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د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت

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OPPORTUNITY FOR MAXIMIZING AGRIBUSINESS INVESTMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT (OMAID) PROJECT

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Developed by



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABC	Agri-Business Charter
ACC	Agricultural Collection Centers
ALCS	Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey
ANDMA	Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority
ASC	Agriculture Steering Committee
AWEC	Afghanistan Wildlife Executive Committee
BAIP	Barikab Agriculture Industrial Park
BAEZ	Barikab Agricultural Economic Zone
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	High Economic Council
HSEC	Health, Safety, Environment and Community
IAFP	Industrial Agri-Food Park
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
KNC	Kabul New City
Km	Kilometer
LALRP	Land Acquisition and Livelihoods Restoration Plan
LARF	Land Acquisition and Resettlement Policy Framework
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
OMAID	Opportunity for Maximizing Agribusiness Investments and Development
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
TA	Technical Assistance
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
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, is 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\$50 million and a US\$125 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 (US\$54 Million).
- **Component 2** – Support for the development of a Market-Oriented Agri-food Supply Chains (US\$110 million).
- **Component 3** – Contingent Emergency Response Component (US\$0 million).
- **Component 4** – Project Management (US\$11 million)

Under Component 2, the Project proposes to support the development of a functional and sustainable agri-spatial solutions best-practice business model and provide financing support to implement the model in selected agribusiness catchments. This component includes the establishment of the following physical infrastructure:

- **Integrated Agri-Food Parks (IAFPs):** The Project will support the assessment, technical feasibility studies, planning and establishment of one or two IAFPs in selected catchments via the GoIRA. An IAFP will essentially be a agro-industrial zone that is private sector-managed, government-owned facility that provides serviced plots and a range of on-site services (e.g. packaging and labelling, cold chain storage, accredited lab testing, digital technologies, market intelligence, etc.) that can support private agribusinesses including food products, crops, livestock/dairy products and allied services. The government will be responsible for overseeing the construction, operation and maintenance of supporting infrastructures (e.g., water supply, telecommunication,

WWTP, road, electricity) associated with the IAFP, while the private sector will operate individual agri-businesses inside the IAFP.

- **Agriculture Collection Centers (ACCs):** The Project will support the development of an estimated 745 ACCs in the catchment area of the proposed one or two IAFPs. This will be promoted through the co-financing of private-sector investors interested in establishing the ACCs. The ACCs will be entirely privately-owned and managed and will support the collection of agricultural produce and primary processing (e.g. washing, sorting, grading and storing), before being sold to one or several off-takers (e.g. the IAFP or an agribusiness SME).

Apart from the possible development of an IAFP at Barikab (the Barikab Agriculture Industrial Park – BAIP) situated in the Barikab Agricultural Economic Zone (BAEZ) north of Kabul New City, the location and nature of the IAFP and ACC facilities are not yet known and will be selected through a series of sequenced feasibility studies with go/no-go decision points. Once deemed feasible the Project will fund the development of critical onsite and offsite infrastructure for these facilities. This process is underway for the BAIP. The types of possible economic and ancillary support activities for the BAIP are agro-dealers and input supply stores; extension services and training by Government 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 (juice, drying of fruits and nuts, bottling, etc.); dairy processing; commercial and auction center/ wholesale market; green area/ parks, vehicle parking, service buildings; and maintenance and repair facilities and shops.

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, through a Project Management Unit (PMU) embedded in the administrative structure of the Directorate General of Industrial Parks. A phased implementation approach will be adopted with sequential development in the selected provinces. Further preparatory work needs to be concluded as to the specific geographic reach of all the proposed IAFPs and ACCs 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 assessing, mitigating and managing environmental and social impacts of the planned development of the identified agri-spatial facilities 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 facilities

and developments being planned 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 (MoIC, MAIL, CRIDA, academia, civil society organizations, the private sector, community elders, farmers and women) in managing the environmental and social risks and legal obligations associated with the proposed the IAFPs, and ACCs. 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, and ACCs, 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 ACC or IAFP will have to develop a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) as specified in the RPF 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.

The WB Safeguard Policies and the Afghanistan laws are generally aligned with some notable gaps from the local requirements. Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) form the basis of both requirements, with a sound environmental and social assessment approach and stakeholder consultation/ disclosure. These include the independence of the EA experts preparing the ESIA, the development of an SEP and an ESMS, identification of vulnerable groups, language of consultation, ecosystem services, the inclusion of health and safety and compensation for those with recognizable legal right or claim to the land and/or assets.

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. This guidance is based on a high-level identification of the potential impacts for the ACCs and the IAFPs with their possible mitigation measures. More specific impacts will be characterized once further information on the particular facility being developed and the environmental and social context has been studied as these facilities are identified and ESIA's undertaken. 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 ACC and IAFP 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 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 (e.g., horticulture, dairy, poultry & eggs, fresh fruit & vegetables, Drying Yards, Transit Storage/Warehouses, Potato Chips/ Ketchup/ Sauce etc.) 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 peri-urban areas (where IAFPs are being located), 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.

Potential environmental and social impacts will be associated with the development of the planned one or two IAFPs and the proposed 745 ACCs, together with a range of benefits (referred to as negative and positive impacts). These impacts could be direct, indirect and/or

cumulative¹ occurring at both the construction phase and the operational phase of each of the proposed IAFPs and ACCs. It is anticipated that the significance of direct impacts would be higher at the IAFPs which have a larger footprint, an industrial make-up and thus a higher potential for pollution, a greater water, energy and infrastructure demand, as well as the potential for social impact, including land acquisition, worker influx etc. ACCs, on the other hand, would also have direct impacts but could result in more indirect and cumulative impacts by stimulating the expansion of agricultural activities in the surrounding areas thereby increasing the conversion of natural habitats to agricultural use, encouraging the diversion of water from natural ecosystems for irrigation and resulting in the spread of pesticides from agricultural fields into nearby habitats.

A high-level consideration of a large range of the likely environmental and social impacts (as well as OHS risks) associated with the IAFPS and ACCs is provided as a guide for any proposed Project development. Where significant negative impacts are possible, broad mitigation measures to avoid, minimize or remedy impacts are provided. A comprehensive consideration of the attributes of each specific, identified location and planned facility cannot be undertaken due to fact that the location and nature of the IAFP and ACC facilities are not yet known (apart from the BAIP) and the necessary information on the proposed development and its bio-physical and social environment has not yet been collected.

Potentially positive impacts that are likely to occur and were highly significant were considered to be improved accessibility and trade links with beneficiary farmers, promotion of SMME business development and extension services, local employment and improved representation of women in business. Conflict and insurgency and increased gender-based discrimination and violence were considered highly significant possible negative impacts, together with the undermining of labor rights, labor influx, potential ethnic tensions and the possibility of physical and economic displacement and land grabs. Ethnic tensions and undermining of labor rights could contribute to a cumulative impact. The probable impact of contamination from biological, hazardous and general wastes was found to be highly significant and cumulative, as was the overexploitation of water resources, both surface and ground water, generally during the operational phase. Seismic risk was considered possible and could result in a highly significant impact resulting in uncontrolled releases from damaged containment structures. The existence of, and attraction of other similar facilities and activities to the IAFPs and ACCs would probably result in cumulative impacts occurring, notably, overexploitation of water resources for supply, biological and hazardous waste management, surface and ground water contamination and uncontrolled discharges from seismic damage.

All negative impacts will require active mitigation to avoid, reduce or compensate for such impacts and generic mitigation and management measures are provided. A practical set of mitigation measures should be developed as part of the specific ESIA and ESMP, and will need to be adopted into the planning, construction and operation of the IAFPs and ACCs. Mitigation options may include project modification, provision of alternatives, project timing, pollution control, compensation and relocation assistance. The ESMF serves as a general guideline and overarching management system for all the facilities to be implemented during the

¹ A "direct Impact" is an effect caused by a proposed action and occurs in the same time and place; an "indirect impact" is an effect caused by the proposed action at a later in time or some distance from the activity, but is reasonably foreseeable; and a "cumulative impact" is an effect caused by the proposed action that results from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present and reasonable foreseeable future actions. (Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute, 2020. <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/40/1508.7>)

identification, construction and operation phase of the project. However, at the level of each facility, there will be a need for implementation of site-specific plans and procedures as stipulated in the ESMP, which also requires the need for designated staff either on the ground or with oversight of each facility. This will be reflected in the site-specific ESMS. Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) has been assumed in the facility design and has been applied in the mitigation and management measures recommended here. These include developing an evolving understanding and limiting the potential impact and footprint, by putting in place individual management plans where needed and focusing on fair compensation, open communication, resource efficiency and sustainability, reuse, treatment and containment of waste materials and liquids with safe disposal the final option, protection of workers and the public, and monitoring.

Project Screening, Appraisal and Monitoring

The OMAID Project Implementing Agencies, in this case MoIC and CRIDA (for IAFPs) and MAIL (for ACCs), are ultimately responsible, and will verify through its own staff, outside experts or existing environmental, social and OHS institutions, that any ACC or IAFP facility 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 IAFPs and ACCs. The implementation of identified IAFPs and ACCs that are carried out by sub borrowers (i.e. private developers), as is the case for IAFPs, and ACCs in Sub-Component 2 of the OMAID Project, should include the appropriate environmental and social assessment.

