with a desert climate to the south of Kandahar. Average rainfall is low, around 100 to 200mm pa to as low as 50mm pa (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2019).

The Köppen climate classification for Afghanistan (**Figure 6**) shows the climates for the country, in particular the areas covered by the Project (Ali\_Zifan, 2019):

**Table 3: Köppen Climate Classification for Five Project Provinces**

Province	Köppen Climate Classification
Kabul	Mainly Cold semi-arid (BSk) with warm Mediterranean (Csa) in the north east
Nangarhar	Warm semi-arid (BSh) over most of the area with a small area of Cold semi-arid (BSk) in the north east and a small area of Warm Desert (BWh) in the south.
Balkh	The whole area is Cold desert (BWk)
Kandahar	The whole area is Warm desert (BWh)
Herat	Mainly Warm semi-arid (BSh) with a small area of Cold semi-arid (BSk) in the west

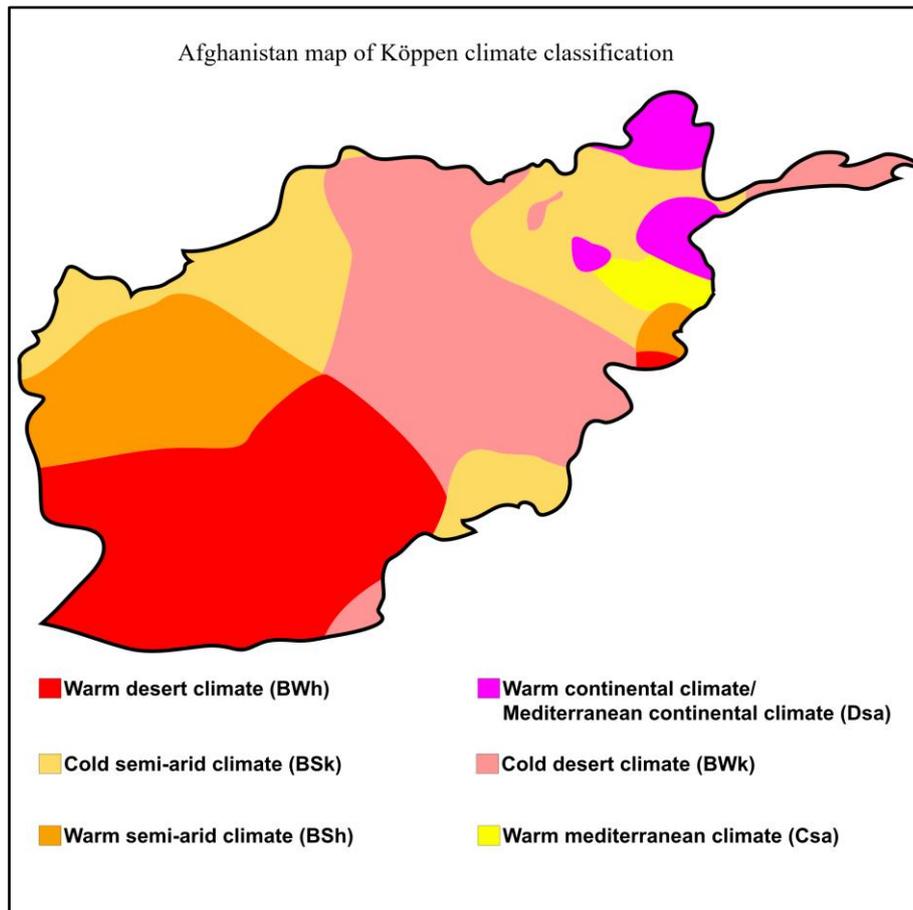


Figure 6: Afghan Map of Köppen Climate Regions (Ali\_Zifan, 2019)

Table 4: Summarised Climate Statistics in the Project Locations

Province	Geographic Region	Type of Climate	Annual Average Temperature (°C)	Annual Average Rainfall (mm)
Kabul	Central Highlands	Steppe	11.4°C	362mm
Nangarhar	Central Highlands	Desert	21.5°C	206mm
Balkh	Northern Plains	Steppe	17.4°C	176mm
Kandahar	Northern Plains	Desert	18.8°C	176mm
Herat	South Western Plateau	Steppe	16.1°C	265mm

### 4.2.3 Geology and Earthquakes

The geology of Afghanistan largely controls the topography with a fan-shaped, central highlands comprised of old, resistant bedrock; and the younger, soft, and erodible sediments of Cenozoic age (Paleogene, Neogene, Quaternary) wrapped around the edges, starting in the northern Turkestan plains, through the western Herat-Farāh lowlands and the Sīstān basin to the south eastern mountains and foothills (Encyclopaedia\_Iranica, 2019). The highest, north eastern part of the country is characterized mainly by Prepaleozoic and Paleozoic metamorphosed sediments and granitic intrusions. About 150 km west of Kabul this group divides into two zones, the widest band of which strikes south west toward Qandahār with the narrow zone heading towards Herat. To the north, Cretaceous and Paleocene limestones and red sandstones dominate; to the south are older Jurassic to Cretaceous limestones and

sandstones. Tertiary (Paleogene, Neogene) sedimentary rocks are especially dominant along the border with Pakistan between Jalālābād and Qandahār (Encyclopaedia\_Iranica, 2019).

The topography and geology are dominated by plate tectonics that resulted in a vast folding and fracturing, melting and intrusion of rock, earthquakes, and the upliftment of the entire Hindu Kush-Pamir-Himalaya mountain chain. The Chaman Fault is a major, active geological fault in Pakistan and Afghanistan that runs for over 850 km, running just to the west of Kabul, and then north eastward across the Herat fault, up to where it merges with the Pamir fault system north of the 38° parallel. (Encyclopaedia\_Iranica, 2019) Earthquakes are ever present with the risk of these and attendant landslides and avalanches at the planned IAFP locations is shown in **Table 5** and **Figure 7**.

**Table 5: Assessment of Geological Risk for IAFPs (USAAID\_IMMAPP, 2019)**

IAFP	Earthquake	Shake Intensity	Landslide	Avalanche
Barikab (Kabul)		VIII. Severe	Moderate	Low
Balkh		VIII. Severe	Moderate-Low	Low
Kandahar	VI. Strong		Moderate-Low	Low
Herat		VI. Strong	Moderate	Low
Hissar-e-Shahi (Nangarhar)	VIII. Severe		Moderate	No Risk

**4.2.4 Soils**

The vast plains and valley fill along all but the north eastern borders of the country are predominantly composed of Cenozoic alluvium and wind-blown dust (loess) and sand (dunes). Where adequately watered, some of these materials have good agricultural potential. Others, however, contain excess salts and are agriculturally sterile.

The country possesses extremes in the quality of its soils. The *Central Highlands* have desert-steppe or meadow-steppe types of soil. Erosion is much in evidence in this region, especially in areas affected by seasonal monsoons and heavy precipitation. The *Northern Plains* have extremely rich, fertile, loess like soils, while the *Southwestern Plateau* has infertile desert soils except along the rivers, where alluvial deposits can be found. (See *Figure 8*) (Encyclopedia Iranica, 2019. Afghanistan Geography.)

### AFGHANISTAN EARTHQUAKE OCCURRENCES, MAGNITUDE AND HAZARD

Period 1971 - 2017

Period	Number of Earthquakes (magnitude)				Total
	3 - 4.9	5 - 5.9	6 - 6.9	7 - 7.9	
1971-1979	763	144	17	1	925
1980-1989	1,258	140	14	2	1,414
1990-1999	2,181	178	26	3	2,388
2000-2009	3,800	176	21	1	3,998
2010-2017	1,750	122	5	3	1,880
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,752</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10,605</b>

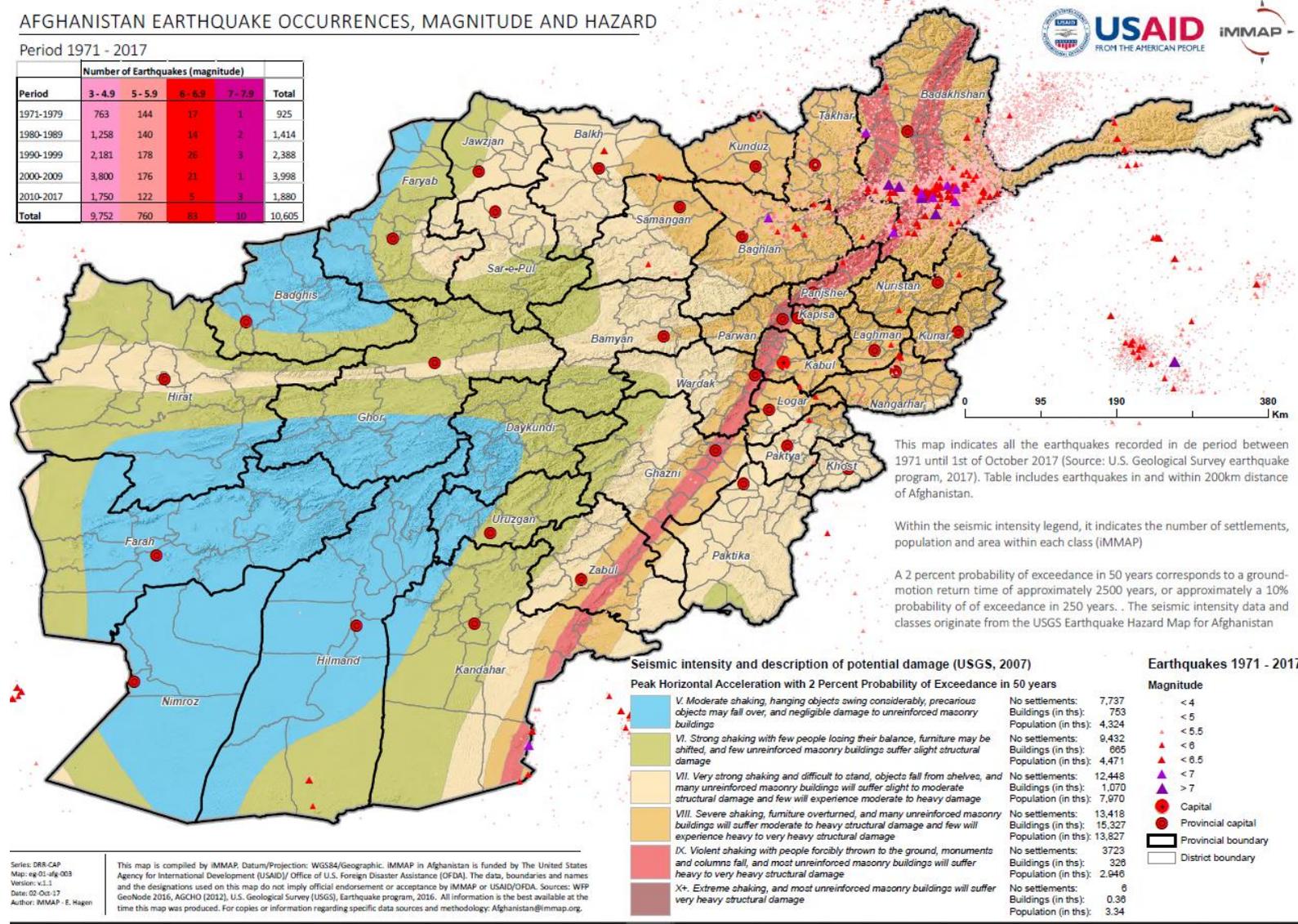
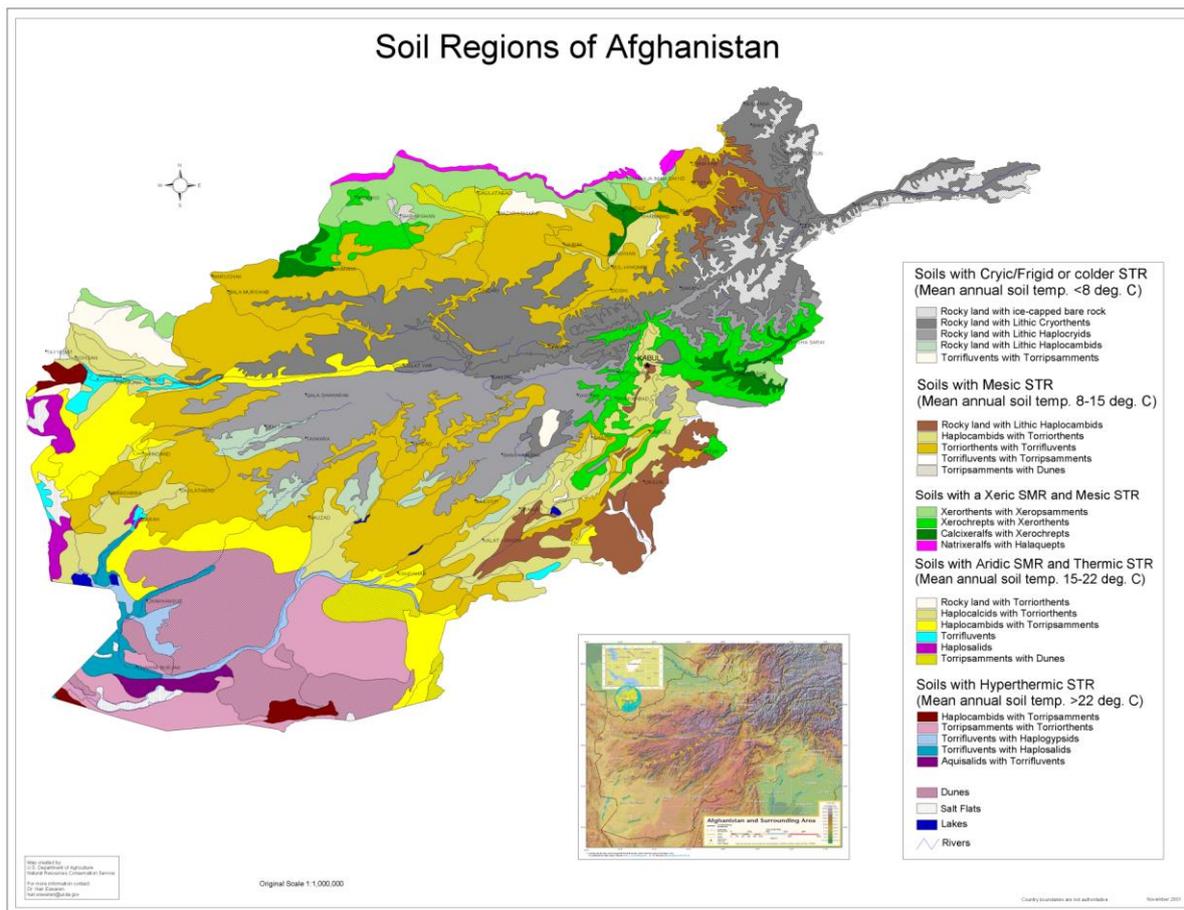


Figure 7: Earthquake Occurrence in Afghanistan (USAID\_IMMAPP, 2019)



**Figure 8: Soils of Afghanistan (US\_Dept\_Agric, 2013)**

**4.2.5 Drainage and Hydrology**

The Afghanistan drainage system is generally enclosed within the country with only the rivers in the east reaching the sea. Almost all other major rivers originate in the *Central Highlands* and flow into inland lakes or into the sandy deserts. (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2019)

The major drainage systems are the Amu Darya, Helmand, Kābul, and Harīrūd (see **Figure 9**). The Amu Darya is 2,540 km long and forms a border with Tajikistan draining an area in the north eastern and northern parts of the country. The province of Balkh is located within this river system but the drainage in this part of the country is largely endorheic, with closed systems. The Kābul is the largest drainage system in the eastern region covering the provinces of Kabul and Nangahar. This river flows eastward from the slopes of the Paghmān range to join the Indus River in Pakistan. The Harīrūd originates on the western slopes of the Bābā Mountains, at an elevation of 2,750 metres, flowing westward, just south of Herāt and across the broad Herāt Valley. After irrigating the fertile lands of the valley, the Harīrūd turns north about 130 km west of Herāt and forms the border between Afghanistan and Iran for a distance of 105 km after which it crosses into Turkmenistan and disappears in the Karakum Desert. The Helmand is the largest river in Afghanistan, also originating in the Bābā Mountains about 80 km west of Kabul, draining south and west for some 1,150 km. Its main tributary is the Arghandāb in northern Kandahar. The Helmand flows north of the arid plateau region of Rīgestān, crossing the Mārgow Desert, emptying into highly saline seasonal lakes in the Sīstān depression along the Afghan-Iranian border. (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2019)

Afghanistan has few lakes. The two most important are the Šāberī (a salt flat that occasionally is inundated) in the south west and the saline Lake Īstādeh-ye Moqor, situated 100 km south of Ghaznī in the southeast. There are five small lakes in the Bābā Mountains known as the Amīr lakes which are noted for their unusual shades of colour, from milky white to dark green, a condition caused by the underlying bedrock. The natural water resources of Afghanistan consist of lakes concentrated in the provinces of Farah and Nimroz, and wells and springs in the provinces of Herat and Farah. (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2019)

Afghanistan’s annual renewable surface water resources are not evenly distributed across the country or equally accessible at all times of the year. The availability of water in Afghanistan is also characterized by considerable intra- and inter-annual variations. This reduces the opportunity to harness surface resources and renders the country more vulnerable to drought and other water-related extreme events.

The location of the planned IAFP sites with respect to their local drainage systems has identified the potential flood risk of each site. This is given in **Table 6**.

**Table 6: Assessment of Flood Risk for IAFPs (USAAID\_IMMAPP, 2019)**

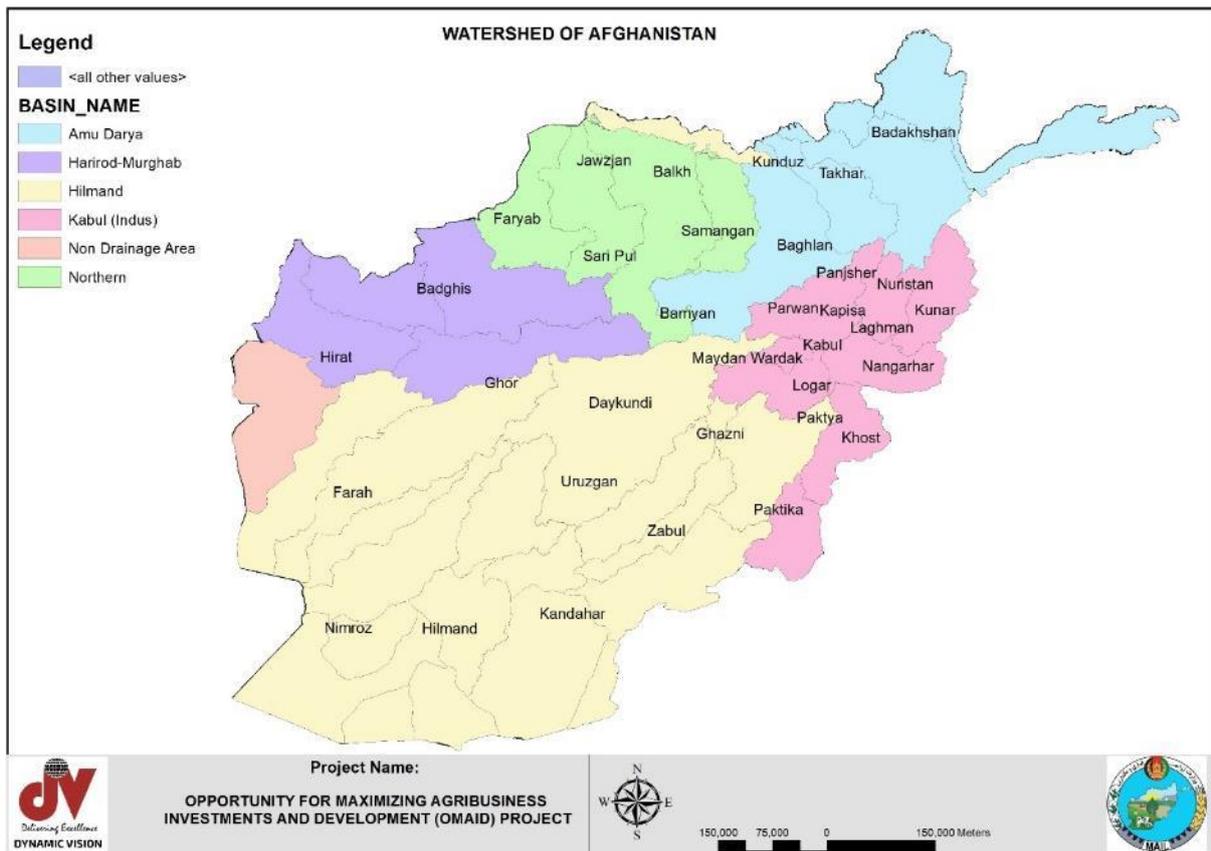
IAFP	Flood
Barikab (Kabul)	Low
Balkh	Low
Kandahar	Medium
Herat	High
Hissar-e-Shahi (Nangarhar)	High

#### 4.2.6 Land-Use

##### Rangelands

Rangelands have vegetation predominantly consisting of grasses, herbs, shrubs, and low-growing trees in the form of open forests (with canopy cover less than 30 percent). They are a source of medicinal plants, providing significant income for some rural people and serve as wildlife habitat and a source of fuel supply for communities. Rangelands are important in the moderation of surface water flows and sequestering of carbon. (Foundation\_Sustainable\_Rural\_Development, 2018)

Rangelands occupy by far the largest proportion of Afghanistan’s territory – up to 47 percent of the country’s land area – and are used by over 80 percent of Afghan households. Livestock production based on the extensive use of the rangelands is an essential component of the local farming system and is also a part of livelihood strategies. In addition, large areas of barren land (17.4 million hectares) are used for seasonal opportunistic grazing - bringing the total area used for extensive grazing up to about 75 percent of the total land area in Afghanistan. There are vast tracts of rangelands in the provinces of Herat and Kandahar (see **Figure 10**). (Foundation\_Sustainable\_Rural\_Development, 2018)



**Figure 9: Major River Watersheds of Afghanistan**

Wildlife and biodiversity resources offer an additional resource base for related economic activities, in the areas of travel and tourism. Ecosystem services provided by Rangelands and Forests protect the population and businesses from natural disasters and climate-related threats (The Foundation of Sustainable Rural Development, 2018).

**Forests**

Natural forest cover has been dramatically reduced in Afghanistan over the last four decades of armed conflict. The current extent is 867,000 hectares, mostly occurring towards the north and east of the country. In total, between 1990 and 2005, Afghanistan has lost 33.8 percent of its forest cover, or around 442,000 hectares. (Foundation\_Sustainable\_Rural\_Development, 2018)

Rural people depend on Afghanistan’s forests for timber, fuelwood, and charcoal. Some of these forest products are consumed locally and some are traded for other goods and services. There is demand for quality timber inside the country, notably in the markets in and around the capital city of Kabul. (Foundation\_Sustainable\_Rural\_Development, 2018)

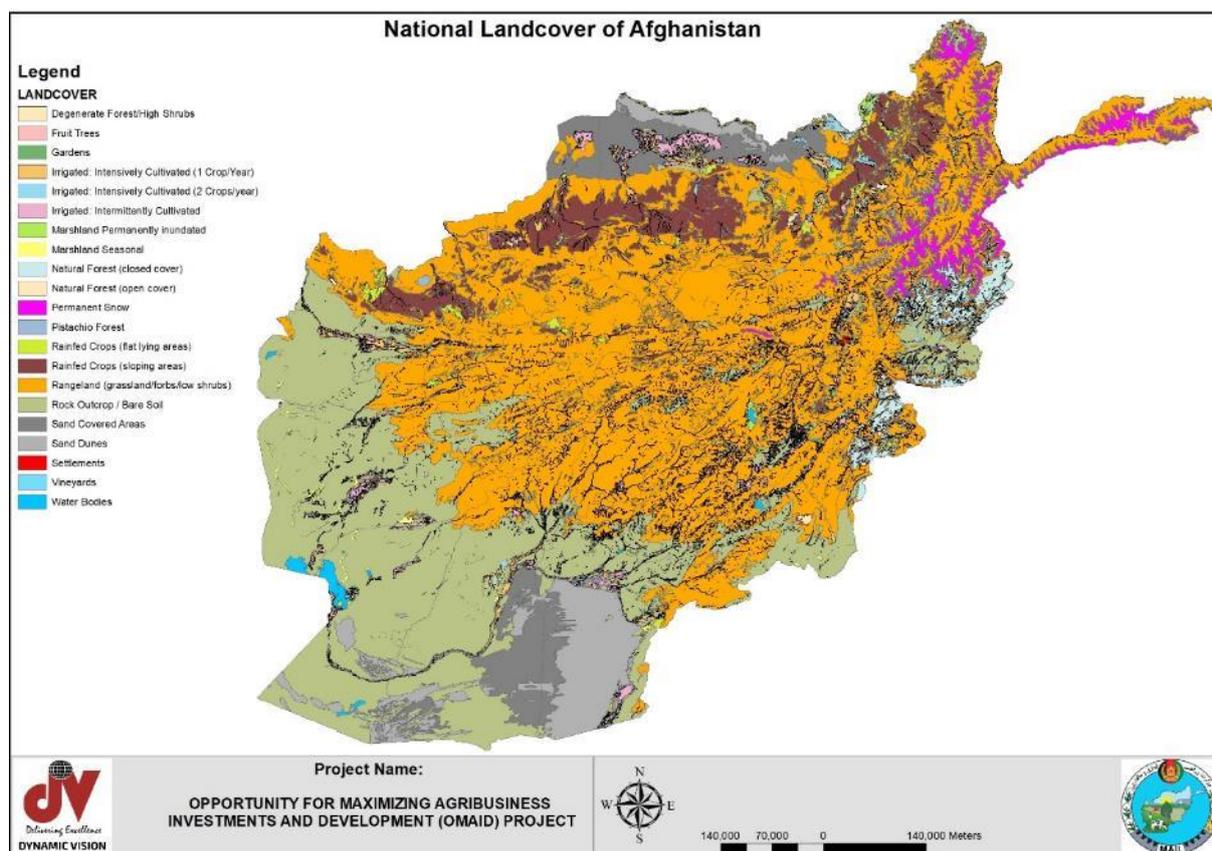


Figure 10: Land-Use in Afghanistan

**Land-use per Province**

The land use in the five provinces of Kabul, Nangarhar, Balkh, Kandahar, and Herat are described in **Table 7** (FAO, 2012). Although Kandahar and Herat are geographically large, the proportion of land area cultivated is lowest in Kandahar (7.45%), as is the proportion of irrigated land to total land (5.65%). In Herat, although about 15% of the land is arable land, the proportion of irrigated land is only 4.67%. Kabul, Nangarhar and Balkh are the three provinces where the proportion of irrigated land is around 15-16% of the total area. Herat and Kandahar have vast tracts of range lands but also have large areas of barren lands (FAO, 2012).

**Table 7: Land Use of Provinces where Project to be Located (hectares) (FAO, 2012)**

Land Use	Kabul	Nangarhar	Balkh	Kandahar	Herat
Irrigated	702	1,074	2,668	3,048	2,542
Rain Fed	64	11	2,684	970	5,566
Forest / Shrublands	85	645	62	322	532
Fruit Trees	51	29	41	95	13
Vineyards	117	10	7	220	73
Barren Lands	457	2,428	741	13,813	23,730
Sand Cover	0	0	4,805	18,347	26
Rangelands	0	2,810	4,881	15,588	20,105
Permanent Snow	0	1	0	0	0
Built Up Area	267	107	225	223	213
Waterbodies / Marshlands	60	282	653	1,295	1,604
<b>Total Area (ha)</b>	<b>4,655</b>	<b>7,397</b>	<b>16,769</b>	<b>53,921</b>	<b>54,406</b>

Source: Land Cover Atlas of Afghanistan, FAO, December 2012. As adapted from Climate Change Scenario for Agriculture of Afghanistan 2017

#### 4.2.7 Climate change

Since 1950, Afghanistan's mean annual temperature has increased significantly and considerably by 1.8°C. This warming is most pronounced in the south, which experienced a temperature increase of 2.4°C, as well as the central highlands and north that experienced increases of 1.6°C and 1.7°C, respectively. (UNEP/NEPA/GEF, 2009)

Historical analysis of precipitation patterns reveal that mean annual quantities have not changed significantly across the country; however, detailed analyses of spring and winter precipitation levels reveal that these changes are simply levelled out as spring precipitation decreased (by up to a third) while winter precipitation slightly increased. The decrease in springtime (March-May) precipitation is particularly relevant for agriculture, since spring crops are typically rain-fed and dependent on sufficient rainfall during this period. Moreover, the regions that are most significant for agricultural production are also strongly influenced by the decrease in spring precipitation. The *Central Highlands*, for example, saw a decrease of nearly 40 percent in springtime precipitation between 1950 and 2010. Future projections of precipitation in all scenarios suggest that there will be a decrease in precipitation of between 5-10 percent during springtime (March-May) for the agriculturally important north, the *Central Highlands* and the east from 2006 until 2050. (UNEP/NEPA/GEF, 2009)

Based on these historical trends and future projections, the sectors with the greatest adaptation needs are: water, agriculture, forests and rangelands, biodiversity and ecosystems, health, and energy. Priority adaptation actions for these sectors were identified in the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) as well as previous national communications. These are encapsulated in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which asserts Afghanistan's commitment to pursuing Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) as well as outlines needs for financial, technological, and capacity support for adaptation valued at US\$10.79 billion over ten years. (UNEP/NEPA/GEF, 2009)

Current climate change projections show that precipitation levels in Afghanistan will remain relatively stable up to 2100, but the overall increase in temperature across the country will lead to an increase in evaporation and evapotranspiration that will not be compensated by a sufficient increase in precipitation, thereby negatively impacting the water cycle and availability of water resources. Moreover, temperature increases will cause increased glacial melting in the Hindu Kush region, and a corresponding decline in groundwater recharge rates. These changes will likely occur in conjunction with a steady increase in population and demand for water. Warmer temperatures will also change seasonal precipitation patterns, likely causing earlier snow melt and causing more precipitation to fall as rain rather than snow. This will increase the risk of flooding during the spring and drought during the summer. These risks are further compounded by the heavy degradation of forests and rangelands, reducing cover of vegetation that formerly helped stabilize watersheds and attenuate runoff, while also limiting desertification and soil erosion. (UNEP/NEPA/GEF, 2009)

The estimated total net emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) for Afghanistan in 2013 comprised 60,237 Gg CO<sub>2e</sub>, with no net removals. This was made up of 20,395 Gg of CO<sub>2</sub> (33.9 percent of total Gg CO<sub>2e</sub>), 519 Gg of CH<sub>4</sub> (31.0 percent or 18,684 Gg CO<sub>2e</sub>) and 71 Gg of N<sub>2</sub>O (35.1 percent or 21,158 Gg CO<sub>2e</sub>). The greatest contributor to overall GHG emissions was the agricultural sector (accounting for 64.3 percent of total emissions), followed by land-use change and forestry (18.8 percent), and energy (16.2 percent). Industrial processes and waste each comprised 0.3 percent of total emissions. (UNEP/NEPA/GEF, 2009)

## 4.3 BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

### 4.3.1 *Main Habitats (GEF, UNEP, 2014)*

The main vegetation types that occur in Afghanistan are closed forest, open woodland, alpine and subalpine, wetland, and riparian. These habitats are described below.

#### **Closed Forest Vegetation**

Closed forests of oak and conifers were generally limited to the eastern part of the country where the westernmost extension of the Indian monsoon breaks the summer drought that limits plant life throughout most of the rest of the country. Closed forests (not including northern juniper communities) may once have covered about 5 percent of the country, or about 34,000 km<sup>2</sup> with an estimated 3,600 km<sup>2</sup> of closed canopy forest (i.e. Coniferous, Quercus and Olea-Reptonia) remaining in the late 1970s. If the estimates of UNEP's (2003a) satellite image analysis can be extrapolated, half of that has been lost since 1980 leaving some 1,800 km<sup>2</sup>. Based on these assumptions, Afghanistan is currently left with roughly 5 percent of its pristine closed forest vegetation, representing about 0.25 percent of the country's area. Forests that have been cut do not regenerate, largely because of livestock grazing pressure and high soil temperatures and therefore they revert to shrubland.

#### **Open Woodland Vegetation**

Open woodlands have a naturally low density of trees, creating a savannah-like landscape. Open forests originally formed a wide crescent around the north, west and south flanks of the Hindu Kush. In the late 1970s, approximately 32,000 km<sup>2</sup> of open woodlands remained, representing about 13 percent of the original open woodland and 5 percent of the Afghan landscape. UNEP's (2003a) satellite image analysis could detect no remaining open woodland in two provinces, suggesting that open woodlands are now on the verge of extinction as a viable ecosystem throughout much of Afghanistan.

#### **Semi-desert Vegetation**

Semi-deserts are characterized by precipitation below 250-300 mm. Generally, ground cover is less than 25 percent and trees are absent. Semi-deserts occur primarily in a broad arc around the Hindu Kush at lower elevations than open woodlands. The four main semi-deserts are as follows:

- Afghan mountains semi-desert.
- Central Persian desert basins.
- Badkhez (Badghis)-karabil semidesert.
- Registan-North Pakistan sandy desert.

#### **Alpine and Subalpine Vegetation**

Alpine and subalpine vegetation develops at elevations of 2,800-2,900 mamsl in the central mountains and between 3,000 and 3,500 mamsl in the east. In the eastern Hindu Kush, subalpine vegetation is dominated by juniper while in central Afghanistan it is largely comprised of cushion shrublands. True alpine vegetation is generally found at elevations >4,000 mamsl. The central Hindu Kush is not as species rich as alpine areas further to the east and north. The main subalpine and alpine vegetation areas are:

- Karakoram-West Tibetan Plateau alpine steppe.
- Pamir alpine desert and tundra.

- Hindu Kush alpine meadow.
- Ghorat-Hazarajat alpine meadow.

**Wetlands**

Afghanistan is an arid country and the few wetlands that do exist are therefore of great significance to biodiversity. Wetlands provide habitat for many migrating water birds and are home to numerous species of aquatic plants and invertebrates, fish, and amphibians.

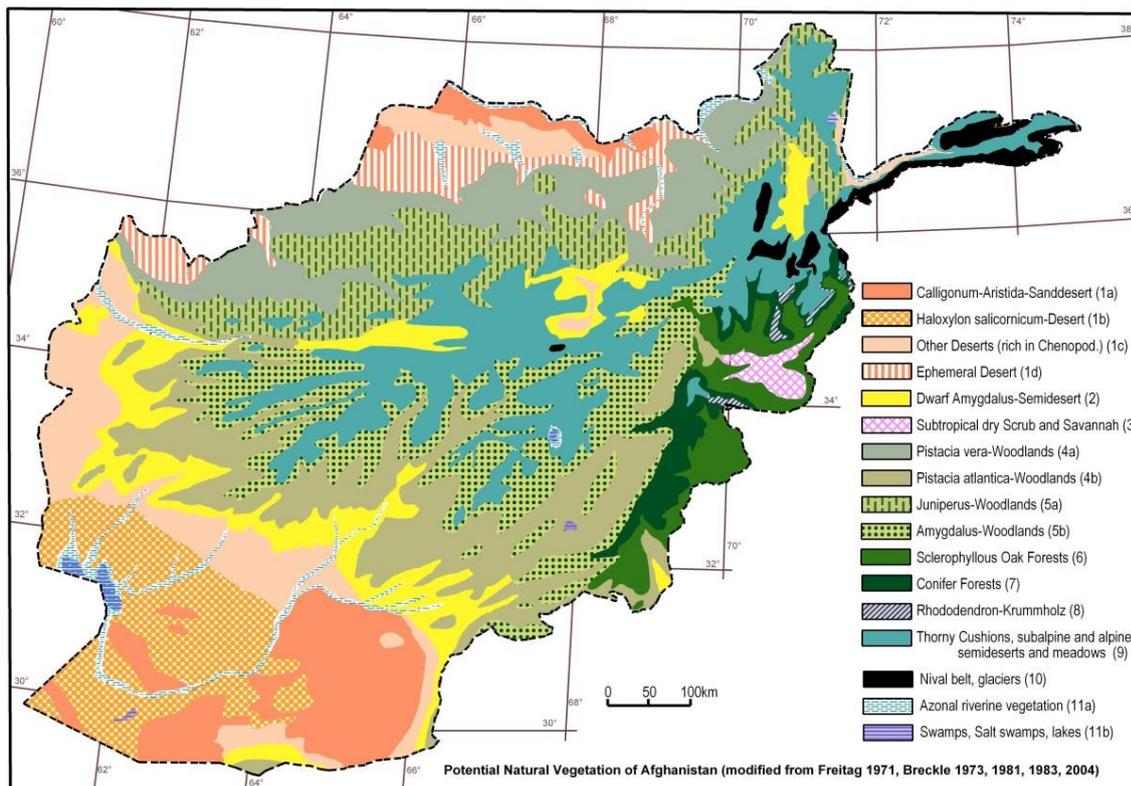
**Riparian**

Tugai is a special type of riparian forest found in the floodplains and valleys of central Asian deserts. It is characterized by poplar and willow trees and shrubs of various genera such as tamarisk (*tamarix*), oleaster (*elaegnus*), and sea buckthorn (*hippophae*), along with a patchwork of tall reed grass (*Phragmites australis*) and grassland clearings. Tugai ecosystems are critical to many species and are increasingly threatened by conversion to agriculture along the Amu Darya. There is little information about the original and current extent of Tugai forest in Afghanistan.

