



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

**Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
(MAIL)**

**Environmental and Social Management Framework
(ESMF)
Prepared for**

**Emergency Agriculture and Food Supply (EATS)
Project**

October 2020

Executive Summary

The Project responds to the food security and reduced income challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis by: (i) increasing local food production with an initial emphasis on wheat, key staple crop for the country; and (ii) creating COVID-era short-term employment to rehabilitate productive irrigation infrastructure and support sustainable watershed development for longer term water availability for food production and resilience.

Proposed Project Development Objective:

In response to COVID-19 emergency, the proposed project development objective is to support critical food supply chains and create short-term economic opportunities.

Project Components and Activities:

The project will take a value chain approach to strengthen agriculture sector in the country by enhancing productivity and strengthening of backward and forward linkages. In order to expedite efficient implementation of project it will strengthen and use existing institutions of the Government of Afghanistan particularly the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL). The proposed project has the following components and sub-components:

Table 1: Components and sub-components of the project

Component	USD Million	Implementing Institutions	Response to COVID-19 crisis
A	Productive agricultural water systems (US\$65.7 million)		
A.1	38.6	CDCs and Irrigation Associations / Mirabs	Augment availability of water, improve agriculture productivity and employment generation
A.2	27.1	General Directorate of Natural Resources Management: CDCs and NRM groups (WMG, Forest Association)	
B	Critical food supply chain management (US\$26.4 million)		
B.1	16.4	Afghanistan National Seed Companies Union (ANSCU) and ISE	Ensure timely and adequate availability of certified seed and other critical inputs enhance food supply response and help maintain affordable food prices.
B.2	10.0	NPMU/ RPMUs	
C	Project Management (US\$7.9 million)		
D.1	7.9	National and Regional Project Management Units	Adoption of best management practices
D.2			Monitoring and

	learning and reporting			reporting of project indicators
D.3	ESMF, RF, PMP, LMP, SEP, ESCP including GRM			E&S Impact and Risk Management
D.4	Project Management Consultancies			Support to PMUs
D.5	Support to other directorates			Project facilitation
D	Contingent Emergency Response (US\$0 million)			
	Total	100		

Potential Environmental and Social Impacts of the Project Components:

Overall impact of Emergency Agriculture, and Food Supply (EATS Project) is expected to be positive. Rehabilitation of Irrigation Scheme, Watershed Management and Dryland Farming will improve agriculture productivity in treated watershed areas for poor farmers, as farming is a primary economic activity and most resilient to COVID-19 crisis, has maximum potential to generate and retain productive employment along value chains of critical commodities.

The potential negative E&S impacts of sub-projects will be minor, localized, temporary, and can be mitigated through good construction practices with close supervision and monitoring.

Adverse environmental impacts associated with the project activities are mainly construction related and are reversible in nature and scale. These may include (i) generation of dust, noise, debris, waste products and vibrations at project sites; (ii) potential water pollution from vehicle and equipment or due to pipeline leakages; (iii) increased sludge generation from the water treatment; (iv) soil erosion and sedimentation in case of improper site restoration after completion of civil works; (v) occupational health and safety issues of workers and communities which may include exposure to hazardous chemicals and working conditions.

The project will also cause social risks and impacts, though these are expected to be less, and mostly temporary, predictable and reversible. Works associated with the construction may cause land acquisition and resettlement impacts such as (i) impacts on people's assets including crops, buildings, and structures which were built close to the water pipelines and thus restrict access to the network; (ii) labor influx risk as some of the supported activities may rely on hiring workers from outside the project' area of influence; and (iii) potential gender based violence and issues of child labor or forced labor, and (iv) small land requirements for sub-projects may be met either through public lands, community lands or voluntary donations of small strips of private land. Full documentation of the legal status of the land is required as well as documentation of the voluntary nature of any land donations. No land may exceed 10% livelihood impact on any affected family. If land donations are not a suitable solution, community compensation to affected land owners will be encouraged.

ESMF Objectives

The ESMF is to improve decision making and ensure that environmental and social effects of activities and interventions are well mitigated. The specific objectives are:

- To identify potential environmental policies, legal and institutional framework pertaining to the EATS project, and individual infrastructure sub-projects that may add to the environmental risks and entails cumulative impacts;

- To establish clear directives and methodologies for the environmental and social screening and scoping of projects within the framework of the EATS project;
- To assess the potential environmental and social impacts of the projects whether positive or negative, and propose mitigation measures which will effectively address negative impacts;
- To guide the development of site specific ESMPs, which will be required for each sub-project.

Justification of the ESMF

The location and details (scope) of the planned physical works and other interventions are not known at the time of project appraisal. Therefore, a framework approach has been adopted to address potential social and environmental issues and ensure consistent treatment of social and environmental concerns during project planning/designing, implementation, operation and decommissioning. The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been developed specifically to avoid, reduce or mitigate adverse social or environmental impact/risks, consistent with existing national legislations and the Environmental and Social Standards in the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework.