Screening of IAFPs and ACCs will occur at project inception, as soon as sufficient detail on the IAFP and ACC 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 in section 10 (Guideline for Screening, Preparation, Appraisal, Approval and Monitoring) 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 ACCs. 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 IAFPs and ACCs 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 NEPA categorization process, for all IAPFs and large-scale ACCs and also and ESIA will be undertaken for all small- scale ACCs only an initial screening stages, it will be submitted to NEPA for issuance of a certificate of compliance (or equivalent term). The second stage will be 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 in Annexures G.

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 IAFPs and ACCs. The implementing agency (assigned Private sector management firm) 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 IAFP and ACC. 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 (MoIC, MAIL & MoF official website) 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 IAFP and ACC will be required to support ongoing citizen engagement for the life of the IAFP or ACC, and the level of consultation will be commensurate with the level of public interest and risks associated with the IAFP and ACC. Citizen engagement, or the two-way and iterative interaction between the citizens of Afghanistan and the implementing agencies at IAFPs ACCs, 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 IAFP or ACC 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 MOIC will establish a function grievance mechanism related to the one or two IAFPs, while MAIL will establish a separate grievance mechanism covering all proposed 745 ACCs. The grievance mechanism is 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 IAFPs or ACCs.

The development of this ESMF was supported by stakeholder engagement which allowed for the disclosure of the ESMF documents (in Dari and Pashtu) and for stakeholders to provide

their comments and general feedback. Stakeholder engagement on the disclosure of the ESMF, the RPF and the PMP was undertaken from 18 to 22 January 2020. The engagement included 11 separate meetings held at the national, provincial and district levels in the five provinces. Minutes and registers were taken at each of the meetings with the attendees ranging from representatives of key government departments, academia, civil society organizations, the private sector, community elders, farmers and women. The key issues or concerns included supporting utilities, organic and chemical waste management, use of pesticides, farmer support, livestock business, product treatment and packaging, local content and local employment, gender inclusion, transport benefits, environmental implementation, organizational arrangements, capacity building, private sector involvement and environmental permitting.

Monitoring, Management and Review

To ensure the effective implementation of the ESMPs at the IAFPs and ACCs, 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.

The plan should be adapted to meet the needs of each ACC/IAFP or group of ACCs /IAFPs. At ACC and IAFP level monitoring will cover the ESIA including the ESMP, environmental permits and assurance programs. 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 IAFP and ACC development in every case will be supported by a site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) that will be prepared with the ESIA, or as prescribed by the screening process conducted during the appraisal of low-risk ACCs. 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 IAFP or ACC. It should include the management of direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the ACC/IAFP activities together with other surrounding activities to ensure that a proactive approach to the effective management of environmental impacts during all phases of the ACC and IAFP activities from construction, operation, to decommissioning and closure.

The implementing agencies (MOIC with respect to the IAFPs and MAIL with respect to ACCs) will require that the ESMP is prepared in consultation with the Safeguards specialists. Where required this responsibility may be deferred by MOIC to the construction contractors and operators for the one or two IAFPs. MAIL will need to ensure that all private developers of the ACCs will prepare their own ESMP as part of their grant approvals.

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, and ACCs.

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 IAFPs and ACCs.

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 or require the resettlement/displacement of land-users or occupants without any legal rights (i.e. squatters). In such cases, the GoIRA will need to secure the land consistent with the WB BP/OP4.12, relevant national law and will need to be fully aligned with the provisions made in the Project Resettlement Policy Framework.

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 for each IAFP and ACC.

Implementation of the RPF requirements will be the mandate of the GoIRA and relevant ministries, such as MoIC (DGIP for one or may be 2 (IAFP) and MAIL (all ACCs) 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 will be the implementing agency for the one or two IAFPs (with CRIDA as the operating entity), while the MAIL will manage the grants allocation to private developers for the 745 ACCs via the appointment of a Grants Operations Management Entity. The construction and operation of the physical infrastructure will largely be undertaken by private contractors via various Private-Public-Partnership structures for the IAFPs or via financing grants for the ACCs. 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 IAFPs and ACCs. 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 will be appointed to regularly monitor the IAFPs and ACCs for these national bodies and on behalf of the WB.

MoIC will be the primary planning and implementing agency for one or maybe two IAFP 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 but this is still pending. 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 contractors will be appointed by MoIC and CRIDA for the life of the IAFPs and ACCs. The day-to-day management of environmental and social requirements will be deferred from MoIC or CRIDA to the construction and operational contractors.

MAIL will establish a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) to oversee compliance with environmental and social requirements at ACCs, and via the appointment of a Grants Operations Management Entity, will provide funding grants to fully private investors for the 745 ACCs. As compulsory land acquisition can only be undertaken by the government in Afghanistan, the private investors will need to approach MAIL as the relevant government agency that will be required to implement any legal land acquisition process on their behalf.

Training and Capacity Building Arrangements

The MOIC and MAIL is expected to establish an overarching Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) that is appropriately scaled to the nature of the project impacts. The ESMS will be used to manage environmental aspects, fulfil compliance obligations, and address risks and opportunities at all IAFP and ACCs. 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. In addition, it will support regular monitoring, reviews and multi-level reporting.

The MOIC and MAIL will have varied capacity for environmental and social management. It is expected that the MOIC and MAIL 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, as stipulated under contractual obligations. 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, MOIC and MAIL 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 (as reflected in Table 13-1) 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 MOIC and MAIL, with support from construction and operational contractors as well as individual businesses, will undertake regular monitoring, reviews and multi-level reporting, as follows:

- **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 one or two 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. In addition, for effective implementation of day to day performance and monitoring, each operator in the IAFP should develop Environment and Social Management system for its company base on the scaled and nature of size.
- **ACCs** - Internal monitoring of day-to-day activities and the level of compliance with environmental and social requirements will be the direct responsibility of the Private Developers that have been given supporting grants by MAIL. MAIL will consolidate the monitoring report and submit annual reports submitted to the Agricultural Steering Committee twice a year. Monitoring and audit reports to be submitted to NEPA annually.

Estimated Training and Capacity Building 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, ESMF and associated studies (amount not known); tranche 2: funding to commence construction of IAFPs and ACCs; and tranche 3: annual funding for IAFP and ACC operations.

The internal costs of resourcing, capacity building, training and technical assistance of MoIC and MAIL is broadly estimated annually 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 (referred to as the OMAID Project or the Project in this document), as one of the projects under this Charter, seeks to provide structural and financial support for the development of agribusiness with increased participation from private sector, including smallholder farmers in selected regions of Afghanistan. The Project will be funded by an International Development Association (IDA) grant to the amount of US\$50 million and a US\$125 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 primarily sit with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC), working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) (the Implementing Agencies) and their various directorates². MoIC and MAIL will co-ordinate with the Ministry of Finance (MoF) (the Borrower) which will facilitate the implementation of the Agribusiness Charter.

The Project has four components *viz.* (1) improving the enabling environment for agribusiness development; (2) supporting the development of market-oriented agri-food supply chains; (3) contingent emergency response component (CERC), and (4) project 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 Agriculture Collection Centers (ACCs). The five target regions for this model of integrated agri-spatial solutions are Balkh, Kandahar, Kabul, Herat, and Nangarhar.

The second component of the Project aims to implement a best-practice business model for integrated agri-spatial solutions and includes the development of one or two IAFPs and an estimated 745 ACCs throughout Afghanistan. The location and design of the IAFPs and ACCs has not been firmly established³. With the agri-spatial solutions still evolving and few details being known, a framework approach has been adopted and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) outlined here is the appropriate instrument to guide the environmental and social safeguard aspects of these activities within this sub-component of the Project, together with the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and the Pest Management Plan (PMP) prepared separately.

² Directorates within MoIC (Industrial Parks, Industries directorate, Investment facilitation, and export promotion) relevant Directorates within Capital Region Development Authority (CRIDA), and Directorates within MAIL (Plant Protection and Quarantine Directorate, Seed and Planting Certification Directorate and Animal Health Directorate).

³ With exception of one IAFP to be located at the Barikab Industrial Park Zone, Kabul

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 IAFP and ACC risks and impacts; and available background on the area in which IAFPs and ACCs 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 IAFPs and ACCs 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 proposed IAFPs' and ACCs' 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), natural habitat (OP/BP4.04), Pest management (OP/BP409), Physical cultural resources (OP/BP4.11), Involuntary resettlement (OP/BP4.12), and forests (OP/BP4.36). 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 ACCs and IAFPs at this stage, the ESMF provides a general framework. Once more specific information on the ACC and IAFP 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 beneficiaries (direct and indirect) of the project are stakeholders from the private sector, specifically farmers organized in producer organizations and agribusiness enterprises in the selected project areas. Agribusiness firms, such as small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and large private investors will benefit in the short term from the broader supply base and the investments in IAFPs and ACCs 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 governance structure of the Agribusiness Charter; and (ii) promoting an enabling environment for the development of agribusiness. The Project will also benefit rural communities, including women and youth. The eligibility of the major beneficiaries will be assessed according to specific criteria.

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 (see Annexure A) 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.