These areas are illustrated on a map of the natural vegetation of Afghanistan modified from Freitag by Breckle (2004) (Breckle, 2004) (see **Figure 11**). The vegetation in the Project locations can be summarized as:

**Table 8: Natural Vegetation Type at Project Locations**

Province	Natural Vegetation Type at Project Locations
Kabul	Mainly Amygdalus Woodlands and Thorny Cushions, subalpine and alpine semideserts and meadows, with some Sclerophyllous Oak Forests and Conifer Forests.
Nangarhar	Mainly Subtropical dry Scrub and Savannah, with Sclerophyllous Oak Forests and Conifer Forests.
Balkh	Other deserts (rich in Shenopod), Calligonum-Aristida Sanddesert with Azonal riverine vegetation.
Kandahar	Calligonum-Aristida Sanddesert with potential for Azonal riverine vegetation and Other Deserts (rich in Chenopod)
Herat	Dwarf semi-desert, Pistacia atlantica Woodlands, Juniperus Woodlands and Azonal riverine vegetation.



**Figure 11: Natural Vegetation of Afghanistan Modified from Freitag (Breckle, 2004)**

**4.3.2 Biodiversity**

Analysis of species records in UNEP (GEF, UNEP, 2014) indicates that there are 137-150 species of mammal, 428-515 birds, 92-112 reptiles, 6-8 amphibians, 101-139 fish, 245 butterflies, and 3,500-4,000 vascular plant species native to Afghanistan. The range in numbers results from uncertainty in taxonomy and the questionable validity of some records. Only 7 vertebrate species (Mammals: none; Birds: Afghan Snow Finch (*Montifringilla theresae*); Reptiles: Leviton’s Gecko (*Asiocolotes levitoni*), *Cyrtopodion voraginosus*, *Eremias aria*, Point-snouted Racerunner (*Eremias afghanistanica*), Amphibians: Paghman Mountain Salamander (*Batrachuperus mustersi*); Fish: *Triplophysa farwelli*) are known to be endemic to Afghanistan, but estimates for endemic plant species range as high as 30 percent (Breckle, 2007). More basic biological survey work and synthesis needs to be done to fully understand the country’s biodiversity. As a broad generalization, however, biodiversity appears to be declining at an accelerating rate throughout Afghanistan. Large scale remote sensing analysis suggests that nearly 8,000 km<sup>2</sup> of land in the country was degraded between 1981 and 2003.

Afghanistan’s extremely varied mountain and desert topography result in numerous habitat types. Temperature and precipitation change dramatically with elevation, resulting in a variety of habitats and differing suites of species adapted to them. Afghanistan’s mountains also act as a barrier to precipitation, resulting in higher moisture in the eastern part of the country, considerable snow at higher elevations, and a rain shadow to the north and west. The result is a variety of species adapted to the entire gamut of moisture regimes, ranging from desert to monsoon forest. Nonetheless Afghanistan has low primary productivity in an ecosystem sense, and relatively few species. (GEF, UNEP, 2014)

**Table 9** is a summary of available checklists. It suggests that there are 789-916 species of vertebrates in Afghanistan and 3,500-4,000 species of vascular plants.

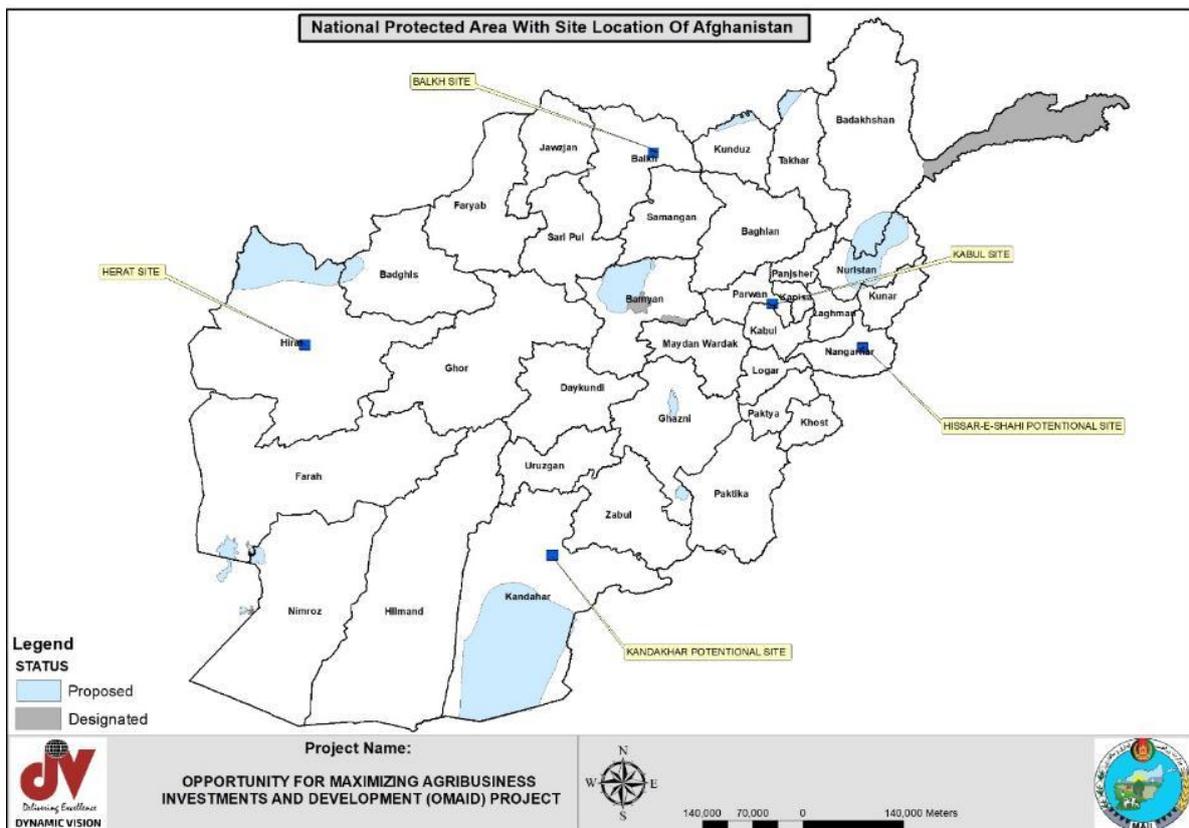
**Table 9: Number of species known to exist in Afghanistan (GEF, UNEP, 2014)**

	Known Species	Uncertain Species	Estimates
<b>Mammals</b>	137	13	
<b>Birds</b>	428	87	
<b>Reptiles</b>	92	20	
<b>Amphibians</b>	6	2	
<b>Fish</b>	101	38	
<b>Insects</b>			10s of 1 000s
<b>Vascular Plants</b>			3 500 – 4 000
<b>Lichens</b>	208	?	
<b>Fungi</b>			1 000s

**4.3.3 Protected Areas**

Afghanistan has three designated protected areas and around nine proposed protected areas. Two national parks, Band-e-Amir National Park in the Bamyan Province of central Afghanistan, and Wakhan National Park, comprising the entire district of Wakhan, have been declared:

The locations of the designated and proposed protected areas are given **Figure 12**. The five IAFPs shown on this figure, which form the central focus of the FCCs and RTHs, are all located some distance from any protected area.



**Figure 12: National Protected Areas in Afghanistan (Data from NEPA, 2019)**

## 4.4 SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION

### 4.4.1 Population Profile

Afghanistan is projected to support a total population of 31 575 018 in 2018/2019 with an average population density of 48 persons per square kilometre (See **Table 10**). The target 5 provinces support 36 percent of the total national population with the majority located in the largely urbanised Kabul Province.

**Table 10: Population Profile**

Administrative Level	Total Population			Population Density (Persons / Km <sup>2</sup> )
	Male	Female	Total	
Afghanistan	16 081 572	15 493 446	31 575 018	48
Balkh Province	733 209	709 638	1 442 847	89
Herat Province	1 033 532	1 016 982	2 050 514	37
Kandahar Province	681 605	655 578	1 337 183	24
Kabul Province	2 472 604	2 388 276	4 860 880	1075
Nangarhar Province	835 319	800 553	1 635 872	214

Source: (Central Statistics Organization, n.d.)

There is a noted urban-rural divide in the population profile. Nationally, 71 percent of the total population reside in rural areas, while 24% account for a largely urbanized population, and the remaining 5 percent are nomadic people (See **Table 11**). Three of the five target provinces largely mirror national rural-urban trends, barring Nangarhar Province that supports a larger than average rural population and Kabul Province dominated by urban populations.

**Table 11: Urban, Rural and Nomadic Population Profile (Percent)**

Administrative Level	Rural Population	Urban Population	Nomadic Population
Afghanistan	71	24	5
Balkh Province	62	38	-
Herat Province	70	30	-
Kandahar Province	63	37	-
Kabul Province	15	85	-
Nangarhar Province	84	16	-

Source: (Central Statistics Organization, n.d.)

### 4.4.2 Household Composition

A household is defined as group of people, either related or unrelated, who live together as a single economic unit – or share common housing arrangements, household chores, function under a common budget and share meals. It is estimated that Afghanistan support 3.8 million households (Central Statistics Organization, 2018) with an average household size of 7.7 persons. The typical household is normally made up of a nuclear family or extended families. Half (52 percent) of the total national households comprise of a nuclear family – or a married couple with an average of 5.7 children (Central Statistics Organization, 2018).

The five target provinces show some variation from the national household size. Kandahar and Nangarhar provinces show larger average household size of 9.2 persons, while Herat supports smaller households averaging 6.6 persons. In general, there is some difference in

household size between urban (7.3 persons) and rural households (7.8 persons), with the latter supporting larger households.

Extended families broadly cover a single nuclear family supporting extended family members, or multiple related families as well as households that support polygamous unions. Extended families account for 42 percent of total national households (Central Statistics Organization, 2018). In general, extended households are closely linked to family relations and the typical household may comprise of polygamous families as well as other family relations (i.e. grandchildren, parents, siblings, and other relations)

#### **4.4.3 Housing and Living Conditions**

Housing is generally comprised of single-family houses (67 percent of the national total population), while 25% of the national population share houses (Central Statistics Organization, 2018). Both types of houses are dominated by traditional mud structures (86 percent of structures), stone/mud structures (20 percent), with a smaller presence of concrete or fire brick structures (11 percent). Approximately 8 percent of housing comprise of informal shelters.

There is little variation in terms of tenure or ownership rights to housing. Nationally, the majority of houses are owned by the households that reside in them. Ownership is derived from inheritance (50 percent), direct purchase (12 percent) or constructed dwelling (23 percent), while only 5 percent of households are tenants (Central Statistics Organization, 2018).

Access to and the quality of household amenities are generally considered to be highly variable in Afghanistan (Central Statistics Organization, 2018). Approximately 64% of national households have access to improved water sources (mostly hand pumps, springs, wells, karez and surface water) however access to piped water is very low (14 percent of households). Improved sanitation is accessed by only 39 percent of national households although this is largely limited to urban areas. Only 29 percent of households have access to electricity with the majority of rural households are reliant on solar and natural fuel sources.

#### **4.4.4 Employment**

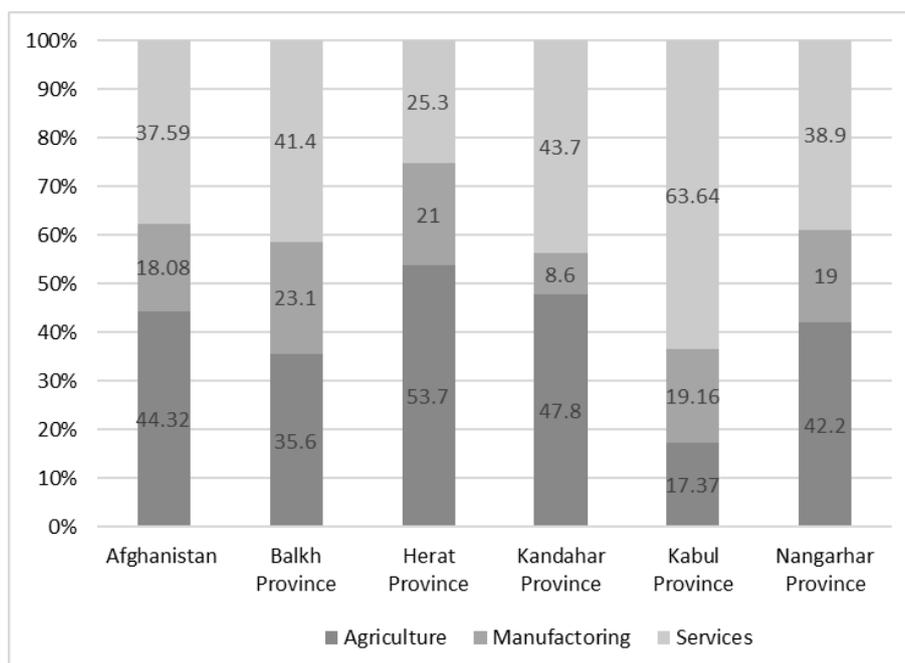
The national labor force participation rate is 54 percent – or only half of the total working-age population engages in some form of employment or is seeking employment (See **Figure 13**). This rate is well below global averages (62 percent) and is attributed to the very low female participation in economic activities (Central Statistics Organization, 2018).

Of the total working age population, only 41 percent are defined as employed and the gender distribution is heavily skewed towards men who make up 81 percent of the employed population (Central Statistics Organization, 2018). However, estimates of 2016-2017 employment rates reduces this to 23.9 percent nationally (Central Statistics Organization, n.d.).

The national unemployment rate is estimated at 23.9 percent of the country's total working-age population. (Central Statistics Organization, 2018). Again, there is a noted imbalance with unemployment rates of 41 percent for females nationally, while unemployment amongst males is 18 percent.

Of importance to the Project are the sectors that support employment. Nationally, agricultural support 44.32 percent of the employed population and is the primary economic activity in 4 of the 5 target provinces – with the exception of Kabul Province that relies on the services sector (See **Figure 13**).

Of import is to understand the role of the informal and formal sector in terms of employment (Central Statistics Organization, 2018). Nationally, the formal sector (i.e. salaried workers in the private and public sector as well as employers) support only 19.8 percent of the total employed population, while the remaining 80.2percent fall into the informal sector, made of the self-employed (40.1 percent), day laborers (15.7 percent) or unpaid family workers (24.5 percent). People employed in the informal sector are generally considered to be vulnerable as their employment is highly insecure.



**Figure 13: Employment by Key Economic Sectors (Central Statistics Organization, n.d.)**

**4.4.5 Livelihoods (Agriculture)**

Agriculture functions as the economic foundation for Afghanistan and in the in 4 of the 5 target provinces – with the exception of Kabul Province that relies on the services sector. The agricultural sector on average supports 44 percent of all employment (Central Statistics Organization, 2018) – mostly comprised of small-scale, and self-employed farmers.

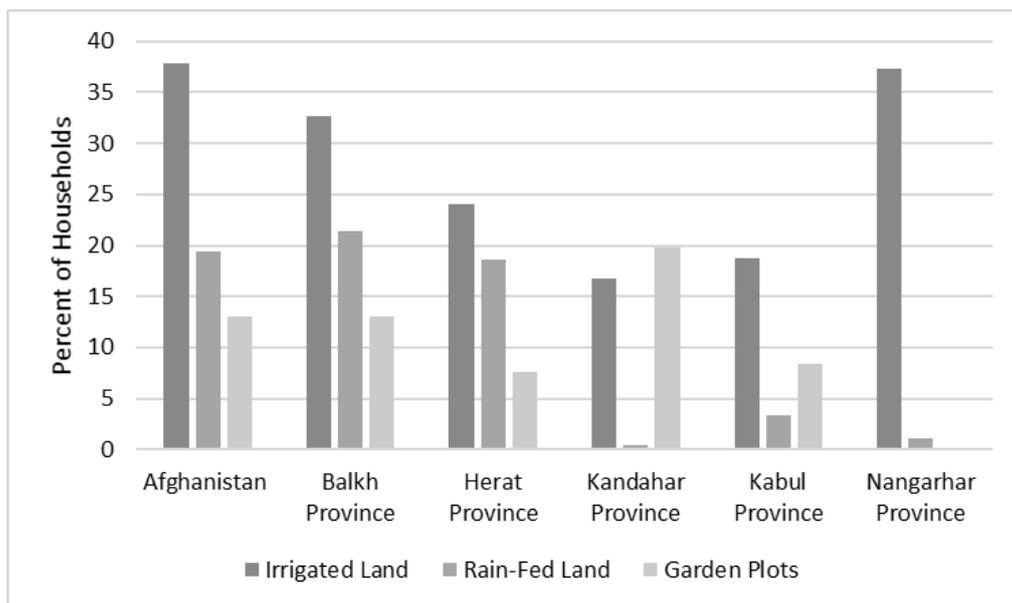
Nationally, 38 percent of households own or have access to irrigated land for farming, with an average area of 4.9 jeribs (0.98 hectares) which strongly reinforces that agriculture is undertaken at a small-scale and at the household level (See **Figure 14**). The total ownership rates are however lower in the Kandahar and Kabul Provinces (See **Figure 14** and **Figure 15**), and this is attributed to the presence of large metropolitan areas that reduce household dependency and ownership of farmland.

Households also undertake farming on rain-fed farmland; however, this tends to be less common as this form of farming provides marginal productive value. Nationally, only 20% of households undertake such farming on fields that average 12 jeribs (2.4 hectares). Only two

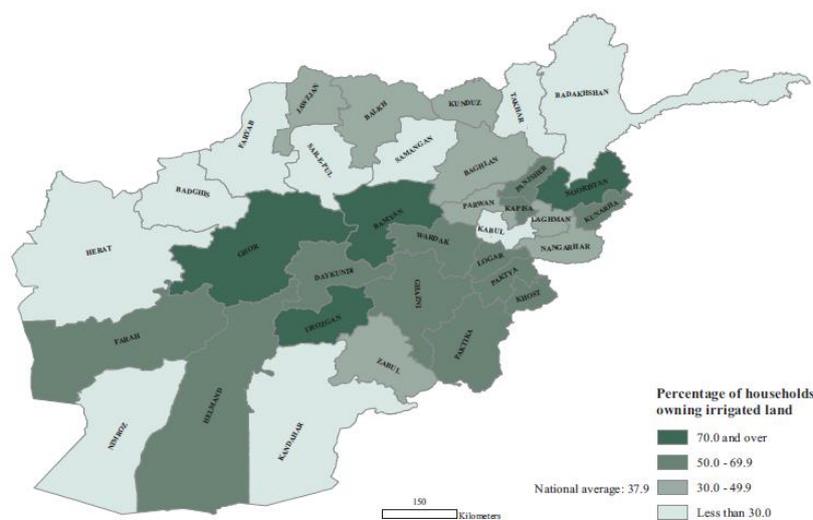
of the target provinces (Balkh and Herat Province) match national rates, while rain-fed farming is largely non-existent in the Kandahar, Kabul and Nangarhar Provinces (See **Figure 14** and **Figure 15**).

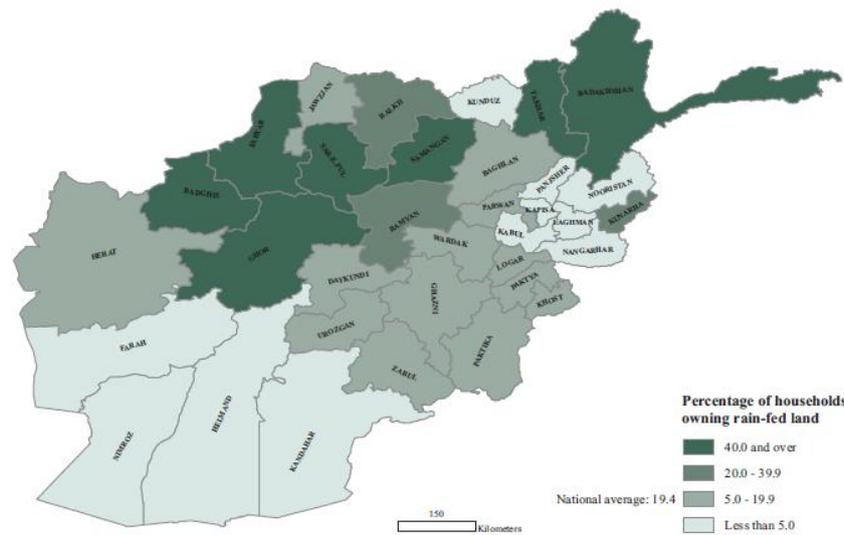
In addition to irrigated and rain-fed farm plots, households also prepare garden plots to support horticulture production. Nationally, 13 percent of households support a garden plots, and this is similar in 4 of the 5 target provinces, barring Nangarhar Province where no households support garden plots (See **Figure 14**).

Garden plots are substantially smaller (1.9 jerib / 0.38 hectares) than both irrigated and rain-fed farm plots. They however support a variety of high value crops – including fruit and nuts. This production is important for many Afghani households, in terms of supplementing household food needs as well as generating an income.



**Figure 14: Households with Agricultural Land (Central Statistics Organization, 2018)**





**Figure 15: Distribution of Households Owning Irrigated or Rain-Fed Farmland**

#### 4.4.6 Tenure Rights to Farmland

Land tenure – or the forms of rights assigned to land and how the land may be used, controlled or transferred - is complex in Afghanistan. Land tenure may include formal and informal systems of ownership and access through informal occupation, renting, sharecropping and mortgaging. The tenure arrangements are further complicated by the internal displacement and reinstatement of families as well as the loss of formal records over time. In general, land tenure rights are secured by a combination of (1) formal title-holdings, (2) exclusive rights secured via customary or traditional methods and the occupation (with or without permission) of state or public land.

Land holdings via formal title can be obtained through the local land administration system, combined with evidence of ownership from written or oral historical, community or traditional sources, and payment of a fee (Wily, 2003). Inconsistent land policy and legislation creates the potential for conflict on land and varying local administrative systems result in a complex and uncertain security of tenure even for households with title.

The second major form of land tenure is secured via local customary or traditional practice (*rawaj*). Customary rules are rarely codified and may vary by location. The customary system relies heavily on testimonials from neighbors, community leaders and elders to provide verbal and sometimes written confirmation of ownership (Wily, 2003).

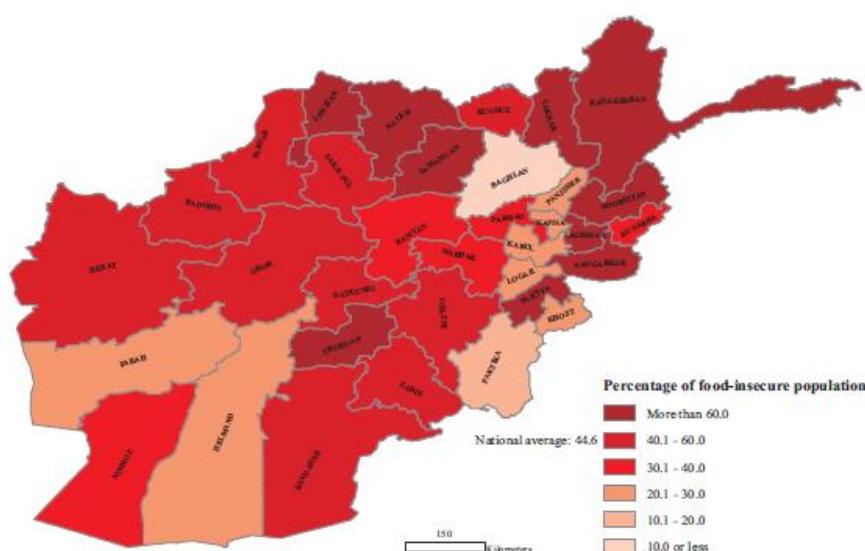
The third and fourth major form of land tenure essentially consists of the occupation of state or village (communal) land. Under national law, all land not under private tenure is defined as either state or public land. State land remains under the jurisdiction of the State, while under law the State manages all public lands on behalf of the people of Afghanistan. Public land may however be designated as Special Public Land that is communally utilized and managed by a specific village or villages.

Households with properties on state, public or special public land will not have exclusive rights or title to the land. The form of tenure arrangement is likely to be complex ranging from formal lease agreement or informal usufruct rights – or where the household is essentially a “squatter” that is ignored or tacitly allowed occupation by the State or local administrators.

#### 4.4.7 Food Security

Households may undertake farming to support household foods requirements as well as trade in agricultural goods. Depending on the size of yields, the ratio of crop produce that is allocated to food needs or trade will vary from season to season. As such, food security is a key consideration in largely agricultural communities, and food insecurity is often linked to lack of access to physical, social and economic opportunities to obtain sufficient food.

Food insecurity is common in Afghanistan, and it is estimated that 13 million people (44.6 percent) are very severely to moderately food insecure. There is however significant variation in the five target provinces (See **Figure 16**)– Nangarhar and Balkh have a food insecurity of above 60% of the population, while in Herat and Kandahar it is between 40-60% of the population. Only Kabul Province has lower than national food insecurity rates at 20-30% of the population.



**Figure 16: Food Insecurity Rates (Central Statistics Organization, 2018)**

#### 4.4.8 Poverty

A Multidimensional Poverty Index assesses multiple and intersecting deprivations in health, education, living standards, employment, and security that all influence household-level relative poverty. The index functions as an international measure of acute poverty, and estimates show that 51.7 percent of the total national population is defined as multidimensionally poor (See **Table 12**). Three of the five target provinces (Herat, Kandahar and Nangarhar) have poverty rates above the national norms, while only Kabul and Balkh Provinces show lower poverty rates.

**Table 12: Multidimensional Poverty Index**

Administrative Level	Persons Living in Poverty (Percent)	Multidimensional Poverty Index
Afghanistan	51.7	0.272
Balkh Province	45.0	0.237
Herat Province	57.6	0.316
Kandahar Province	66.7	0.342
Kabul Province	14.7	0.071

Administrative Level	Persons Living in Poverty (Percent)	Multidimensional Poverty Index
Nangarhar Province	66.3	0.305

Source: (National Statistics and Information Authority, 2019)

#### **4.4.9 Gender and Gender Based Violence**

Afghanistan ranks 168 out of 189 countries in the UNDP Gender Inequality Index in 2018 and ranks as the country supporting low human development. Gender inequality and discriminatory practices are systemic and complex – where indigenous cultural practices, entrenched tribal traditions and interpretations of the Shari’a law continue to limit women’s rights (Global Rights , 2008). Gender-based discrimination and violence is pervasive throughout Afghanistan, and it is exacerbated by ongoing conflict, legacies of historical conflict and fragile governance (Afghan Womens Network, 2009).

Such forms of violence may include physical violence (beatings), psychological violence (forced marriage), sexual violence (rape), limiting integration (limiting education, movement in public areas, limiting property ownership) as well as human trafficking (Afghan Womens Network, 2009). Global Rights Afghanistan (Global Rights , 2008) found that 87.2 percent of surveyed women experienced at least one form of physical, sexual or psychological violence or forced marriage; while 62.0 percent of women experienced multiple forms of violence. The ability of women to engage with the Project may be impacted by their limited economic participation in Afghanistan. The national labor force participation rate is only 54%, with females being largely excluded from participation in economic activities (Central Statistics Organization, 2018) with their role as housewife and home-carer being the most common reason for this exclusion.

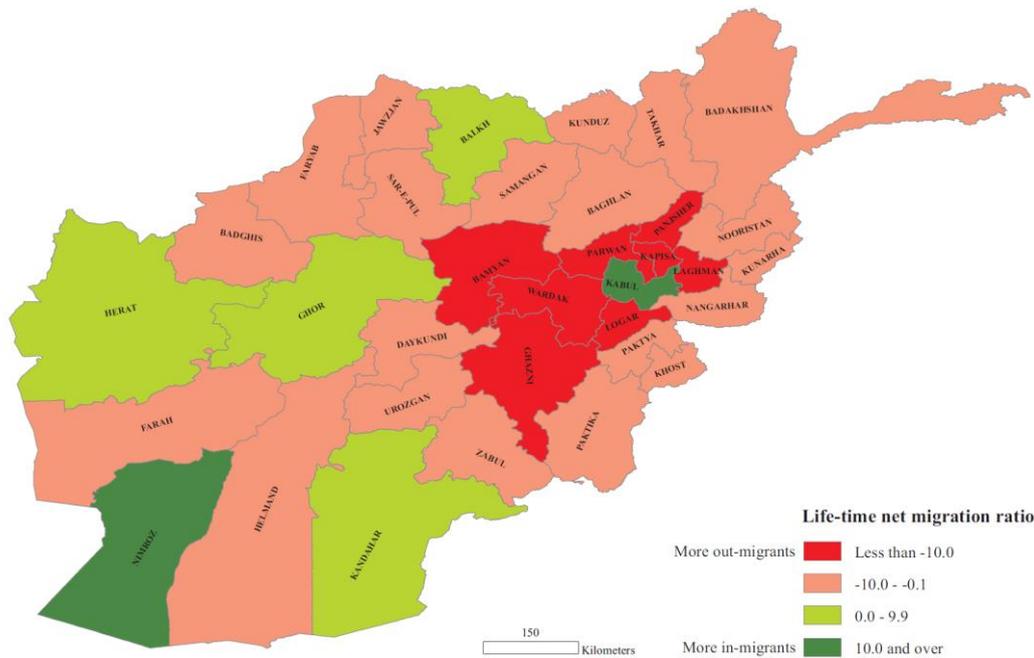
The role of women in agricultural and trade in agricultural produce will also impact on the level of participation with the Project. There is clear differentiation of gender roles in agricultural production in Afghanistan, however, the level of effort tends to be similar and there are regional differences. Broadly men focus on land preparation, planting/sowing, and fertilizer application which are essentially one-off activities, while women focus on recurring activities including tending of crops and weeding and well as post-harvest crop processing (World Bank, 2005).

The role of women in agriculture tends to be less visible and centered at the home. Men dominate the external small-scale trade of agricultural goods for cash income, while few women will work as traders as that would mean they be in contract with strangers (World Bank, 2005). Women in-turn generally focus on the bartering of agricultural produce, rather than trading for cash. These factors will be a limiting factor in support gender initiatives in the Project, including promoting gender-based trade and businesses development.

#### **4.4.10 Migration and Internally Displaced Persons**

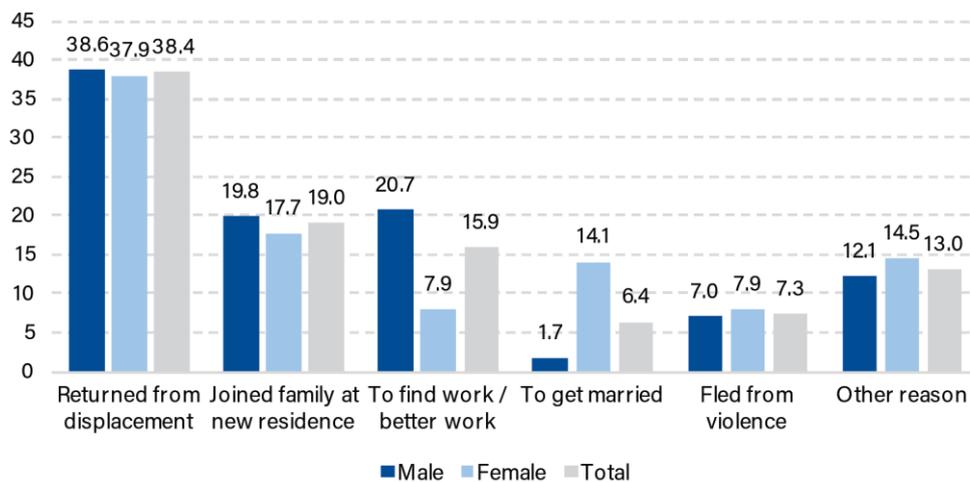
Internal migration within Afghanistan is highly complex, and include internal and cross-border movements, permanent, seasonal and circularly migration, driven by economic, cultural and political factors (Central Statistics Organization, 2018). This movement is exacerbated by protracted refugee movement, large-scale internal displacement as well as the formation of a significantly mobile labor migrants.

With respect to internal migration patterns, the majority of provinces in Afghanistan support a net outward migration of nearly 10% of the resident population to neighboring provinces (See **Figure 17**). However, 4 of the 5 target provinces show net positive immigration rates (between 0 to 10 percent) indicating that they are absorbers of internal migration. Only Nangahar shows a net negative out-migration of people.



**Figure 17: Internal Migration Rate by Province (Central Statistics Organization, 2018)**

The reasons for internal migration are summarized in **Figure 18**. The primary reason for internal migration to other provinces is related to internal displacement which accounts for 38 percent of all migration, and an additional 7% of migrants fleeing from violence in their home province (Central Statistics Organization, 2018). In addition, 19 percent of migrants join their extended family resident in other provinces which is likely to be driven by political violence. Economic migrants (essentially comprised of movable work-seekers or casual workers) account for 16 percent of all internal migration, while 6 percent of movement is related to marriages.



**Figure 18: Reason for Migration (Central Statistics Organization, 2018)**

There is also a clear differentiation in gender migration. More women migrate when they are married as they join the household of the husband, while it is more common for men to be economic migrants. Migration related to political violence is however largely equal across both genders (notably internal displacement) suggesting that entire households tend to be displaced rather than individual members.

Internal displacement is a key driver for internal migration and covers persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their home or place of residence, as a result of armed conflict, generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural disasters. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre estimates that 2,598,000 people have been internally displaced in Afghanistan as of December 2018 – or approximately 7 percent of Afghanistan population.

Recent research (Samuel Hall / NRC / IDMC, 2018) indicates that internal displacement is driven by conflict and there has been a steady increase in displacement since 2012. A major proportion for this group of people include returning refugees and migrants, largely driven by pressures in neighboring Iran and Pakistan for them to be repatriated. This often leads to secondary displacement back into Afghanistan, as well as tertiary displacement where people cannot return back to their original home.

#### **4.4.11 Historical and Cultural Heritage**

Afghanistan has an incredibly rich historical background and is generally recognized as a multi-cultural cradle of Central Asia, linking East and West via historically significant trade routes, that moved a range of ideas, concepts and languages. This has resulted in contemporary Afghanistan being a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual society with a complex history stretching back many millennia (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 2015)

This has resulted in the presence of monuments, ruins, cultural sites local architecture, and a plethora of archaeological sites scattered throughout the country, that provide a record of this historic diversity and their world-wide significance in terms of their unique contributions to history, art and science (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 2015).

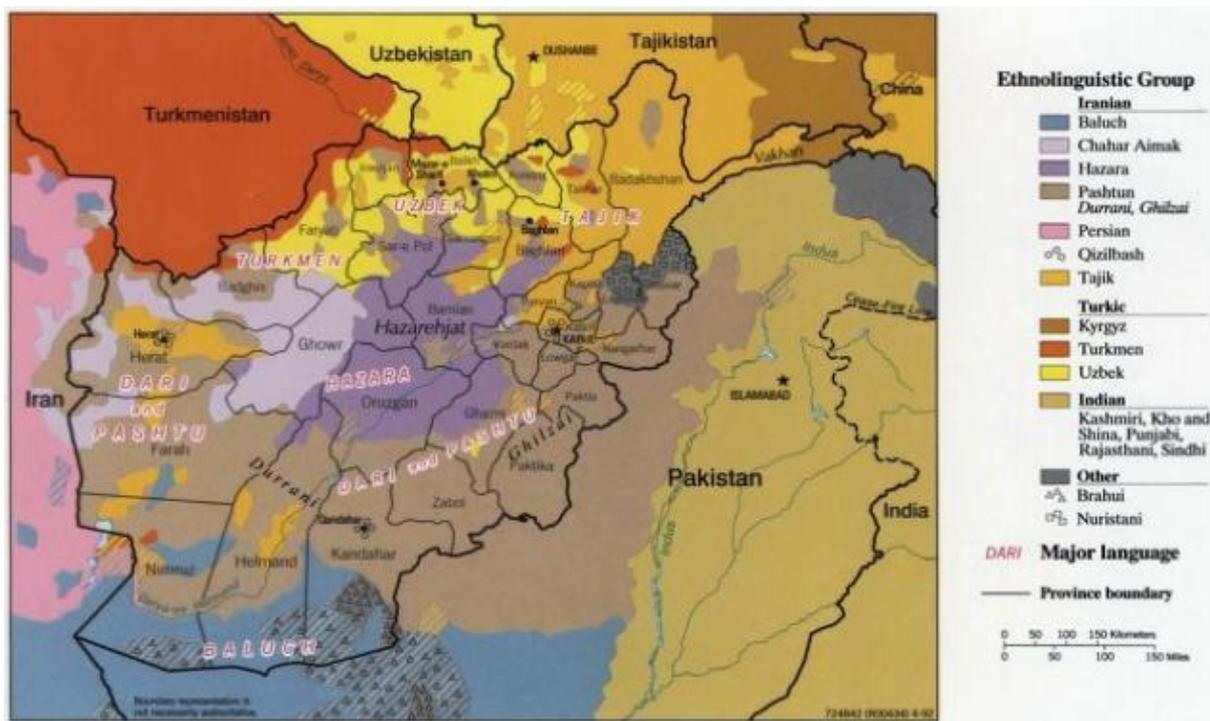
UNESCO recognizes only 2 world heritage sites in Afghanistan (the Bamiyan Valley and the minaret and archaeological remains of Jam), while it is considering an additional 4 sites (City of Herat, City of Balkh, Band-e-Amir and Bagh-e-Babur). However, there will be a diversity of known and largely unknown historical or archeological artifacts that will be found throughout Afghanistan.