This ESMF applies to all sub-projects and other activities to be financed under EATS project. It provides a general impact identification framework to assist sub-project implementers to screen the sub-projects and institute measures to address adverse environmental and social impacts. During the application of the EATS project sub-projects, specific information on project locations, land to be impacted and requirements, bio-physical features etc., may trigger the preparation of sub-project site specific ESMPs for a sub-project required to be screened

Overall, The project will be implemented in accordance with the WB Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) including ten Environmental and Social Standards (ESS). All ESSs, with the exception of ESS 7, are relevant to the project. All investments to be financed by this project will apply national environmental laws and regulations as well as the relevant WB environmental and social standards.

Policy and Legal Regulatory Environment:

The primary relevant laws and legislations framing social and environmental issues which need to be considered in relation to Emergency Agriculture, and Food Supply (EATS) Project are:

- a. The Environment Law of Afghanistan (2007)
- b. The EIA regulations (2017)
- c. The Law on Managing Land Affairs (2008)
- d. The Law on Land Expropriation (2009)
- e. The Pesticide Law (2012)
- f. The Water Law updated (2020) and Water Sector Strategy (2019)

Based on an assessment of the civil works involved the World Bank following Environment and Social standards are relevant for the project.

Table 2: Relevant World Bank Environment and Social Standards (ESS)

Triggered	Yes	No
ESS1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and	X	
ESS2: Labor and Working Conditions	X	
ESS3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management	X	
ESS4: Community Health and Safety	X	

ESS5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement	X	
ESS6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	X	
ESS7: Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved		X
ESS8: Cultural Heritage	X	
ESS9: Financial Intermediaries		X
ESS10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure	X	

The Resettlement Framework: The Resettlement Framework (RF) has been prepared in compliance with the WB ESS 5, and Afghanistan Law on Land Expropriation (LLE), the RF will guide Emergency Agriculture, and Food Supply (EATS) Project /MAIL to address social compliance issues arising at project implementation stage and to ensure social inclusion in the process. Emergency Agriculture, and Food Supply (EATS) Project /MAIL will assess social impacts of project interventions and prepare Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) following the RF.

Institutional Arrangements: The Project Management Unit (PMU) to be established in the Irrigation Directorate within MAIL that will have the overall responsibility for ensuring compliance with the ESMF requirements. Newly appointed ES officers at national and regional levels will have specific responsibilities for sub-project screening, development of sub-project specific ESMPs and RAPs; and their effective implementation, internal monitoring and progress reporting. Training and capacity building are necessary for the PMU staff, for those who will be in charge of implementing the project to ensure that they have the appropriate knowledge and skills to implement the environmental and social management framework. A systematic needs assessment to identify specific institutional and human capacity-building program for environmental and social management will have to be conducted. Specialized consultants will be hired during early project implementation stage as well as throughout the project life to ensure building capacity of the relevant water supply utility. Beneficiary institutions will be Emergency Agriculture, and Food Supply (EATS) Project and other relevant line ministries and institutions. A detailed capacity-building plan is developed as part of the ESMF, with a focus on strengthening the capacity of Emergency Agriculture, and Food Supply (EATS) Project and other related local entities responsible for environmental and social management and OHS monitoring.

E&S unit would also support community participation, consultations and other social activities from the sub-project identification to completion stage. PMU will also responsible for overall developing and overseeing the implementation of ESMF, the capacity development and E&S require training to be planned during all phases of the Project.

Grievance Redress Mechanism: In order to ensure transparency and accountability the existing OFWMP On Farm Water Management Project (OFWMP) is completed Project grievance redress mechanism (GRM) will be strengthened to address complaints related to project activities. The MAIL has developed an appropriate and context specific manual for Grievance Redress Mechanism for the project. Each sub-project will establish a field level Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) headed by the E&S Officer of each region to implement project level GRM. The GRC will be responsible for registration and resolution of complaints including complaints related to environment and social performance of the project. The communities and individuals who believe that they are adversely affected by the project, they may submit

complaints under established sub-project- level grievance redress committee.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Environmental and Social officers together with local communities and government staff will be responsible for monitoring that mitigation measures given in ESMPs are both adequate and implemented satisfactorily. Where other agencies or third parties are responsible for managing specific risks and impacts and implementing mitigation measures, the MAIL will collaborate with such agencies and third parties to establish and monitor such mitigation measures. Quarterly reports will be submitted to the PMU management. An annual environmental and social technical audit will be conducted by an independent entity agreed by both MAIL and the World Bank.

Public consultations and information disclosure.

For ESMF and SEP development, project sites were visited and number of meetings with the main stakeholders are planned to be conducted. Draft versions of ESMF, RPF, and SEP will be presented during public consultation in all region and in Kabul. Comments received during public consultations will be reflected in ESMF. Public consultations will be undertaken before finalizing the ESMF, RPF, and SEP. For this purpose, meetings will be conducted at the regional level with stakeholders involved in project implementation, such as affected people, CDC, ARAZI, NEPA, MRRD, MEW, DAIL, as well as interested parties (farmers, enterprises, improved seed association, community leaders, irrigation association and etc.) and the general public. Public consultations will present the project's objectives, planning activities, anticipated environmental and social impacts and proposing mitigation measures, compensation measures in the event of any impacts, and grievance redress mechanism to participants. The ESMF, RPF, and SEP documents will be published on MAIL website and further will be published on WB external website.

The ESMF will be translated into two national languages (Pashto and Dari) and disclosed on the project staff and distributed among CDCs at the early stage of the project. Ministry website and the World Bank external site.