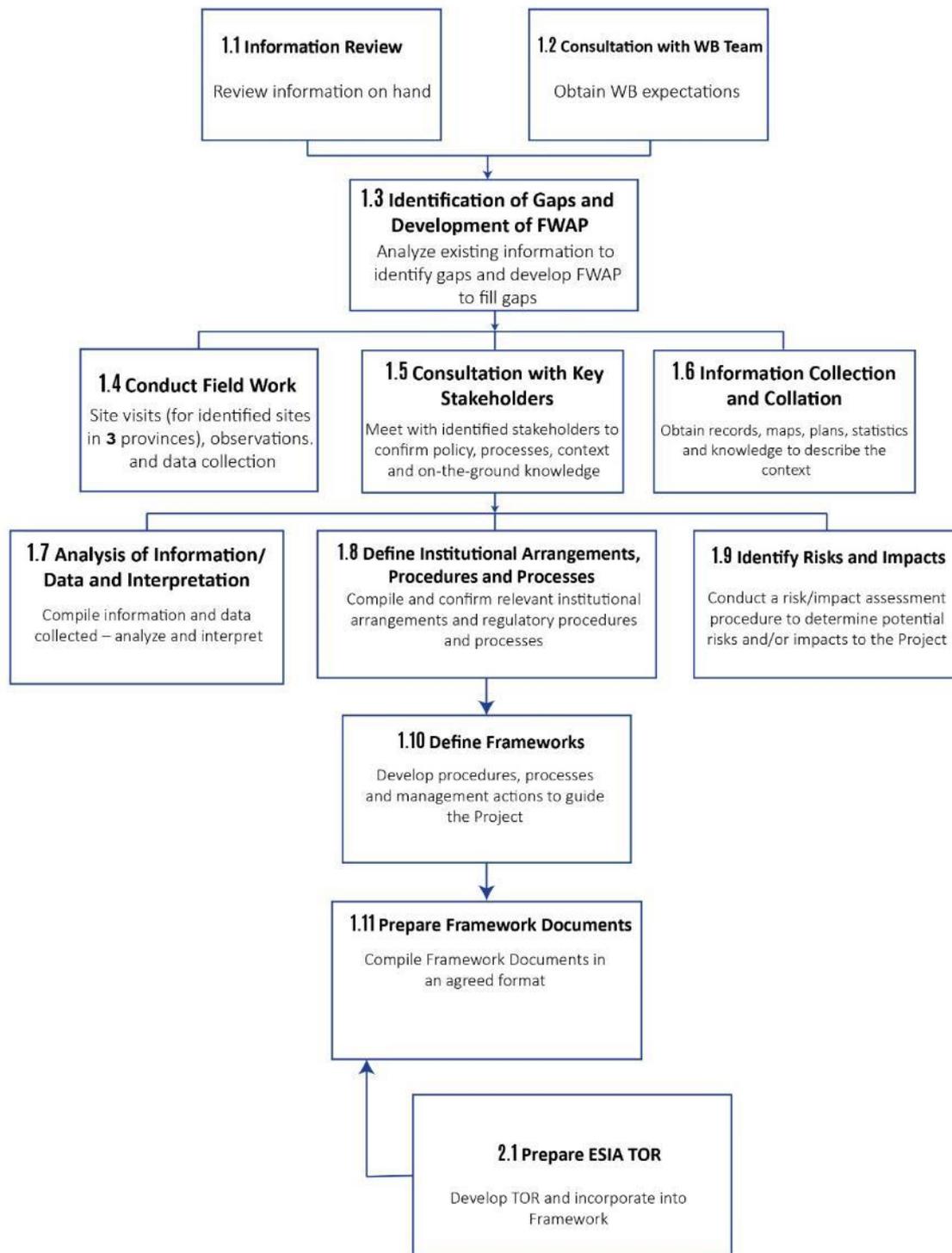


Figure 1: Methodological Approach

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION⁴

2.1 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

The Project Development Objective (PDO) (The World Bank, 2020) is “to improve the enabling environment for the development of agribusiness with increased participation from the private sector, including smallholder farmers, in selected regions 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 enabling environment for agribusiness, participation of the private sector, support for the development of market-oriented agri-food supply chains, improved compliance with food safety standards, and the strengthening of the governance structures in country.

Project implementation is based on the core principles of (i) *Geographic concentration to crowd in economic activities* with specific support provided to the regions 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 (IAFPs and ACCs and associated facilities) that can be used to catalyze private sector investments for value addition and production activities; stimulate product and process innovations; and create ready, structured marketing offer, through organized linkages between farmers and processors.

⁴ Information extracted directly from the OMAID Project “Project Appraisal Document” (PAD3136, 2020)

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, renewable energy and adherence to environmental safeguards; and (iii) public health and nutrition. The Project will also work with the WB 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 and Quality of Support Services for Agribusiness Development (US\$54 Million): Improving the policy and regulatory environment to support a competitive agribusiness sector in Afghanistan conducive to increasing private sector investments in market-orientated agriculture and agribusiness. This will include the strengthening of the government and institutional capacity to deliver enhanced agribusiness-oriented services and to address food safety and other sanitary and phytosanitary issues.
- **Component 2** – Support for the development of a Market-Oriented Agri-food Supply Chains (US\$110 million): Establish a functional and sustainable agri-spatial solutions best-practice business model and provide financing support to implement the model in selected agribusiness catchments. This component includes the establishment of the following physical infrastructure:
 - **Integrated Agri-Food Parks (IAFPs)**: The Project will support the assessment, technical feasibility studies, planning and establishment of one or two IAFPs in selected catchments via the GoIRA. An IAFP will essentially be a agro-industrial zone that is private sector-managed, government-owned facility that provides serviced plots and a range of on-site services (e.g. packaging and labelling, cold chain storage, accredited lab testing, digital technologies, market intelligence, etc.) that can support private agri-businesses including food products, crops, livestock/dairy products and allied services.
 - **Agriculture Collection Centers (ACCs)**: The Project will support the development of an estimated 745 ACCs in the catchment area of the proposed one or two IAFPs. This will be promoted through the co-financing of private-sector investors interested in establishing the ACCs. The ACCs will be entirely privately-owned and managed and will support the collection of agricultural produce and primary processing (e.g. washing, sorting, grading and storing), before being sold to one or several off-takers (e.g. the IAFP or an agribusiness SME).
- **Component 3** – Contingent Emergency Response Component (US\$0 million): Strengthen crisis preparedness and management mechanisms of relevant institutions. 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.

- Component 4 – Project Management (US\$11 million):** Supports the establishment of the Project Management Unit (PMU) under the Directorate General of Industrial Parks and also component 4 will support the establishment of PIU under the MAIL. The PMU is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Project, for the project liaison with the various stakeholders, as well as for the institutional coordination among the various agencies implementing Project activities at local level.

The five target regions for this model of integrated agri-spatial solutions are these interventions are initially planned for the five provinces of Balkh, Kandahar, Kabul, Herat, and Nangarhar (see Figure 2).



Figure 2: Five target regions for this model of integrated agri-spatial solutions (World_Bank, 2019)

2.3 THE AGRI-SPATIAL FACILITIES TO BE DEVELOPED UNDER THE PROJECT

Environmental and social regulatory and World Bank requirements apply in cases where the Project requires infrastructure development under Component 2 – Support for the development of a Market-Oriented Agri-food Supply Chains. This specifically concerns the proposed IAFPs and ACCs that are to be established under the ambit of the Project (See Figure 3). Each proposed IAFP and ACC will need to ensure effective environmental, social, health and safety governance. The ESMF provides the framework for this governance. The proposed IAFPs and ACCs are described further in this section.

The design of both IAFPs and ACCs will take Eco-Industrial Park Guidelines (World Bank Group, 2016) into consideration with a focus on mitigating climate change by promoting resource efficient technologies and buildings and thereby reducing GHG emissions. Climate stressors

will be considered and design and construction of IAFPs will cover climate change resilience and climate induced risks. Infrastructure to be developed in line with these guidelines will include wastewater treatment facilities, other waste management infrastructure and a green onsite management office.