Conflict and political instability in Afghanistan has eroded the protection and conservation of historical heritage and artifacts, including the destruction or pillaging of multiple sites supporting tangible heritage (for example the Bamiyan Buddha statues) as well as extensive illicit trade which is flourishing and Afghan history and archaeology, continues to be compromised at an alarming rate (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 2015).

The establishment of the Project-supported IAFPs, FCCs and RTHs may pose of risk to cultural or historical resources from the clearing of land and the destruction of known or unknown heritage found on this land. Consistent with the Law on the Protection of Historical and

Cultural Properties of 2004, no government agency or private individual may claim ownership of cultural or historical resources on their land, nor may they destroy it without prior approval of the Ministry of Information and Culture.

Allied to history and cultural properties, Afghanistan supports a diversity of ethnic groups that have close ties to land, cultural practices and religion. The main ethnic groups are Pashtun (42 percent), Tajik (27 percent), Hazara (9 percent), Uzbek (9 percent), Aimak (a Persian-speaking nomadic group) (4 percent), Turkmen (3 percent) and Baloch (2 percent). There is also a nomad ethnic group (termed Kuchis) which is estimated to include 1.5 million people (or 5 percent of the total national population). The Pashtuns are the major ethnic group in the south and the east while the Tajiks are the majority in the northeast (See **Figure 19**). The predominant groups in north-central Afghanistan are the Hazaras, Tajiks, and Uzbeks.



**Figure 19: Ethnolinguistic Groups (Source: Central Intelligence Agency, n.d.)**

**4.4.12 Community Health and Safety**

The World Health Organization (World Health Organization, 2018) notes that there has been significant progress in Afghanistan’s health services over the last decade and this has translated into substantial decline in infant, child and maternal mortality rates. However, it similarly acknowledged that many of Afghanistan’s health indicators remain problematic, and there are large imbalances across socio-economic levels, urban/rural divide and well as gender inequality being a pervasive problem.

Afghanistan’s health indicators are very low and it ranks worse than neighboring countries, with a low life expectancy 47 years for males and 45 years for females, high infant (129 per 1,000 persons) and maternal mortality (160 per 1,000 persons) and an extremely high prevalence of chronic malnutrition (World Health Organization, 2010). The WHO recognizes that these challenges are influenced by several environmental and structural problems including:

- widespread poverty;
- limited fiscal resources that limit delivery of public services;
- insecurity arising from the activities of extremists, terrorists and criminals;
- weak governance and corruption;
- poor environment for private sector investment;
- corrosive effects of a large and growing narcotics industry; and
- major human capacity limitations throughout both the public and private sector.

(World Health Organization, 2010)

The Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey (Central Statistics Organization, 2018) shows that the diseases for which most out-patient treatment is sought included acute respiratory infection (13 percent), intestinal infectious diseases and diarrhea (15 percent) as well as pregnancy, delivery post-natal support (6 percent). Diseases related to intestinal infectious disease, diarrhea and problems of digestive systems is more prevalent in rural communities suggesting environmental issue around water. Urban diseases are mostly related to acute respiratory infections, intestinal infectious disease, diarrhea, and problems of digestive systems and injury poisoning, and other external influences. This suggests that environmental issues around water sources are also prevalent in urban areas, as well elevated risks of respiratory infections.

With respect to access to services, the Living Condition Survey (Central Statistics Organization, 2018) indicates that there has been substantive improvement in access to health facilities, with between 80 to 90 percent of the surveyed population taking less than 2 hours to reach a district hospital, health post or clinic. Never-the-less, transport and roads remain a significant barrier to mostly the poorest households even if travel is less than two hours.

The security situation in Afghanistan remains volatile. According to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) (European Asylum Support Office, 2019), in 2018 fighting intensified particularly in the east, southeast and in some areas within the south of Afghanistan. This has been driven largely by military operations by insurgents, international, and government forces in Afghanistan throughout 2018. The widening armed conflict killed or injured more than 10,000 civilians between January and December of 2018 (Human Rights Watch, 2019).

The security situation with respect to the 5 target provinces is detailed further below. It is based on information provided in a report produced in the EASO (European Asylum Support Office, 2019) and other sources. However, the situation is highly dynamic and below provided a broad overview:

- **Balkh Province:** EASO reports that while Balkh is generally considered one of Afghanistan's most stable provinces, anti-government elements are still active, and several security incidents have been reported in 2018 and early 2019. Control over Balkh Province districts varies between the government and the Taliban, with the proposed IAFP being located in a government held district. UNAMA reports 227 civilian casualties (85 deaths and 142 injured) in 2018 which is a noted increase over the previous year, while 1,218 persons were displaced due to conflict. Overall Balkh has a lower conflict severity compared to other provinces (See **Figure 20**)

- Herat Province:** EASO reports that Herat province is considered the be amongst the more relatively calm provinces in west Afghanistan, but the Taliban militants are active in some of its remote districts and often attempt to carry out terrorist related activities. The district within the province remains highly unstable and contested between the Government of Afghanistan and the Taliban. The proposed IAFP is located in a government-controlled district however the province remains volatile and ranks high in the conflict severity compared to other provinces (See **Figure 20**)
- Kandahar Province:** EASO reports that the province has been relatively peaceful, largely on the strength of the powerful strongman and police chief General Abdul Razeq who was assassinated in October 2018. The province remains largely in control of the Government of Afghanistan and is generally low in terms of conflict severity (See **Figure 20**). UNAMA documented 537 civilian casualties (204 deaths and 333 injured) in 2018 as well as 789 displaced persons.
- Kabul Province:** EASO reports that conflict in Kabul is characterized by asymmetric tactical warfare with suicide bombers and IEDs as weapons of attack, and the limited direct fire fights. UNAMA documented 1,686 civilian casualties (554 deaths and 1,132 injured) in 2018 with specific targeting of civilians and civilian-government administration, places of worship, education facilities, election-related sites and other “soft” targets. It is further estimated that two-thirds of all Afghans displaced outside their province move towards the five regional capitals and Kabul has shown a noted increase in displaced persons.
- Nangarhar Province:** EASO reports that Nangarhar Province has been observing a deterioration of its political and security situation since 2011 driven by a political and military vacuum. UNAMA documented 1,815 civilian casualties (681 deaths and 1,134 injured) in 2018 as well as 12,236 persons displaced from Nangarhar.

Source: (European Asylum Support Office, 2019)

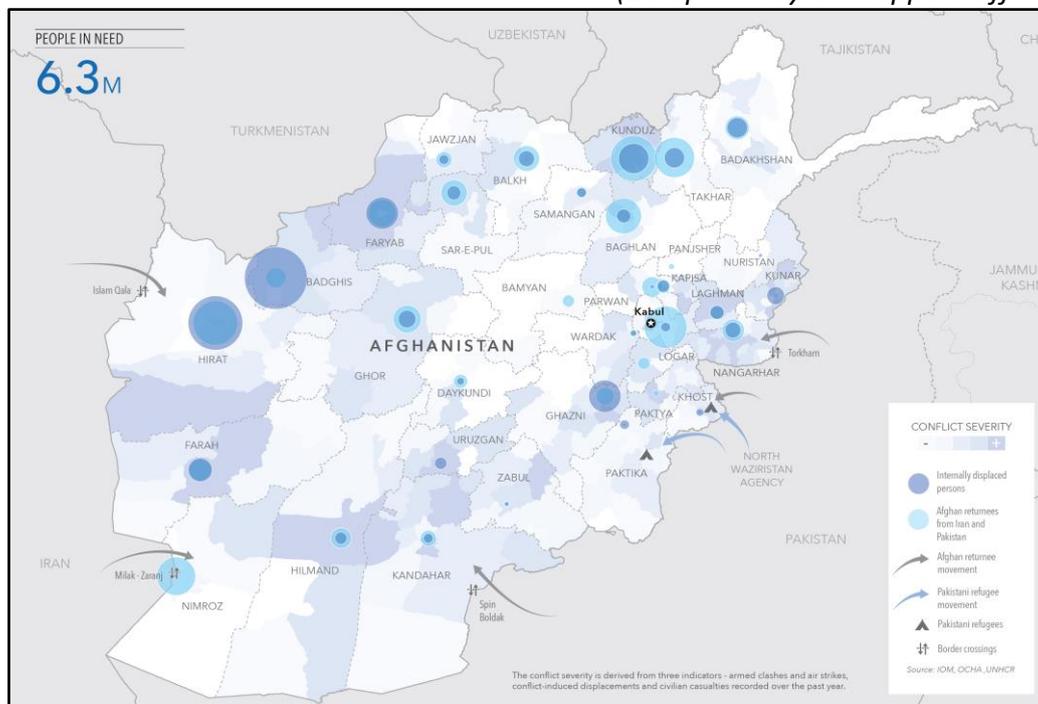


Figure 20: Conflict Severity (UNOCHA, 2019)

## 4.5 PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Being a landlocked country, Afghanistan depends primarily on transit facilities from its neighbors for its international trade. It lacks railways, has few navigable rivers, and relies on roads as the mainstay of its transport system. In the 1960s major efforts were directed toward upgrading the highway system and connecting the main trading centers of the country with one another, as well as with the railheads or road networks of neighboring countries (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2019).

The most important Afghan highways are those connecting Kabul with Shīr Khān, on the northern border, and with Peshawar. Other paved roads link Kandahār, Herāt, and Mazār-e Sharīf with Kabul and with frontier towns of Pakistan, Iran, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2019). During the civil war, however, the road system was severely damaged from the fighting and from disrepair. Its rehabilitation has become a high priority in any program of national reconstruction. The majority of roads remain unpaved and in a poor state making travel time consuming and punishing for both vehicles and passengers. Construction of regional and provincial roads is ongoing.

Afghanistan's rail network is still in the development stage. The current rail lines are to be extended in the near future with plans for cargo traffic as well as passenger transportation (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2019). Afghanistan has three railroad lines in the north of the country. The first is between Mazar-i-Sharif and the border town of Hairatan in Balkh province, which then connects with Uzbek Railways of Uzbekistan (opened in 2011). The second links Torghundi in Herat Province with Turkmen Railways of Turkmenistan (opened in 1960). The third is between Aqina in Faryab Province and neighboring Turkmenistan (opened in 2016).

Almost all provincial centers have at least a seasonally operable airport. There are international airports at Kabul, Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif and Kandahār. Afghanistan, however, has limited air service with the national carrier, Ariana Afghan Airlines, and a private airline company, Kamair Airlines.

Afghanistan's communications infrastructure is poorly developed. Telephone service is sparse, and cellular telephone and internet use is increasing rapidly. Radio receivers are fairly pervasive, with roughly one radio receiver per 10 people. Afghans who have access to shortwave radio listen to local channels and to international broadcasts, including the Voice of America's Dari and Pashto programs and the BBC Pashto Service. Access to television has increased since the fall of the Taliban in 2001 and broadcasts by dozens of Afghan television stations can now be viewed throughout the country. Many Afghans have satellite dishes and are able to receive foreign broadcasts.

Energy supplies have been disrupted by conflict for nearly three decades with much of the country's power generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure destroyed. Since 2009 international donor projects have developed new electricity supply and generation capacity. The country has natural gas deposits, with large reserves near Sheberghān near the Turkmenistan border, about 120 km west of Mazār-e Sharīf. In general, however, Afghanistan's energy resources, including its large reserves of natural gas, remain untapped, and fuel shortages are chronic.

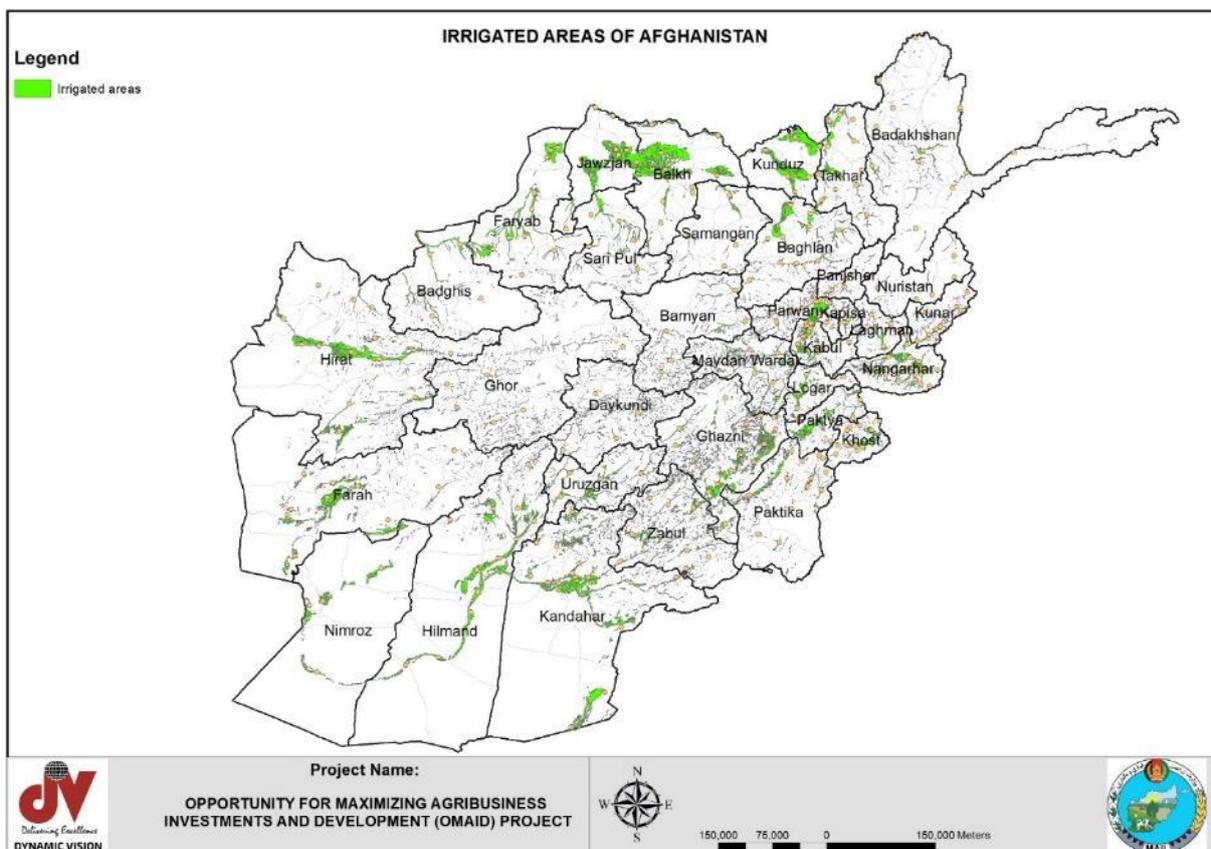
Afghanistan is potentially rich in hydroelectric resources. However, the seasonal flow of the country's many streams and waterfalls—torrential in spring, when the snow melts in the

mountains, but negligible in summer—necessitates the costly construction of dams and reservoirs in remote areas. The country’s negligible demand for electricity renders such projects unprofitable except near large cities or industrial centers. The potential of hydroelectricity has been tapped substantially only in the Kabul-Jalālābād region.

**4.6 AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY**

An estimated 12 percent of the total land area of Afghanistan is arable; 3 percent considered forest; 46 percent under permanent pasture; and 39 percent is mountainous and not suitable for agriculture (Muradi, 2018). Wheat is the main crop cultivated (23 percent of agricultural GDP and 95 percent of the annual cropped area) with more than 80 percent of wheat production from irrigated wheat areas.

There are two basic farming patterns (United Nations Environment Programme, 2003) – mixed crop and livestock and the Kuchi pastoral systems. It is estimated that 5 percent of the total land area is irrigated (see **Figure 21**) and regularly cropped while 7 percent is rain fed and cropped opportunistically (United Nations Environment Programme, 2003). The Kuchi communities move their grazing animals seasonally to different pastures, a practice known as transhumance. Increasing pressure on the land has resulted in traditional grazing land being converted to cultivation, even on steep slopes and in high mountain areas, with uncertain yields and crop failure. Erosion is a widespread concern. The Rangelands area of open *Artimesia* steppe is used for livestock grazing with 49 percent of the area having little to no vegetation (United Nations Environment Programme, 2003).



**Figure 21: Irrigated Areas of Afghanistan**

A wide variety of vegetables (such as onions and potatoes) are cultivated both for subsistence and commercial use. Potatoes are particularly significant in the Bamiyan, Maidan and

Jalalabad regions. The quality and flavor of Afghan melons of many varieties have been noted for centuries, and large quantities are exported to neighboring countries such as Pakistan. Other high-value crops such as cumin, sesame, linseed and sugar cane are cultivated where possible and cotton is grown in some provinces, such as Helmand, Baghlan and Kunduz.

Afghanistan has been known for the production of many kinds of fruit (including apricots, apples, pomegranates, and grapes) and nuts (principally almonds, walnuts and wild pistachio). In the 1970s dried fruit, raisins and nuts contributed more than 40 percent of the country's foreign exchange earnings, although the years of conflict have meant that the country has lost some of its former market niche. Nonetheless fruit such as watermelon, melon, apricot, pomegranate and almond are exported.

Cattle and sheep provide milk, meat, wool and hides, as well as dung for fuel. Oxen are the main source of power for cultivation, while horses and donkeys provide rural transportation. Most rural families keep a cow or two for milk, and certain local breeds, such as the Kandahari and Kunari, are well recognized. There is evidence of crossbreeding with western breeds in many locations. Not all rural families keep sheep and goats, but flocks are found in most villages, sometimes running into hundreds. Several different, distinct local breeds of sheep are recognized, mostly of the fat-tailed/fat-rumped type. Although animal traction is still common throughout Afghanistan, mechanization has occurred widely due to larger land holdings and irrigation.

The nomadic Kuchis are mainly ethnic Pashtun who collectively own about one-third of the national flock. Typically, flocks are comprised of 80 percent sheep and 20 percent goats, with horses, donkeys and camels used for transport. Typically, many of the Pashtun Kuchis winter in Pakistan and move back to Afghanistan in the spring, into the high mountains as the snow recedes. Other smaller groups of professional herders also exist, such as the felt yurt-dwelling Kyrgyz in the Pamir who herd yaks as well as sheep, goats and camels, and the Gujar cattle owners who winter in the Punjab and North West Frontier of Pakistan and summer in upper Kunar and other border Afghan provinces.

## 5 WORLD BANK SAFEGUARD POLICIES

The Safeguard Policies are the mechanism used by the World Bank to address environmental and social issues in project design, implementation and operation. These policies also provide a framework for consultation with communities and for public disclosure. The WB Safeguard Policies are arranged as follows:

- **Operational Policies (OP)** – statement of policy objectives and operational principles including the roles and obligations of the Borrower and the Bank;
- **Bank Procedures (BP)** – Mandatory procedures to be followed by the Borrower and the Bank; and
- **Good Practice (GP)** – Non-mandatory advisory material.

A summary of the World Bank Safeguard Policies objectives and when they are triggered is provided in **Table 13**.

**Table 13: World Bank Safeguard Policies and Objectives and Triggers**

Policy	Objective	Trigger for Policy
<p><b>OP/BP 4.01</b> <b>Environmental Assessment</b></p>	<p><i>To help ensure the environmental and social soundness and sustainability of investment projects; and</i></p> <p><i>To support the integration of environmental and social aspects of projects into the decision-making process.</i></p> <p>This policy covers impacts on the natural environment (air, water and land); human health and safety; physical cultural resources; and transboundary and global environmental concerns.</p>	<p>This policy is triggered if a project is likely to have potential (adverse) environmental risks and impacts on its area of influence.</p> <p>Depending on the project, and nature of impacts, a range of instruments can be used to assess the environmental and social impact of any project/activity – ESIA, environmental audit, hazard or risk assessment and environmental and social management plan (ESMP).</p> <p>When a project is likely to have sectoral or regional impacts, a sectoral or regional EA is required.</p> <p>The Borrower is responsible for carrying out the ESIA.</p>
<p><b>OP/BP 4.04</b> <b>Natural Habitats</b></p>	<p><i>To promote environmentally sustainable development by supporting the protection, conservation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of natural habitats and their functions.</i></p> <p>This policy recognizes that the conservation of natural habitats is essential to safeguard their unique biodiversity and to maintain environmental services and products for</p>	<p>This policy is triggered by any project (including any sub-project under a sector investment or financial intermediary) with the potential to cause significant conversion (loss) or degradation of natural habitats, whether directly (through construction) or indirectly (through human activities induced by the project).</p>

Policy	Objective	Trigger for Policy
	<p>human society and for long-term sustainable development.</p> <p>The Bank supports, and expects borrowers to apply, a precautionary approach to natural resource management to ensure opportunities for environmentally sustainable development. Natural habitats are land and water areas where most of the original native plant and animal species are still present. Natural habitats comprise many types of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine ecosystems. They include areas lightly modified by human activities, but retaining their ecological functions and most native species.</p>	
<p><b>OP/BP 4.36 Forests</b></p>	<p><i>To realize the potential of forests to reduce poverty in a sustainable manner, integrate forests effectively into sustainable economic development, and protect the vital local and global environmental services and values of forests.</i></p> <p>Where forest restoration and plantation development are necessary to meet these objectives, the Bank assists borrowers with forest restoration activities that maintain or enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functionality. The Bank assists borrowers with the establishment of environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable forest plantations to help meet growing demands for forest goods and services.</p>	<p>This policy is triggered whenever any Bank-financed investment project (i) has the potential to have impacts on the health and quality of forests or the rights and welfare of people and their level of dependence upon or interaction with forests; or (ii) aims to bring about changes in the management, protection or utilization of natural forests or plantations.</p>
<p><b>OP/BP 4.09 Pest Management</b></p>	<p><i>To minimize and manage the environmental and health risks associated with pesticide use and promote and support safe, effective, and environmentally sound pest management.</i></p> <p>This policy promotes the use of biological or environmental control and reduces reliance on synthetic chemical pesticides; and strengthens the capacity of the country's regulatory framework and institutions to promote and support safe, effective and environmentally sound pest management. More specifically, the policy aims to:</p>	<p>The policy is triggered if:</p> <p>(i) procurement of pesticides or pesticide application equipment is envisaged (either directly through the project, or indirectly through on-lending, co-financing, or government counterpart funding);</p> <p>(ii) the project may affect pest management in a way that harm could be done, even though the project is not envisaged to procure pesticides.</p>

Policy	Objective	Trigger for Policy
	<p>(a) Ascertain that pest management activities in Bank-financed operations are based on integrated approaches and seek to reduce reliance on synthetic chemical pesticides (Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in agricultural projects and Integrated Vector Management (IVM) in public health projects.</p> <p>(b) Ensure that health and environmental hazards associated with pest management, especially the use of pesticides are minimized and can be properly managed by the user.</p> <p>(c) As necessary, support policy reform and institutional capacity development to (i) enhance implementation of IPM-based pest management and (ii) regulate and monitor the distribution and use of pesticides.</p>	<p>This includes projects that may</p> <p>(i) lead to substantially increased pesticide use and subsequent increase in health and environmental risk;</p> <p>(ii) maintain or expand present pest management practices that are unsustainable, not based on an IPM approach, and/or pose significant health or environmental risks.</p>
<p><b>OP/BP 4.11</b> <b>Physical Cultural Resources</b></p>	<p><i>To assist in preserving physical cultural resources (PCR) and avoiding their destruction or damage.</i></p> <p>This policy includes movable or immovable objects, sites, structures, groups of structures, natural features and landscapes of archaeological, paleontological, historical, architectural, religious (including graveyards and burial sites), aesthetic, or other cultural significance.</p> <p>Physical cultural resources may be located in urban or rural settings, and may be above ground, underground, or underwater. The cultural interest may be at the local, provincial or national level, or within the international community.</p>	<p>This policy applies to all projects requiring a Category A or B Environmental Assessment under OP 4.01; projects located in, or in the vicinity of, recognized cultural heritage sites; and projects designed to support the management or conservation of physical cultural resources.</p>
<p><b>OP/BP 4.12</b> <b>Involuntary Resettlement</b></p>	<p><i>To avoid or minimize involuntary resettlement and, where this is not feasible, to assist displaced persons in improving or at least restoring their livelihoods and standards of living in real terms relative to pre-displacement levels or to levels prevailing prior to the beginning of project implementation, whichever is higher.</i></p> <p>This policy encourages community participation in planning and implementing</p>	<p>This policy is triggered when physical relocation is required, as well as any loss of land or other assets occurs resulting in relocation or loss of shelter, loss of assets or access to assets and loss of income sources or means of livelihood, whether to not the affected people must move to another location.</p>

Policy	Objective	Trigger for Policy
	resettlement; and provide assistance to affected people regardless of the legality of land tenure.	This policy is also triggered when there is involuntary restriction of access to legally designated parks and protected areas resulting in adverse impacts on the livelihoods of the displaced persons.

### 5.1 WORLD BANK SAFEGUARDS LIKELY TO BE TRIGGERED BY THE PROJECT

The likely locations of the sub projects within the OMAID Project are not all known with confirmed locations of only three IAFPs and two proposed IAFP locations. Locations for the RTHs and FCCs are still unknown. Further preparatory work needs to be concluded as to the specific geographic reach of all the proposed sub projects with more detail on the specific districts affected and their social-biophysical characteristics. The activities are at present expected to trigger only OP/BP 4.01 (Environmental Assessment) and other OPs listed in the table below could be triggered depending on the sub-project location. The safeguards instruments prepared for any sub projects will address the requirements of any applicable policies.

#### *Box 1: World Bank Safeguard Policies triggered by Project*

Operational Policy and Bank Procedure	Triggered	
	Yes	No
OP/BP 4.01 Environmental Assessment	X	
OP/BP 4.04 Natural Habitats	X	
OP/BP 4.09 Pest Management	X	
OP/BP 4.11 Physical Cultural Resources	X	
OP/BP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement	X	
OP/BP 4.10 Indigenous Peoples		X
OP/BP 4.36 Forests	X	
OP/BP 4.37 Safety of Dams		X
OP/BP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways		X
OP/BP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas		X
OP/BP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways		X

### 5.2 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (OP4.01)

This policy requires an environmental assessment (EA) of projects proposed for Bank financing to help ensure that they are environmentally sound and sustainable, and thereby improve decision making. The Environmental Assessment Policy OP4.01 is an umbrella policy which covers both environmental and social aspects and describes a process whose breadth, depth and type of analysis depend on the nature, scale and potential environmental impact of any proposed sub-project under Component 2 of the OMAID Project.

The OP4.01 EA process evaluates a project's potential environmental and social risks and impacts in its area of influence; examines project alternatives; identifies ways of improving project selection, siting, planning, design, and implementation by preventing, minimizing, mitigating, or compensating for adverse environmental impacts and enhancing positive

impacts; and includes the process of mitigating and managing adverse environmental impacts throughout project implementation. Preventive measures are favored over mitigatory or compensatory measures, whenever feasible. The process considers the natural environment (air, water, and land); human health and safety; and social aspects. Country context and the local regulatory environment are taken into account. An assessment is initiated as early as possible in the project process and is the responsibility of the borrower or project proponent.

Depending on the project, a range of instruments can be used to satisfy the Bank's OP4.01 EA requirement: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), regional or sectoral EA, Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), Environmental Audit, Hazard or Risk Assessment, Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). Environmental screening is required for each proposed project to determine the appropriate extent and type of assessment.

OP4.01 is triggered in this case as the Project will finance civil works and construction of new infrastructure. The ESMF outlines a mechanism to determine and assess future potential environmental and social impacts during the implementation of Project activities and then sets out a guide to mitigation, monitoring and institutional measures to be taken during operations of these activities so that adverse environmental and social impacts are eliminated, offset or reduced to acceptable levels.

The policy (4.01) requires that the ESMF must be disclosed as a separate and standalone document by the GoIRA and the World Bank as a condition for bank appraisal. The disclosure should be both in Afghanistan where it can be accessed by the general public and local communities and at the InfoShop of the World Bank and the date for disclosure must precede the date for appraisal of the program. The policy further calls for the Project as a whole to be environmentally screened to determine the extent and type of the EA process.

The WB system assigns a project to one of three categories depending on the type, location, sensitivity, scale of the project and the nature and magnitude of its potential impacts:

- *Category A:* A proposed project is likely to have significant adverse environmental impacts that are sensitive, diverse, irreversible or unprecedented. Attributes include pollutant discharges large enough to cause degradation of air, water, or soil; large scale physical disturbance on the site or surroundings; extraction, consumption or conversion of substantial amounts of forests or other natural resources; measurable modification of hydrological cycles; use of hazardous materials in more than incidental quantities; and involuntary displacement of people and other significant social disturbances. An ESIA is required for this category of project.
- *Category B:* A proposed project has less potential adverse environmental impacts on human populations or environmentally important areas (including wetlands, forests, grasslands and other natural habitats) than Category A projects. Impacts are site-specific, few are irreversible and mitigatory measure can be designed in most cases. Typical projects include rehabilitation, maintenance or upgrades, rather than new construction. A full ESIA is not required but some sort of environmental and social assessment is necessary.
- *Category F1:* A proposed project involving WB investment through a financial intermediary in sub-projects that may result in adverse environmental impacts.

The OMAID Project has been screened and assigned an EA *Category A*. The construction and operation activities could have significant adverse environmental and social impacts and these impacts could affect a broader area than the sites or facilities subject to the physical works. The EA for a Category A project should examine the project's potential negative and positive environmental impacts, compare these of feasible alternatives (including the "without project" scenario), and recommend measures to prevent, minimize, mitigate, or compensate for adverse impacts and improve environmental performance. The borrower is accountable for undertaking an assessment report, normally an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (or a suitably comprehensive regional or sectoral EA).

This ESMF establishes the EA process to be undertaken in order to assess the proposed Project activities, once they have been identified and implemented. This process requires the Project and its implementing partners to screen their activities to identify potential adverse impacts and determine mitigation measures to incorporate into the planned activities.

### **5.3 PEST MANAGEMENT (OP4.09)**

The World Bank OP4.09 pest management policy supports integrated pest management (IPM) and the safe use of agricultural pesticides. The Bank uses various means to assess pest management in the country – economic and sector work, sectoral or project-specific environmental assessments, participatory IPM assessments, and investment projects and components aimed specifically at supporting the adoption and use of IPM. In Bank-financed agriculture operations, pest populations are normally controlled through IPM approaches, such as biological control, cultural practices, and the development and use of crop varieties that are resistant or tolerant to the pest. The Bank may finance the purchase of pesticides when their use is justified under an IPM approach.

Any pesticide procured in a Bank-financed project is contingent on an assessment of the nature and degree of associated risks, taking the proposed use and intended users into account. The criteria are that they must have negligible adverse human health effects; they must be shown to be effective against the target species; they must have minimal effect on non-target species and the natural environment and their use must take into account the need to prevent the development of resistance to pests. The Bank requires that any pesticides it finances be manufactured, packaged, labeled, handled, stored, disposed of, and applied according to standards acceptable to the Bank. The Bank does not finance formulated products that fall in WHO classes IA and IB, or formulations of products in Class II, if (a) the country lacks restrictions on their distribution and use; or (b) they are likely to be used by, or be accessible to, lay personnel, farmers, or others without training, equipment, and facilities to handle, store, and apply these products properly.

Productivity in the agricultural sector is dependent on the ability to adequately control pest populations and the Project Sub-Component 2 aims to increase the production and productivity of the horticulture value chain. Farmers may need agro-chemicals for the control/management of pests and disease as well as for post-harvest treatment and storage. The sound application of an integrated pest management plan (PMP) is required, even if the Project itself does not purchase fertilizers and agro-chemicals directly, it may induce the use of those products by farmers for pest and disease management. This requires the management of the use of pesticides and triggers OP4.09. Consequently, a PMP will be prepared for this Project.

#### **5.4 INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT (OP4.12)**

The World Bank BP/OP 4.12 establishes the standards and requirements for projects that result in involuntary resettlement. In principle, involuntary resettlement should be avoided where feasible, but where it is not possible the Project will prepare a resettlement plan or resettlement policy framework. This plan or policy framework will define measures to provide prompt and effective compensation at full replacement cost for the loss of assets, or replacement assets in lieu of compensation, as well as relocation assistance (such as moving allowances).

Under BP/OP 4.12, affected persons that are deemed eligible for compensation or resettlement assistance includes persons with (1) formal legal rights to land (including customary and traditional rights recognized under the laws of the country), (2) those who do not have formal legal rights to land but have a recognized claim under the laws of the country or the resettlement plan, and (3) those who have no recognizable legal right or claim to the land they are occupying.

Sub-Component-2 of the Project funds activities that could lead to land acquisition or restriction of access to sources of livelihood. A Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) will be prepared and used to guide the Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs), where required, as well as compensation measures to minimize negative impacts on Project Affected People (PAPs). The RAPs will be submitted to the Bank for approval prior to the commencement of any civil works.

#### **5.5 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION (OP4.00)**

The World Bank BP/OP 4.00 requires the involvement of stakeholders in the Project planning process and to ensure that their views and concerns are made known to decision-makers. Consultation will further continue throughout the Project implementation, as necessary, to address ongoing environmental and social issues.

Stakeholder consultation is to be supported in the preparation of any relevant Project environmental assessments, and the Project is required to disclose the environmental assessment report in a timely manner at an accessible place and in a form and language understandable to key stakeholders. This including making the report available to the public through the World Bank InfoShop.

At minimum, Projects that trigger Category A environmental assessment should consult with project-affected persons and local nongovernmental organizations at least twice – (1) shortly after environmental screening and before the terms of reference for the EA are finalized; and (2) once a draft EA report is prepared and disclosed to the public.

The Project must also disclose relevant Project material prior to consultation and in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to the groups being consulted. For Category A Project this will include a briefing document and the disclosure of the environmental assessment will be made available at a public place accessible to stakeholders.

## **5.6 NATURAL HABITATS (OP4.04)**

The World Bank OP4.04 policy supported the conservation of natural habitats as an essential element in long-term sustainable development. The Bank supports the protection and rehabilitation of natural habitats and their ecological functions in its project financing, expecting borrowers to apply the precautionary approach to natural resource management.

The Bank favors, wherever feasible, projects sited on lands already converted (excluding any lands that in the Bank's opinion were converted in anticipation of the project). The significant conversion of natural habitats is not supported unless there are no feasible alternatives and comprehensive analysis demonstrates the overall benefits from the project substantially outweigh the environmental costs and would need to include mitigation measures acceptable to the Bank. When there are potential adverse impacts on a natural habitat, the Bank considers the borrower's ability to implement the appropriate conservation and mitigation measures. Where potential institutional capacity is absent this will be developed through the project to ensure effective environmental planning and management. Appropriate environmental expertise would be included in projects with natural habitat, project preparation, appraisal and supervision arrangements to ensure adequate design and implementation of mitigation measures.

Borrowers are encouraged to incorporate analyses of any major natural habitat issues, including identification of important natural habitat sites, the ecological functions that perform, the degree of threat to the sites, priorities for conservation and associated recurrent-funding and capacity-building needs into their development and environmental strategies. The views, roles and rights of groups, including local nongovernmental organizations and local communities should be taken into account through the project implementation.

The Project will be implemented in rural areas. This type of environment concentrates various fauna and flora, whose natural habitat could potentially be affected by the Project's activities mainly with the construction of IAFPs and other infrastructure. No specific safeguard instrument is required, and this issue will be considered as part of the ESMF.

## **5.7 PHYSICAL CULTURAL RESOURCES (OP4.11)**

The World Bank BP/OP 4.11 establishes the standards and requirements to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts on physical cultural resources. Such resources include movable or immovable objects, sites, structures, groups of structures, and natural features and landscapes that have archaeological, paleontological, historical, architectural, religious, aesthetic, or other cultural significance.

Under this Policy, the potential impacts on cultural resources will be assessed in detail as part of the environmental assessment process. This includes screening, developing terms of reference, collecting baseline data; impact assessment; and formulating mitigating measures and a management plan specifically concerning cultural resources. Where impacts are found to occur, a physical cultural resources management plan will be prepared.

The Policy requires that engagement will be promoted (normally part of the public consultations required in the EA process) with relevant project-affected groups, concerned government authorities, and relevant nongovernmental organizations in documenting the

presence and significance of physical cultural resources, assessing potential impacts, and exploring avoidance and mitigation options.

It still needs to be determined if this policy is triggered by the Project, however the activities supported by the proposed Project, such as the construction of the IAFPs and storage/warehouse facilities will unquestionably involve excavations with a possibility of encountering physical cultural resources. The triggering of this policy does not entail the preparation of a specific safeguard instrument, but the ESMF will include guidance and measures to ensure that physical cultural resources are preserved, in line with the Law on the Preservation of Afghanistan's Historical and Cultural Heritages and the WB's OP 4.11 on Physical Cultural Resources.

## **5.8 REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE**

In line with World Bank requirements the ESMF will be disclosed on the MAIL and MoIC websites and on the World Bank's external web site. The final version will be publicly disclosed through the Bank's Infoshop with the Executive Summary submitted to the WB Board of Directors prior to project appraisal.

## **5.9 WORLD BANK GROUP ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has a set of standards to manage environmental and social risks and impacts and to enhance development opportunities in its private sector financing. The sub-projects may be required to comply with the IFC Performance Standards (IFC, 2012) and will be subject to the IFC Environment, Health and Safety Guidelines (IFC, 2007).

World Bank Group Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines (IFC, 2007) are applied to Bank funded projects. These Guidelines are technical reference documents with general and industry-specific examples of Good International Industry Practice (GIIP)<sup>7</sup>. The General EHS Guidelines are designed to be used together with the relevant Industry Sector EHS Guidelines. There may be a need to use more than one industry-sector guideline for this Project due to the diversity of activities and this needs to be checked each time.

The Guidelines specify performance levels and measures considered achievable by new facilities using existing technologies at a reasonable cost. Their applicability depends on the hazards and risks for each project as established by an environmental and social assessment and should be considered in the light of country context, assimilative capacity of the environment and other project factors. When host country regulations differ from the levels and measures presented in the EHS Guidelines, projects are expected to achieve whichever is more stringent. If less stringent levels or measures are adopted these need to be justified.

The topics covered by the General EHS Guidelines (2007) include environmental, occupational health and safety, community health and safety and construction and decommissioning. It is

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<sup>7</sup> Defined as the exercise of professional skill, diligence, prudence and foresight that would be reasonably expected from skilled and experienced professionals engaged in the same type of undertaking under the same or similar circumstances globally. The circumstances that skilled and experienced professionals may find when evaluating the range of pollution prevention and control techniques available to a project may include, but are not limited to, varying levels of environmental degradation and environmental assimilative capacity as well as varying levels of financial and technical feasibility.

obligatory to apply the general and sector specific WB EHS guidelines and these can be accessed from the following website:

*[https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics\\_ext\\_content/ifc\\_external\\_corporate\\_site/sustainability-at-ifc/policies-standards/ehs-guidelines](https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/sustainability-at-ifc/policies-standards/ehs-guidelines)*

The national EHS requirements in terms of the country's Labour Law are outlined in Section 6.1.6 of this ESMF and it is mandatory that these are applied to all sub project activities. Where different standards exist, in all cases the most stringent standard will be applied.

## 6 LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT

### 6.1 LEGAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Afghanistan is an Islamic republic, governed by Shari'a law. Afghanistan's current hierarchy of statutory laws, which as a body of law is subordinate to Shari'a, sees the Constitution as the supreme law of the land which provides a framework to all legislation in the country. Customary law, which is often applied in regard to access to, and use of, land and the natural resources on it, is considered as long as it does not conflict with Shari'a or statutory law.

#### 6.1.1 *The Constitution of Afghanistan*

The *Constitution* (promulgated in 2004) establishes an obligation to create a society based on social justice, preservation of human dignity, protection of human rights, realization of democracy, attainment of national unity as well as equality between all peoples and tribes. It protects subterranean resources (including historical relics) and enforces the fundamental principles of polluter pays, intergenerational equity, sustainable development and preventative measures in order to safeguard the environment. It also decrees that international treaties and conventions should be adhered to.

#### 6.1.2 *Development Agenda*

Afghanistan has developed a five-year strategic plan known as the *Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF)* for the period 2017 to 2021, which aims to achieve self-reliance and improve human welfare. The main thrust of the ANPDF is to change the structure of the economy from one of import and distribution to a one with a thriving private sector successfully exporting regionally and globally. Development priorities include private sector investment (Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's) and Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPs)) and a plan for the development of the agricultural sector. With a credible and coherent fiscal strategy as a base, the ANPDF aims to increase foreign investment, enable farmers and agribusiness opportunities, expand employment in the agricultural sector (enhancing the role of women), increase food security and stimulate growth.

The *Afghanistan Agribusiness Charter*, published in 2018, is an inter-ministerial agreement to develop a competitive agribusiness sub-sector. The aim is to link producers to markets, supply higher-value products locally, regionally and globally thereby increasing incomes of producers and forming the base for industrialization and entrepreneurship in rural and urban areas. The Charter is accountable to the High Economic Council and the Ministry of Finance (MoF) has established an Agricultural Taskforce to guide four strategic interventions in the agribusiness sub-sector – policy and regulation, agri-spatial solutions (including IAFPs, RTHs and FCCs), access to finance and institutional strengthening. A strategy and action plan from 2019 to 2023 focusses on the provinces of Mazar, Sharif, Kandahar, Kabul, Herat, and Nangarhar initially due to their competitive advantages and on the priority value chains of horticulture (dried fruits and nuts and F&V (for export and domestic markets)), livestock (poultry, eggs and dairy (for import substitution)), and others depending on market opportunities.

The critical role of women in agriculture is recognized in the *National Strategy on Women in Agriculture (2015-2020)* which establishes an inextricable link between gender equality, poverty alleviation, food security and inclusive growth. The goal is to empower women

involved in agricultural activities and acknowledge their valuable contribution by assisting them to become agents of economic change. The strategy reinforces MAIL's leadership in promoting women's empowerment in agriculture and provides for support (technical and other) and institutional strengthening

### **6.1.3 Environmental and Natural Resources Laws**

A *National Environmental Impact Assessment Policy* was promulgated in 2018 in support of the protection of the environment and community well-being. This policy reinforces the objectives of considering environmental and social issues in development decision-making processes, avoiding adverse significant biophysical, social and other relevant effects of projects, protecting natural systems, providing opportunities for public participation, and promoting development that is sustainable. It undertakes to develop government capacity and instructs the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) to implement ESIA's.

The *Environmental Law* published in 2007 established that NEPA is responsible for coordinating and monitoring, conservation and rehabilitation of the environment. It supports the fundamental principles of respect for the environment, environmental protection and conservation, respect for human rights, sustainability, limiting adverse effects, involvement of local communities in decision making, access to information, duty of care and co-operation on regional and cross-boundary issues. The NEPA is instructed to integrate and coordinate environmental issues between various line agencies that share environmental management responsibility such as MAIL, Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW), Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Ministry of Urban Development and Land (MUDL), MoIC and MoF. The management of the national biodiversity strategy, protected areas and rangelands with their associated activities fall under this law as well as a consideration of water resource management. Licenses for pollution control, waste management, hazardous waste management storage of petroleum products, construction of septic tanks and drainage, discharge of animal waste, use of materials which damage the ozone layer are required.

The Environmental Law provides for an environmental permit to be obtained for any project, plan, policy or activity prior to implementation and provides NEPA with the authority to issue a Certificate of Compliance (CoC) subject to a decision by an ESIA Special Committee. An environmental and social assessment with a comprehensive mitigation plan is required in order to grant any permit. The administrative guidelines for an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) were established in 2008 with the publication of the *Regulation on Evaluation of Environmental and Social Impacts* and updated in 2017. The ESIA regulations apply to all activities listed in Annex 1 of the regulation (Category 1 requiring an ESIA study and Category II requiring an Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) study); for activities not listed but deemed by NEPA to have potential adverse impacts on the environment and are identified as sensitive; and any other activity not included in Annex 1 of the EISA regulations but NEPA determines how they affect the environment. The regulation outlines the procedure for environmental assessment which includes a screening stage to assign the category of project, an assessment stage together with public participation and a monitoring and auditing stage. As the project is designated a Category A Project by WB all projects will be considered Category 1 projects in the terms of this legislation. A CoC can be issued with or without conditions, referred for further information or refused with written reasons. Once granted permission the proponent must implement the project/activity within three years and notify

NEPA on commencement of the project/activity, and at the end of the construction phase. Annual reports must be submitted to NEPA who must be allowed to audit the project/activity.

Closely aligned with the environmental law, the *Water Law* promulgated in 2009 enforces integrated water resource management and development for the conservation, equitable distribution, and the efficient and sustainable use of water resources, secures the rights of water users. The management of water resources falls under the responsibility of MEW in co-operation with NEPA, MAIL and MUDL, amongst others. A water use license or activity permit is necessary for surface and ground water use in newly established development projects, disposal of waste water and/or drainage water into water resource, use for commercial and industrial purposes, digging and installation of shallow and deep wells for commercial, agricultural and industrial purposes and construction of structures that encroach on streams, wetlands and springs. Water management and water quality standards (published in 2011) must be applied – these are established by multiple ministries and bodies (such as the River Basin agencies).

#### **6.1.4 Land Use**

The *National Land Policy*, published in 2018, is designed to address land management, land administration and human rights. It aims to provide every Afghan access to land; promote and ensure a secure land tenure system; encourage the optimal and sustainable use of land resources; establish an efficient system of land administration and management; ensure that land markets are efficient, equitable, environmentally sound and sustainable to improve productivity and alleviate poverty; and ensure trust in land administration and land management. MUDL is the custodian of state land. A land management system will be set up to manage land as a national resource with clearly defined, enforceable and transferable property rights to promote economic growth through the participation of the private sector and protect the security of tenure of rightful land users (and their heirs). Land tenure is classified into state land (urban or rural land recorded in the name of the State and managed by appropriate Government authority); public Land (urban and rural land allotted for specified public use); community land (any land or pastureland lawfully or customarily held, managed and used by a specific community); and private land (land owned by a private person or group of private persons - usufruct, leasehold and communal). It enforces expropriation of property rights only under defined legal procedures and for defined legal purposes with compulsory acquisition the right of the Government only. Customary documentation and legitimate traditional property rights are recognized. A resettlement policy or guidelines will promote timely, transparent and accountable resettlement practices.

The *Land Management Law* published in 2018 underpin the intent of the National Land Policy and establishes a mandate for the Afghan Independent Land Authority (in June 2013 Arazi was established as a separate agency with the mandate on land administration and management) to be responsible for implementing its provisions. The law establishes the measures and means for determining the ownership of land and property including requirements for legally valid documents, as well as possession of land without such documentation. It also provides rules for cadaster survey of any land as well as procedures for land clearances to resolve land disputes, clarify land ownerships before land can be expropriated. The loss of land ownership in the past is recognized and provisions made for the restitution of land and eligibility for land distribution and allocation.

The allied *Land Acquisition Law*, also published in 2018, addresses the process of expropriation; the responsibilities of the expropriating authority and the owner, the affected person and the MUDL office; the constitution of the evaluation committee; valuation of expropriated properties; appraisal for compensation; payment of rent; and the types of expropriation. For resettlement outside the scope of a masterplan a resettlement committee is created to determine the owners and affected parties, the location of the resettlement project, and implementation of the resettlement plan.

#### **6.1.5 Historical and Cultural Resources**

The *Law on the Protection of Historical and Cultural Properties* of 2004 recognizes that the historical and cultural resources of Afghanistan belong to the people of Afghanistan and it is the duty of the State and the people of Afghanistan to protect such resources. The law applies to situations where such resources are lost or impacted from infrastructure development.

Historical and cultural properties will be determined by the Archaeological Committee under the Ministry of Information and Culture and include (1) any product of mankind, movable or immovable, which has an outstanding historical, scientific, artistic and cultural value and is at least one hundred years old, or (2) the objects which are less than one hundred years old, but which, because of their scientific, artistic and cultural value, should be recognized as worthy of being protected. If a government or private agency (while undertaking construction, expansion or improvement projects) comes across historical and cultural properties, they are bound to stop their work and inform the Institute of Archaeology. Construction will be suspended until a solution is found to protect the cultural property. The right of excavation for the discovery of historical and cultural properties is limited to the Institute of Archaeology. No other government administrations, private organizations or private persons have the right to excavate unless they have been issued a permit by the Institute of Archaeology. If an owner wants to build or to modify a building on his/her property that supports cultural property, prior permission must be obtained from the Department for Protection and Rehabilitation of Historical Monuments

#### **6.1.6 Occupational Health and Safety**

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) in the Workplace is addressed in Chapter Ten of the *Labor Law* of 2016 – Provision of Health and Occupational Safety Conditions – administered by the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD).

Organizations are responsible for ensuring hygienic and safe working conditions, utilization of safety instruments in order to prevent any accident related to work and production and ensuring hygiene in order to prevent occupational diseases. During construction organizations must provide and ensure OHS conditions and safe technical equipment in order to prevent accidents due to work and production and bring about health conditions as a means of protection against occupational diseases. They must build and equip rooms, buildings and areas for employees according to safety rules and standards and environmental hygiene conditions. New buildings and organizations are only allowed to be put into operation after agreement from the Departments of Technical Monitoring and Hygienic Environment.

Standards and criteria for maintenance, safety techniques, hygiene and production are regulated by MoLSAMD and MoPH in cooperation with the employer. The person in charge of the organization is obliged to give continuous training to employees about safety, health,

first-aid service and firefighting rules and techniques, as well as other employee protection rules. For their part, employees are obliged to observe the rules and standards of work protection and the safety techniques, rules for utilization of equipment, protection instructions, and to use individual protective equipment while working.

Other pertinent requirements of the Law:

- Where the work carried out is under conditions harmful to health or under high temperature or refrigeration or where there is the likelihood of contamination of employees, special clothes and footwear, masks, safety glasses, gloves and other protective devices as well as preventive and curative remedies must be provided to employees free of charge. The organization is responsible for supplying, maintenance, cleaning, sterilization, drying and repair of special working clothes and other protective equipment.
- Those employees who are engaged in types of work carried out under conditions that are harmful to health and drive vehicles on a continuous basis must undergo periodic health and medical examinations to ensure they are medically fit to do the work safely.
- Employees and personnel in food material industries, public catering, purchase and selling of food materials, as well as water supply installations, preventive and curative institutes, organizations concerned with children and organizations concerned with public works must undergo medical examinations as set by the MoPH and MoLSAMD.
- In the event of work-related accidents and diseases, the organization is obliged to provide medical first aid; transfer affected employees to medical centers and provide treatment; transfer the employee to his/her residence as he/she recovers from illness. If the treatment of the employee is not possible inside the country, the organization must send him/her to one of the foreign countries for the purpose of treatment. The financial expenses of the employee and of accompanying person, including their round-trip expenditures must be ensured from the organization's budget.
- The organization shall establish fixed and mobile centers to carry out medical examinations and provide first aid services to the employees and their family members.
- If the employee's status of health requires that he/she should be engaged in lighter work, then based on a medical certificate, the organization, subject to the employee's consent, will temporarily or permanently assign him/her lighter works.
- The organization has the responsibility to provide jobs for the employees who have become disabled while performing their jobs, after their disability is confirmed.
- The person in charge of the organization is duty bound to investigate and statistically assess the unexpected incidents in work and production, analyze and evaluate the causal factors and provide one copy of the report within three days to the MoLSAMD and one copy to the employee. The organization has to compensate any medical damage sustained by the employee in the course of work.

### **6.1.7 Pesticides**

The *Pesticide Law* was promulgated in 2015 and calls for environmentally sound management of pests and pesticides and is aimed at ensuring the orderly use of pesticides. However, the Pesticide Regulation is still pending, without which the law cannot be properly implemented as yet. When the regulation is passed both the Pesticide Law and the Regulation will provide for a legal framework to establish codes of conduct for all public and private entities engaged

in, or associated with the production, handling, distribution and use of pesticides. MAIL is the responsible department for the implementation of this law in charge of all aspects of the life cycle of pesticides, including but not limited to the registration, import, manufacture, distribution, packaging, labeling, sale, transportation, storage and use of pesticides, related research, extension services, awareness campaigns, educational curricula, as well as post-registration activities such as marketing, training, licensing, recycling, and disposal.

A Pesticide Committee, composed of the members of relevant ministries and technical specialists, will resolve disputes, decide on registration, finalize list of approved or prohibited pesticides, decide on maximum limit of residue concentration in pesticide, select location for store and use of pesticide and ensure good management practices in agriculture. Activities such as the production, import, export, transportation, storage, sale and distribution of pesticides require a permit.

**6.2 ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONVENTIONS AND PROTOCOLS**

International conventions, treaties, pacts or covenants are international agreements concluded between states in written form and governed by international law. Even if the Government of Afghanistan signs and agrees to be bound by an international agreement the convention is not binding by law unless legislation is passed to make it so. The Government has signed and/or ratified several conventions that are relevant to the Project as listed in **Box 2**.

**Box 2: List of Relevant International Commitments**

<p><b>1. Conventions and Treaties (Entry into Force Date)</b></p> <p><b>1. General</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) (2012)</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Agriculture and Food Security</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2013)</li> <li>○ Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (2013)</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Environmental and Water</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) (2002)</li> <li>○ Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2013)</li> <li>○ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (2002)</li> <li>○ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (2002)</li> <li>○ Paris Agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2017)</li> <li>○ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (1986)</li> <li>○ Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) (2013)</li> <li>○ Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2012)</li> <li>○ Vienna Convention for Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna Convention) (2004)</li> <li>○ Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances (Montreal Protocol) (2004)</li> <li>○ Basel Convention for the Control of Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal (Basel Convention) (2013)</li> <li>○ Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity (1995)</li> <li>○ Minamata Convention on Mercury (2017)</li> </ul>
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The International Labor Organization (ILO) has developed a system of international labor standards covering all matters related to work to ensure that economic progress would go hand in hand with social justice, prosperity and peace for all. International labor standards were developed to provide a global system of instruments on labor and social policy, backed up by a system of supervision to address all the types of problems arising in their application at the national level (ILO, 2019). These standards support and supplement the World Bank Group EHS Guidelines. Afghanistan is signatory to a number of ILO conventions, and so has an obligation to meet the requirements of the relevant ILO Standards on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) in the Workplace which is a multi-disciplinary field covering all aspects of the economic sector.

### 6.3 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Ministries and Agencies directly involved in the Project are described further in Chapter 13 with a summary of their involvement here:

- *The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL)*. This ministry is working on the development and modernization of agriculture, livestock and horticulture. Its aim is to improve agriculture and increase yields and crop farming. It is involved in programs in agriculture, livestock and horticulture in order to support the farmers, manage natural resources, and strengthen agricultural economics. These programs include the promotion and introduction of higher-value economic crops, strengthening traditional products, identifying and publishing farm-tailored land technologies, boosting cooperative programs, agricultural economics, and export with marketing.

This ministry has a large presence in the provincial centers with an agricultural directorate in each province and an agricultural affairs department in each district. MAIL is the joint lead Implementing Agent for the OMAID Project together with MoIC and CRIDA, being directly responsible for the FCCs and RTHs.

- *Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC)*. With its mission to *encourage growth through the development of appropriate policies and regulations, and the facilitation of private sector production and trade*, MoIC is the joint Implementing Agent with MAIL for this Project. Within MoIC, the IPGD is responsible for development and management of Industrial Parks across Afghanistan, while the PMU will be structured under IPGD to implement the OMAID Project and supervise the services/goods provided by contractors.
- *National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)*. NEPA's is the overall environmental regulatory, policymaking, coordination, monitoring and enforcement institution, with line ministries responsible for actual management of environmental resources. NEPA is the decision-making authority for ESIA's and other environmental and social assessments that will be needed for the authorisation of the Project sub-projects.
- *Central Region Development Authority (CRIDA)*. CRIDA will work closely with MoIC and the IPDG to oversee the roll-out of the Barikab Agriculture Industrial Park. CRIDA is responsible for the development of economic zones, among other things, in the Kabul region.

## 7 ESMF GUIDING PRINCIPLES

This chapter establishes the guiding environmental and social principles that form the ethical basis for the planning and implementation of this ESMF. These principles have been established based on the Constitution of Afghanistan, relevant national legislation and World Bank safeguard policies.

- **Principle 1:** The Project will ensure that it promotes sustainable development and a sound living environment for the people of Afghanistan, via the protection of the natural environment and living conditions.
- **Principle 2:** The Project will observe the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and ensure all project activities actively protect human liberty and dignity as an inviolable right, and avoid all forms of discrimination, oppressions or gender-based violence.
- **Principle 3:** The Project will identify and assess all environmental and social risks associated with the Project, and establish reasonable measures to avoid, mitigate or compensate / offset these risks.
- **Principle 4:** The Project will manage all environmental and social risks for the life of the Project (throughout planning, construction, operations and closure), and ensure there is sufficient capacity, personnel, resourcing and funding.
- **Principle 5:** The Project will promote stakeholder engagement and information disclosure under the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Participation. This will include the inclusion of vulnerable or marginalized people.
- **Principle 6:** The Project will safeguard the occupational health and safety of workers during the life of the Project, as well as protecting the health, safety and security of local communities that interact with the Project.
- **Principle 7:** The Project will promote the sustainable use of resources, including energy, water and raw materials across all operational activities, as well as ensuring the protection and conservation of biodiversity.
- **Principle 8:** The Project will avoid or minimize physical or economic displacement of people linked to compulsory land acquisition or expropriation, and promote the restoration of living conditions, livelihoods and income sources.
- **Principle 9:** The Project will ensure the participation and safeguarding of all vulnerable people including the elderly, women, persons with disabilities, orphan households and indigenous ethnic minorities.
- **Principle 10:** The Project will ensure the protection and safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage as well as unique cultural practices that allow people to express their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions.

## 8 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CONCERNS OF TARGETED AREAS

The UNEP Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment (2003) and the National Environmental Action Plan (2009) describe the environmental issues facing Afghanistan. These are still relevant today. The key environmental and social issues facing the country and of relevance to the provinces and IAFP sites considered by this Project:

- **Air** – Air pollution is a serious problem in urban areas of the Project. In Kabul elevated concentrations of particulates, nitrous oxides and sulfur dioxide have been measured, which result in increased respiratory diseases and asthma as well as increased mortality. In the other centers high concentrations of polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) have been detected. It is estimated that 60 percent of the population of Kabul is exposed to these risks. Throughout the country, the use of fossil fuels, or other materials such as packaging, rapidly increasing vehicles numbers, unpaved roads and the use of low-quality fuels in factories and other plants, has resulted in high levels of emission of toxic gases and particulates. These conditions are pertinent to the built-up urban areas (Kabul, Jalalabad, Maza-e-sharif, Kandahar, Herat) and industrial zones (IAFPs, RTHs and FCCs) where sub-project could be planned. National Ambient Air Quality Standards were published in 2011 but there is a low level of compliance.
- **Water** – Water is the country's most critical natural resource and the key to the health and wellbeing of the population. An arid climate and poor distribution of water from areas of storage (such as, the snow and glaciers of the Hindu Kush) exacerbate the issue. In urban areas water pollution from untreated effluent and poor waste practices is a major concern. Access to safe drinking water is limited although water quality standards have been published. All five provinces are equally affected by this issue. Climate change is impacting the water cycle and availability of water resources with recurring drought and temperature rise and evaporation/ evapotranspiration increases not compensated by an increase in rainfall. Depletion of wetlands is a concern. The Helmand basin which provides has a large proportion of the country's irrigated areas with sensitive riverine zones that are needed to protect this resource and the downstream waterbodies. A growing population will place demands on the system which could affect its resilience. This is of particular concern in the semi-arid provinces of Nangarhar and Kandahar, but affects the whole country where drought has resulted in a drop in the ground water table and the sustainability of ground water resources is not always well understood.
- **Rangelands, Forests and Land** – The over-exploitation and illegal use of these resources has led to their rapid destruction and loss, as well as contributing to increased soil erosion. Competing land uses and the ambiguous legal status of ownership and access to natural resources has led to conflict and their exploitation. Desertification, overgrazing and the conversion of land, has increased the pressure on this resource, with the use of agrochemicals, overgrazing and unsustainable practices causing the problem to intensify. These issues apply to all provinces targeted for the Project but are particularly acute in Kandahar and Herat which have the largest rangeland area. In Herat the pistachio woodlands are being lost due to extensive deforestation, although Nangarhar has also suffered a major decrease in forests.

- **Biodiversity** – Much of the country’s biodiversity is under threat due a combination of security and poverty, environmental strain, climate change and drought. Forests and woodlands are prime habitat for many species their destruction threatens these species. Protected areas have been developed but the Project zones are located far from these. Agriculture and agricultural biodiversity are key to the conservation of biodiversity.
- **Waste management** – Rapid population growth and urbanization have added to the stress on the country’s already inadequate waste management system. The separation of hazardous, medical, industrial, household and inert waste is poor, collection, screening and transport of waste is not uniform and well managed sanitary landfills do not exist, with health risks through uncontrolled access of scavengers and informal waste pickers to waste sites. The major cities do not have facilities for the treatment of hazardous waste and in Kabul, where waste removal does not keep up with generation, the waste incinerators were closed down due to air pollution (Hameedullah, 2017). Cross contamination of water sources with waste effluent occurs. The GoIRA has developed a solid waste management policy but local government lacks the facilities and equipment to undertake this service to an adequate standard. It is likely the five cities targeted for this Project will have similar issues with waste management. The need for properly designed and operated waste facilities (from collection, treatment, reuse to ultimate disposal) for hazardous waste, as well as general waste, is urgent, particularly if development occurs in the country as is planned, with the various interventions being undertaken (for example the OMAID Project).
- **Wastewater** – The country’s urban areas have poor levels of sanitation with limited wastewater collection and cross-contamination with coliform bacteria posing a considerable risk to public health. Open sewers exist in all urban areas allowing general access and use, although some collection and treatment occurs and septic tanks provide an alternative. Kabul and Herat have some localized wastewater treatment but centralized sewer networks need to be developed.
- **Living Conditions** – The living conditions of households in the target areas may be highly variable depending on their location, the rural/urban divide as well as household wealth. The majority of households in Afghanistan are dominated by traditional mud structures and highly variable levels of basic services. Investment in housing is often limited by conflict, internal displacement and the lack of any real economic opportunities.
- **Lack of Security of Tenure** – Tenure rights to land is complex in Afghanistan, with rights contained under a dual system of formal title and customary rights to state, public or private land. The complexity of such arrangement is exacerbated by conflict, internal displacement and migration of nearly 2,500,000 refugees that have resulted in loss of land records, settlement of people on unregistered land and substantive lack of land tenure security.
- **Limited Livelihoods and Lack of Employment** – Small-scale agriculture functions as the economic foundation for much of Afghanistan, and support supports 44% of all employment. Outside of wage labour and informal trade and services in the urban

area, there is little diversity of livelihoods or economic opportunities, notably in rural areas.

- **Security, Conflict and Internally Displaced Persons** – Internal migration within Afghanistan is highly complex, and include internal and cross-border movements, permanent, seasonal and circularly migration, driven by economic, cultural and political factors. This movement is exacerbated by protracted refugee movement and large-scale internal displacement with estimates that 2,598,000 people have been internally displaced in Afghanistan as of December 2018 – or approximately 7% of Afghanistan population.
- **Vulnerable People, Gender and Gender Based Violence** – Vulnerable People is a term given to individuals, households, or groups of people that are isolated from broader society or are limited in their ability to improve their living conditions and livelihoods based on their gender, ethnicity, age, physical or mental disability, economic disadvantage, or social status within their community. This may include the elderly, orphans, refugees, persons with no rights to land and assets, internally displaced people, persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities.

Women in particular are deemed vulnerable and exposed to gender-based violence. Gender inequality and discriminatory practices are systemic and indigenous cultural practices, entrenched tribal traditions and interpretations of the Shari'a law continue to limit women's rights and gender-based violence is pervasive throughout Afghanistan.

- **Cultural Aspects** – Afghanistan has an incredibly rich historical background and is generally recognized as a multi-cultural cradle of Central Asia. This has resulted in the presence of monuments, ruins, cultural sites local architecture, and a plethora of archaeological sites scattered throughout the country. Conflict and political instability in Afghanistan have eroded the protection and conservation of historical heritage and artefacts. The establishment of the Project-supported IAFPs, FCCs and RTHs may pose of risk to cultural or historical resources from the clearing of land and the destruction of known or unknown heritage.

## 9 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Potential environmental and social impacts will be associated with Project infrastructure development activities, as well as the range of benefits should be provided. Where negative impacts are possible, broad mitigation measures are provided to address potential negative impacts. The Project infrastructure may result in a range of environmental and social impacts or benefits.

The likely locations of the IAFPs are known, however the exact components or businesses that will be established in the parks is not presently identified. In addition, the location and components of the FCCs and RTHs is yet to be established. As such, it is not possible to definitively determine which environmental and social impacts may occur. Further details of the district location and social-biophysical environment of the sub-projects is needed to inform the potential impacts. The environmental and social impacts presented here, therefore, is a generic profile of impacts that may occur and assigns “probabilities” to each impact. This is broken into the following categories:

1. **Unlikely:** The environmental and social impact is unlikely to occur or will only happen in extremely rare conditions or in unique environments.
2. **Possible:** The environmental and social impact may possibly occur, however the overall probability of the impact occurring is low.
3. **Probable:** The environmental and social impact will more than likely happen; however, it will be determined by the Project infrastructure and the local environment.
4. **Definite:** The environmental and social impact will definitely occur irrespective of the Project infrastructure or the unique characteristics of the local environment.

The nature of the impacts has also been assessed. With little information on the Project type or location, the nature is simply defined as being either a negative impact (a change that reduces the quality of the environment, such as lessening species diversity, damaging health or property or causing nuisance or positive benefit (a change which improves the quality of the environment, such as providing amenities and opportunities for improvement, or improving the condition of a habitat)).

The combination of the nature of the impact and the probability of it occurring is used to determine the overall Project risks or benefits. The Project risks or benefits are categorized into:

1. **Negligible Risk / Benefit:** The impact or benefits will be negligible or there are effectively non-existent risks to the Project or to the local natural or social environment.
2. **Low Risk / Benefit:** The impact or benefits are of low significance or where present there will be minimal risks to the Project or to the local natural or social environment.
3. **Medium Risk / Benefit:** The impact or benefits are of moderate significance, and there will be a material risk or substantial benefit to the local natural or social environment.
4. **High Risk / Benefit:** Impacts will be a significant Project risk and may require special intervention to avoid substantial negative impacts on the local natural or social environment. Inversely, the Project may promote high benefits via the development of supporting infrastructure.

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) impacts and risk management are included in this discussion with further detail in Annexure C where the hazards that the workers and the community could be exposed to in the development of the sub projects are identified. These hazards are spread over the entire life cycle of the construction phase, from mobilization, the construction of contractors' temporary facilities, ground preparation, construction, commissioning and de-mobilization to generic hazards present at the operational phase of the sub projects. OHS in agriculture and in food processing operations are highlighted and an outline of an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan given.

### 9.1 POTENTIAL POSITIVE IMPACTS

The Project and associated sub-projects are designed to provide a range of benefits to the citizens of Afghanistan. The Project may promote high benefits via the development of supporting infrastructure and services.

The expected positive impacts are expected to definitely occur and include, amongst others:

- *Market/Trade Links* – Linking the primary producers with processing facilities and to local and international markets is one of the main Project objectives. The establishment of sub-project infrastructure will improve accessibility / market trade links with beneficiary farmers. This will introduce modern technology and improve economic growth.
- *Improved Access to Input Support and Extension Services* – The primary objective is to improve the legislative, institutional, financial, fiduciary and technical framework to generate a pipeline of bankable projects. Local farmers will benefit from improved access to input support and extension services where they are provided as part of the sub-project infrastructure.
- *Promoting SMME Business Development* – An improved framework will provide a foundation for to increase private investment. The sub-project infrastructure will be established to promote private SMME development, which includes co-financing grants. This will provide alternative funding for much needed infrastructure and value-added development.
- *Promoting Local Employment* - The Project will support further development thus increasing employment opportunities. Private SMME development will likely require a local workforce for the operational life of the businesses.
- *Promoting Local Content* - The Project will require the procurement of goods and services during the construction phase, and private businesses will require procurement of goods and services during their operational life.
- *Improved Representation of Women* - The Project makes provision for supporting women via capacity development, access to business development services, hand-holding and infrastructural support.

Other environmental benefits could be enhanced environmental capacity, increased availability of resources for environmental management, improved public safety from better management of resources and more efficient use of national resources.

## 9.2 POTENTIALLY ADVERSE IMPACTS

The Project and associated sub-projects may result in a range of negative environmental and social impacts or risks. The probably of these impacts occurring and their significance described here.

### 9.2.1 Low Risk

The impacts that are of low significance or, where present there will be minimal risks to the Project or to the local bio-physical and/or social environment are described here with the probability of their occurrence.

#### Unlikely

- *Indigenous and Nomadic People* - The restriction of access to or through land may impact on local indigenous peoples as well as nomadic people that may occupy or utilize this land.

#### Possible

- *Community Health (Odor)* - During the operation phase odor could be emitted from the processes and the storage/ use of waste materials.
- *Loss of a resource (vegetation, soils and land-use)* - The development of facilities and access/ services (such as roads, power, communication) may result in the loss of land-use and soils. Clearing during construction and inadequate management, rehabilitation and revegetation could cause in soil loss and erosion during construction and operation.
- *Traffic Safety* - The establishment of physical infrastructure will introduce construction and operational industrial traffic, that may pose safety risks to commuter and pedestrian traffic.
- *Restriction of Mobility and Public Thoroughfares* - The restriction of access to the sub-project footprint may result in the loss of public roads, informal paths or footpaths thus impeding public mobility through the Project site.
- *Labor Influx* - The establishment of the sub-project will require a construction and operational workforce. This demand may induce labor influx into areas neighboring the sub-project infrastructure, where no measures are put in place to support non-local employees.
- *Pressure on Basic Services and Public Infrastructure* - Labor influx and industrial requirements may place additional pressures on existing public utilities, services and facilities where none is provided directly by the sub-project.

- *Radiological Hazards* - Radiation exposure can lead to potential discomfort, injury or serious illness to workers. Exposure to ionizing and non-ionizing radiation should be controlled to internationally recommended limits.

### Probable

- *Community Health (Air Emissions)* - In the construction phase, dust could be generated by site clearing and landscaping, vehicular movements/ emissions and stockpiles; whilst at the operation phase, emissions may include exhaust fumes from transport trucks, dust generated from transport to and from the centers, and releases from the processes.
- *Community and Environmental Health (Biological Waste)* - During the operation phase, biological/organic waste will be generated by the IAFPs, FCCs and RTHs. The ineffectiveness of the local waste management system should be considered in all mitigation and management of hazardous and general waste.
- *Surface Water Supply* - Surface water is mostly seasonal and as such is not considered as a suitable water source.
- *Surface Water Contamination* - Contamination of surface water may occur during construction of the sub-project sites, as well as during operation of the sites. Flooding is expected at three of the IAFPs (Kandahar, Herat and Hissar-e-Shahi (Nangarhar)).
- *Loss of Access to Communal Natural Resources* - The establishment of physical infrastructure may require the clearing of land that supports natural resources (natural vegetation, water sources etc.) that is communally used.

### Definite

- None

## 9.2.2 Medium Risk

The impacts that are of moderate significance and there will be a material risk or substantial benefit to the Project and/or local natural or social environment are described here.

### Unlikely

- None

### Possible

- *Loss of Tangible Cultural Heritage* - The establishment of physical infrastructure may result in the destruction of features of cultural, historical or archaeological value if they are located within the Project footprint.
- *Loss of Intangible Cultural Heritage* - The restriction of access to the Project footprint may result in the loss of sites of cultural importance (sacred sites) or sites that are used for religious / cultural ceremonies.