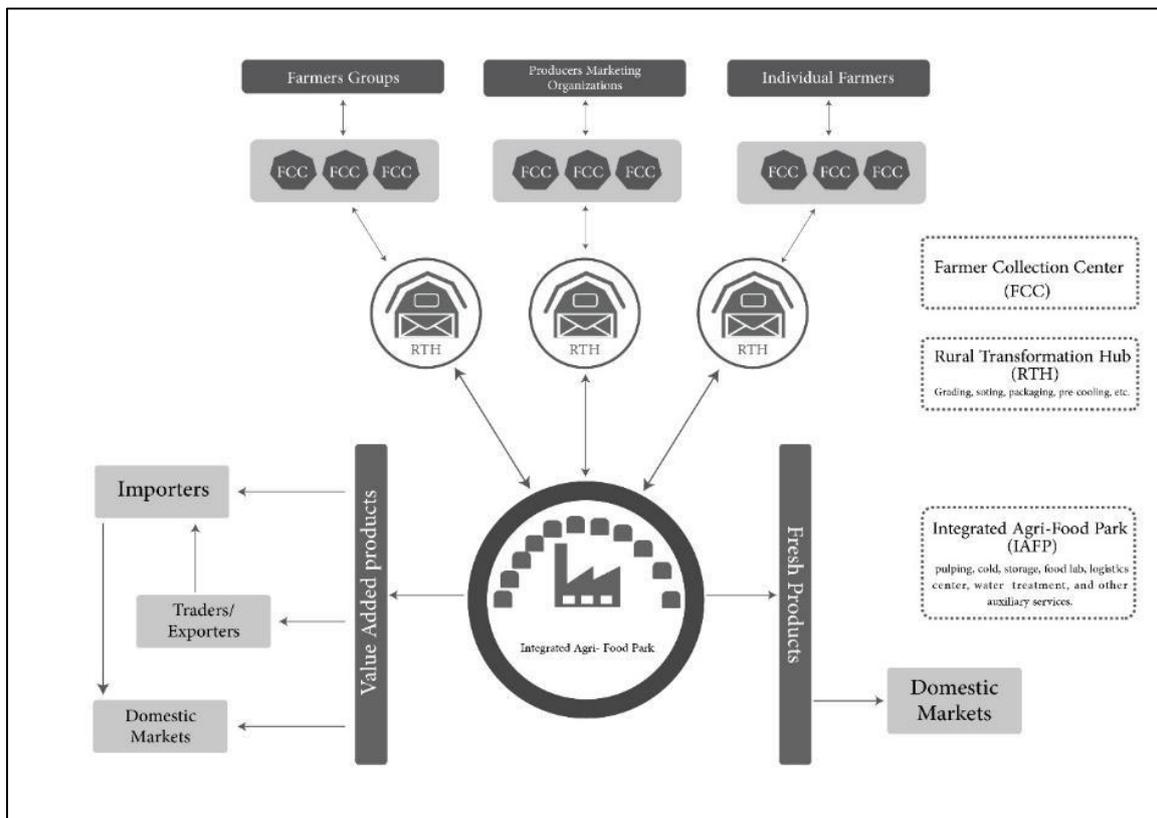


Figure 3: Integrated Agri-Food Park Concept (Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, 2018)

2.3.1 Integrated Agri-Food Parks

The IAFP is conceptualized as a self-standing agro-industrial zone that is a private sector-managed, government-owned facility providing serviced plots and a range of on-site services (e.g. packaging and labelling, cold chain storage, accredited lab testing, digital technologies, market intelligence, etc.) that can support private agri-businesses. The parks will be developed 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 as well as ESIA;
- the construction of critical onsite and offsite infrastructure⁵;
- the development of onsite standard factory buildings, warehouses, canteens, workforce retail, auditoria and showrooms where there is sufficient demand;
- 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.

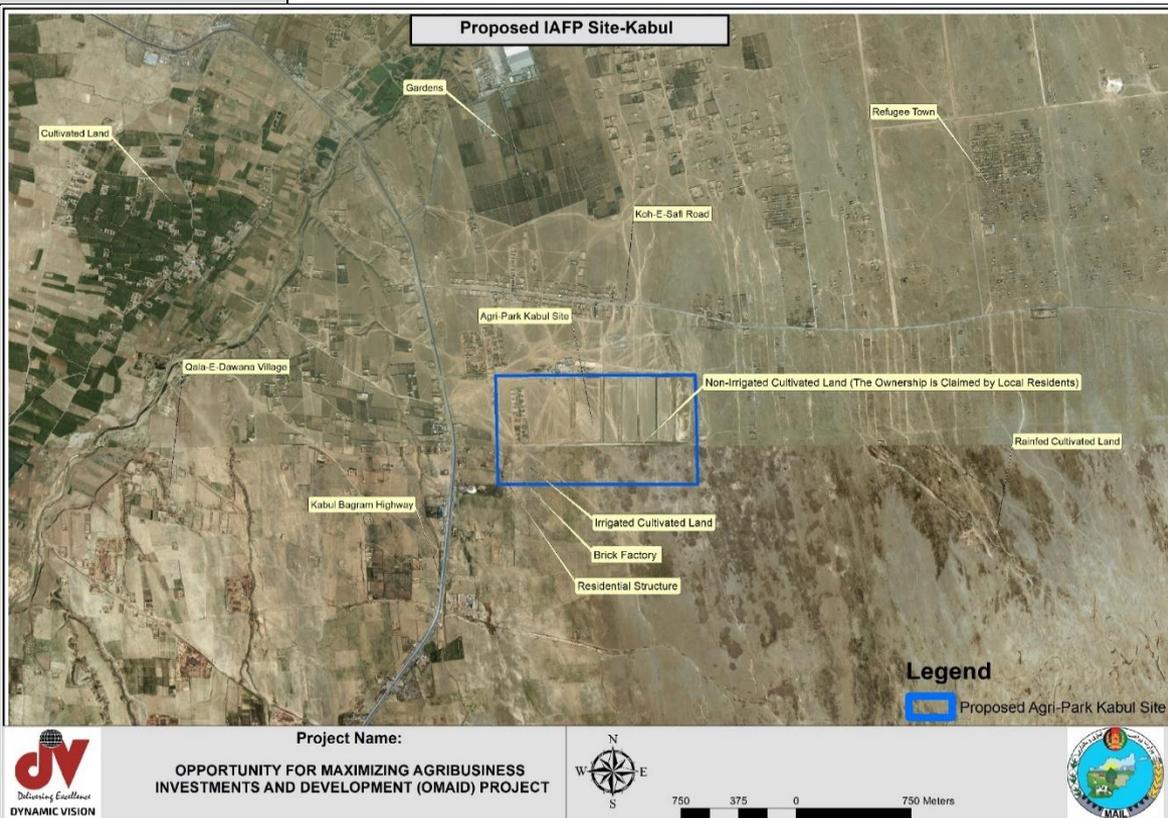
At present, the Project is exploring the development of the Barikab IAFP at Barikab Industrial Park Zone near Kabul as one of its two options. The second possible IAFP has not been defined at the preparation of this report. The Barikab IAFP would be developed by the Capital Region Development Authority (CRIDA) as implementation partner with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC) – Industrial Park Directorate. Barikab will provide the site for the developing and testing of a sustainable, viable, business model for IAFPs, with the feasibility study completion expected in the first half of 2020.

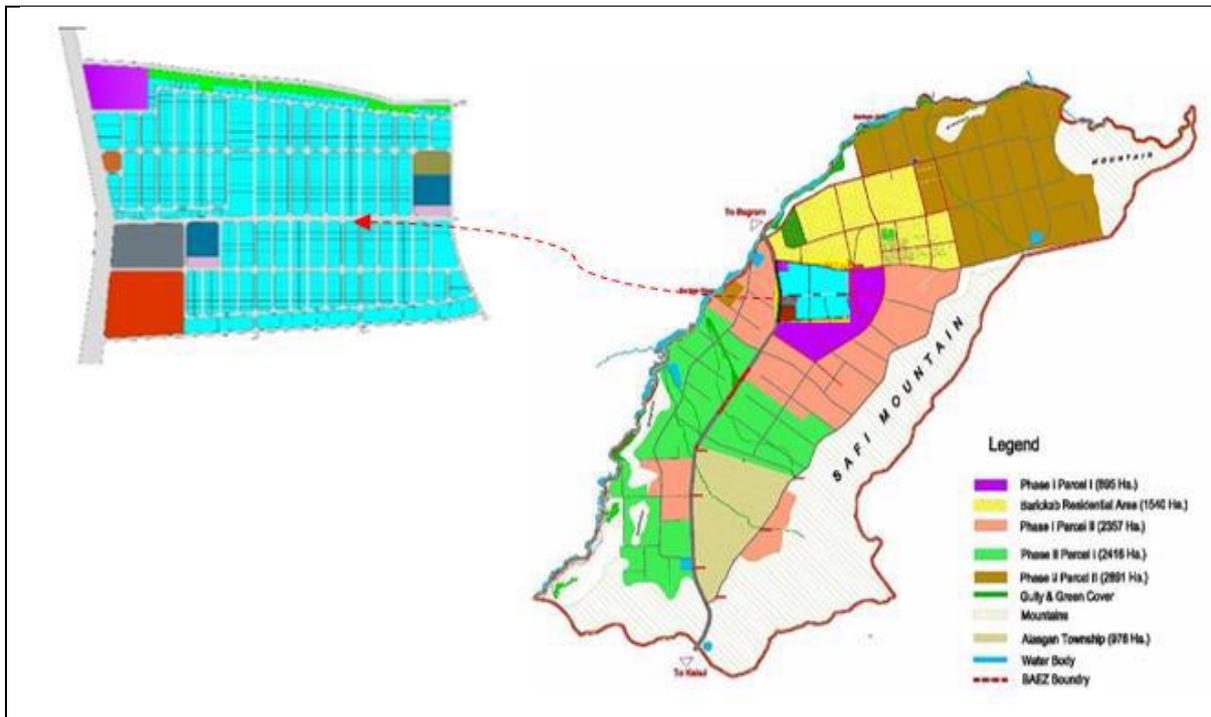
Potential Site for IAFP in Kabul Province (CRIDA, January, 2019)

Industrial Park Name	Barikab Agriculture Industrial Park (BAIP) – part of the Barikab Agricultural Economic Zone (BAEZ)
Location / Coordinates	Approximately 45km north of Kabul New City (KNC) near Bagram Airfield (34.88155, 69.28403; 34.86634, 69.27734)
Rationale for Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anchored around the development of an existing industrial park zone • Successfully screened for minimum selection criteria under OMAID • GoIRA subsequently procured specialized consultant services to analyze market opportunities and review catchment area • Supply analysis revealed existence of vibrant market-oriented agriculture with more than 10 active producer organizations which are canning, freezing, drying, and juicing e.g. • Demand assessment confirmed strong potential with 51% of developed land already assigned to private investors and 54 agribusiness firms already applied for remaining plots.