- *Biological H&S Hazards* – Biological agents represent potential for illness or injury due to a single acute exposure or chronic repetitive exposure. Exposure can occur from the products being handled in the processes. These agents are classified into four groups:
  - Group 1: Biological agents unlikely to cause human disease
  - Group 2: Biological agents that can cause human disease
  - Group 3: Biological agents that can cause severe human disease,
  - Group 4: Biological agents that can cause severe human diseaseGroup 3 and 4 biological agents present a risk of spreading to the community are thus require extraordinary protective measures.

### **Probable**

- *Community and Environmental Health (Hazardous and General Waste)* - During the construction phase, the sites will generate general and construction waste and during the operation phase, IAFPs, FCCs and RTHs will need to manage general, and hazardous waste (chemicals and fertilizers etc.). The ineffectiveness of the local waste management system should be considered in all mitigation and management of hazardous and general waste.
- *Community and Environmental Health (Groundwater)* - During the construction phase, groundwater may be required for construction of the facilities. During the operation phase, groundwater may also be required for the ongoing day to day operation of the facilities. This volume has not yet been quantified. The sustainability of the system supplying the groundwater should not be compromised and downstream users must be considered.

### **Definite**

- None

## **9.2.3 High Risk**

The impacts that will be a significant risk and may require special intervention to avoid substantial negative impacts on the Project and/or the local natural or social environment are described here.

### **Unlikely**

- None

### **Possible**

- *Economic Displacement* - The establishment of physical infrastructure will require the securing of land. The target land may be held by private landowners that supports their livelihoods or economic activities (i.e. farming, pastureland, businesses etc.)
- *Labor Rights* - Labor rights (including the rights of women, child labor) may be undermined at the various sub-projects, where national law and international ILO obligations are ignored.

### Probable

- *Chemical spills (soils, surface water, groundwater)* - Chemical and other hazardous substances stored and used at the facilities could spill, resulting in the contamination of soils, surface water or groundwater.
- *Loss of integrity of structures causing a release* - All sites are situated in areas that experience earthquakes with a strong to severe risk. If an earthquake were to damage the sub-project structures and facilities during operation materials contained in those structures/ facilities could be released into the environment.
- *Loss of Community Facilities or Service* - The establishment of physical infrastructure will require the securing of land. This may result in the loss or disruption of community facilities (clinics, schools etc) and services (water points, access roads etc.)
- *Loss of Access to Communal / Public Land* - The establishment of physical infrastructure will require the securing of land. The land may be held under public or communal tenure, and used by local communities to sustain their livelihoods or economic activities (i.e. farming, pastureland etc.)

### Definite

- *Conflict and Insurgency* - The security situation in Afghanistan remains volatile, and Project infrastructure is located at multiple provinces that are relatively calm. Nevertheless, future potential conflict remains a key risk
- *Physical H&S Hazards* - Physical hazards represent potential for accident or injury or illness due to repetitive exposure to mechanical action or work activity. Single exposure to physical hazards may result in a wide range of injuries, from minor and medical aid only, to disabling, catastrophic, and/or fatal. Multiple exposures over prolonged periods can result in disabling injuries of comparable significance and consequence. The activities or issues of concern are:
  - Rotating and Moving Equipment
  - Noise
  - Vibration
  - Electrical
  - Eye Hazards
  - Welding / Hot Work
  - Industrial Vehicle Driving and Site Traffic
  - Working Environment Temperature
  - Ergonomics, Repetitive Motion, Manual Handling
  - Working at Heights
  - Slip, trip and fall
  - Illumination
  - Dust
  - Excavations
  - Electricity
  - Portable Electrical Equipment
  - Cranes and Lifting Equipment
  - Mechanical Elevated Work

- Platforms
- Scaffolding
- *Chemical H&S Hazards* - Chemical hazards represent potential for illness or injury due to single acute exposure or chronic repetitive exposure to toxic, corrosive, sensitizing or oxidative substances. They also represent a risk of uncontrolled reaction, including the risk of fire and explosion, if incompatible chemicals are inadvertently mixed. These include:
  - Air Quality
  - Fire and Explosions
  - Corrosive, oxidizing, and reactive chemicals
  - Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM)
- *Special H&S Hazard Environments* - Special hazard environments are work situations where all of the previously described hazards may exist under unique or especially hazardous circumstances. Accordingly, extra precautions or rigor in application of precautions is required. These environments are:
  - Confined Space
  - Lone and Isolated Workers

**9.3 MEASURES TO MITIGATE NEGATIVE IMPACTS**

All negative impacts will require active mitigation to avoid, reduce or compensate for such impacts. A practical set of mitigation measures will be developed as part of the ESIA and ESMP, and will need to be adopted during the planning, construction and operation of the IAFPs, FCCs and RTHs. Mitigation options may include project modification, provision of alternatives, project timing, pollution control, compensation and relocation assistance. Where the effectiveness of mitigation is uncertain, monitoring programs should be introduced.

A generic set of mitigation measures are summarized in **Table 14**. This list is not exhaustive and should be used as a guide.

**Table 14: General Mitigation Measures to Reduce Impacts**

Potential Impact	Recommended Mitigation Measures
<b>Physical Environment</b>	
<b>Biological Waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The development of well-designed and operated waste handling facilities, in particular for hazardous waste that could be produced by the sub projects in the IAFPs, is critical. Collaboration with GoIRA at regional and national level may be necessary.</li> <li>● Biological/organic waste management to be carried out in a manner that meets international health and food safety standards.</li> <li>● A waste management plan will be developed to ensure correct control, storage and disposal of waste.</li> <li>● All waste to be transported by appropriately licenced operators, disposed of in an appropriately licenced waste disposal facility and/or treated by a registered waste operator in a safe manner. Comprehensive records will be kept.</li> </ul>
<b>Hazardous and General Waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The development of well-designed and operated waste handling facilities, in particular for hazardous waste that could be produced by the sub</li> </ul>

Potential Impact	Recommended Mitigation Measures
	<p>projects in the IAFPs, is critical. Collaboration with GoIRA at regional and national level may be necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A waste management plan will be developed to ensure correct management, storage, treatment and disposal of waste. The plan will focus on “reduce, re-use and recycle”.</li> <li>• All waste should be classified, and hazardous waste managed according to international best practice.</li> <li>• All waste to be transported by appropriately licenced operators, disposed of in an appropriately licenced waste disposal facility and/or treated by a registered waste operator in a safe manner. Comprehensive records will be kept.</li> <li>• All spent or waste oil and other hydrocarbons to be collected and temporarily stored before being removed and recycled or disposed of by approved agents with recognised capacity for the task. A hydrocarbon management plan should be developed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Air Emissions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Put in place air quality (especially dust) management actions so as to manage dust generation during the construction and operation phase of the sub-project.</li> <li>• Ensure emission control and abatement is considered in the choice of technology and equipment and this to be operated efficiently. Routine maintenance to be undertaken.</li> <li>• Traffic speed controls to be established on unpaved roads to control dust generation.</li> <li>• Establish suitable air emissions monitoring during the operation phase of the sub-project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Odor</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The IAFPS, RTHs and FCCs will need to be well run and managed so as to not generate any odours from the processes.</li> <li>• Regular communication with surrounding communities to monitor any potential issues.</li> <li>• A waste management plan will be developed to ensure correct control, storage and disposal of waste.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Noise and Vibration</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All equipment and vehicles to be in good working order, well maintained and have adequate noise suppression systems were necessary.</li> <li>• All equipment to be switched off when not in use.</li> <li>• Good driving practice to minimize noise generation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Landscape and Visual Intrusion</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All construction sites to be boarded off from public view.</li> <li>• Good housekeeping practices to keep sites neat and clean.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Surface water supply</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surface water will not be used for the sub-project requirements.</li> <li>• Develop a surface water management plan for both construction and operation phases of the sub-project.</li> <li>• Keep clean and dirty water separated and channel clean storm water into natural drainage courses.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Surface Water Contamination</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a surface water management plan for both construction and operation phases of the sub-project.</li> <li>• All hazardous liquids to be contained in an adequately sized, containment that holds 120% of the tank contents.</li> </ul>

Potential Impact	Recommended Mitigation Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All structures and activities of the sub-projects to be developed outside the 1:100-year flood lines.</li> <li>• All structures and facilities to be designed to withstand earthquakes to an acceptable level.</li> <li>• An earthquake response plan to be developed to manage any high-risk releases from sub-projects.</li> <li>• All sanitation facilities to be in place and designed to contain and treat or dispose of the waste produced by the site. If needed, temporary facilities to be provided during construction.</li> <li>• Keep clean and dirty water separated and channel dirty water into the sub-project water control system.</li> <li>• Monitor surface water quality.</li> <li>• Develop an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP).</li> </ul>
<b>Groundwater</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain a good understanding of the groundwater regime surrounding each sub-project site so as to determine what groundwater would be available for the project without impacting on other groundwater users and affecting its sustainability.</li> <li>• Develop a groundwater management plan for both construction and operation phases of the project.</li> <li>• Monitor ground water quality and usage.</li> </ul>
<b>Soil and Land Contamination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All structures and facilities to be designed to withstand earthquakes to an acceptable level.</li> <li>• An earthquake response plan to be developed to manage any high-risk releases from sub-projects.</li> <li>• Implement Chemical Hazard Safety Management Plan.</li> <li>• Follow procedures for the safe handling, storage and disposal of Hazardous Chemicals.</li> <li>• Train all relevant employees on the safe handling and storage of hazardous chemicals and ensure MSDS sheets available as reference.</li> <li>• Develop a fuel storage and transport procedure.</li> <li>• Develop an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP).</li> </ul>
<b>Loss of a Resource (fauna, vegetation, soils, land)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise land clearance to as small an area as possible to avoid unnecessary exposure to erosion. Develop a vegetation clearance and soil management procedure.</li> <li>• Monitor topsoil management and use regularly.</li> <li>• Avoid unnecessary access and exposure to sensitive habitat areas. Regularly inspect and monitor sensitive habitats.</li> <li>• Ensure reshaping and revegetation occurs as soon as possible and is monitored. Rehabilitated areas to be surveyed on a weekly basis for the first month and then monthly for at least 5 months to check levels of erosion and plant growth. Maintenance to be undertaken where necessary.</li> <li>• Avoid the destruction or disturbance of sensitive faunal species. Sightings of injured or dead animals to be reported. Protection of fauna to be communicated to workforce.</li> </ul>

Potential Impact	Recommended Mitigation Measures
<b>Social Environment</b>	
<b>Physical Displacement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sub-project will avoid all forms of physical displacement.</li> <li>Where this cannot be avoided, the sub-project will adopt the provisions of the Resettlement Policy Framework (See Annexure D)</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Displacement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sub-project will avoid all forms of economic displacement.</li> <li>Where this cannot be avoided, the sub-project will adopt the provisions of the Resettlement Policy Framework (See Annexure D)</li> </ul>
<b>Access to Land</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sub-project will avoid all land held under communal or public tenure and which is actively used by local communities.</li> <li>Where this cannot be avoided, the sub-project will adopt the provisions of the Resettlement Policy Framework (See Annexure D)</li> </ul>
<b>Access to Communal Natural Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sub-project will avoid all land that supports natural resources (including ecologically sensitive sites, surface water etc.) that is actively utilized by local communities.</li> <li>Where this cannot be avoided, the sub-project will adopt the provisions of the Resettlement Policy Framework (See Annexure D)</li> </ul>
<b>Community Facilities or Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sub-project will avoid all forms direct losses or disruption to community facilities or services.</li> <li>Where this cannot be avoided, the sub-project will adopt the provisions of the Resettlement Policy Framework (See Annexure D)</li> </ul>
<b>Traffic and Public Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish traffic management measures and systems to ensure the safety of communities and workforce as part of feasibility assessments.</li> <li>Good driving practice (speed limits) to be adhered to in public areas and road safety to be communicated to surrounding communities.</li> <li>Regular communication with surrounding communities to monitor any potential issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Tangible Cultural Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment under the ESIA to identify cultural heritage.</li> <li>Where found, establish measures to avoid, conserve, relocate or compensate impacted heritage in collaboration with the Institute of Archaeology.</li> <li>This includes adoption of a Chance Find Procedure as presented in Annexure E.</li> </ul>
<b>Intangible Cultural Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment as part of the ESIA to determine the presence of cultural practices unique or dependent on the sub-project site.</li> <li>Where found, establish measures to avoid, conserve, relocate or compensate for impacted practices in collaboration with the Institute of Archaeology</li> </ul>
<b>Indigenous and Nomadic People</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake screening study to identify indigenous peoples and nomadic peoples linked to the sub-project site.</li> <li>Where confirmed, make provision for these groups in the SIA.</li> </ul>
<b>Restricted Mobility and Public thoroughfares</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ESIA will identify any active public roads, informal paths or footpaths.</li> <li>Where found, the Proponent will establish alternative paths in consultation with the local authorities and communities.</li> </ul>

Potential Impact	Recommended Mitigation Measures
<b>Labor Rights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All national labor law and ILO obligations should be met as part of the human resources management systems.</li> </ul>
<b>Labor Influx</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The risks of labor influx will be assessed for each Project component.</li> <li>• Where influx risks are elevated, the provisions of the Labor Influx Management Plan (See Annexure F) will be adopted.</li> </ul>
<b>Pressure on basic services and public infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The capacity of local utilities, services and facilities will be assessed as part of feasibility assessments.</li> <li>• Mitigation to be developed as necessary.</li> </ul>
<b>Conflict and Insurgency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A suitable security specialist to be appointed under a dedicated office to manage safety risk related to the security situation in Afghanistan.</li> <li>• This office will need to develop security plans for each sub-project, in consultation with the implementing agencies and stakeholders.</li> </ul>
<b>Occupational Health and Safety</b>	
<b>Physical Hazards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety Management System developed and implemented.</li> <li>• Leadership commitment and involvement in OHS.</li> <li>• Regular Inspections to identify Physical Hazards and implementation of corrective actions.</li> <li>• Safety Training plan implemented.</li> <li>• Process for issuing, training and maintenance of Personal Protective Equipment.</li> <li>• Effective and tested Emergency Response Plan.</li> <li>• Effective Equipment Maintenance Plan implemented.</li> </ul>
<b>Chemical Hazards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chemical Hazard Safety Management Plan Implemented.</li> <li>• Implement a purchasing procedure to avoid procurement of Hazardous Chemicals.</li> <li>• Procedure for the safe handling, storage and disposal of Hazardous Chemicals.</li> <li>• Training of all relevant employees on the Safe handling and Storage of Hazardous Chemicals.</li> <li>• Use of required Personal Protective Equipment when using Hazardous Chemicals.</li> </ul>
<b>Biological Hazards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biological Hazard Safety Management Plan Implemented.</li> <li>• Procedure for the safe handling, storage and disposal of Biological agents.</li> <li>• Training of all relevant employees on the Safe handling and Storage of Biological Agents.</li> <li>• Use of required Personal Protective Equipment when using Biological Agents.</li> <li>• Surveillance of workers health, where necessary</li> <li>• Monitoring</li> </ul>
<b>Radiological Hazards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radiological Hazard Safety Management Plan Implemented.</li> <li>• Shielding and limiting the radiation source must be the first step.</li> <li>• Procedure for the safe handling, storage and disposal of Radiation Sources.</li> <li>• Training of all relevant employees on the Safe handling and Storage of Radiation Sources.</li> </ul>

Potential Impact	Recommended Mitigation Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of required Personal Protective Equipment when using or exposed to Radiological Sources.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Special Hazard Environment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confined Space Safe Working Procedure developed and implemented.</li> <li>• All relevant employees trained on the Confined Space Safe Work Procedure.</li> <li>• Develop and implement a Safety Plan for Lone and Isolated Work.</li> <li>• All relevant Employees to be trained in the Safety Plan for Lone and Isolated work.</li> </ul>

#### 9.4 NO PROJECT SCENARIO

The no-project scenario means that the status-quo is maintained and the funding gap of approximately US\$175 million over a five-year period may remain. Agro-processing value chains will continue to undeveloped and a boost to economic growth and diversified job opportunities in a sustainable and competitive agribusiness sector will be lost. Food insecurity, rural poverty and lack of employment will continue in the agricultural sector.

## **10 GUIDELINES FOR SUB-PROJECT SCREENING, PREPARATION, APPRAISAL, APPROVAL AND MONITORING**

The OMAID Project Implementing Agencies, in this case MoIC and CRIDA (for IAFPs) and MAIL (for FCCs and RTHs), are ultimately responsible, and will verify through its own staff, outside experts or existing environmental, social and OHS institutions, that any sub-project meets the environmental, social and OHS requirements of appropriate national and local authorities and is consistent with WB policies and this ESMF. Where necessary the WB will strengthen the capabilities of the coordinating entity and conduct their own review of the sub-projects.

Where resettlement needs to be considered, the approach and procedure to be applied are contained in a separate Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) prepared for this Project. Potential pest management issues are addressed in a separate Pest Management Plan (PMP).

The implementation of identified sub-projects that are carried out by sub borrowers (i.e. private developers), as is the case for IAFPs, FCCs and RTHs in Sub-Component 2 of the OMAID Project, should include the appropriate environmental and social assessment. The Project has been rated Category A under WB policy OP4.01 (Environmental Assessment), requiring a full scale ESIA. The NEPA ESIA regulations mandate that all projects be subject to a review and screening process in order to determine whether a full scale ESIA is required. All sub-projects will need to go through a screening process.

### **10.1 SCREENING OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND SITES**

Screening of sub-projects will occur at project inception, as soon as sufficient detail on the sub-project is known. This will include the nature and scope, proposed location and area, and associated activities. Screening happens concurrently with project feasibility and any potential risks identified at this stage can immediately be incorporated into the engineering study.

#### **10.1.1 Sub-Project Screening**

Screening is required for all sub-projects. The intent of screening is to:

1. determine whether the sub-projects will result in environmental and social impacts and whether these could be significant; and
2. determine whether an environmental and social assessment and permitting is required, and, if so, the level of assessment.

NEPA will require that each individual sub-project undertakes an appropriate level of environmental and social assessment. In order to make a decision on this, a project report and screening checklist must be submitted to NEPA. This screening report will be prepared by the private entity expecting to implement the sub-project. This will be submitted to the environmental and social management of the Project Management Unit (PMU) for the IAFPs and to the Matching Grants Managers (Private Operators) for the FCCs and RTHs. MAIL, MoIC and CRIDA will review the reports and escalate them to the Secretariat and the World Bank.

An environmental and social Screening Checklist is provided here and the sub-projects will be screened based on-site specific data from existing baseline studies, knowledge and site

observations, and a report produced for approval. The extent of environmental and social work that might be required for sub-projects prior to implementation will depend on the outcome of the screening process.

The Environmental and Social Screening Checklist could also be used to assist in the go/no-go decision points at the initial stages of analysis of IAFP site selection (see Section 2.5). The first step is a site validation where an on-the-ground technical assessment will be conducted to establish if the site is suitable for IAFP development.

### **10.1.2 Assigning Appropriate Environmental and Social Categories**

The appropriate environmental and social category for any sub-project at project inception is a requirement of the World Bank, as well as for the NEPA ESIA regulations. The chosen category signals the appropriate level of environmental assessment required and helps determine the environmental and social instruments, depending on the need of the sub-project. The selection of the category is based on professional judgement and information available at the time of project identification. A project category could be modified if significant impacts are avoided, altered or eliminated, although this could have financial and schedule consequences.

The WB requirements cover the significance of impacts, and the selection of screening category depends on the type and scale of the project, the location and sensitivity of environmental issues, and the nature and magnitude of the potential impacts and the requirements for a Category A project, the category of the OMAID projects, are (World\_Bank, 1996):

- *Project type and scale:*
  - *Category A* includes projects which have one or more of the following attributes that make the potential impacts “significant”: direct pollutant discharges that are large enough to cause degradation of air, water or soil; large-scale physical disturbance of the site and/or surroundings; extraction, consumption, or conversion of substantial amounts of forest and other natural resources; measurable modification of hydrologic cycle; hazardous materials in more than incidental quantities; and involuntary displacement of people and other significant social disturbances. For this Project this will include (but not limited to) industrial estates (including expansion, rehabilitation or modification), large agro-industrial plants, use of pesticides or other hazardous and/or toxic materials, reclamation and new land development, and resettlement.
- *Project Location:*
  - *Category A* classification is for planned projects in or near sensitive and valuable ecosystems (wetlands, habitat of endangered species); in or near areas with archaeological and/or historical sites or existing cultural and social institutions; in densely populated areas, where resettlement may be required or potential pollution impacts and other disturbances may significantly affect communities; in regions subject to heavy development activities or where there are conflicts in natural resource allocation; along watercourses, in aquifer recharge areas or in reservoir catchments used for potable water supply; and

- on lands or waters containing valuable resources (such as fisheries, minerals, medicinal plants, prime agricultural soils).
- The precise identification of the project's geographical setting at the screening stage greatly enhances the quality of the assessment of the important environmental and social issues. A map of the project area that includes key environmental features (including cultural heritage sites) is invaluable for this purpose.
  - *Sensitivity of issues:* These issues may include (but are not limited to) conversion of wetlands, potential adverse effects on protected areas or sites, encroachment on lands or rights of indigenous peoples or other vulnerable minorities, involuntary resettlement, impacts on international waterways and other transboundary issues, and toxic waste disposal. Environmental and social issues of particular concern to the Bank as well as to the borrowers need to be considered.
  - *Nature and magnitude of impacts:*
    - *Category A* would include irreversible destruction or degradation of natural habitat and loss of biodiversity or environmental services provided by a natural system; risk to human health or safety (for example, from generation, storage or disposal of hazardous wastes, or violation of ambient air quality standards); and the absence of effective mitigatory or compensatory measures.
    - *Magnitude* could be measured by absolute amount of a resource or ecosystem affected, the amount affected relative to the existing stock of the resource or ecosystem, the intensity of the impact and its timing and duration. In addition, the probability of occurrence for a specific impact and the cumulative impact of the proposed action and other planned or ongoing actions (in current and proposed development activities in the area) may need to be considered. Additionally, more spontaneous activities spurred by a project (such as migration of people into an area opened up by a road project) must be taken into account.

The WB reviews the results of the screening decision with the borrower especially with regard to the type of environmental assessment instruments required, the general scope of the environmental assessment, public disclosure and consultation requirements, schedule, and implementation arrangements. As soon as possible after screening, the borrower should prepare the Terms of Reference (TORs) for the ESIA required. The Bank assists as necessary in preparing the TORs and always reviews their contents.

The NEPA ESIA regulations require a screening assessment to determine whether there is a likelihood of significant adverse effect. Annex 1 of the ESIA regulations contain a list of activities divided into Category 1 (similar to the WB Category A) and Category 2 (similar to the WB Category B). The sub projects for the OMAID Project would thus be Category 1 projects which include pesticide handling, and industrial estates greater than 500ha and those containing at least one Category 1 activity. The screening report is submitted to NEPA who will approve the TOR for the ESIA.

**10.1.3 Environmental and Social Checklist**

The environmental and social checklist for sub project screening provided here should be filled in and prepared by environmental and social specialists in the implementing institutions (i.e. the project proponent) or by consultants if the institutions lack experts. This checklist, once completed, is reviewed by the environmental and social safeguard specialists from the the environmental and social management of the Project Management Unit (PMU) for the IAFPs and to the Matching Grants Managers (Private Operators) for the FCCs and RTHs.

In the event that a number of sub-projects are to be undertaken by the same proponent in a given area as part of a development proposal it may not be suitable to classify each sub-project individually, unless their type and complexity vary significantly. The sub-projects could be combined and categorized, based on their collective potential to impact on the environment. Advice on this grouping should be sought from NEPA and the Safeguard Specialists of the Private Sector Development Directorate or the PMUs.

**Form 1: Screening Checklist**

<b>OMAID Project - Sub-Project Environmental and Social Screening</b>			
Sub-Project Name			
Location/ Co-ordinates			
Sub-Project Proponent			
Size/ Capacity			
Estimated cost (USD)			
Type of Sub-Project or Activity:			
Motivation and Objectives for the Sub-Project:			
Measures to ensure the Sub-Project is technically and financially sustainable:			
<b>Screening Questions</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>Location</b>			
Are there environmentally sensitive areas (forests, pastures, rivers and wetlands) or threatened species that could be adversely affected by the sub-project?			
Does the sub-project area (or components of the project) occur within or adjacent to any protected areas designated by the government (national park, national reserve, world heritage site, etc.) or a buffer zone of a protected area?			
If the sub-project is outside of, but close to, any protected area, is it likely to adversely affect the ecology within the protected areas (e.g., interference with the migration routes of mammals, fish or birds)?			
Will the sub-project reduce people’s access to the pasture, water, public services or other resources that they depend on?			
Might the sub-project alter any historical, archaeological or cultural heritage site or require excavation near such a site?			
Is the sub project area adjacent to or within a declared pollution control area?			
Is the sub project area adjacent to or within a special area for protecting biodiversity?			

Screening Questions	Yes	No	Remarks
<b>Physical and Biological environment</b>			
Will the sub-project require large volumes of construction materials (e.g. gravel, stones, water, timber, firewood)?			
Will the sub project lead to an increase in the originally designated water abstraction amount?			
Does the proposed sub project involve water sources under dispute?			
Will the sub project construction cause short term impacts to the soil erosion, deterioration of water and air quality, noise and vibration?			
Will the project involve significant excavations, demolition and movement of earth?			
Might the sub-project lead to soil degradation or erosion in the area?			
Might the sub-project affect soil salinity and/or seriously contaminate the soil?			
Will the sub-project create solid or liquid waste that could adversely affect local soils, vegetation, rivers, streams or groundwater?			
Will the sub project cause air pollution, gaseous and odor emissions from the plant operations?			
Will the sub project result in accidental release of potentially hazardous materials such as solvent, acids and alkaline substances?			
Might river or stream ecology be adversely affected due to the installation of structures such as weirs, etc.?			
Will the sub-project have adverse impacts on natural habitats and in particular sensitive habitats that will not have acceptable mitigation measures?			
<b>Alternatives</b>			
Is it possible to achieve the objectives above in a different way, with fewer environmental and social impacts?			
<b>Land and Social Issues</b>			
Might the sub-project lead to migration into the area, inter alia, uncontrolled in migration due to the opening of roads into a forest area and overloading social infrastructure?			
Will the sub project cause environmental degradation (e.g. erosion, soil and water contamination, loss of soil fertility, disruption of wildlife habitat) from intensification of agricultural land use to supply raw materials for plant operation; and modification of natural species diversity as a result of the transformation to monoculture practices?			
Will the sub project cause the dislocation or involuntary resettlement of individuals or families?			
Will the sub-project require acquisition of land (public or private) and/or other assets for its development?			
Will the sub-project affect the livelihoods of particular groups within the communities, especially vulnerable groups such as the landless?			
Will the sub project cause social conflicts to arise from the influx of construction laborers from other areas?			
Will the sub project cause the disruption of transit patterns, creation of noise and congestion, and pedestrian hazards aggravated by heavy trucks?			
Have all groups within the community been consulted about the proposed sub project? Which groups have not been consulted?			
Will the sub-project affect the livelihoods of particular groups within the communities, especially vulnerable groups such as the landless?			
Will the sub-project affect the well-being and livelihoods of women, particularly female-headed households?			

Screening Questions	Yes	No	Remarks
Will the sub-project benefit all groups within the community equally?			
Are there ongoing land or water disputes within the community/ with neighboring communities?			
Will the sub project activities lead to conflict on land usage?			
Does the sub project cause any temporary or permanent removal of vegetation, residential infrastructures such as garden, toilets, kitchen, etc.			
Might the project adversely affect local minority groups or vulnerable people living in the area?			
Are there members of these groups in the area who could benefit from this project?			
Is there the probability of the presence of landmines or unexploded devices at or near the proposed sub project area?			
Occupational Health and Safety			
Do the sub-project have human health and safety risks, during construction or later due to discharge of wastes, poor air quality, noise and foul odor, etc.?			
Will the sub project cause occupational health hazards due to fugitive dust, materials handling, noise, or other process operations?			
Will the proposed sub project use pesticides that fall in WHO classes 1A, 1B or II?			
Does the sub project involve dam safety?			
If you have answered Yes to any of the above please list the potential significant adverse environmental and social impacts (based on responses to the checklist) and provide short description:			
For the above list of impacts provide measures the Sub-Project will take to avoid or mitigate potential adverse impacts and enhance potential beneficial impacts:			
Proponent's Conclusion:			
Which course of action do you recommend – Full scale ESIA, RAP or are there no environmental or social risks? Explain why.			
Is a RAP required? If so, estimate the level of displacement or restricted access and what percentage of an individual's assets are affected. What level of RAP is required?			
Completed by the Proponent:			
Name			
Position			
Organization			
Date			
Signature			

**Form 2: Screening Checklist Review Form**

<b>OMAID Project - Sub-Project Environmental and Social Screening - REVIEW</b>			
Sub-Project Name			
Location/ Co-ordinates			
Proponent			
Screening Checklist Reviewed			
<b>Screening Review Questions</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Based on the location and the type of project, please explain whether the Proponent's responses are satisfactory.			
Is their description of the compliance of the project with relevant planning documents satisfactory? If No – please explain.			
Are their responses to the questions on the environmental and social impacts satisfactory? If No – please explain			
Are their proposed mitigation measures satisfactory? If No – please explain			
Are their proposed measures to ensure sustainability satisfactory? If No – please explain			
<b>Reviewer's Conclusion:</b>			
Which course of action do you recommend – Full scale ESIA, RAP or are there no environmental or social risks? Explain why.			
Is the level of displacement or restricted access less than 200 individuals, or if over 200, are losses for all individuals less than 10% of their assets? Explain	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	
Is a RAP required?			
If Yes - what level of RAP is required? An Abbreviated RAP			
A Full RAP			
Full details of resettlement requirements are provided in the accompanying Resettlement Policy Framework. If this differs from the Proponent's recommended course of action, please explain:			
Preparation of a project Report, based on field appraisal by NEMA District Officer, is required to investigate further, specifically to investigate (please describe):			
Is the Screening Checklist accepted? If rejected please give reasons:			
<b>Completed by the Reviewer:</b>			
Name			
Position			
Organization			
Date			
Signature			

#### **10.1.4 Screening decision**

The Screening Form will provide an initial identification of potential environmental and social impacts with potential mitigation and assign an appropriate environmental category, to determine whether the execution of an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is necessary. Where accepted by the Reviewer, the Screening report will be submitted to NEPA who would:

1. Issue a Certificate of Compliance, with or without conditions.
2. Advise the applicant in writing to review the technical reports and address the concerns of NEPA.
3. Refuse to grant a Certificate of Compliance but would need to provide the applicant with written reasons for the refusal to the application.

The Terms of Reference for the environmental assessment phase should be developed and confirmed immediately after the Screening decision.

#### **10.2 ESIA STUDY**

The ESIA study follows a systematic process which includes:

- Review of TORs with the implementing partners for adequacy.
- Familiarization with project design and area of influence.
- Identification of the relevant statutes and WB safeguard policies.
- Determination/ Identification of all stakeholders to project.
- On-the-ground investigations of the bio-physical and social baseline.
- Consultation with stakeholders.
- Impact prediction and interpretation.
- Identification of mitigation measures.
- Development of an environmental management plan complete with budget and identification of responsibilities.
- Finalization of the ESIA report.

NEPA requires that this process follow the stages of Scoping, Impact Assessment and Public Disclosure, viz:

- *Scoping* – identification of the scope of the evaluation, necessary information for decision making, and significant issues and impacts for the ESIA study, identifying potential adverse impacts, and preparing the terms of reference for the ESIA study.
- *Impact Assessment* – further identification of the proposed sub-project/activity, describes the receiving environment (environmental and social), identifies and analyses the potential impacts, considers alternatives, develops mitigation and management.
- *Public Disclosure* – The whole process is undertaken in parallel with a public participation process to inform and finally disclose to all stakeholders to obtain their feedback from and incorporate their concerns into the study. NEPA reserves the right to undertake a public disclosure process.

Feasibility studies should occur concurrently with the ESIA process to ensure that the findings of the ESIA are incorporated into the sub-project at the design phase. Mitigatory measures and alternatives will thereby be included in the sub-project design, limiting changes at an advanced stage of project development.

Community Health & Safety as well as Occupational Health & Safety will need to be assessed for all sub projects and, it may be necessary to establish site specific targets with an appropriate timetable for achieving them (see Annexure C):

- The sub project activities, equipment and infrastructure can increase community exposure to risks and impacts and these should be avoided or minimized as far as possible. Assessment of these risks and impacts from both routine and non-routine circumstances and operations and the safeguarding of personnel and property will be carried out during the ESIA process. Preventative and control measures will be consistent with WBG GIIP and these measures will favor avoidance over minimization.
- The planned sub projects will provide employment and income generation and this should be accompanied by the protection of the fundamental rights of workers, as guided by the ILO conventions, WBG requirements and the country's Labor Law. Health & Safety should be included in any mitigation and alternatives being considered by the sub project. The implementation of actions necessary to meet the requirements of safe and health working conditions and the health of workers should be managed through the developer's Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS).

The main activities are described below. Cognizance has been taken of both WB and NEPA requirements in the description of the ESIA study provided here.

### **10.2.1 Scoping**

Scoping is the process of determining the content and extent of the matters which should be covered in the environmental and social information to be submitted to a competent authority for projects which are subject to an ESIA in order to focus on the important issues. Critical topics to be covered include – consideration of project alternatives (sites, engineering process etc.), identification of potential impacts and those significant to be included in the ESIA with a preliminary Project Area of Influence, incorporation of stakeholder issues and concerns into further work, strategy and process for the ESIA. The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the ESIA will be prepared by the implementing agency and their specialists and will then be reviewed by the PMU and the Private Sector Development Directorate. This TOR may use issues identified during the screening exercise and those described in this ESMF. The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the ESIA and the SIA are outlined in Annexure G.

A Scoping Report outline is provided in **Box 3**.

#### **Box 3: Outline of a Scoping Report**

The scoping report should include the following:

- a description of the proposed project and various alternatives that should be considered;
- the potential impacts identified identifying the most significant impacts to be considered in the ESIA;
- the preliminary project Area of Influence and, based on this, the study area for the baseline studies;

- the baseline surveys and investigation methodology to characterize the baseline bio-physical and social environment;
- the methods to be used to predict and model impacts and effects;
- the results of the stakeholder consultation conducted to identify issues and concerns and the ESIA stakeholder engagement strategy; and
- ToR for the impact assessment which determines the scope of the ESIA baseline studies and the impact assessment methodology, as well as the contents of the ESIA report.

The Scoping Report is submitted to NEPA and the approved TOR are used to determine the ESIA study further. Commencement of baseline studies prior to the approval of the TOR will be done at risk as NEPA could impose conditions on its approval not anticipated in the TOR.

### **10.2.2 ESIA**

Once the Scoping Report is reviewed and approved, NEPA will advise that the ESIA study be undertaken. The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is a systematic process that identifies and evaluates the potential impacts a proposed project or activity may have on the physical, biological, chemical, and social environment and develops mitigation measures that will be incorporated into the management of the project or activity in order to eliminate, minimize or reduce these impacts. This will be done in consultation with stakeholders essentially in order to identify key issues and determine that the concerns of all parties are addressed in the ESIA.

The potential risks and impacts to Affected Communities from project activities should be addressed and managed in terms of inter alia infrastructure and equipment design and safety, hazardous materials management and safety, ecosystem services, community exposure to disease and emergency preparedness and response. The risks posed by a developer's private security arrangements, if put in place, both within and outside a project site should be assessed. This should be guided by the principles of proportionality and GIIP.

In terms of OHS, the developer will take into account inherent risks in its particular sector (such as pesticide handling) and the special classes of hazards in the work areas, including physical, chemical, biological and radiological hazards, and specific threats to women. They will address areas that include the (i) identification of potential hazards to workers, particularly those that may be life-threatening; (ii) provision of preventive and protective measures, including modification, substitution, or elimination of hazardous conditions or substances; (iii) training of workers; (iv) documentation and reporting of occupational accidents, diseases, and incidents; and (v) emergency prevention, preparedness, and response arrangements. (see Annexure C)

The impacts of the project on climate change (in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, including from land use, land-use change and forestry), contribution of the project to an improved resilience, and the impacts of climate change on the project (e.g. if the project is coherent with a changing climate). Issues to be addressed in the ESIA report should include greenhouse gas emissions, including from land use, land-use change and forestry, mitigation potential, impacts relevant to adaptation, if the project takes into account the risks associated with climate change.

When an ESIA is necessary the administrative process enacted by NEPA will be followed and executed. The typical contents of an ESIA report are provided in **Box 4**.

**Box 4: Contents of an ESIA Report**

- *Executive summary* (in national language and English language). Concisely discusses significant findings and recommended actions.
- *Policy, legal, and administrative framework*. Discusses the policy, legal, and administrative framework within which the ESIA is carried out, including the Afghani ESIA requirements. Identifies relevant international environmental and social agreements to which the country is a party.
- *Project description*. Concisely describes the proposed project and its geographic, ecological, social, and temporal context, including any offsite investments that may be required (e.g., dedicated pipelines, access roads, power plants, water supply, housing, and raw material and product storage facilities). Indicates the need for any resettlement plan. Includes a map showing the project site and the project's area of influence.
- *Baseline data*. Assesses the dimensions of the study area and describes relevant physical, biological, and socio-economic conditions, including any changes anticipated before the project commences. Takes into account current and proposed development activities within the project area but not directly connected to the project. Data should be relevant to decisions about project location, design, operation, or mitigatory measures. The section indicates the accuracy, reliability, and sources of the data.
- *Environmental and social impacts*. Predicts and assesses all stages of the project, including direct/indirect/induced and cumulative impacts etc., indicating the project's likely positive and negative impacts, in quantitative terms to the extent possible. Identifies mitigation measures and any residual negative impacts that cannot be mitigated. Explores opportunities for environmental enhancement. Identifies and estimates the extent and quality of available data, key data gaps, and uncertainties associated with predictions, and specifies topics that do not require further attention.
- *Analysis of alternatives*. Systematically compares feasible alternatives to the proposed project site, technology, design, and operation—including the "without project" situation—in terms of their potential environmental impacts; the feasibility of mitigating these impacts; their capital and recurrent costs; their suitability under local conditions; and their institutional, training, and monitoring requirements. For each of the alternatives, quantifies the environmental impacts to the extent possible, and attaches economic values where feasible.
- *Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)*. Covers mitigation measures, monitoring, and institutional strengthening and administrative aspects. The environmental management and monitoring costs should also be described.
- *Environmental Cost Benefit Analysis*. If required by the ToR at Scoping.
- *Public Consultation and Information Disclosure*. The process undertaken to involve the public in project design and recommended measures for continuing public participation; summarize major comments received from all stakeholders, and describe how these comments were addressed; list milestones in public involvement such as dates, attendance, and topics of public meetings; describe compliance with ESIA regulation requirements for public participation.
- *Conclusions and Recommendations*. Include an overall justification for implementation of the project and an explanation of how, adverse effects have been mitigated.
- *Appendixes*
  - List of ESIA report preparers--individuals and organizations, with their qualifications and expertise.

- References--written materials both published and unpublished, used in study preparation.
- Record of consultation meetings, including consultations for obtaining the informed views of the affected people and local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). The record specifies any means other than consultations (e.g., surveys) that were used to obtain these views.
- Each specialist report detailing the study undertaken, the analysis and interpretation of data/information, impact assessment and management/mitigation.
- Tables presenting the relevant data referred to or summarized in the main text.

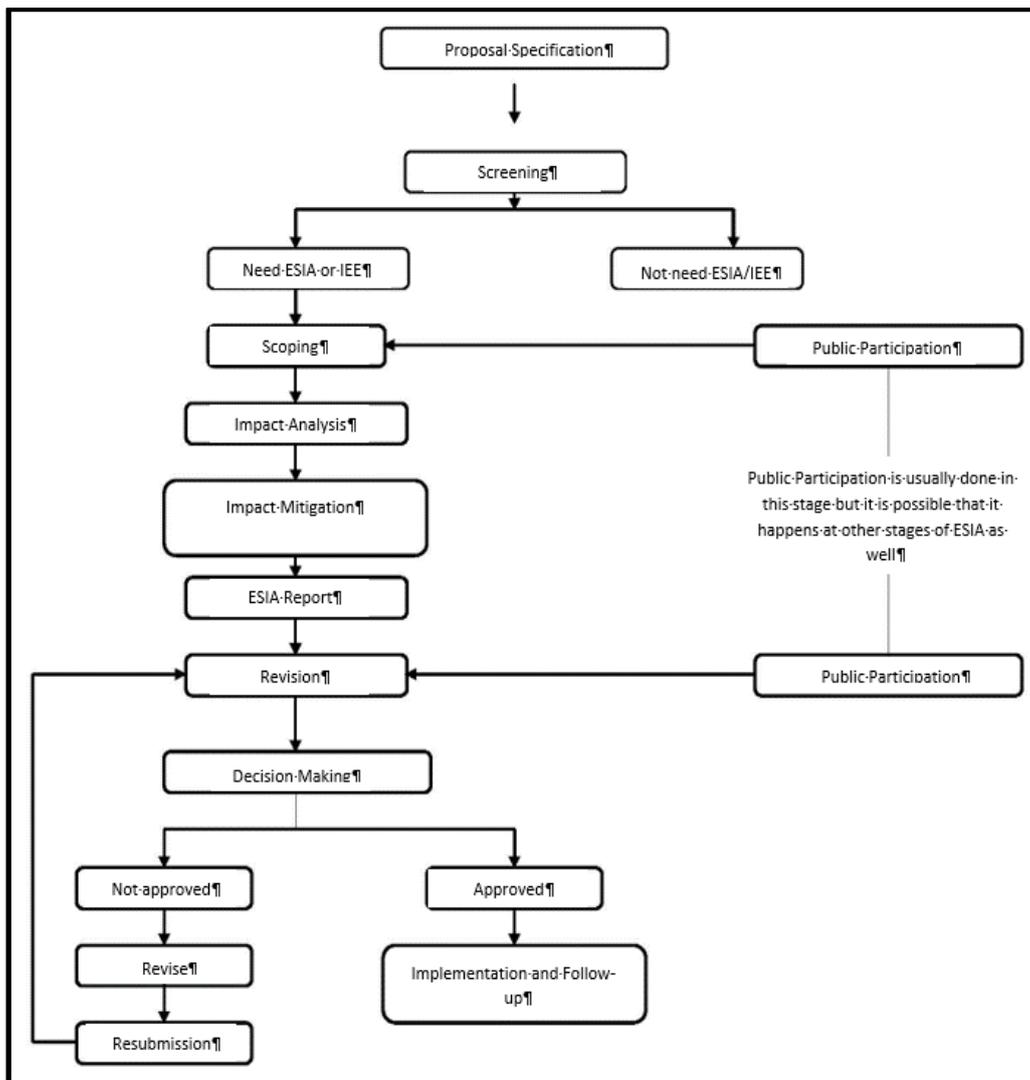
### **10.2.3 Public Review of ESIA Report**

The ESIA documents will be provided for public review at strategic points in the project's area of influence so as to allow all stakeholders to read and understand how their situation has been considered by the Project. The draft of the ESIA report will be initially provided for comment and then, once all stakeholder comments have been incorporated into the document, and a final ESIA report is published. The final version will clearly explain how each of the comments and concerns received during the public review period have been addressed and resolved.

### **10.3 SUB-PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

The sub-project implementing agent will submit the draft ESIA to NEPA where it will be reviewed by representatives from various ministries. The adequacy of the studies and assessments will be checked and gaps (where present) noted, with recommendations made to final decision-making. Copies of the ESIA reports will be placed at strategic vantage points for public scrutiny and comment.

The NEPA ESIA process is outlined in **Figure 22**. The ESMF ESIA process taking into consideration the NEPA and WB ESIA and appraisal processes are shown in **Figure 23**.



**Figure 22: National ESIA Process**

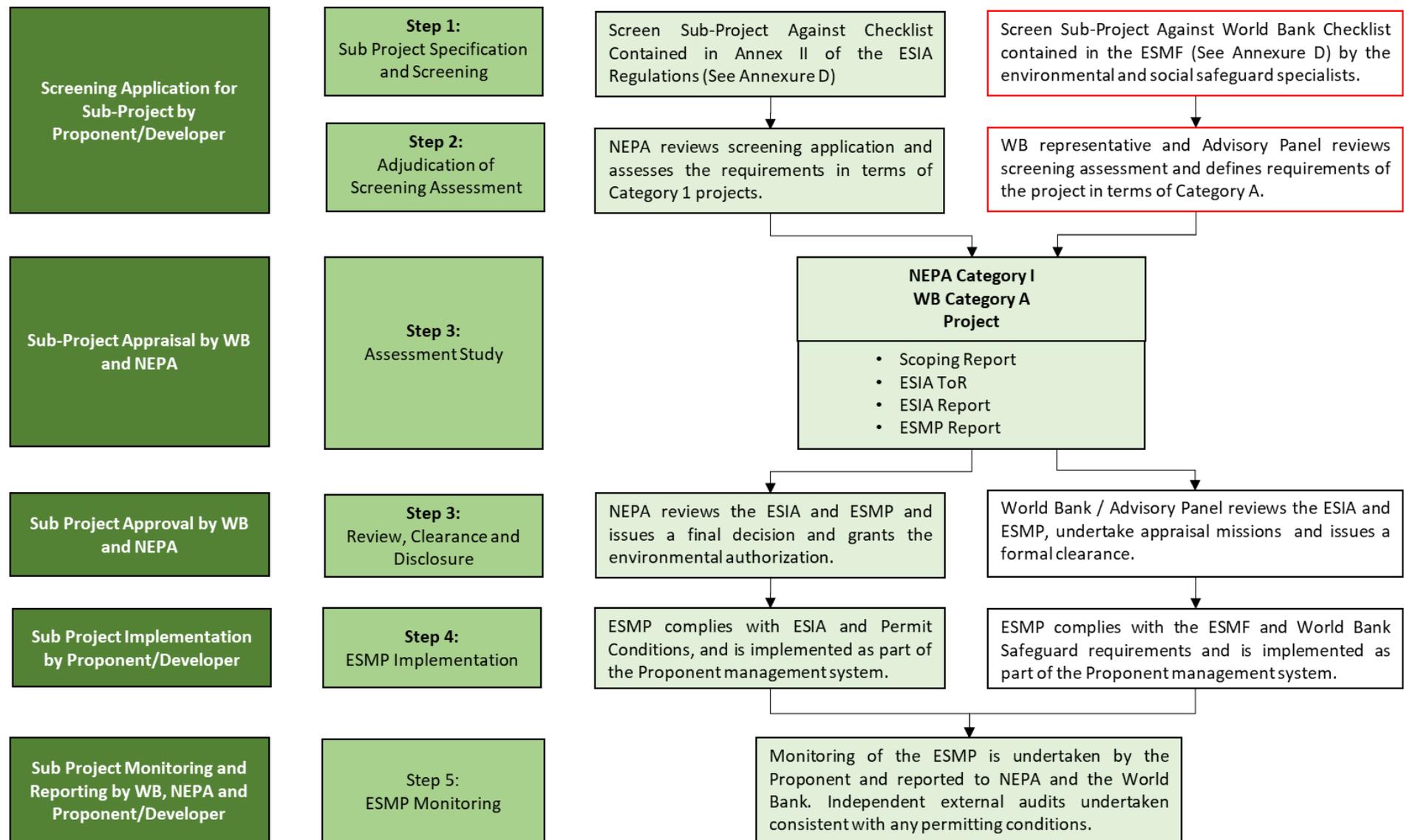


Figure 23: ESMF ESIA Process

Where the draft ESIA reports are found to be acceptable the implementing agency of the Project will be notified to finalize reports. NEPA would once again issue a Certificate of Compliance, with or without conditions or advise that further information is required or refuse the application. Subsequent to this various permissions and authorizations may be required for different activities, such as water use etc.

The following approvals are required during the ESIA process:

- Step 1: Screening Report – by NEPA and WB.
- Step 2: ToR for the ESIA study (where indicated) – by NEPA and WB.
- Step 3: ESIA– by NEPA and WB.

It is recommended that a strict system of compliance monitoring and reporting should be adopted. The ESMF will be implemented by the implementing agencies for the sub-projects. The implementing agency will collaborate with the Safeguard specialist at MoIC, MAIL, NEPA and WB to ensure effective execution. The institutional responsibilities for the ESIA process are given in **Table 15**.

**Table 15: Stages of ESIA and Institutional Responsibilities**

No	Stage	Institutional Responsibility	Implementation Responsibility
1	Screening for appropriate environmental and social assessment level	NEPA/ Implementing agency	-
2	Selection validation	World Bank	-
3	Implementation of environmental and social assessment	Implementing agency	Environmental and Social Officers at PMU and Private Sector Development Directorate
<b>If ESIA is necessary:</b>			
3.1	Preparation of TOR	Implementing agency	Environmental and Social Officers at PMU and Private Sector Development Directorate
3.2	Validation of ESIA TOR	NEPA/ World Bank	Safeguard Specialist
3.3	Selection of Consultant	Implementing agency/ MoIC, MAIL or CRIDA/ Procurement Office	Environmental and Social Officers/ Procurement Officer/ Safeguard Specialist
3.4	Realization of the ESIA, public consultation and management plan	Implementing agency / Procurement Officer/ Consultancy firm/ Contractor	Environmental and Social Officers/ Procurement Officer/ Safeguard Specialist
4	Review and Approval	NEPA/ World Bank/ MoIC, MAIL or CRIDA/ Implementing agency	-
4.1	ESIA Approval	NEPA/ World Bank/ Implementing Agency	Environmental and Social Officers/ Project Managers
5	Public Consultation and Disclosure	Implementing agency/ NEPA	Environmental and Social Officers/ Contractor/ Consultant
6	Surveillance and monitoring	Implementing agency/ NEPA/ World Bank/ MoIC, MAIL or CRIDA	Environmental and Social Officers/ Safeguard Specialist
7	Development of monitoring indicators		Environmental and Social Officers/ Procurement Officer/ Safeguard Specialist

## 10.4 PARTICIPATORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND DISCLOSURE

The WB requirements for participatory public consultation and disclosure have been highlighted. Article 19 of the Environment Law, 2007 establishes the legal requirement for public participation for any proposed project, plan, policy or activity prior to any approvals granted by NEPA. The requirement for public participation is further detailed under Regulation 12 of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Regulations of 2008 and the recent amendments in 2018. Further detail is provided in the Administrative Guidelines for the Preparation of Environmental Impact Assessments of 2009.

The key principles for engagement are based on Free, Prior, Informed Consultation and Participation (FPICP), which includes the following:

- Sufficient opportunity will be provided to interested and affected parties to be consulted during Project/Sub-Project planning, implementation and operations.
- Effective consultation will be undertaken in an open and transparent manner, that respects the dignity, privacy and rights of all stakeholders.
- Engagement with stakeholders will be in a manner that is appropriate and culturally sensitive and tailored to the characteristics and interests of different stakeholders.
- Engagement and participation should support the enhancement of the capacity of stakeholders to engage and contribute to the success of the Project/Sub-Projects.
- Information is disclosed in an accessible, transparent, and timely manner to allow stakeholders to gain a clear understanding of the Project/Sub-Projects.
- Engagement will be free of external manipulation, interference, coercion, or intimidation; and no eligible stakeholder may be denied an opportunity to be part of the process.
- Engagement will include the meaningful representation of vulnerable people, including the participation of women in the Project/Sub-Projects.
- A Grievance Mechanism is established to receive, process, and resolve any potential concerns or grievances in a transparent and timely manner.
- Effective and clear record keeping of all forms of informal and formal engagement will be ensured by the Project/Sub-Projects.

### 10.4.1 Stages of Stakeholder Consultation

The Project is legally required to inform and consult stakeholders during the preparation of the relevant ESIA processes. Public consultation is mandatory at the Scoping and ESIA phase under both national law and World Bank requirements. Engagement will be undertaken at the following key stages:

1. **Project Screening:** Screening may include limited engagement with key stakeholders (i.e. national and local authorities, affected communities and landowners) to better understand their issues and concerns.
2. **Category A Projects (or NEPA Category 1):**
  - a. **Environmental and Social Impact Assessment – Scoping and ESIA TOR Phase:**
    - The provision of written notices to local people and institutions requesting them to provide written comments and concerns within a minimum 15 days of the notice. The notice must be placed at local institutions which is readily accessed by the public in a form and language that is understandable to key

stakeholders, as well as making the report through the World Bank InfoShop. The Scoping report and/ or background information to be provided to all interested and affected stakeholders to enable them to provide comments and raise concerns.

- A notice published or broadcasted in mass communication media requesting stakeholders to provide written comments and concerns within a minimum 15 days of the notice.
- Meetings, focus group sessions and/or interviews to be conducted as necessary providing details of the planned sub-project.

**b. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment – Reporting Phase:**

- Draft ESIA Reports to be placed at strategic points in the sub-project’s area of influence which are readily accessed by the public in a form and language that is understandable to key stakeholders, as well as making the report through the World Bank InfoShop.
- The provision of written notices to local people and institutions on the location of the ESIA Report and requesting them to provide written comments and concerns within a minimum 15 days of the notice. The notice must be placed at local institutions which is readily accessed by the public.
- The organization of a public hearing or meeting(s) and providing notice in a national newspaper, radio or television and fixing notices at suitable public areas a minimum 15 days prior to the hearing.
- The presentation of the main findings of the ESIA study at the public hearing or meeting(s) and recording all public comments and concerns that will be incorporated into the final ESIA study report.

**10.4.2 Key Stakeholders**

The sub-projects will identify and consult with the full range of stakeholders, including those that have an active interest in the sub-project or are potentially impacted parties. A broad list of the likely stakeholders is presented in **Table 16**. Detailed stakeholder profiling will need to be undertaken for each sub-project.

**Table 16: Priority Stakeholders**

Stakeholder Group	Key Stakeholders	Category of Stakeholder
National Government	Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs, and Disabled	Interested Party
	Ministry of Commerce and Industry	Interested Party
	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development	Interested Party
	Ministry of Women's Affairs	Interested Party
	Ministry of Public Works	Interested Party
	Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission	Interested Party
	Ministry of Finance	Interested Party
	National Environment Protection Agency	Interested Party
Provincial Government	Provincial Council	Interested Party
	Provincial Governors Office	Interested Party
	Provincial Departments of the Relevant National Ministries	Interested Party
District Government	District Governor	Interested Party
	District Council	Interested Party
	Community Development Council	Interested Party

Stakeholder Group	Key Stakeholders	Category of Stakeholder
	District Offices of the Relevant National Ministries	Interested Party
Municipal Officials	Mayor’s Office	Interested Party
	Municipal Council	Interested Party
	Municipal Departments	Interested Party
Affected Communities	Councilors	Affected Party
	Village Shuras	Affected Party
Directly Affected Persons	Land / Asset Owners	Affected Party
	Tenants and other Formal Occupants or Users of Land	Affected Party
	Squatters and Persons without Formal Right to Occupy Land	Affected Party
	Vulnerable People	Affected Party
Project Beneficiaries	Individual Farmers	Affected Party
	Farmer Groups	Affected Party
	Private Businesses	Affected Party
Other	Non-Government Organizations	Interested Party
	Community-Based Organizations	Interested Party
	International Aid Agencies	Interested Party

MoIC, CRIDA and MAIL as well as all third-parties will support citizen engagement and public consultation as part of the Project and sub-project development, construction and operational phases. (see also **Chapter 11**).

**10.5 ANNUAL MONITORING REPORTS AND REVIEW**

To ensure the effective implementation of the sub-projects, the implementing agencies will undertake regular monitoring, reviews and multi-level reporting consistent with the provisions made below. The aim of monitoring is to allow Project impacts to be tracked so that the effectiveness of the mitigation and management measures can be measured and adjusted where necessary. Monitoring indicators will depend on the specific project contexts.

The objectives of monitoring are, within the impact zone of the operations, to:

- assess compliance with mitigation and control measures, standards and limits.
- facilitate the measurement of progress against environmental and social targets (and Key Performance Indicators (“KPIs”)).
- analyze the temporal trends to determine the potential for impacts.
- track progress of pollution control measure implementation and resource use conservation.
- inform the management, regulator and other stakeholders, as required, of the extent of localized nuisance and disturbance impacts.

A generic monitoring plan should be developed for the overall Project by the HSEC Managers. The plan should be adapted to meet the needs of each sub-project or group of sub-projects. For each element to be monitored the monitoring plan should include:

- Objective of monitoring;
- Regulations and obligations to be met together with agreed standards/targets;
- Outline of sub project activities;
- Location of monitoring points, together with a map;
- Monitoring methodology;
- Frequency of monitoring;

- Analysis of data and reporting; and
- Corrective actions, where necessary.

At sub-project level monitoring will cover the ESIA, environmental permits and monitoring and evaluation. Annual monitoring reports will be produced to satisfy the requirements of the WB, NEPA and line ministries and the investor. This report will analyze the results of monitoring against monitoring criteria and describe whether the interventions undertaken are managing the adverse impacts of the sub-projects. Monitoring criteria should be developed together with the policy and safeguards specialists and form part of the Environmental Monitoring Plan. Project monitoring indicators and responsibilities are provided in **Table 17**. The environmental, social, health and safety standards that should apply to the sub projects are provided in Annexure H.

MoIC, CRIDA and MAIL as well as all third-parties will support ongoing monitoring and review during the development, construction and operational phases of the Project and associated sub-projects.

**Table 17: Project monitoring indicators and responsibilities**

Ref	Impact Issue	Monitoring Parameter / Indicator	Frequency	Responsibility
<b>Environmental Impacts and Benefits</b>				
1.1	Surface Water (Quality)	Physio-chemical and bacteriological water analysis (temperature, pH, BOD, COD, EC, TDS, nitrates, heavy metals, pesticides, bacteria, turbidity, etc.)	Monthly	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
1.2	Surface Water (Usage)	Volume abstracted (and use) and stream flow (if required)	Monthly, and then Quarterly	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
1.2	Drinking Water (Quality)	Physio-chemical and bacteriological water analysis (temperature, pH, BOD, COD, EC, TDS, nitrates, heavy metals, pesticides, bacteria, turbidity, etc.)	Monthly	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
1.3	Drinking Water (Usage)	Volume abstracted (and use)	Monthly	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
1.4	Ground Water (Quality)	Physio-chemical and bacteriological water analysis (temperature, pH, BOD, COD, EC, TDS, nitrates, heavy metals, pesticides, bacteria, turbidity, etc.), water levels	Monthly and then Biannually	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
1.5	Ground Water (Use)	Volume abstracted (and use)	Monthly and then Biannually	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
1.6	Air Quality	Particulates (dust)	Daily (Construction) Observation (Operations)	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
1.7	Biodiversity	Habitat composition	Once a year	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
1.8	Vegetation Cover	Percent cover and percentage change/alteration – increase/ loss; composition; area; land use, erosion rates	Quarterly (Construction) Annually (Operations)	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
1.9	Alien Invasive vegetation	Prevalence, percentage change – increase/ decrease; composition; area	Monthly (Construction) Bi-annually (Operations)	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
1.10	Fauna type & abundance	Sightings and evidence (scat, spoor), road kills or other mortality	Ongoing Observation	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
1.11	Restoration	Percentage complete, area unrestored	Monthly (Construction) Bi-annually (Operations)	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
1.12	Soils (Physico-Chemical Quality)	Change in soil profile – depth, loss/ disturbance of topsoil, contamination /deterioration	Monthly	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
1.13	Soils (Land-Use)	Land use – clearing for activities, Rate of degradation – erosion, salinization etc, Rate of recovery/ rehabilitation	Monthly (Construction) Bi-annually (Operations)	Construction Contractor Operation Manager

Ref	Impact Issue	Monitoring Parameter / Indicator	Frequency	Responsibility
1.14	Noise levels	A-weighted decibels (dbA)	Monthly (Construction) Bi-annually (Operations)	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
1.15	Visual	Light visibility	Annually	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
1.16	Hazardous Waste (UN GHS*)	Quantity per classification, treatment, storage, disposal	Monthly	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
1.17	General Waste	Quantity, treatment, storage, disposal	Monthly	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
<b>Social Impacts and Benefits</b>				
2.1	Physical Displacement	Progress on preparation of RAP. Progress on Asset Inventor/ Census. Progress on Signed Compensation Agreements. Progress on Payments / Relocation Support. Progress on Resolution of Grievances. Level of Stakeholder Engagement. Level of Support for Vulnerable People.	Monthly	MoIC PMU CRIDA PMU MAIL PMU Resettlement Contractor
2.2	Economic Displacement	Progress on Preparation of RAP. Progress of Asset Inventories and Census. Progress on Signed Compensation Agreements. Progress on Compensation Payments. Progress on Livelihoods Restoration. Progress on Resolution of Grievances. Level of Stakeholder Engagement. Level of Support for Vulnerable People.	Monthly	MoIC PMU CRIDA PMU MAIL PMU Resettlement Contractor

Ref	Impact Issue	Monitoring Parameter / Indicator	Frequency	Responsibility
2.3	Loss of Community Facilities or Service	Progress on Preparation of RAP. Progress of Asset Inventories and Census. Progress on Signed Compensation Agreements. Progress on Construction of New Services. Progress on Resolution of Grievances. Level of Stakeholder Engagement. Level of Support for Vulnerable People.	Monthly	MoIC PMU CRIDA PMU MAIL PMU Resettlement Contractor
2.4	Loss of Access to Communal / Public Land	Progress on Preparation of RAP. Progress of Asset Inventories and Census. Progress on Signed Compensation Agreements. Progress on Sourcing Replacement Public Land. Progress on Resolution of Grievances. Level of Stakeholder Engagement. Level of Support for Vulnerable People.	Monthly	MoIC PMU CRIDA PMU MAIL PMU Resettlement Contractor
2.5	Loss of Access to Communal Natural Resources	Progress on Preparation of RAP. Progress of Asset Inventories and Census. Progress on Signed Compensation Agreements. Progress on Sourcing Replacement Resources Progress on establishment of Community Funds. Progress on Resolution of Grievances. Level of Stakeholder Engagement. Level of Support for Vulnerable People.	Monthly	MoIC PMU CRIDA PMU MAIL PMU Resettlement Contractor

Ref	Impact Issue	Monitoring Parameter / Indicator	Frequency	Responsibility
2.6	Loss of Tangible Cultural Heritage	Preparation of Heritage Impact Assessment. Progress of obtaining permits (where needed). Record of Chance Finds. Progress on any field studies or excavations. Progress on any salvage or conservation programs.	Monthly	MoIC PMU CRIDA PMU MAIL PMU Private Developer
2.7	Loss of Intangible Cultural Heritage	Preparation of Heritage Impact Assessment. Level of Stakeholder Engagement. Progress on any cultural conservation programs. Progress on Resolution of Grievances. Level of Support for Vulnerable People.	Monthly	MoIC PMU CRIDA PMU MAIL PMU Private Developer
2.8	Indigenous and Nomadic People	Preparation of ESIA (Screening). Preparation of an Indigenous People Plan (if required). Implementation of Indigenous People Plan (if required). Level of Stakeholder Engagement. Progress on Resolution of Grievances. Level of Support for Vulnerable People.	Monthly	MoIC PMU CRIDA PMU MAIL PMU Private Developer
2.9	Traffic Safety	Progress on Road Construction or Upgrades Construction or Operational Traffic Incidents and Emergencies Commuter Traffic Incidents and Emergencies	Monthly	MoIC PMU CRIDA PMU MAIL PMU Construction Contractor Operations Contractor
2.10	Restriction of Mobility and Public Thoroughfares	Preparation of ESIA. Adoption of Mitigation Measures. Level of Stakeholder Engagement. Progress on Resolution of Grievances. Level of Support for Vulnerable People.	Monthly	MoIC PMU CRIDA PMU MAIL PMU Construction Contractor Operations Contractor

Ref	Impact Issue	Monitoring Parameter / Indicator	Frequency	Responsibility
2.11	Labor Influx	Construction and Operational Workforce Requirements. Implementation of Recruitment Practices / Influx Management Plan. Formation of Informal Settlements / Housing Around the Project Site. Level of Engagement with Local Authorities. Progress on Resolution of Grievances (concerning workforce).	Monthly	MoIC PMU CRIDA PMU MAIL PMU Construction Contractor Operations Contractor
2.12	Pressure on Basic Services and Public Infrastructure	Construction and Operational Workforce Requirements. Implementation of Recruitment Practices / Influx Management Plan. Formation of Informal Settlements / Housing Around the Project Site. Level of Engagement with Local Authorities. Progress on Resolution of Grievances.	Monthly	MoIC PMU CRIDA PMU MAIL PMU Construction Contractor Operations Contractor
2.13	Market / Trade Links	List of Active Beneficiaries / Sellers Using the IAFPs, FCC or RTH's. List of Sales Made from Active Beneficiaries / Sellers. List of Materials / Goods Bought from Active Beneficiaries / Sellers. List of Active Off-Takers Using the IAFPs, FCC or RTHs.	Bi-annual	MoIC PMU CRIDA PMU MAIL PMU Operations Contractor Private Developers
2.14	Improved Access to Input Support and Extension Services	List of Inputs and Support Services Provided at the IAFPs, FCC or RTHs. List of Active Beneficiaries / Sellers Using the IAFPs, FCC or RTHs. List of Materials / Goods Provided to Active Beneficiaries / Sellers. List of Technical Support Activities undertaken at the IAFPs, FCC or RTHs.	Bi-annual	MAIL
2.15	Promoting SMME Business Development	List of Applicant SMMEs at the IAFPs, FCC or RTHs. List of Operational SMMEs at the IAFPs, FCC or RTHs. List of Women Owned SMMEs at the IAFPs, FCC or RTHs.	Bi-annual	MoIC PMU CRIDA PMU MAIL PMU Operations Contractor Private Developers

Ref	Impact Issue	Monitoring Parameter / Indicator	Frequency	Responsibility
2.16	Promoting Local Employment	List of Construction and Operational Workforce by Place of Origin. List of Tenant Businesses Workforce by Place of Origin.	Bi-annual	MoIC PMU CRIDA PMU MAIL PMU Construction Contractor Operations Contractor Private Developers
2.17	Promoting Local Content	List of Local Suppliers or Service Providers by Place of Origin.	Bi-annual	MoIC PMU CRIDA PMU MAIL PMU Construction Contractor Operations Contractor Private Developers
2.18	Improved Representation of Women	List of Construction and Operational Workforce by Gender. List of Tenant Businesses Workforce by Gender. List of Women Owned SMMEs at the IAFPs, FCC or RTH's. List of Gender Sensitive Facilities at the IAFPs, FCC or RTH's.	Bi-annual	MoIC PMU CRIDA PMU MAIL PMU Construction Contractor Operations Contractor Private Developers
2.19	Safeguarding of Vulnerable People	Number of households that have been identified as vulnerable. Level of Engagement with Vulnerable People. List of Project Beneficiaries that are identified as vulnerable. Special programmes / measures to support vulnerable people.	Quarterly	MoIC PMU CRIDA PMU MAIL PMU Construction Contractor Operations Contractor Private Developers
2.20	Community Health, Safety and Security	Number of Near Misses between Project and the Public. Number of Incidents (by type) between Project and the Public. Number of grievances related to community health and safety. Progress on resolution of Grievances.	Quarterly	MoIC PMU CRIDA PMU MAIL PMU Construction Contractor Operations Contractor Private Developers

Ref	Impact Issue	Monitoring Parameter / Indicator	Frequency	Responsibility
2.21	Citizen Engagement	Number of Media / Information Campaigns Total population reach of Media / Information Campaigns. Number of public meetings / hearings. Number of meetings of Project Committee / Engagement Forums. Public / community representation in Project Committees.	Quarterly	MoIC PMU MAIL Operations Contractor Private Developers

## 10.6 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL AUDIT

The Agriculture Steering Committee will appoint a competent external auditor to review the level of compliance with environmental and social requirements. The external audit will be undertaken on an annual basis from the commencement of Project construction and will cover all active construction or operational sites for the IAFPs, FCCs, RTHs.

The auditor will be required to audit all sites and assess whether (1) environmental and social requirements established in the ESMF, initial environmental and social assessment, ESIA, ESMP or relevant permits are being complied with; (2) the level of risk or liability associated with non-compliances; (3) provide recommendations to resolve non-compliances or for general improvements in operations; and (4) define roles, responsibilities and schedules for any recommendations made.

The auditor will submit a consolidated audit report of all IAFPs, FCCs, RTHs sites to the MoIC and MAIL for initial review. The report will be revised and then resubmitted to the Agriculture Steering Committee and the World Bank for review and ratification. Where required under any environmental permits, the annual audit report may be submitted to the relevant authorities.

## 10.7 OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES

### 10.7.1 Management of Environmental, Social and OHS Issues

The management of environmental, social and OHS issues within any public agency or private company developing a sub-project is guided by the following:

- **Intent** – policies, guidelines and other obligations (regulatory, contractual);
- **Commitment** – structures (accountability), personnel, resourcing, finances and systems;
- **Method** – procedures, processes, management (correction and action plans); and
- **Validation** – monitoring, review, assurance and reporting.

The environmental and social analysis conducted prior to the development of each sub-project will ensure that the sub-project undergoes an adequate environment, social and OHS assessment for NEPA to make a decision and for the developer to adjust their development plans to manage any related impacts and risks. But the real success of protecting the environment and people lies in the way in which the findings of the environmental and social assessment are implemented within the organization/company processes. It is thus essential that environmental, social and OHS issues are incorporated into all aspects of the organization's/ company's operational management, in particular, the following should be in evidence:

- *A good understanding of their commitments and obligations* – the ESIA, ESMF and Safeguard documents should be translated into the local language and company staff made aware of this information.
- *Organizational structure to implement the requirements* – appropriately qualified and competent staff at management level to execute the requirements (see Section 8). Training should be undertaken on a regular basis to ensure adequate capacity within the organization. Where specialist services are required these should be contracted in.

- *Clear procedures and systems for correction, where needed* – operating procedures put in place prior to the commencement of any activities and clearly communicated. The incorporation of corrective actions and management plans into the company's administrative system.
- *Review and reporting processes* – the status to be reported on a regular basis to company management and to other stakeholders, such as WB, MAIL and MoCI.

### **10.7.2 Contractual Obligations**

The borrower (MoIC and MAIL), and by association the sub-borrower (any private developer), is responsible for meeting the contractual conditions of the WB loan. The ESMF forms part of the WB conditions and the obligations should be carried over to contractual agreements entered into between MAIL/MoIC and any sub-project developer. The requirements of the ESMF will need to be communicated to the sub-borrower.

The sub-project contract should be written in the local language and the required environmental, social and OHS conditions reviewed with the private developer before any activity starts. Clarity should be obtained that these conditions and their implications are understood by the private developer and agreement reached on the manner in which they will be implemented by the private organization (see Section 4.1).

It is recommended that the construction contractor incorporates the requirements of the ESMF into their operating procedures and appoints an HSEC Manager to monitor adherence to these requirements during this phase of project development. The manner in which this is implemented should take cognizance of, and be appropriate to, the size and complexity of the organization/company that has been sub-contracted. Processes and topics of importance are discussed further here.

### **10.7.3 Environmental, Social and OHS Advisory Panel**

The World Bank safeguard policies (OP 4.01) require the engagement of an advisory panel of independent, internationally recognized specialists to advise on all aspects of the project relevant to the environmental and social assessment if the project is highly risky, contentious or could involve serious and multi-dimensional concerns. An Environmental, Social and OHS Advisory Panel is required in this case due to the complexity of the whole Project.

The OMAID Project itself has been categorized as a Category A Project due to the diverse sub-projects and activities planned under Component 2, which is the subject of this ESMF. A Category A project has to undergo a full ESIA. However, each sub-project will be developed individually and will undertake the necessary environmental and social assessment separately. The sub-projects will vary from an FCC composed of storage, warehousing, collection and packaging points or RTH with activities such as cold storage, nurseries producing plant materials and feed grain production units to an IAFP with agro-processing facilities, such as dairy processing, supply stores, vehicle/equipment maintenance and repair facilities with associated infrastructure, such as access roads and utility connections. As such the level of complexity of each sub-project will vary, as will the type of environmental and social assessment appropriate to the planned activity.

As Screening could result in an environmental and social assessment being mandated by NEPA according to the ESIA regulations, it is important that the screening process meets the ESMF

requirements as well. It is recommended that for the Project the following is put in place to guide the alignment of the processes where they differ:

- A *WB environment, social and OHS specialist* be seconded to work with MAIL in the execution of Subcomponent 2 of the OMAID Project. This WB representative will:
  - Engage regularly with the senior leadership of MAIL and be privy to the Agricultural Steering Committee;
  - Provide oversight and coordination on the environmental, social and OHS aspects of the Project implementation; and
  - Assure the application of the ESMF to the Project.
- An *Independent Advisory Panel (IAP)* of independent, internationally recognized environmental, social and OHS specialists be formed to advise on the development of all sub-projects to ensure WB standards are applied. The IAP will:
  - Advise on all aspects of the Project relevant to EA;
  - Review and advise on the screening of sub-projects;
  - Provide technical advice in identified areas of specialization, as required; and
  - Assist in assessing the capacity constraints and corrective measures.