⁵ 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical feasibility study and economic/financial analysis currently underway – including review of climate impact and disaster risks and climate-smart agricultural technologies. • Preliminary results indicate annual off-takers’ demand in catchment is above 378,000 MTs for fruit and 6,150 tons for poultry. Agribusiness firms prefer to procure from farms or dealers.
<p>Main Purpose</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate investment in agro-processing, hi-tech agriculture and agricultural infrastructure projects for value addition. • Enhance productivity of crops in a sustainable manner and give BAEZ a competitive edge through an integrated approach to agriculture. • Encourage private sector to promote and invest in agro-processing of BAEZ. • Provide necessary services to small- and medium-sized producers for the sale of agricultural products. • Empower farmers with improved technological package including agricultural tools, crop selection and crop management practices to sustain under unpredictable and diverse agricultural conditions. • Develop agro-based economic activities as source of income and employment opportunity for the residence of KNC and the region.





Barikab Integrated Agri Food Park Location within BAEZ and its Master Plan (CRIDA, January, 2019)

Brief description

- BAEZ covers an area of 84km² and will be developed in three phases. The BAIP is the first project of the BAEZ and is an agriculture industrial park to be developed by the Capital Region Development Authority (CRIDA), which is responsible for the development of economic zones, among other things, in the Kabul region.
- Primary catchment area for the BAEZ are the provinces of Kabul, Parwan and Kapisa within a 30 to 40 km radius of the site, with the provinces of Logar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar and Lahman in the broader catchment of up to 150 km. These provinces produce horticulture products (almond, walnut, raisin, grapes, apple, peach, pear, fig, apricot, plum & cherry), vegetables (onion, potato, carrot, tomato, cucumber) and livestock.
- BAIP covers an area of 400ha divided into 4 construction phases. The first phase is currently under development (mainly infrastructure) in an area of 1.0km², consisting of asphalt roads, water supply (deep well source) sewerage systems (there is no WWTP in place and there are no activities that generate wastewater, only canalization is in place once the WWTP is constructed then all canalization will be centralized to the treatment Plant) and 100 MW power supply is 90% complete.
- Out of 393 developed plots in phase I, 65 plots have been approved from applications submitted by 16 agriculture processing and packaging companies.
- Additional investments are required including: (i) updated feasibility study; (ii) implementation of Barikab management and governance framework with associated capacity building of the main actors; (iii) support for an investment promotion strategy and outreach plan; (iv) infrastructure development support such as Standard Factory Buildings (SFB), waste management infrastructure; solar power generation and incentives; agro-business incubator; food testing laboratory; skills training center and other social infrastructure (to be confirmed as part of the feasibility study).

Types of Possible Economic and Ancillary Support Activities by MoIC in BAIP

- Agro-dealers and input supply stores;
- Extension services and training, by Government bodies, donors, and NGOs;
- Testing and certification laboratories;
- Truck parking, container stacking, and rail yards;
- Commercial and auction center/ wholesale market;
- Green area/ parks, vehicle parking, service buildings; and
- Maintenance and repair facilities and shops.

Types of Possible Economic and Ancillary Support Activities by Private Sector/ Operator in BAIP

- Dairy processing;
- Testing and certification laboratories;
- Commercial and auction center/ wholesale market;
- Green area/ parks, vehicle parking, service buildings; and
- Warehousing, grain silos, and cold storage providers;
- Agro-processing units, including for the packaging and/or processing of fresh fruit (juice, drying of fruits and nuts, bottling, etc.);

It is envisioned that the Government of Afghanistan will develop additional IAFPs with future sources of funding based on the proposed business model. The Project will also finance any technical assistance for the management of the IAFPs for an initial period of up to two years, and thereafter transfer management responsibility to a specialized private sector entity.

2.3.2 Agricultural Collection Centers

The Project will support the development and strengthening of ACCs in the catchment area of the proposed one or two IAFPs. The ACCs will essentially be a private-sector owned collection facility where agricultural produce may be delivered and undergo primary processing (e.g. washing, sorting, grading and storing), before being sold to one or several off-takers (e.g. the IAFP or an agribusiness SME).

The ACCs will be financed through cost-sharing arrangements between the Project and eligible private investors in the form of financing grants. To access these grants, potential investors will be required to submit business plans to a selection committee established under the MoIC Directorate General of Industrial Parks – Project Management Unit (PMU).

The grants will cover financing for each ACC for between 50 to 90 % of the total investment requirements but capped at US\$150,000. This includes costs associated with the planning and development of facilities, equipment, vehicles, (this would only be a small number of vehicles only 1 or 2 to transport goods from ACCs to IAFP), last mile infrastructure, technical assistance and management, operation, and maintenance costs in the initial two years. The Project will also provide initial support (through skills development, operating costs) for the management, operations and maintenance of the ACCs and build their capacity to provide relevant services to the supplying agricultural producers.

The Project has made provision for the development of 745 separate ACCs – assuming 250 Province/District-level ACCs, as well as 300 small, 155 mediums and 40 large ACCs where there is market demand in the five target regions.

2.4 FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES INELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

Any facilities and activities with the following attributes would be ineligible for funding:

Attributes of Ineligible Facilities and Activities
<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"> • Khulm Landmark Protected Area (Balkh); • Kole Hashmat Khan Waterfowl Sanctuary (Kabul); • Northwest Afghanistan Game Managed Reserve (Herat); and • Registan Desert Wildlife Managed Reserve (Kandahar & Helmand).
<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"> • 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); • Minaret of Jam; • Mosque of Haji Piynda/Nu Gunbad, Balkh Province; and • Stupa and monastery of Guldarra (Kabul).

<p>Kabul</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guldarra 2. Hashmatkhan 3. Amir Abdul Rahman Khan Mausoleum 4. Bala Hissar 5. Chaman-e-Hazuri 6. Darulaman Palace 7. Shah Do Shamshira Mosque 8. National Museum 9. Sher Darwaza 10. Tape maranjan 11. Timur Shah Museum 12. Khair khana 13. Kurrindar 14. Minar-e-Chakri 15. Mir Bacha Kot 16. Shlwaki 17. Surkh Minar 18. Tape Skandar <p>Herat:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Azadan 2. Bagh-e-Nazargah 3. Chisht 4. Deh-e-Minar 5. Gazurgah 6. Ghuriyan 7. Qala-e-Ikhtiyar al-Din (Citadel) 8. Grat Mosue 9. Gawharshad Musalla Compex 10. Abdullah Al-Valid Shrine 11. Abdullah Bin Musawlyah Complex 12. Abdul Qasim Shrine 13. Karukh 14. Kuhsan – Tomb of Gauharshad 15. Kush Rabat 16. Qala-IDukhtar 17. Rabat-i-Sahib Zada 18. Zindajan
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<p>19. Ziyaratqah</p> <p>Balkh:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Altin Dilyar Tape 2. Aq Kupruk 3. Aq Tape, Narawid 4. Bala Hissar 5. Haji Pirada Mosue 6. Khwaja Abu Nasr Parsa Shrine 7. Khwaja Aghacha Mosque 8. Sayyid Saubhan Quli Khan Madrasa 9. Darra-eDadil 10. Emam Sahib 11. Jiga Tape 12. Kilift 13. Kuhna Khulm 14. Mazar-e-Sharif 15. Nadir Tape 16. Tash Guzar 17. Zadiyan <p>Kandahar:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bad-i-Sah Ghundai 2. Deh Morasi Ghundai 3. Kandahar 4. Mirwais Baba 5. Mundigak 6. Said Qala Tape <p>Nangarhar:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ahin Push Tape 2. Chahar Bagh 3. Chakanur 4. Dakka 5. Filkhana 6. Hada 7. Jalalabd 8. Kama Dakka 9. Kuhna Deh 10. Nagara Ghundi 11. Tape Khwaja Lahori <p>Source: https://www.cemml.colostate.edu/cultural/09476/afgh05b.html</p>
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Attributes of Ineligible Facilities and Activities (continued)
<p>Requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equipment or materials that are included in the annual implementation plans by other agencies (e.g. by other government or NGO projects that are operating in the area); • political campaign materials or donations in any form; • weapons including (but not limited to), mines, guns and ammunition; • chainsaws; • pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals⁶, in particular those falling into WHO classes 1A, 1B or II. • motorized extraction of groundwater⁷; • construction, rehabilitation, or maintenance of any government office buildings; • payments of salaries to government servants or the salaries of the staff of government subsidized organizations; • any activity on land that is considered dangerous due to security hazards or the presence of unexploded mines or bombs; • any activity, such as food processing, that use fuelwood or charcoal; • any activity on land or affecting land that has disputed ownership, tenure or user rights⁸; and • any activity that will support drug crop production or processing of such crops.

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, through a PMU embedded in the administrative structure of the Directorate General of Industrial Parks, which will oversee the construction and operation of the IAFPs while MAIL, through a PIU, will oversee the day to day activities related to operation of the ACCs. Institutional arrangements are detailed in Section 13.

Agribusiness development areas will be short listed and assessed to determine the potential for market-oriented agricultural production and private-sector investment. Areas with proven supply and demand potential and technical and economic/financially sound investments will be considered. This includes the evaluation of projected climate impacts and strategies to mitigate climate-induced risks and enhance climate resilience along the value chain.

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.