## 11 CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Citizen engagement and public consultation will be supported throughout the planning, development, construction and operations of the Project and all associated sub-projects. The intent of such engagement is to support the building of positive community relations and establishing open communication channels with potential Project/Sub-Project<sup>8</sup> beneficiaries.

### 11.1 CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

Consistent with World Bank policy, the Project and all associated sub-projects will support *citizen engagement* – or a two-way and iterative interaction between the citizens of Afghanistan and the implementing agencies at IAFPs, FCCs and RTHs. The intent is to give citizens a stake in planning the Project and sub-projects and the means for providing ongoing consultation and collaboration through the Project life-cycle.

Citizen engagement will be undertaken at multiple levels and will be the duties of MoIC, CRIDA and MAIL for their respective components and sub-projects. At minimum, the implementing agencies will comply with all legal requirements for stakeholder engagement as part of the ESIA process. The implementing agencies will also provide for ongoing citizen engagement throughout the Project life-cycle to build constructive relationships, and to maintain them over time.

There are multiple avenues in terms of supporting citizen engagement, and they may be customized to the needs of each sub-project and the target stakeholders. Options may include:

- 1. Media / Information Campaigns:** Awareness of the Project may be supported via media programs, including media briefings, articles, newsletters and Project information portals (Project website, World Bank Infoshop etc.). Key information may be disclosed to the wider public via such programs.

MAIL, CRIDA and MoIC will be responsible for implementing the media program and focus on major regional centers and villages within the likely supply catchment into the various IAFPs, RTHs and FCCs. The media program should also focus on project beneficiaries including local businesses, farmers groups, producers, marketing organizations and individual farmers.

- 2. Public Notices:** The Project will submit formal notices consistent with national law, which may include posting notices at public sites near the Project site, provision of direct written notification, or media notices (national newspaper, radio or television). Such notices are mandatory at certain stage of the ESIA process.

MoIC and CRIDA as the primary applicants for the IAFPs and the Private Developers for the FCCs and RTHs will be responsible for all forms of public notices required under initial environmental and social assessment and ESIA process. Notifications will be circulated to key stakeholders at major regional centers and villages in proximity to the various IAFPs,

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<sup>8</sup> In this Chapter the reference to Project includes Sub-Project

RTHs and FCCs, as well as project beneficiaries including local businesses, farmers groups, producers marketing organizations and individual farmers.

- 3. ESIA Public Hearing / Meetings:** The Project will host suitable public hearings or community meetings at the appropriate time and location. Hearings are a mandatory requirement as part of the ESIA process. MoIC and CRIDA as the primary applicants for the IAFPs and the Private Developers for the FCCs and RTHs will be responsible for all forms of public hearings. An initial round of public engagement will be undertaken as part of the ESIA scoping phase. A second round of engagement will be undertaken alongside the publication of the final ESIA report.

In addition, MOIC, CRIDA and MAIL may convene additional public hearings or meetings outside of the ESIA process, and at any time in the Project construction and operational phase. Such meetings should be undertaken on a needs basis to address any specific community issues / grievances or form part of the media / information campaigns.

- 4. Discretionary Meetings:** The Project may host smaller and targeted meetings with individual or small-group of people in cases where (1) there is a need to address specific issues, (2) to protect minority or vulnerable people, (3) open public meetings are not viable due to elevated conflict or safety risks.

MoIC and CRIDA as the primary applicant for the IAFPs and MAIL for the FCCs and RTHs will be responsible for all forms of discretionary meetings. All meetings will be undertaken with relevant stakeholders on a needs basis. However, at minimum meetings will be held as part of the ESIA scoping phase or as part of the initial environmental and social assessment. A second round of meetings will be undertaken alongside the publication of the final ESIA report as well as the final initial environmental and social assessment report.

In addition, MoIC, CRIDA and MAIL may convene ongoing meetings outside of the ESIA process, and at any time in the Project construction and operational phase. Such meetings should be undertaken on a needs basis and related to day-to-day management of environmental and social issues.

- 5. Working Groups / Community Forums:** The Project may establish suitable consultative forums, committees or working groups. At the most basic level, this may be a simple community forum that allows communication between the Project and stakeholders, or they may be a legal body (for example the Land Acquisition Evaluation Committee) with a specific mandate or function.

MoIC and CRIDA as the primary applicant for the IAFPs and the MAIL for the FCCs and RTHs will establish working groups or community forums. These forums will be constituted during the development phase and will remain operational for the life of the sub-project or until the forums decides to disband. The forums will allow for long-term engagement will key stakeholders and should be convened on a quarterly basis.

- 6. Community Office and Hotline:** The Project may establish a community office at each Project / Sub-Project site, which local stakeholders may visit. Where no physical office can be established a suitable hotline or contact person should be provided for.

MAIL, CRIDA and MoIC, in collaboration of its contractors or private developers, will be responsible for the establishment of a community office and hotline at all functional IAFPs, RTHs and FCCs. The office will remain constituted during the development phase and will remain operational for the life of the sub-project to allow for ongoing stakeholder engagement and support.

- 7. Education and Awareness Programs:** The Project may establish short or long-term education and awareness building programs, that include public meetings, roadshows, newsletters, media programs etc. MAIL and MoIC will be responsible for such a program and it should occur prior to the development of the IAFPs, RTHs and FCCs.
- 8. Grievance Mechanism:** MOIC, CRIDA and MAIL will establish a function grievance mechanism consistent with the provisions and requirements established in this ESMF. This will include suitable feedback mechanisms.

The Project will ensure that all forms of citizen engagement will be undertaken in an appropriate and culturally sensitive and tailored to the characteristics and interests of different stakeholders. This include presenting any information in the appropriate language(s), and accessible and understandable to citizens with differing levels of literacy and skills.

**11.2 ENGAGEMENT UNDERTAKEN AS PART OF THE ESMF**

The development of this ESMF was supported by a focused interview program. Stakeholder allows for the disclosure of the documents and for stakeholders to provide their comments and general feedback. Once the draft ESMF is finalized it will be disclosed as part of a structured stakeholder engagement process.

The interview program covered a targeted list of stakeholders including focus on key implementing agencies (including national government ministries and provincial directorates). The aim of the interviews was to understand their mandate, capacity challenges and approach to environmental and social management. Additional local interviews will also be undertaken at the IAFPs including municipal officials and local traditional leaders / elders.

The Project will consult with a range of stakeholders including relevant government agencies, academia, civil society organizations, community representatives, project beneficiaries and private businesses working in the agriculture/agribusiness sector. A profile of target stakeholders is presented in **Table 18** below

**Table 18: Stakeholder Engagement Groups, Notification Process and Consultation**

Sector / Group	Consultation Approach
<p><b>National Authorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock</li> <li>• Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development</li> <li>• National Environmental Protection Agency</li> <li>• The Afghanistan Independent Land Authority</li> <li>• Ministry of Information and Culture</li> <li>• Ministry Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled</li> </ul>	<p>One-on-One Meetings with Each Ministry</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p>

Sector / Group	Consultation Approach
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Women Affairs</li> <li>• Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission</li> </ul>	Review of Reports and Written Feedback
<p><b>National Public Meeting (Public and Private Sector)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NGOs / CSOs</li> <li>• Academia</li> <li>• Private Sector</li> <li>• General Public</li> </ul>	1 x Public Meeting and Review of Reports and Written Feedback
<p><b>Provincial and District Public Meetings (Mazar e-Sharif, Kandahar, Kabul, Herat, and Nangarhar)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governor's Office</li> <li>• Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock</li> <li>• Directorate of Rural Rehabilitation and Development</li> <li>• Directorate of National Environmental Protection Agency</li> <li>• Directorate of the Afghanistan Independent Land Authority</li> <li>• Directorate of Information and Culture</li> <li>• Directorate of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled</li> <li>• Directorate of Women Affairs</li> <li>• Provincial Department of the Human Right Commission</li> <li>• District Governor's Office</li> <li>• Affected Shuras</li> </ul>	1 x Public Meeting at Mazar e-Sharif, Kandahar, Kabul, Herat, and Nangarhar and Review of Reports and Written Feedback

The Project will ensure that full information disclosure and transparency is supported during the stakeholder engagement process. This will include the following:

- Prepare draft versions of the full ESMF, PMP and RPF for public disclosure. The reports will be made available in English, Pashto and Dari.
- Prepare short non-technical summaries for the ESMF, PMP and RPF for public disclosure. The summaries will be made available in English, Pashto and Dari.
- The draft versions of the full ESMF, PMP and RPF and the non-technical summaries will be disclosed on the MAIL and MoIC websites, prior to any stakeholder consultation.
- The final versions of the full ESMF, PMP and RPF and the non-technical summaries will be disclosed a second time on the MAIL and MoIC websites and on the World Bank external website.

### 11.3 GRIEVANCE MECHANISM

The Project will establish a Grievance Mechanism – or a procedure for receiving and facilitating the resolution of public concerns and grievances. The mechanism will provide a credible and accessible means for stakeholders to raise any grievances, issues, or objections specific to the Project or Sub-Projects.

#### 11.3.1 Grievance Redress Committee

The Grievance Mechanism will be made operational via the establishment of a Grievance Redress Committee, formally constituted as a sub-committee under the Agriculture Steering Committee. The Grievance Redress Committee will function as an independent oversight body

that is formally mandated to record, investigate and resolve grievances as presented in Figure 8 1 overleaf.

The Grievance Redress Committee will be made operational at multiple levels, and each level will be applicable based on the escalation of the grievance from the local level to national level, as summarized below:

- **Level 1 – Sub-Project Grievance Redress Committee** – A Sub-Project Grievance Redress Committee will be established at each Sub-Project and administered by either MoIC or MAIL as appropriate to each Sub-Project. This committee may resolve grievances that are minor in nature and readily resolved at the local level. Where no resolution can be found, the grievance will be escalated to Level 2. The members of the Sub-Project Grievance Redress Committee will include:
  1. Sub-Project Proponent,
  2. MoIC / MAIL (Committee Secretariat),
  3. Representatives of Affected Communities,
  4. Representatives of Village Shuras,
  5. Representative of the Community Development Council
  6. Representatives of Mayors Office (in municipal areas)
  
- **Level 2 – Provincial Grievance Redress Committee:** A Provincial Grievance Redress Committee will be established and administered by either MoIC or MAIL as appropriate. This committee may resolve grievances that could not be resolved under the Level 1 committee or involved grievances or issues that are common across of Provincial sub-projects. The members of the Provincial Grievance Redress Committee will include:
  1. MoIC and MAIL (Committee Secretariat),
  2. Representatives of Sub-Project Proponents,
  3. Representative of the Provincial Office of MUDL,
  4. Representative of the Provincial Office of NEPA.
  5. Representative of relevant Provincial Ministries (as relevant to specific grievances)
  
- **Level 3 – National Independent Grievance Redress Committee:** A National Independent Grievance Redress Committee will be formally constituted under the Agriculture Steering Committee. It will have the mandate to investigate and resolve grievances that could not be resolved at the local and provincial level, or grievances that may impact on all other Sub-Projects.
  1. MoIC and MAIL (Committee Secretariat),
  2. Representative of the Provincial Office of MUDL,
  3. Representative of the Provincial Office of NEPA.
  4. Representative of relevant National Ministries (as relevant to specific grievances)
  
- **Level 4 –The Courts:** Legal action that is available to any citizen in conformance with applicable laws and irrespective of whether the grievance has been raised through the Grievance Mechanism.

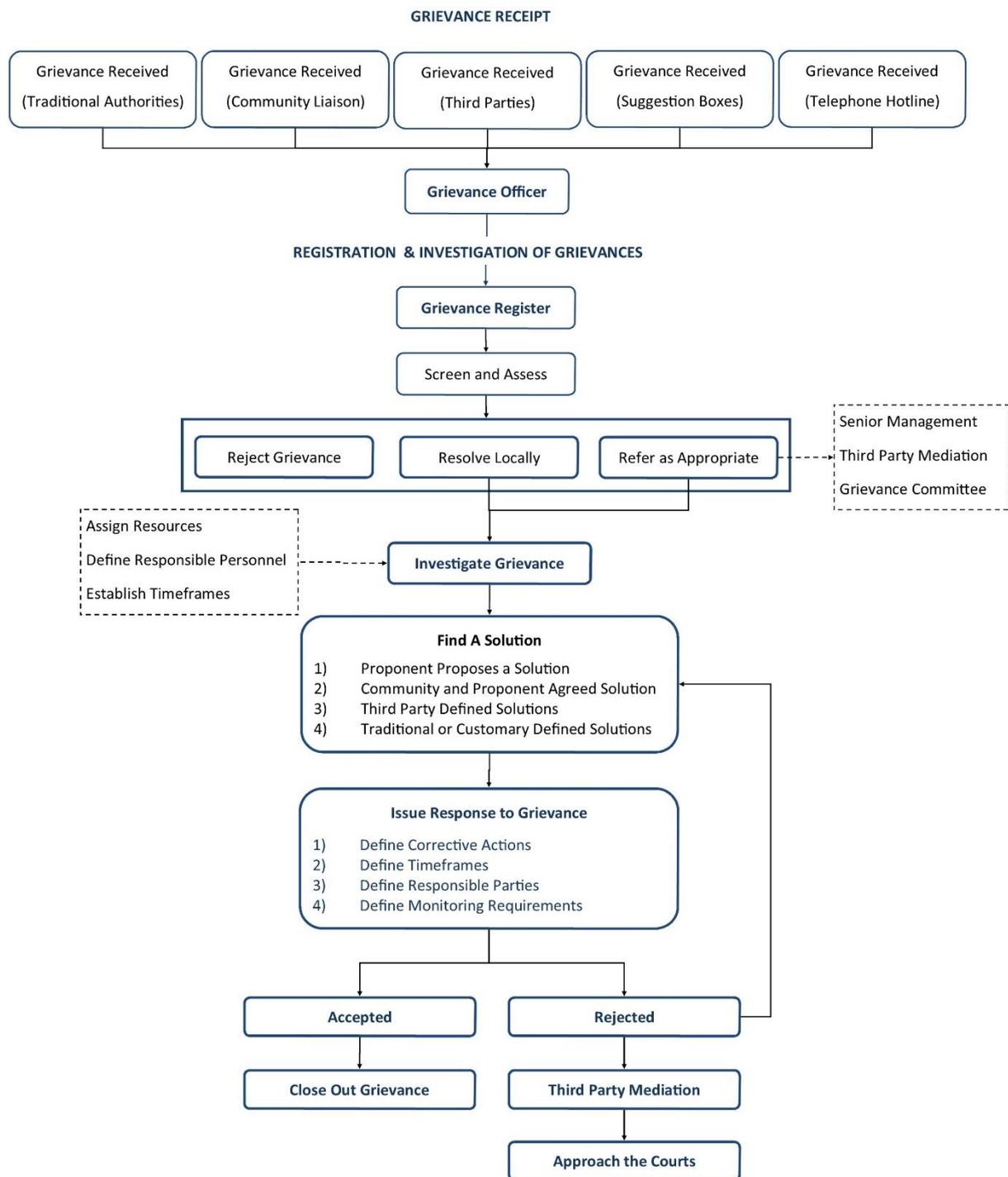
### 11.3.2 Grievance Process

The key operational steps in recording, investigating and resolving grievances are presented in **Figure 24** and summarized below:

- 1. Receive Grievance** – The Sub-Project Grievance Redress Committee will receive complaints/grievances via the various established communication lines and report to the Provincial Grievance Redress Committee. The Sub-Project Grievance Redress Committee will ensure that each sub-project has a Grievance Officer that will be mandated to manage the day-to-day aspects of grievance management and documenting the grievance using pre-established Grievance Forms.

In support of this first step, each sub-project will establish suitable lines of communication (including communication via traditional authorities, community liaison officers, suggestion boxed, telephone hotlines) which can be access by local communities. Suitable awareness and consultation will be undertaken by the Grievance Officer to highlight the existence of the grievance mechanism and how it may be used.

- 2. Screening and Assessment** – An initial assessment of the grievance will be conducted to determine whether the grievance can be resolved at the local level under by the Sub-Project Grievance Redress Committee (Level 1), or need to be escalated to the provincial level under the Provincial Grievance Redress Committee (Level 2).
- 3. Investigate and Resolve Grievances** – The Sub-Project Grievance Redress Committee or the Provincial Grievance Redress Committee, with assistance from technical specialists, will investigate the underlying cause(s) of the grievance and develop corrective actions needed to resolve grievances as well as prevent recurrence of similar grievances. The timing of the investigations and corrective actions will vary depending on the nature of the grievance as:
  - **Level 1 Grievances** – To be reported, investigated and corrective actions established within 30 days. The Sub-Project Grievance Redress Committee will provide feedback and obtain agreement from the Claimant within 14 days.
  - **Level 2 Grievances** – To be reported, investigated and corrective actions established within 30 days. The Provincial Grievance Redress Committee will provide feedback and obtain agreement from the Claimant within 14 days.
  - **Level 3 Grievances** – All grievances that could not be resolved under the Level 1 and Level 2 committees will be escalated to the National Independent Grievance Redress Committee. An additional 30 days will be allocated for further investigations. The National Independent Grievance Redress Committee will provide feedback and obtain agreement from the Claimant within 30 days.
- 4. Close Out Grievances** – The Sub-Project Grievance Redress Committee or the Provincial Grievance Redress Committee will provide feedback and obtain sign-off from individual or group that laid the grievance that the grievance has been resolved to their satisfaction. This signed resolution will be in written form in order to close out the grievance.



**Figure 24: Grievance Mechanism**

**11.3.3 Grievance Awareness Building**

MoIC and MAIL, including all site operations (including construction and operational contractors) will be required to ensure that the grievance mechanism is suitably disclosed to the public and local communities. This should include provisions of briefing documents during the engagement, establishing a hotline and suitable lines of communications, as well as a site office for the collection and investigation of grievances.

### **11.3.4 Grievance Recording and Reporting**

MolC and MAIL, will in collaboration with the various Grievance Committees, will establish a formal and structured recording system including the creation of a Grievance Database. Regular internal monitoring and reporting will be undertaken to the Agricultural Steering Committee and the World Bank.

### **11.3.5 Participation of Women and Vulnerable People**

Vulnerable People is a term given to individuals, households, or groups of people that may be disproportionately affected as well as being unable to benefit from by the Project activities based on their gender, ethnicity, age, physical or mental disability, economic disadvantage, or social status within their community. The nature of vulnerable households is complex in Afghanistan; however, the major groups will include:

- 1. Elderly Headed Households:** Households solely comprised of elderly with limited or no support from economically active mature adult males (aged between 21 and 65 years of age). Such households are particularly vulnerable because they often lack the physical capacity or economic opportunity to generate income or to manage any negative social impacts (such as resettlement). They often also struggle to fully engage and benefit from any programs or opportunities presented by the Project or Sub-Projects.
- 2. Female-Headed Households and Women in General:** Female-headed households and women in general are likely to be disadvantaged from gender discrimination with respect to the ownership of land and assets, the ability to generate an income or to engage with members outside of their immediate family. The often-complex interplay of legal and customary practices in Afghanistan results in undermining the rights of female-headed households. The issue of women's rights and representation in the Project as well as any opportunities the Project presents will need to be considered with extreme care. Enforcing rules that increase such rights and representation without systemic support from all parties (including male leadership) opens the very real possibility of abuse or retaliatory action on women.
- 3. Child-Headed Households:** Child-headed households or households exclusively comprised of children (persons under the age of 18) are generally deemed vulnerable due to lack of support from an adult family member. Children may be vulnerable to exploitation from extended family members, guardians or local villagers where their parents are not present.
- 4. Persons with No Rights to Land:** People that derive benefits from land, or any structures or any assets on that, but have no legal protections or rights to those assets, are deemed vulnerable. The limited rights to land often open such households to abuse from private landowners or communities attempting to evict illegal occupants. The complexity of land tenure arrangements in Afghanistan makes for a diverse group of people, which may include:
  - a. Tenants:** Tenants face the risk of arbitrary eviction from housing and land, and this may include short-terms (annualized) tenants and long-term tenants (tenants residing or using land over multiple years and are largely sedentary).

- b. Undocumented Landowners:** Landowners with claims to formal and customary rights to land but lack documented proof of such rights may be exposed to conflicting claims and abuse by powerful landowners or authorities.
  - c. Squatters:** Households resident on the state, public, public grazing or special grazing land, without any form of tenure rights, opens the potential for conflict, land-grabs and evictions by the State and village councils/leadership.
- 5. Internally Displaced Persons:** This may include persons, households or groups of people that have been internally displaced by conflict in Afghanistan. This group may be particularly vulnerable to abuses where their rights to land are unknown and are forced to informally occupy land. In addition, internally displaced persons will likely have experienced a number of shocks to their social support networks, family structure and ability to engage in income generating livelihoods.
- 6. Persons with Disabilities:** Households, where one or more household members are defined as physically or mentally disabled, are deemed vulnerable. They are vulnerable due to the reduced labor/income producing potential and require additional resources and support in the care of the disabled person.
- 7. Ethnic Minorities:** Given the ethnic diversity and tensions present in Afghanistan, ethnic minorities may be defined as potentially vulnerable. This may not be limited to their socio-economic status or household structure, but rather the degree of exclusion in nation building, political processes, decision-making and their relationship with other ethnic groups. The inherent complexity demands extra consideration and safeguarding ethnic minorities even if they are not explicitly vulnerable.

Vulnerable persons are often unable to make their voices heard during engagement. This may be attributed to their marginalized status, or because of their isolation/ exclusion from existing social structures and networks. The Project will ensure that vulnerable people (notably women) are offered the opportunity to engage and participate in the resettlement process. This requires providing targeted and thoughtful support including:

1. Engagement with vulnerable people and women should be undertaken using existing community committees or forums, where this is viable.
2. Ensure fair representation of vulnerable people and women in any committees or panels established under the ESMF.
3. Ensure engagement with vulnerable groups and women is undertaken by experienced staff, and the Project should retain female staff with experience in working with women.
4. If there are minority language groups present among Affected Persons, ensuring that the Project includes persons who can speak these languages.
5. During disclosure of socio-economic data collected during Screening, initial environmental and social assessment, or the ESIA, ensure that potentially sensitive data (e.g. the identity of households belonging to minority groups) is redacted.
6. Including, as a standard agenda item in all consultation and meetings, a discussion on any specific measures that may be required to address the needs of vulnerable groups and women.
7. Separate consultation (in the form of individual meetings and/or focus group discussions) with vulnerable persons or groups, or with representatives of vulnerable groups (e.g. local community-based organizations or NGOs working with vulnerable).

8. Ensure that a functional grievance mechanism is established and there are additional structures to support vulnerable people women in accessing and lodging grievances.

At all times, such engagement will be undertaken in such a manner that is culturally appropriate and sensitive to the needs and situation of vulnerable people. No form of engagement or communications will be permitted that highlights or isolates individuals that may be defined as vulnerable (particularly those vulnerable to prosecution or any form). The privacy and safety of vulnerable people will be strictly protected.

It is also expected that the implementing authorities will establish programs that support the inclusion of vulnerable people as beneficiaries into the overall Project and sub-project. To support this mandate, the implementing agencies are requiring including a social safeguard and a gender specialist as part of their staffing compliment (See Chapter 13). These specialists will be required to prepare and implement such programs based on the following general strategy:

1. MoIC and MAIL in the development of the IAFPs, FCCs and RTHs will undertake to meet the following requirements with respect to women:
  - a. Ensure fair employment of women consistent with national law as condition of contracting of both the construction and operations contractors.
  - b. Ensure fair employment of women consistent with national law as condition of leasing of all business tenants, as well as condition of contracting of suppliers of goods and services; providers of infrastructure services and connections; and primary supply chains.
  - c. Prepare a Gender-Base-Violence Action Plan as the PMU level and issue the plan to all construction and operation contractors, goods and service providers, as well as the supply chain.
  - d. Establish a Code of Conduct for all construction and operation contractors, goods and service providers, as well as the supply chain, that will be signed by all relevant parties and employees.
  - e. Ensure that women have a suitable avenue to lodge grievance (via the grievance mechanism or suitable human resources systems) related to sexual, physical or emotional harassment of women. This includes access and links to Gender-Base-Violence support groups functional in the area.
  - f. Where the risk for Gender-Base-Violence is deemed to be high, MoIC and MAIL will appoint a GBV Services Provider to be operational at each of the sub-project sites.
  - g. Ensure that suitable facilities including provision for security and privacy for women working of visiting each of the sub-project sites.
  - h. Ensure that women have suitable representation in all relevant community forums or committees, and where viable establish separate sub-committees to support the development of women.
  - i. MoIC and MAIL, via the social safeguards and gender specialists will provide training and sensitizing of all construction and operation contractors, goods and service providers, as well as the supply chain.
  - j. MoIC and MAIL will attempt to maximize women benefits via the incorporation of women-owned or women-supports SMME's in the IAFPs. Ideally, this should be promoted via collaboration with structured state programs focused on promoting women in agriculture (including the WB programs such as the women's economic empowerment rural development project).

2. MoIC and MAIL in the development of the IAFPs, FCCs and RTHs will undertake to meet the following requirements with respect to vulnerable people in general:
  - a. Profile all stakeholder groups with respect to their vulnerability and plan suitable outreach and engagement approaches that is appropriate for each vulnerable group.
  - b. Ensure that women have suitable representation in all relevant community forums or committees, and where viable establish separate sub-committees to support the development of women.
  - c. MoIC and MAIL, via the social safeguards and gender specialists will provide training and sensitizing of all construction and operation contractors, goods and service providers, as well as the supply chain.
  - d. Enhanced opportunities of employment for more vulnerable groups within communities, especially the landless.
  - e. Ensure fair employment of women consistent with national law as condition of contracting of both the construction and operations contractors.
  - f. Ensure fair employment of women consistent with national law as condition of leasing of all business tenants, as well as condition of contracting of suppliers of goods and services; providers of infrastructure services and connections; and primary supply chains.
  - g. Establish a Code of Conduct for all construction and operation contractors, goods and service providers, as well as the supply chain, that will be signed by all relevant parties and employees.
  - h. Ensure that women have a suitable avenue to lodge grievance (via the grievance mechanism or suitable human resources systems) related to sexual, physical or emotional harassment of women. This includes access and links to Gender-Base-Violence support groups functional in the area.
  - i. Where the risk for Gender-Base-Violence is deemed to be high, MoIC and MAIL will appoint a GBV Services Provider to be operational at each of the sub-project sites.
  - j. Ensure that suitable facilities including provision for security and privacy for women working of visiting each of the sub-project sites.
  - k. MoIC and MAIL will attempt to maximize benefits for vulnerable households by prioritizing access to public input support and services provided at the IAFPs, FCCs, and RTHs.

MoIC and MAIL will attempt to promote and priorities SMME development for vulnerable households. Ideally, this should be promoted via collaboration with structured state programs focusses on rural agrarian development and reform.

## **12 GUIDELINES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

### **12.1 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The control and mitigation of potential adverse effects of sub-project development in every case will be supported by an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) that will be prepared with the ESIA, or as prescribed by the screening process conducted during the sub-project appraisal. The purpose of the ESMP is to set out a clear set of actions and responsibilities for the control of impacts affecting the environment within the operations' area of influence for any proposed sub-project. It should also consider the cumulative impacts of the sub-project activities together with other surrounding activities to ensure that a proactive approach to the effective management of environmental impacts during all phases of the sub-project activities from construction, operation, to decommissioning and closure.

The ESMP will provide a framework for the implementation of environmental and social management measures. It will be prepared from the outcome of the ESIA conducted for the sub-project and will present management commitments made in these documents and those included in the conditions imposed in the permitting or licensing of the facility. Ideally, an opportunity should be provided for stakeholders to be made aware of the ESMP and give comment.

The framework process for the development of an ESMP is outlined in Annexure H together with the contents of an ESMP and a sample Environmental and Social Impact Management Action Table.

The implementing agencies and/or their consultants will prepare the ESMP in consultation with the Safeguards specialists.

### **12.2 PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Pesticides can be a major source of environmental pollution in agricultural settings and present health hazards, if protective measures are ignored and instructions related to product usage, and product handling during storage, transportation, and dosage, are not followed. Environmental impacts affect the soil, surface water, ground water, air, biodiversity, and pasture land, and human health effects include the skin, lung and digestive system. Indiscriminate pesticide use could also damage ecological agents, such as species fulfilling important ecological functions, e.g. bees and other pollination agents, and natural enemies of certain pests (parasitoides, predators and entomophagous microbes).

The use and/or disposal of pest control products in quantities that could be significant (in terms of volume and/or risk) from an environmental or health perspective classifies the Project as Category A. A Pest Management Plan (PMP) is designed to minimize potential adverse impacts on human health and the environment and to advance ecologically based IPM.

A PMP has been developed for this Project (Vision, September, 2019) as a stand-alone document, focussing on the value chains prioritized for the Project, i.e. field crops (cereal, pulses and legumes) and horticulture crops including fruit crops, as well as the dairy processing value chain, from milk procurement, bulking, to milk processing. The PMP provides

an assessment of current relevant pest management practices, identifies specific practices and conditions that could be improved, provides measures to improve the situation and outlines monitoring indicators for pesticide management, with recommendations on appropriate manpower for the PMP implementation and policy reforms.

The PMP recommends the following in order to create an enabling environment for IPM:

- Using the best agricultural practices together with culturally acceptable mechanical techniques.
- Using biological agents for perennial orchards and applying eco-friendly and safe pesticides.
- Improving and modernising technologies for valuable cash crops and for apiculture and vermicomposting.
- Screening crop varieties for agro-climatic zones.
- Minimising pesticide use and controlling the use of toxic pesticides.
- Improving facilities to prevent invasive pests entering the country.
- Training farmers in IPM practices and providing capacity building for relevant institutions.
- Undertaking a sustained public awareness program.

### **12.3 INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT**

In principle, the Project will attempt to secure any land required for the physical infrastructure via voluntary land agreements (i.e. willing-buyer, willing-seller agreements) and all forms of compulsory land acquisition will be avoided to the maximum extent possible. However, there may be cases where the Project is required to compulsorily acquire land. In such cases, the GoIRA will need to expropriate the land consistent with the Law on Land Acquisition of 2017.

Where involuntary resettlement is confirmed, the implementing agency, together with the World Bank, are required to assess the nature and magnitude of the likely displacement and determine the type of resettlement instrument (resettlement plan, abbreviated resettlement plan, resettlement policy framework, or process framework) and the scope and the level of detail required. The forms of involuntary resettlement considered applicable are:

- involuntary taking of land resulting in the relocation or loss of shelter;
- loss of assets or access to assets;
- the loss of income sources or means of livelihood, whether or not the affected persons must move to another location; or
- the involuntary restriction of access to legally designated parks and protected areas resulting in adverse impacts on the livelihoods of the displaced persons.

Involuntary resettlement may cause severe long-term hardship, impoverishment, and environmental damage unless appropriate measures are carefully planned and carried out.

The Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) developed for the Project (Annexure D) establishes the principles, rules and procedures to be followed in the management of all forms of compulsory land acquisition, compensation, and resettlement consistent with national law and WB safeguard policies. It functions as a precursor document to a full Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) that will need to be prepared on a sub-project by sub-project basis. The RAP will cover physical displacement, i.e. the displacement, loss or destruction of the place of

residence and requires the relocation of a household or community to another location; and economic displacement, i.e. the loss of access to land or the benefits derived from that land resulting in a loss of income and livelihoods of individuals, families or groups of people.

The 5 IAFPs are located in industrial or greenfield sites where land rights will be secured by MoIC or CRIDA. These sites do support limited fixed structures including small factories, swimming pools, derelict structures, and two known farmhouses. Physical displacement is considered to be very limited; however, economic displacement will occur where undocumented occupants and land-users have been displaced. Non-irrigated cultivated land is found at the Kabul Site, while the remaining 4 IAFPs are understood to be clear of all land claims or uses.

The locations of the FCCs and RTHs are not known. Assuming the land is secured via voluntary transactions only, as is required by any grant funding, then physical or economic displacement is unlikely. Once the sites are selected, a close assessment of undocumented occupants and land-users will, however, be required.

A key component of the RPF is the definition of an Eligibility and Entitlement Framework, which defines which persons or groups are deemed eligible for compensation or resettlement assistance. The Eligibility and Entitlement Framework differentiates rights and entitlements depending on land tenure, occupancy rights and as well as land-users. This includes persons with (1) formal ownership rights, (2) de-facto users or occupants (i.e. tenants), (3) de-facto users or occupants with adverse possession rights, and (4) unrecognized beneficiaries (i.e. squatters).

Where cash compensation is to be offered, it will be valued on the principles of replacement value. In-kind, or replacement assets, is however generally favored to allow Affected Persons to reinstate their livelihoods and living conditions to a state that is equal, or ideally better than before the resettlement. The RPF also makes additional provision for vulnerable people, including elderly-headed households, female-headed households, women in general, child-headed household, persons with no rights to land, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities. Further to the above, the Project will support the restoration and development of livelihoods. This includes supporting the provision of replacement assets and additional livelihoods support to allow affected persons to reinstate farming practices or income-generation streams.

Implementation of the RPF requirements will be the mandate of the GoIRA and relevant ministries, such as MoIC (DGIP for 4 IAFPs), CRIDA (1 IAFP) and MAIL (all GCCs and RTHs). These parties are defined as the Expropriating Authorities or Implementing Agencies on all land acquisition and resettlement matters. The implementing agencies will be required to provide ongoing and comprehensive stakeholder engagement and participation. This will include the formation of several committees required under national law, as well as direct engagement with Affected Persons. In addition, the implementing agencies will be required to disclosure the RPF and the RAP to the public.

## 13 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

### 13.1 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Several government agencies or private parties will be directly responsible and liable for meeting national legal framework and the World Bank environmental and social requirements as outlined in this ESMF. The key actors listed below have been determined based on the organizational structure for the IAFPs and FCCS / RTHs in **Figure 25** and **Figure 26** overleaf.

#### 13.1.1 High Economic Council

The High Economic Council (HEC) will be the primary oversight body and all committees, agencies and other role-players associated the Project and sub-projects will be accountable to the Council. The Council will meet at least twice a year to discuss the Project, review critical progress and updates and escalate any issues requiring Presidential attention. The Council will also be mandated to review and approve all Project annual plans and budgets.

#### 13.1.2 Agriculture Steering Committee / Agribusiness Executive Secretariat

The Project will be guided by an Agriculture Steering Committee established under the HEC. The Committee will be responsible for providing (1) providing overall strategic guidance and oversight, (2) allocating funds based on annual plans, (3) reviewing the implementation of the various sub-projects, and (4) ensuring effective collaboration and cooperation between all key stakeholders. Specific roles of the committee will include:

1. Review and authorize any relevant due diligence assessments, initial environmental and social assessments, ESIA's, ESMPs or other relevant plans before submission to the authorities for permitting.
2. Provide ongoing oversight support to Project sub-components via the review of annual work plans and the allocation of suitable budgets.
3. Ensure that environmental and social legal and safeguard measures are included in annual work plans and budget is sufficient to meet these requirements.
4. Support inter-ministerial coordination notably supporting coordination between MoIC or CRIDA (concerning the IAFPs) and MAIL (concerning the FCC and RTHs).
5. Ensure representation of PMU environmental and social safeguard specialists during Committee meetings, as well as key line ministries (MoIC, MAIL, MUDL etc.).
6. Support the World Bank or any independent third-party monitors in undertaking regular monitoring and evaluation studies, as well as establish measures for internal monitoring.
7. Undertake reviews of any monitoring report findings and authorize any corrective actions or management measures that need to be adopted.

The Agriculture Steering Committee will be a centralized national body, and the Committee will be support by the Agribusiness Executive Secretariat. This secretariat will assume much of the technical and day-to-day operational requirements on behalf of the Committee and ensure coordination and supervision of the implementation of Project action plans in collaboration with the various agencies and role-players.

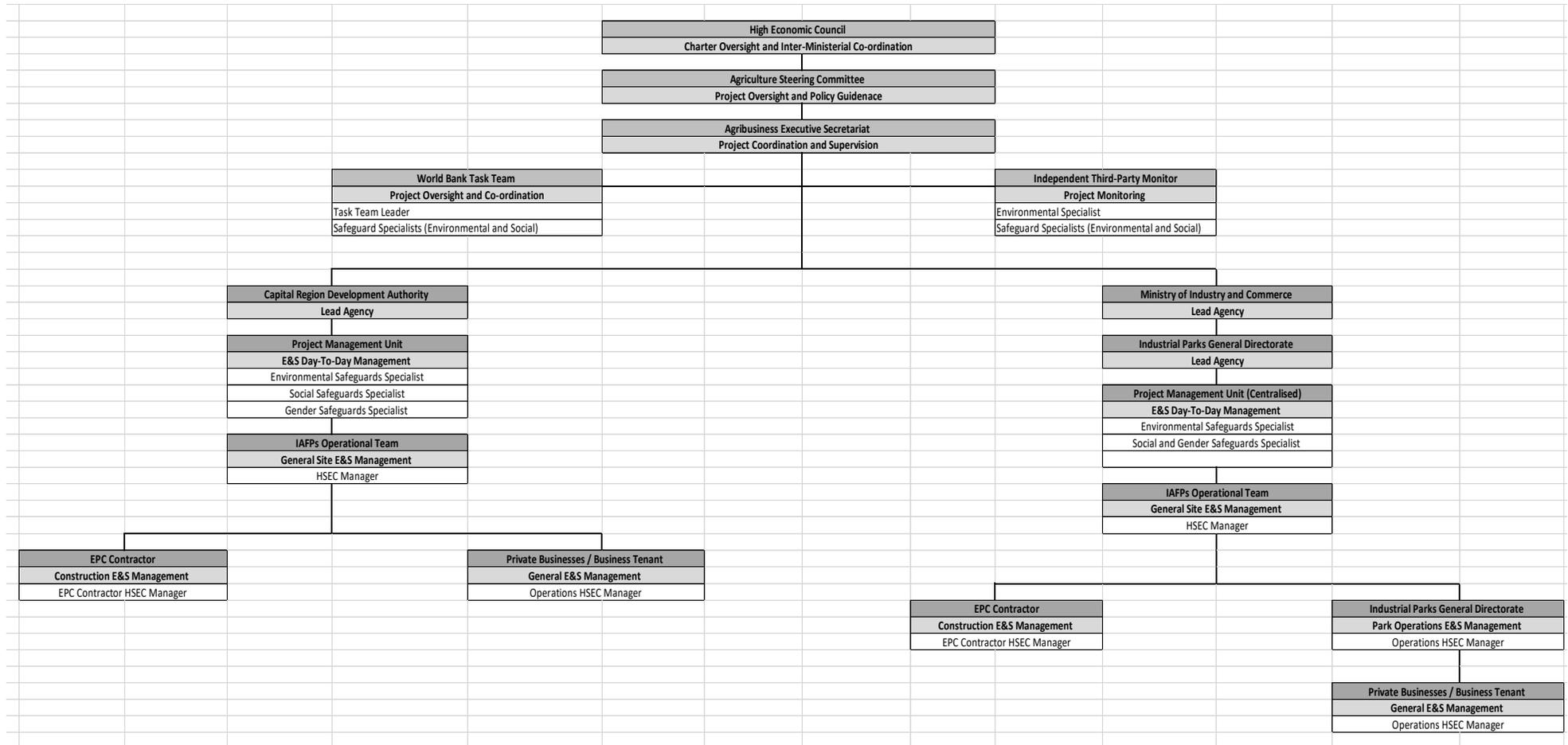
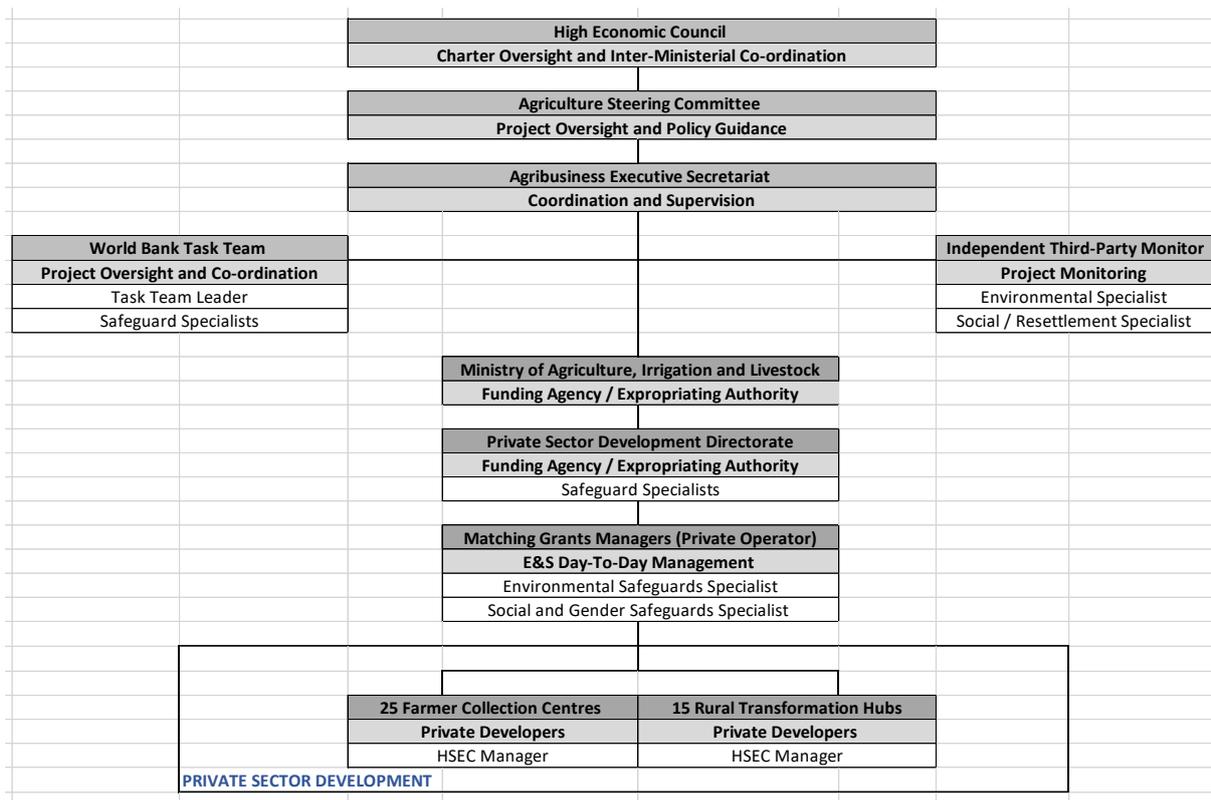


Figure 25: Organisational Structure for IAFPs



**Figure 26: Organisational Structure for FCCS and RTHs**

### 13.1.3 Independent Third-Party Monitor

The World Bank or the Agriculture Steering Committee may seek to appoint an independent third-party monitor to undertake regular monitoring or audits of the various sub projects. The general responsibilities of the third-party would include:

1. Ensure that a competent and skilled team comprised of environmental and social specialists that can undertake the monitoring or audits is in place.
2. Source all relevant records, reports, studies, data from MoIC and MAIL (including third-party construction contractors or operators) to inform monitoring findings.
3. Undertake interviews with MoIC and MAIL (including third-party construction contractors or operators) to determine environmental and social safeguard compliance.
4. Undertake site assessments of a selected group of IAFPs, FCCs and RTHs and audit each site’s compliance with environmental and social safeguard requirements.
5. Undertake interviews with sub-project beneficiaries, employees, local authorities and local communities to determine their level of satisfaction with the sub-projects.
6. Review the grievance resolution mechanism and profile the types of grievances, as well as the status of pending grievances.
7. Determine sub-project benefits, risks and legal non-compliances, and recommend measures to correct non-compliances as well as improve sub-project benefits.

The third-party monitor will submit their report to the World Bank and the Agriculture Steering Committee for review. It is expected that monitoring will be undertaken annually and align with a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system established by the Project.

### 13.1.4 Ministry of Industry and Commerce

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC) will be the primary planning and implementing agency for 4 Integrated Agri-Food Parks. To support the Project, MoIC will establish a Project Management Unit (PMU) under the Industrial Parks General Directorate (IPGD), with the mandate to manage day-to-day planning and operational requirements. The PMU is expected to be comprised of the following key positions:

1. Project Manager, Master,
2. Senior Finance Specialist,
3. Senior Procurement Specialist,
4. Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist,
5. Social Safeguard Specialist,
6. Environmental Specialist,
7. Investment Promotional Specialist,
8. Site Engineer (2 positions),
9. Survey Engineer (2 positions),
10. QC Engineer (2 Positions),
11. Investment Promotion Specialist, and
12. Administrative Staff.

With respect to environmental and social requirements, the PMU and notably the environmental and social safeguard specialists, will be expected to adopt the following roles and responsibilities:

1. Coordinate with the World Bank and relevant agencies on the types of studies (initial environmental and social assessment, ESIA etc.) and permitting requirements for each Project component.
2. Establish a Terms of Reference for the required studies and appoint independent and competent external contractors to undertake the studies.
3. Review any studies and submit them to the World Bank, the Agriculture Steering Committee, and the relevant permitting authorities for authorization.
4. Establish environmental and social management measures to be included in annual work plans and determine budget requirements.
5. Establish environmental and social management measures (including meeting the requirements of this ESMF) that forms part of the conditions of contracting for all construction contractors and private developers.
6. Undertake regular monitoring of construction contractors and private operators in terms of environmental and social compliance and recommend corrective actions.
7. Support the World Bank or any independent third-party monitors in undertaking regular monitoring and evaluation studies.
8. Provide regular feedback to the PMU, MoIC and the Agriculture Steering Committee on environmental and social compliance matters.

MoIC, via the PMU, will be the primary agency that will need to comply with legal and World Bank safeguard measures during the planning and implementation of the Parks. In addition, MOIC will be the legal *expropriating authority* with respect to any compulsory land acquisition.

### **13.1.5 Capital Region Development Authority (CRIDA)**

CRIDA will be required to adopt and meet the roles and responsibilities defined for MOIC under Section 13.1.4 with respect to the 1 IAFP under their mandate. Their responsibilities will be implemented via the establishment of a suitable Project Management Unit (PMU).

### **13.1.6 Construction and Operator Contractors**

MoIC or CRIDA, via the PMU, will appoint private construction contractors for the development of the IAFPs. The parks will thereafter be managed by private operators for the operational life of the sub projects. The day-to-day management of environmental and social requirements will be deferred from MoIC or CRIDA to the construction and operational contractors. In such cases, the role and responsibilities of the contractors will include:

1. Determine the environmental and social requirements and standards to be adopted by the contractors as part of their conditions of contracting.
2. Preparation of Project-specific Environmental Management Plans (or similar plans and procedures) to ensure compliance with any legal requirements established under (1) national law, (2) the ESIA, (3) any environmental permits, as well as (4) World Bank safeguard standards.
3. Undertake all on-sites activities required to meet legal environmental and social requirements as established in the Project-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans.
4. Provision of suitable staff, equipment, offices, resources and financing required to comply with the Project-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans.
5. Undertake regular internal monitoring of all compliance requirements consistent with the Project-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans.
6. Submit regular monitoring reports to MoIC, the World Bank and permitting authorities if required under any environmental permits.
7. Undertake any corrective action or management amendments to resolve any issues identified during regular monitoring, or from instruction from MoIC.

### **13.1.7 Tenant Businesses**

The IAFPs will support the on-site development of a range of agri-businesses and support services that will be entirely private sector driven (i.e. tenant businesses). The private developer will be responsible for the planning, construction and operation of any infrastructure required to establish their business. They are also primary proponent in complying with all relevant environmental laws and the World Bank safeguard policies. The roles and responsibilities for the developer will include:

1. Determine, in collaboration with MoIC, which environmental and social assessments are required, and establish a suitable Terms of Reference.
2. Appoint an external consultant to undertake the relevant environmental and social assessments and submit these studies to MoIC, the World Bank and the relevant permitting authorities.
3. Adopt the recommendations and actions provided in the environmental and social assessment, including environmentally friendly technologies, best practices, and other relevant mitigations measures into the Project design.

4. Provide the required resources, staffing and finances to ensure the implementation of all environmental and social requirements.
5. Provide regular feedback to MoIC on level of compliance with relevant permits and World Bank safeguard policies.

### **13.1.8 Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), via the Private Sector Development Directorate, will be the primary agency with respect to the provision of funding grants to private investors of the Farmer Collection Centers and Rural Transformation Hubs. These funding arrangements are provided under *Project Subcomponent 2.2 – Supporting Agribusiness Investments in the IAFPs Broader Catchment Areas*.

Under this sub-component, MAIL functions solely as a funding agency and will not provide any direct support in the planning, construction and operations of the Farmer Collection Centers and Rural Transformation Hubs. Under this arrangement, MAIL will be expected to fulfill the following roles:

1. Establish environmental and social requirements that are to be included as conditions of funding grants for any Farmer Collection Centers and Rural Transformation Hubs.
2. Provide ongoing support and supervision of the Grant Operations Management Entity, to ensure that environmental and social requirements are met by private developers.
3. Review and authorize prospective sub-projects based on sound business plans and loans applications made with technical support from the Grant Operations Management Entity.
4. Establish environmental and social management measures (including meeting the requirements of this ESMF) that form part of the conditions of contracting for all construction private developers.
5. Undertake regular monitoring / auditing of the Grant Operations Management Entity and private developers at the Farmer Collection Centers and Rural Transformation Hubs.

### **13.1.9 Grant Operations Management Entity**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock will appoint a private contractor (the Grant Operations Management Entity) to administer the grants system and provision of technical assistance to potential developers. The roles and responsibilities for this entity include

1. Provision of technical assistance in terms of including environmental and social safeguard requirements into prospective business plans and loan applications.
2. Determine which environmental and social assessments must be undertaken by the private developer to meet national legislation and World Bank safeguard requirements.
3. Review all environmental and social assessments prior to submission to MAIL as part of the business plans and loan applications. This should include supporting the private developer in obtaining the required environmental permits.
4. Guide the private developer in terms of the appropriate choice of environmentally friendly technology, energy efficiency best practices, and supporting increased investments in women-operated and women-owned agribusiness enterprises.
5. Define the environmental and social management measures (including meeting the requirements of this ESMF) that forms part of the conditions of contracting for all private developers.

6. Undertake regular monitoring / auditing of the construction and operations of all funded Farmer Collection Centers and Rural Transformation Hubs to assess levels of compliance with relevant permits and World Bank safeguard policies.

#### **13.1.10 FCC and RTH Private Developers**

The Farmer Collection Centers and Rural Transformation Hubs will be an entirely private development, with only funding and technical support provided by the Project. The private developer is therefore the primary proponent and directly responsible and liable for complying with all relevant national laws and the World Bank safeguard policies. The roles and responsibilities for the developer will include:

1. Determine, in collaboration with MAIL and the Grant Operations Management Entity, which environmental and social assessments are required, and establish a suitable Terms of Reference including meeting the provisions of this ESMF.
2. Appoint an external consultant to undertake the relevant environmental and social assessments and submit these studies to MAIL, the World Bank and the relevant permitting authorities.
3. Adopt the recommendations and actions provided in environmental and social assessment, including environmentally and socially friendly technologies, best practices, and other relevant mitigations measures into the Project design.
4. Determine the resourcing, technology and costing requirements for meeting the environmental recommendations and include in the funding application or business plans.
5. Provide regular feedback to MAIL and the Grant Operations Management Entity on level of compliance with relevant permits and World Bank safeguard policies.

### **13.2 INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT**

The implementing agencies will have varied capacity for environmental and social management. It is expected that the Government ministries will establish the needed expertise in the relevant PMU's, while private operators will include suitable management staff to manage day-to-day environmental and social requirements during construction and operational phases. This capacity is anticipated to be additional to that which already exists in these institutions.

The implementing agencies will provide the required personnel to support the effective implementation of environmental and social requirements across the Project and sub-projects. The staffing requirements are recommended as follows:

1. **Agriculture Steering Committee** – No permanent staffing is recommended; however, the committee should include representation of the environmental and social safeguards specialists appointed under the Secretariat, MoIC, CRIDA and MAIL.
2. **Agribusiness Executive Secretariat** – The secretariat will include suitable environmental and social safeguard specialists as full-time positions. Given the focus on promoting gender mainstreaming at the IAFPs, one gender specialist or gender-based development specialist will be appointed as a full-time position. These specialists will be based in Kabul and provide ongoing support and coordination with MOIC, CRIDA and MAIL.

- 3. Ministry of Industry and Commerce** – The Project will be supported by the establishment of a PMU under the Industrial Parks General Directorate (IPGD). The PMU will include one environmental specialist and one social specialist as full-time positions. Given the focus on promoting gender mainstreaming at the IAFPs, one gender specialist or gender-based development specialist will be appointed as a full-time position. These specialists will be based in Kabul and provide ongoing guidance to all 5 IAFPs.
- 4. Construction and Operator Contractors** – MoIC or CRIDA will appoint private contractors for the construction and operation of the 5 IAFPs. The private contractors will be required to appoint a competent Health, Safety, Environmental and Community (HSEC) Manager. The manager will be supported by one environmental specialist, one social specialist and one gender specialist as full-time positions to manage the day-to-day environmental and social requirements at their sites. The exact staffing requirements should be established in the conditions of contracting between the contractor and MOIC.
- 5. Business Tenants** – Depending on the nature of the business, and environmental and social risks; all private business should provide a HSEC manager (or suitable position) as part of its operating staff.
- 6. Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock** – MAIL, via the Private Sector Development Directorate, include one environmental specialist and one social specialist as full-time positions. Given the focus on promoting gender mainstreaming at the IAFPs, one gender specialist or gender-based development specialist will be appointed as a full-time position. These specialists will be based in Kabul and provide ongoing guidance the Matching Grants Private Operator and to all RTHs and FCCs.
- 7. Matching Grants Private Operator** – MAIL will defer responsibility of managing funding grants to a private operator. The operator will appoint one or more environmental specialists and social specialists as full-time positions on its management staff. Given the focus on promoting gender mainstreaming at the IAFPs, gender specialists or gender-based development specialist will be appointed as a full-time position. The specialists will be required to provide guidance and support to all FCCs and RTHs.
- 8. Private Developers** – MAIL will provide funding support to private developers for the planning, construction and operations of the FCCs and RTHs. The private developers will establish a competent Health, Safety, Environmental and Community (HSEC) Manager. The manager will be supported by one environmental specialist, one social specialist and one gender specialist as full-time positions to manage the day-to-day environmental and social requirements at their sites. The exact staffing requirements should be established in the conditions of contracting between the Private Developer and MAIL.

Depending on the unique environmental and social risks at each Project site, the implementing agencies may appoint external specialists on a casual or short-term contract to provide additional expertise. This may include:

- 1. Land Acquisition and Resettlement Specialist:** The specialist may provide general strategic guidance on land acquisition to the implementing agencies or contracted to prepare the required Resettlement Action Plans.

**2. Public Engagement Specialist:** The specialist may provide additional support to the implementing agencies where substantive stakeholder engagement is required to address elevated risks around community conflict.

All positions will be filled by competent personnel with suitable post-graduate qualification in their field of expertise, as well as least 10 years of working experience in environmental and social safeguards for infrastructure projects. Experience in World Bank or international funder supported Projects will be an advantage. All positions will be based in Kabul.

The implementing agencies will provide support facilities (offices, equipment, vehicles etc.) to their team of experts (*back-stopping*) under the various PMUs. This will include suitable administrative and support staff (receptionist, administration clerks, drivers etc.).

### 13.3 TRAINING AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS

Capacity building requires the development of individuals with the understanding, skills and access to information, knowledge and training to perform their roles effectively. Organizational development will be key to realizing this capacity with focus on relevant management structures, processes and procedures, not only within organizations but also the management of relationships between the different organizations and sectors (public, private and community). It is anticipated that capacity building will take the form of training workshops.

The implementing agencies will provide training to build the awareness and technical knowledge of environmental and social matters across all management, technical, support and safeguards staff. Training support will include:

1. Undertaking a staff training needs assessments at each PMU to identify specific training gaps and develop targeted training programs.
2. Provide critical training via the appointment to suitable training or technical specialists covering the following potential topics:
  - a. World Bank Safeguard Policies and alignment with national regulations,
  - b. Project management of any environmental assessments,
  - c. Components and operation of an Environmental and Social Management System,
  - d. Incorporating environmental and social mitigation measures in project designs, planning, bidding documents and evaluation criteria
3. Support exchange programs and delegation visits to similar World Bank funded project in Afghanistan where environmental and social requirements have been adopted.
4. Identify local and international training courses, certification schemes, conferences or programs that safeguard specialists may attend.
5. Link safeguard staff with internationally recognized professional associations,

Training may be provided by internal safeguard specialists or external technical specialists appointed by the implementing agencies. The range of topics or subject matter that should be included as part of training is presented in **Table 19** overleaf.

The initial needs assessment will identify weaknesses in institutional infrastructure, facility resources and equipment and a gap analysis will provide the actions needing financial support to strengthen the institutional capacity in order to successfully implement this ESMF.

### 13.4 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Where the technical capacity of the implementing agencies remains constrained, ongoing technical assistance should be provided by the Project and the World Bank. This may include the appointment of external and competent specialists to assist or subsume some of the responsibilities or functions of the agencies. This may include the following:

1. Undertake detailed or technical environmental and social assessments (initial environmental and social assessments, ESIA, ESMPs, RAPs etc.) and associated specialist studies on behalf of the implementing agencies.
2. Undertake monitoring programs on behalf of the implementing agencies as part of required Monitoring and Evaluation requirements.
3. Undertake independent audits consistent with requirements established under the initial environmental and social assessment, ESIA, ESMP, RAP, any environmental permits, or by the World Bank.
4. Provide technical guidance / supports as part of any relevant committees, evaluation panels or similar structures established by the implementing agencies.
5. Provide technical training consistent with the training and capacity building requirements of the implementing agencies.

**Table 19: Training Requirements**

Implementing Agency	Staff / Position	Training Requirements / Content
<b>Ministry of Industry and Commerce</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Manager</li> <li>• Design and Engineering Team</li> <li>• Contracting / Procurement Team</li> <li>• Environmental Specialist</li> <li>• Social Specialist</li> <li>• Gender Specialist</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. World Bank Safeguard Requirements and ESMF.</li> <li>2. Using the ESMF screening checklists to identify environmental and social issues.</li> <li>3. Environmental Assessments (Regulatory and World Bank Requirements).</li> <li>4. Development of Mitigation Measures and Environmental Management Plans.</li> <li>5. Incorporating mitigation measures into Project design, planning and execution.</li> <li>6. Incorporating clauses into bidding documents, evaluation criteria and contracts.</li> <li>7. Conducting stakeholder engagement and public participation measures.</li> <li>8. Establishing an Environmental and Social Management System.</li> <li>9. Establishing monitoring programs.</li> <li>10. Mainstreaming gender aspects in project planning and appraisal.</li> </ol>
<b>Construction and Operator Contractors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Manager</li> <li>• Design and Engineering Team</li> <li>• HSEC Manager</li> <li>• Workforce</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of Mitigation Measures and Environmental Management Plans.</li> <li>2. Preparation of site-specific Standard Operating Procedures,</li> <li>3. Workforce training on site-specific environmental and social issues,</li> <li>4. General housekeeping requirements and code of conduct.</li> </ol>
<b>Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Manager</li> <li>• Environmental Specialist</li> <li>• Social Specialist</li> <li>• Gender Specialist</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. World Bank Safeguard Requirements and alignment with national law.</li> <li>2. Using the ESMF screening checklists to identify environmental and social issues.</li> <li>3. Environmental Assessments (Regulatory and World Bank Requirements).</li> <li>4. Conducting stakeholder engagement and public participation measures.</li> <li>5. Establishing an Environmental and Social Management System.</li> <li>6. Establishing monitoring programs.</li> <li>7. Mainstreaming gender aspects in project planning and appraisal.</li> </ol>
<b>Matching Grants Private Operator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Manager</li> <li>• Environmental Specialist</li> <li>• Social Specialist</li> <li>• Gender Specialist</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. World Bank Safeguard Requirements and alignment with national law.</li> <li>2. Using the ESMF screening checklists to identify environmental and social issues.</li> <li>3. Environmental Assessments (Regulatory and World Bank Requirements).</li> <li>4. Development of Mitigation Measures and Environmental Management Plans.</li> <li>5. Incorporating mitigation measures into business development plans.</li> <li>6. Incorporating clauses into evaluation criteria and conditions of funding.</li> <li>7. Conducting stakeholder engagement and public participation measures.</li> </ol>

Implementing Agency	Staff / Position	Training Requirements / Content
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Establishing an Environmental and Social Management System.</li> <li>9. Establishing monitoring programs.</li> <li>10. Mainstreaming gender aspects in project planning and appraisal.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Private Investors</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Manager</li> <li>• HSEC Manager</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. World Bank Safeguard Requirements and alignment with national law.</li> <li>2. Using the ESMF screening checklists to identify environmental and social issues.</li> <li>3. Environmental Assessments (Regulatory and World Bank Requirements).</li> <li>4. Development of Mitigation Measures and Environmental Management Plans.</li> <li>5. Incorporating mitigation measures into business development plans.</li> <li>6. Incorporating clauses into evaluation criteria and conditions of funding.</li> <li>7. Conducting stakeholder engagement and public participation measures.</li> <li>8. Establishing an Environmental and Social Management System.</li> <li>9. Establishing monitoring programs.</li> <li>10. Mainstreaming gender aspects in project planning and appraisal.</li> </ol>

## **14 ESMF MONITORING, REVIEW AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

To ensure the effective implementation of this ESMF, the implementing agencies will undertake regular monitoring, reviews and multi-level reporting consistent with the provisions made below. The aim of monitoring is to allow Project impacts to be tracked so that the effectiveness of the mitigation and management measures can be measured and adjusted where necessary.

### **14.1.1 Internal Monitoring and Review (IAFPs)**

Internal monitoring of day-to-day activities and the level of compliance with environmental and social requirements will be the direct responsibility of the construction and operator contractors appointed by MoIC or CRIDA at the 5 IAFPs, as well as all licensed businesses or operators located in the IAFPs.

The construction contractor will provide monthly monitoring reports to the MoIC PMU or CRIDA PMU for the duration of the construction phase, while the operational contractor will provide bi-annual (every 6 months) monitoring reports to the relevant PMUs.

The environmental and social safeguards specialist appointed under the MoIC or CRIDA PMUs will undertake regular inspections of the 5 IAFPs. This will include the review of the contractor monitoring reports and the development of solutions to any non-compliance issues. The inspections should occur quarterly (every 3 months) for the construction phase and bi-annually (every 6 months) for the operational phase.

The MoIC or CRIDA PMUs will prepare consolidated monitoring reports for the 5 IAFPs. The PMUs will submit the consolidated monitoring report to the Agricultural Steering Committee (via the Agribusiness Executive Secretariat) on a bi-annual (every 6 months) basis. The Committee will in-turn submit the report to the High Economic Council and the World Bank.

In addition, where monitoring and audits are required as a condition of the environmental license, the MoIC or CRIDA PMUs will submit the monitoring report to NEPA at the legally required interval.

Feedback provided by the Agriculture Steering Committee, the High Economic Council, the World Bank and NEPA will be acted upon by the MoIC or CRIDA PMU. This includes the planning and implementation of any corrective measures, general improvements as well as further instructions for the construction or operations contractor.

### **14.1.2 Internal Monitoring and Review (FCCs and RTHs)**

Internal monitoring of day-to-day activities and the level of compliance with environmental requirements at the FCCs and the RTHs will be the direct responsibility of the Private Developers, with support from MAIL.

To support the above, a monitoring plan will form part of the Private Developer management procedures and will be managed by their HSEC manager and assisted by the MAIL safeguard specialists.

The Private Developers will need to submit their monitoring findings to MAIL (via the Private Sector Development Directorate). This will include monthly monitoring reports to the MAIL for the duration of the construction phase, and bi-annual monitoring reports (every 6 months) during operations.

The MAIL environmental and social safeguards specialists will also undertake regular inspections of the FCCs and RTHs. This will include the review of the activities undertaken by the Private Developers and the development of solutions to any non-compliance issues. The inspections should occur quarterly (every 3 months) for the construction phase and bi-annually (every 6 months) for the operational phase.

The MAIL PMU will prepare consolidated monitoring reports for all established FCC and RTHs. The PMU will submit the consolidated monitoring report to the Agricultural Steering Committee (via the Agribusiness Executive Secretariat) on a bi-annual (every 6 months) basis. The Committee will in-turn submit the report to the High Economic Council and the World Bank.

In addition, where monitoring and audits are required as a condition of the environmental license, the Private Developer will be required to submit separate monitoring reports to NEPA at the legally required interval.

Feedback provided by the Agriculture Steering Committee, the High Economic Council, the World Bank and NEPA will be acted upon by MAIL and the Private Developer. This includes the planning and implementation of any corrective measures, general improvements as well as further instructions for the construction or operations contractor.

## 15 PROPOSED ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION BUDGET

The World Bank requires that all costs for the implementation of this ESMF or requirements established in each Sub-Project initial environmental and social assessment, ESIA, ESMP or relevant permits are explicitly covered in the credit/loan granted to the implementing agencies.

The MoIC PMU will be directly responsible for determining the costs for ensuring environmental and social safeguards are met at the 5 IAFPs. This include all costs for any assessments (initial environmental and social assessment ESIA, ESMP) as well as costs for implementing any new technologies or measures established by these assessments. The MoIC PMU will ensure that implementation budgets are included in annual plans that will be submitted to the Agricultural Steering Group and the World Bank for review and authorization. Where MoIC appoints a third-party construction or operations contractor, they will ensure that the contractor will be required to meet all environmental and social safeguard requirements as a condition of contracting. The contractor will include a detailed implementation budget, that will be submitted to the MoIC PMU for review and authorization as part of the contract negotiation process.

MAIL, via the Private Sector Development Directorate, will be directly responsible for ensuring that the costs for meeting environmental and social safeguards requirements are accounted for at the FCCs and RTHs. MAIL will not develop the FCCs or RTHs directly and will only provide funding grants to private developers. In such cases, MAIL will establish the requirement that all prospective private developers will make provision for meeting the requirements of this ESMF as part of their bidding document.

As such, the private developer will be required to determine the costs for any assessments (initial environmental and social assessment, ESIA, ESMP) as well as costs for implementing any new technologies or measures established by these assessments. These costs should be accounted for as part of the required business plans prepared by the private developer and the grants operator appointed MAIL. The business plans will be submitted to MAIL for review and authorization.

MAIL will ensure that business plans including budget requirements for implementing any environmental and social requirements are reported to the Agricultural Steering Group and the World Bank.

Given the relevant uncertainty of costs without details of the studies, it is recommended that financing is provided in multiple tranches to allow the implementing agencies to fund initial feasibility studies or assessment. The tranches may be paid at key stages including:

- **Tranche 1:** Funding to undertake the required initial environmental and social assessment ESIA, ESMP and associated studies,
- **Tranche 2:** Funding to commence construction of sub projects,
- **Tranche 3:** Annual funding for the operational component of sub-project for 5 years,

A broad estimate of the internal costs of resourcing, capacity building, training and technical assistance of MoIC and MAIL is presented in **Table 20** overleaf. It assumes that additional support will be provided during the Project lifespan of 5-years.

The funding arrangements do not account for costs required to undertake any assessments (including the required screening, initial environmental and social assessment, ESIA or ESMP). Nor does it include the cost for any technologies or measures to be adopted as the measures will only be established on a sub-project by sub-project basis during the assessments.

**Table 20: Capacity Building, Training and Technical Assistance Cost**

Implementing Agency	Position	Term / Units	No. Of Units	Cost / Units	Total (USD)
<b>Staffing<sup>1</sup></b>					
Independent Third-Party Monitor	-	Annum	5	45 000	225 000
Agriculture Steering Committee	-	-			
MOIC (PMU)	Environmental Safeguard Specialist	Annum	5	48 000	240 000
	Social Safeguard Specialist	Annum	5	48 000	240 000
	Gender Specialist	Annum	5	48 000	240 000
MAIL (Matching Grants Private Operator)	Environmental Safeguard Specialist	Annum	5	48 000	240 000
	Social Safeguard Specialist	Annum	5	48 000	240 000
	Gender Specialist	Annum	5	48 000	240 000
Construction and Operator Contractors	HSEC Manager (Construction)	Annum	3	40 000	120 000
	HSEC Manager (Operations)	Annum	2	40 000	80 000
Tenant Businesses	HSEC Manager	Annum	2	40 000	80 000
<b>Total</b>					<b>2 370 010</b>
<b>Training<sup>2</sup></b>					
MOIC and MAIL	Training Program and Materials Preparation	Once-Off	1	16 500	16 500
	Annual Workshops <sup>3</sup>	Annum	5	22 200	111 000
Construction and Operator Contractors	Training Program and Materials Preparation	Once-Off	1	16 500	16 500
	Annual Workshops <sup>4</sup>	Annum	5	22 200	111 000
<b>Total</b>					<b>255 000</b>

1. Assumes staff costing for the life of Project funding which is limited to five years only (2020–2025)
2. Assumes a single programme with annual workshops for the life of Project funding of five years (2020-2025)

## 16 CONCLUSION

The Opportunity for Maximizing Agribusiness Investments and Development (OMAID) Project seeks to provide structural and financial support to the agro-processing segments of the horticulture and livestock sector in Afghanistan. The Project will be funded by an International Development Association (IDA) grant in the amount of US\$25 million and a US\$150 million contribution from the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund over a five-year period.

The overall objective of the Project is the development of an enabling environment for increased private sector investment in agribusiness in selected provinces of Afghanistan. This includes investment in agro-processing value chains from production, market access and processing to marketing on the domestic and regional markets, as well as for the export to international markets.

The Project proposes to support the development of a range of physical infrastructure across 5 provinces (Balkh, Kandahar, Kabul, Herat, and Nangarhar) in Afghanistan. The physical infrastructure will comprise of a network of the following interventions, Integrated Agri-Food Parks, Farmer Collection Centers, and Rural Transformation Hubs.

This Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been prepared to assist stakeholders in managing the environmental and social risks and impacts associated with the proposed physical infrastructure that will be developed by the Project's sub projects and associated activities. It specifically defines the key principles, steps and procedures that are to be followed to ensure compliance with Afghanistan national law as well as conforming with the World Bank Safeguard Policies, in particular those triggered by this Project, namely, OP/BP 4.01 Environmental Assessment; OP/BP 4.04 Natural Habitats; OP/BP 4.36 Forests; OP/BP 4.09 Pest Management; OP/BP 4.11 Physical Cultural Resources; and OP/BP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement. The WBG Health and Safety guidelines for community and the work place are obligatory.

The main environmental and social concerns in the country are air pollution, access to safe drinking water, effects of climate change on water supply and infrastructure, over-exploitation and illegal use of natural resources, loss of biodiversity, inadequate and non-existent solid and liquid waste management, poor living conditions, lack of security of tenure, limited livelihoods and lack of employment, security, conflict and internal displacement of people, and vulnerable groups and gender based violence.

Central to ensuring effective environmental and social management is the assessment of impacts associated with each sub-project. In this regard, the implementing agency on each sub-project will undertake an appraisal of each sub-project to determine the type of assessment that will be required. As a Category A Project, the sub projects of the OMAID Project will undertake the required environmental and social impact assessments (ESIA) deferring to international norms when local legislation is absent or less stringent. This will include screening, scoping, and an ESIA together with a management actions to mitigate and control the impacts. Sub project screening at the initial stage of development is a critical step in the determination of the level of assessment required. The assessments will need to give full consideration of the range of potential environmental and social impacts and benefits identified in this document.

In support of effective environmental and social management, the implementing agencies are also required to promote effective stakeholder and citizen engagement. This includes a legal requirement as part of the environmental and social assessment (ESIA). Consistent with World Bank standards such engagement is expected to be a long-term commitment under each sub-project as a means of building positive relations with local authorities, communities and project beneficiaries. This engagement should be supported by an associated Grievance Redress Mechanism.

In principle, the Project will attempt to secure any land required for the physical infrastructure via voluntary land agreements (i.e. willing-buyer, willing-seller agreements) and all forms of compulsory land acquisition will be avoided to the maximum extent possible. However, there may be cases where the Project is required to compulsorily acquire land. Where involuntary resettlement is confirmed, the implementing agency, together with the World Bank, are required to assess the nature and magnitude of the likely displacement and determine the type of resettlement instrument. A Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) has been prepared to guide these plans.

While the overall Project will be administered by the Government of Afghanistan, there will be multiple private and public role-players. The Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC) will be the implementing agency for the IAFPs with the Central Region Development Agency (CRIDA), while the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) will be the implementing agency for the FCCs and RTHs. However, the construction and operation of the physical infrastructure will be undertaken by private contractors via various Private-Public-Partnership structures for financing grants.

All parties will be required to meet the requirements of this ESMF and be expected to make provision for the staffing and resourcing to manage day-to-day environmental and social requirements. To this effect, the implementing agency at each sub-project is expected to establish a functional Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) that is appropriately scaled to the nature of the project impacts. The ESMP will be used to manage environmental aspects, fulfil compliance obligations, and address risks and opportunities of each sub-project.

The ESMP will define the staffing requirements, support staff and backstopping, training and technical assistance, and funding arrangements to ensure the effective management of environmental and social impacts at each sub-project. In addition, it will support regular monitoring, reviews and multi-level reporting.

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