⁶ Exceptions may be considered based on an assessment by the Safeguard Specialist (with specialized consultant assistance, if required, and after no objection from the International Development Agency (IDA)) in special situations such as eradication of infestations of locusts or sen pest.

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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 AREA⁹

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.

⁹ 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 4**). The Project is targeting the five provinces of Balkh, Kandahar, Kabul, Herat, and Nangarhar where IAFPs and ACCs will be located.

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).

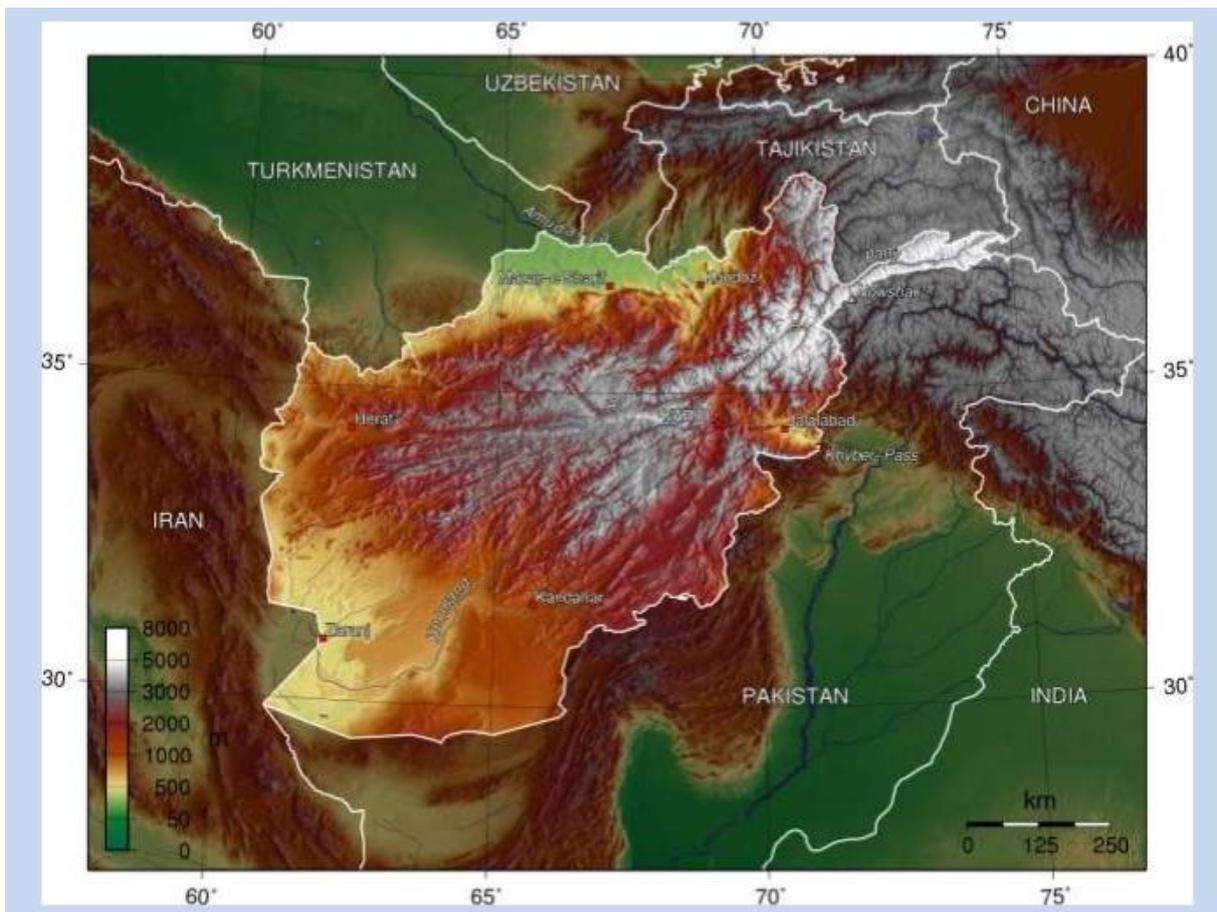


Figure 4: Topography of Afghanistan (Jennings, n.d.)

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 4-1**).

Table 4-1: Area, Elevation and Topographical Region of Project Location (from (MAIL_GoIRA, May 2017)

Province	Geographic Region	Area (km ²)	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	Mazar-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 5**) shows the climates for the country, in particular the areas covered by the Project (Ali_Zifan, 2019):

Table 4-2: 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

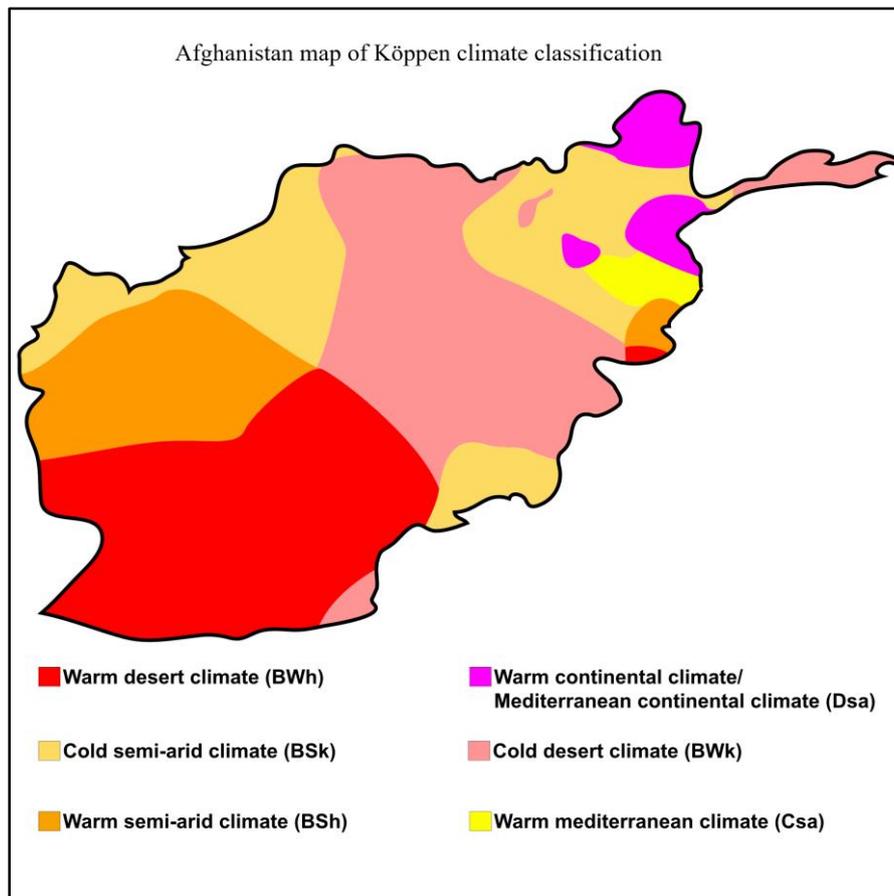


Figure 5: Afghan Map of Köppen Climate Regions (Ali_Zifan, 2019)

Table 4-3: 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 4-4** and **Figure 6**.

Table 4-4: 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 7*) (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
Total	9,752	760	83	10	10,605

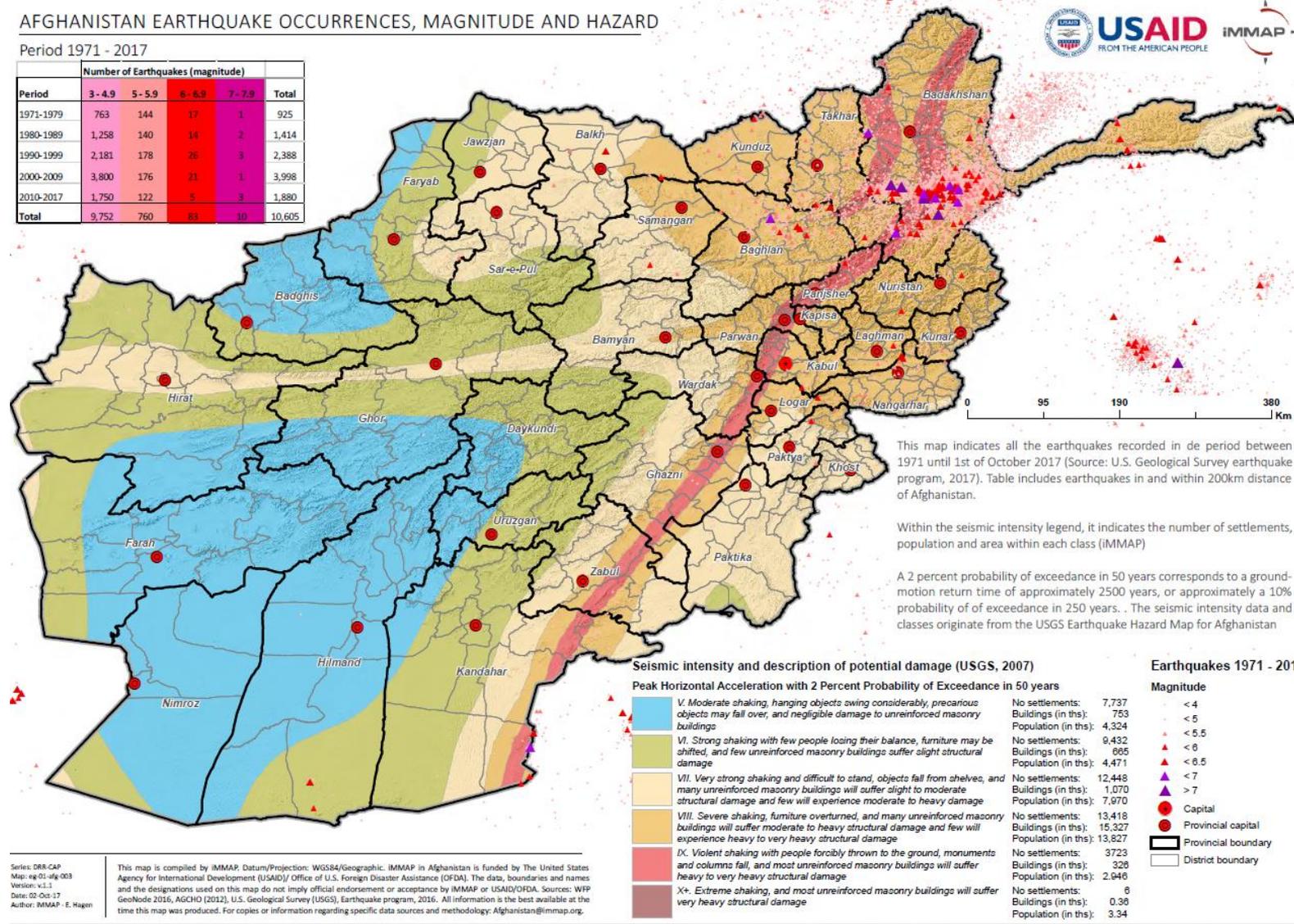


Figure 6: Earthquake Occurrence in Afghanistan (USAID_IMMAPP, 2019)

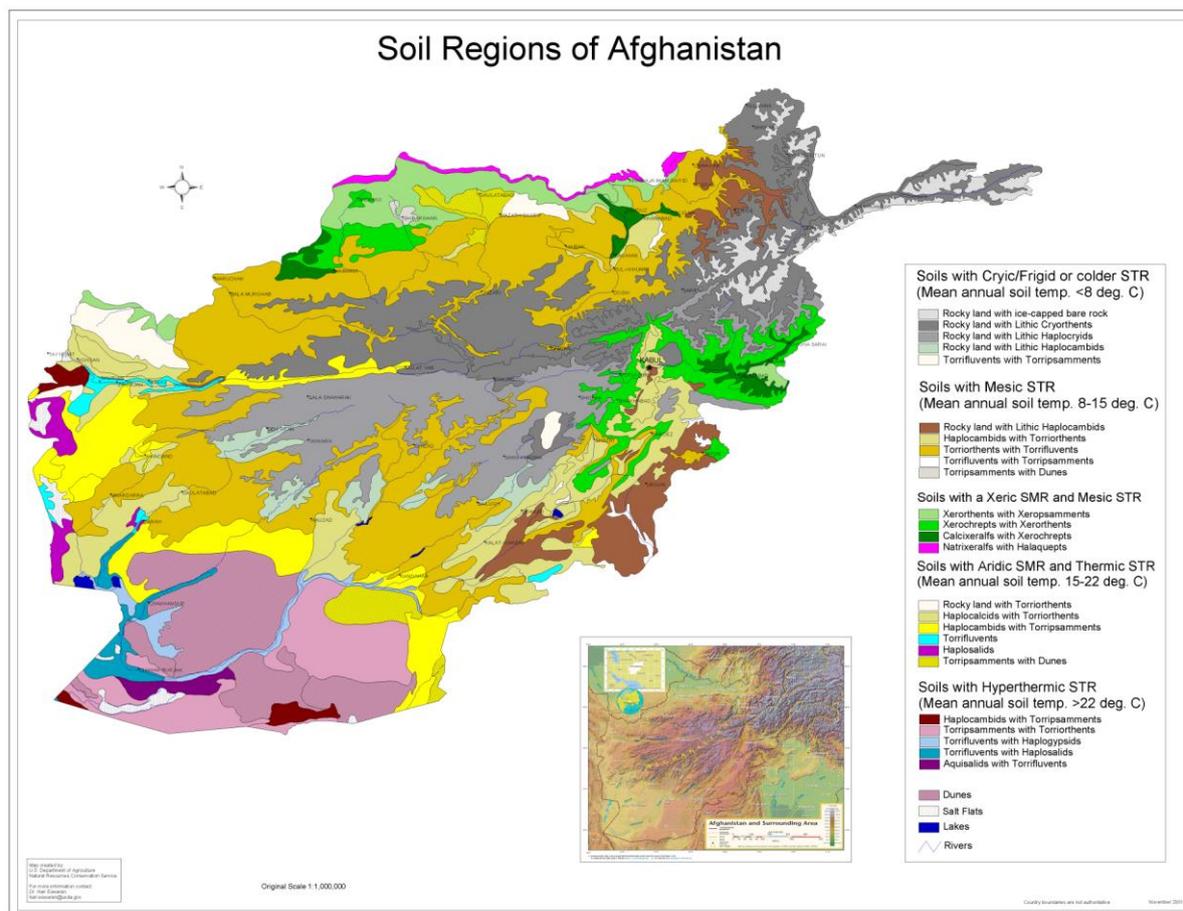


Figure 7: Soils of Afghanistan (US_Dept_Agric, 2013)

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 8**). 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. In Afghanistan, groundwater has traditionally been developed and utilized for irrigation purposes through the use of karezes, springs and shallow hand dug open wells. In more recent years, deep drilled wells have become a more common means of extraction for irrigation usage particularly in the Tarnak, Ghazni, Kabul and Logar river valleys. The bedrock aquifer systems in the country are largely unexplored and some of these units may well represent valuable sources of irrigation and potable supply in the future. 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 4-5**.

Table 4-5: 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 9**). (Foundation Sustainable Rural Development, 2018)

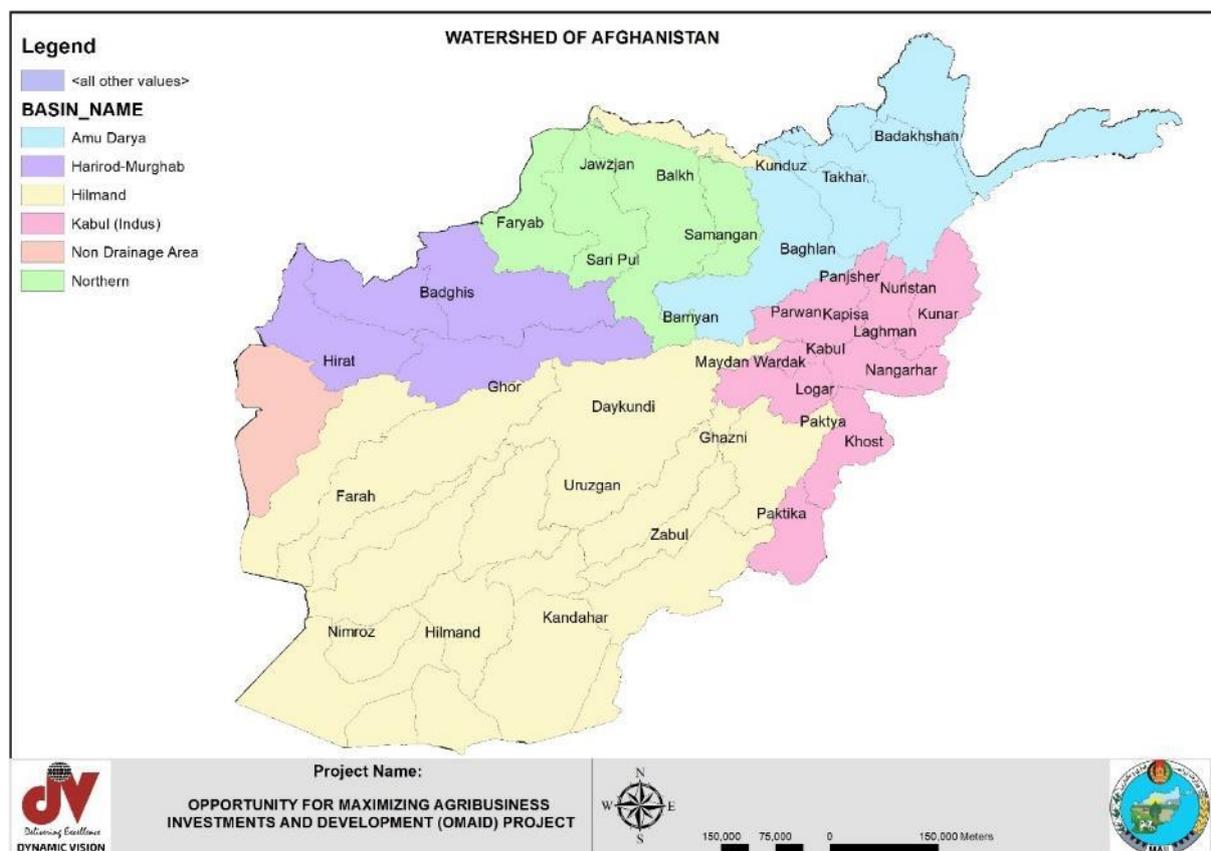


Figure 8: Major River Watersheds of Afghanistan

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. The traditional use of fuelwood and charcoal as a source of fuel has led to deforestation and a scarcity of this resource, leading to an increase in price. 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)

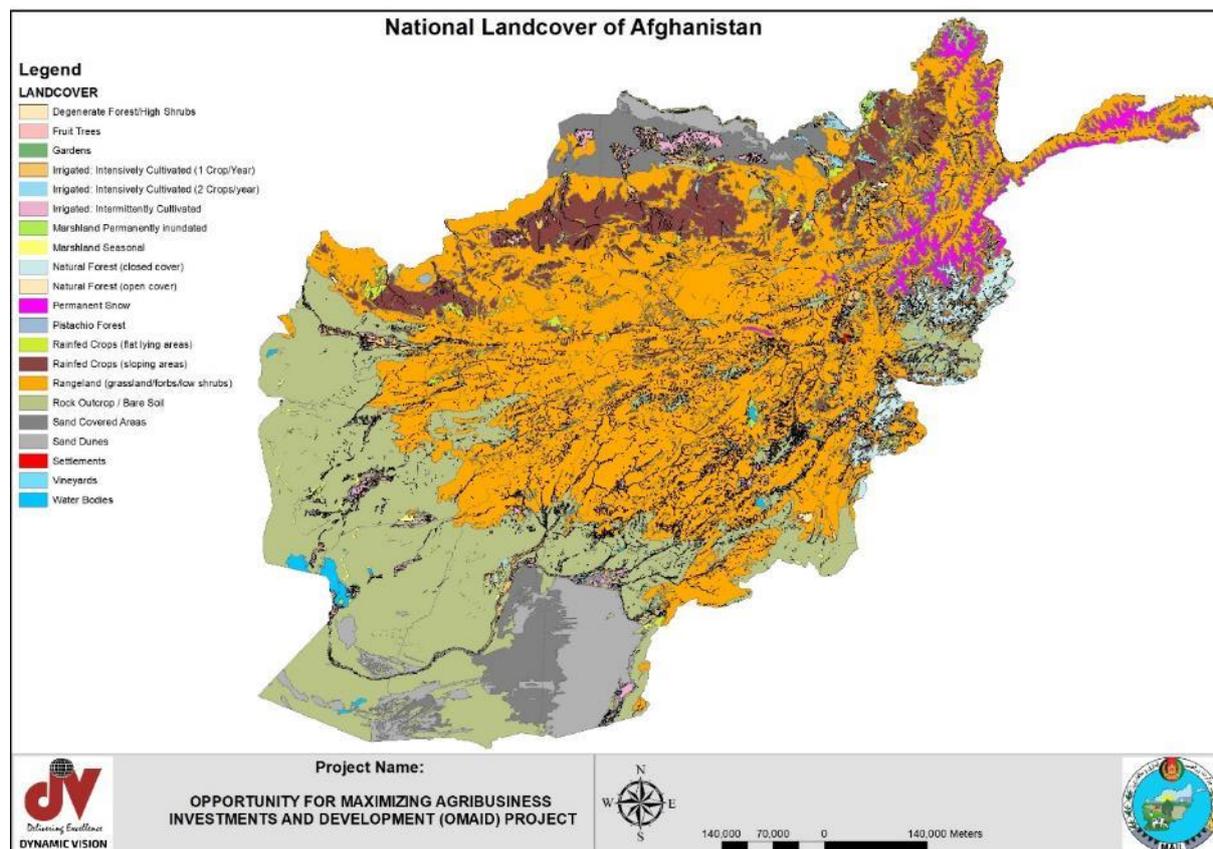


Figure 9: Land-Use in Afghanistan

Land-use per Province

The land use in the five provinces of Kabul, Nangarhar, Balkh, Kandahar, and Herat are described in **Table 4-6** (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 4-6: 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
Total Area (ha)	4,655	7,397	16,769	53,921	54,406

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_{2e}, with no net removals. This was made up of 20,395 Gg of CO₂ (33.9 percent of total Gg CO_{2e}), 519 Gg of CH₄ (31.0 percent or 18,684 Gg CO_{2e}) and 71 Gg of N₂O (35.1 percent or 21,158 Gg CO_{2e}). 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 km² with an estimated 3,600 km² of closed canopy forest (i.e. Coniferous, Quercus and Olea-Reptonia) remaining in the late 1970s. If the estimates of UNEP's (United Nations Environment Programme, 2003) satellite image analysis can be extrapolated, half of that has been lost since 1980 leaving some 1,800 km². Based on these assumptions, the provinces of Kabul and Nangarhar would currently be left with roughly 5 percent of their pristine closed forest vegetation, due to overexploitation of this resource. 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. This vegetation type occurs to a limited extent in the target region of Herat. Open forests originally formed a wide crescent around the north, west and south flanks of the Hindu Kush but these have largely been eliminated through human use and UNEP's (United Nations Environment Programme, 2003) satellite image analysis suggests 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 and occur in the target regions of Balkh, Kandahar and Herat. 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.

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. This vegetation type does not predominate in the Project’s target regions.

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. Wetlands can be found in a variety of vegetation types.

Riparian

Tugai is a special type of riparian forest found in the floodplains and valleys of central Asian deserts and would be found in the target regions of Balkh, Kandahar and Herat. It is characterized by poplar and willow trees and shrubs of various genera such as tamarisk (*tamarix*), oleaster (*elaegagnus*), 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. 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 10**). The vegetation in the target Project regions can be summarized as:

Table 4-7: Natural Vegetation Type in the Target Regions

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.

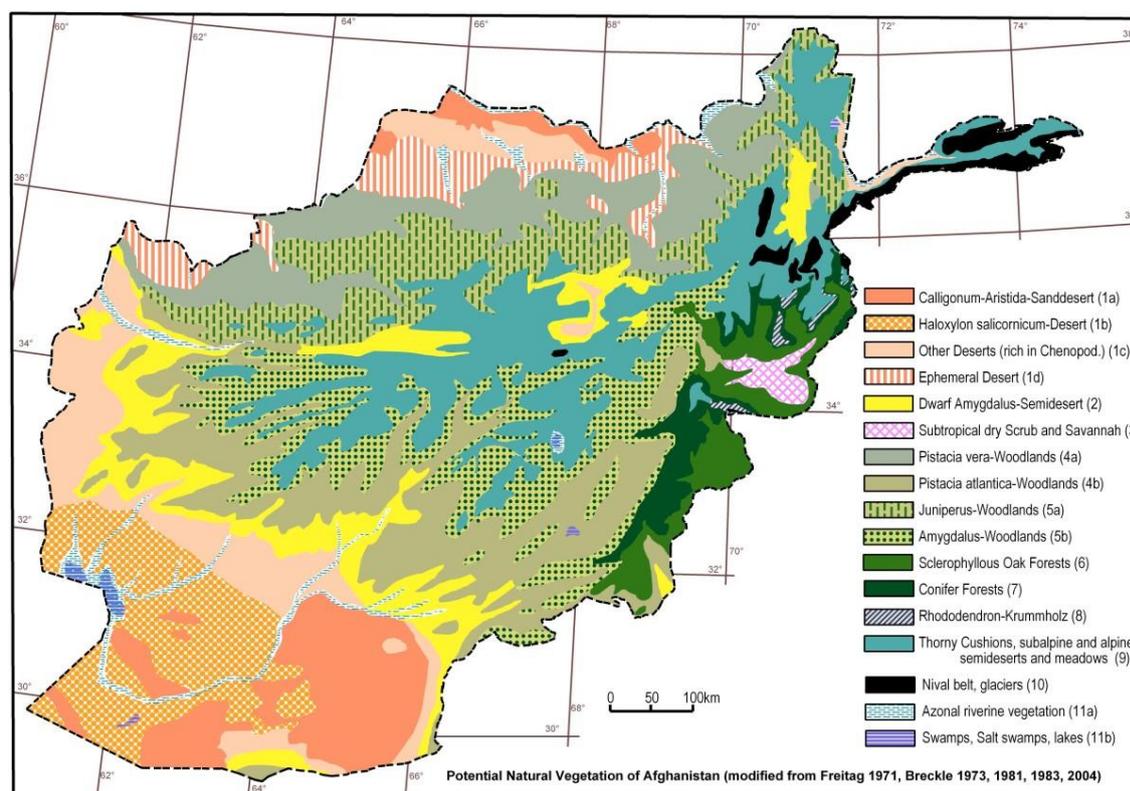


Figure 10: Natural Vegetation of Afghanistan Modified from Freitag (Breckle, 2004)

4.3.2 Biodiversity

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)

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, 2004). As a broad generalization, biodiversity appears to be declining at an accelerating rate throughout Afghanistan: 16 of Afghanistan’s mammal species (including the snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*)) are listed on the IUCN Red List as being globally threatened with extinction; 5 bird species (including the Siberian Crane (*Leucogeranus leucogeranus*)) are on the IUCN Red List as globally Critically Endangered, 2 are listed as Endangered and 14 as Vulnerable; 1 reptile species is on the IUCN Red List as being globally at risk; 1 amphibian species (the paghman salamander (*Paradactylodon mustersi*)) is on the IUCN Red List as globally Critically Endangered; 1 invertebrate species is on the IUCN Red List as being globally threatened; and

1 plant species (the Himalayan elm tree (*Ulmus wallichiana*)) is on the IUCN Red List as Vulnerable.

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 11**. The five target regions shown on this figure, which form the central focus of the Project, are all located some distance from any protected area.

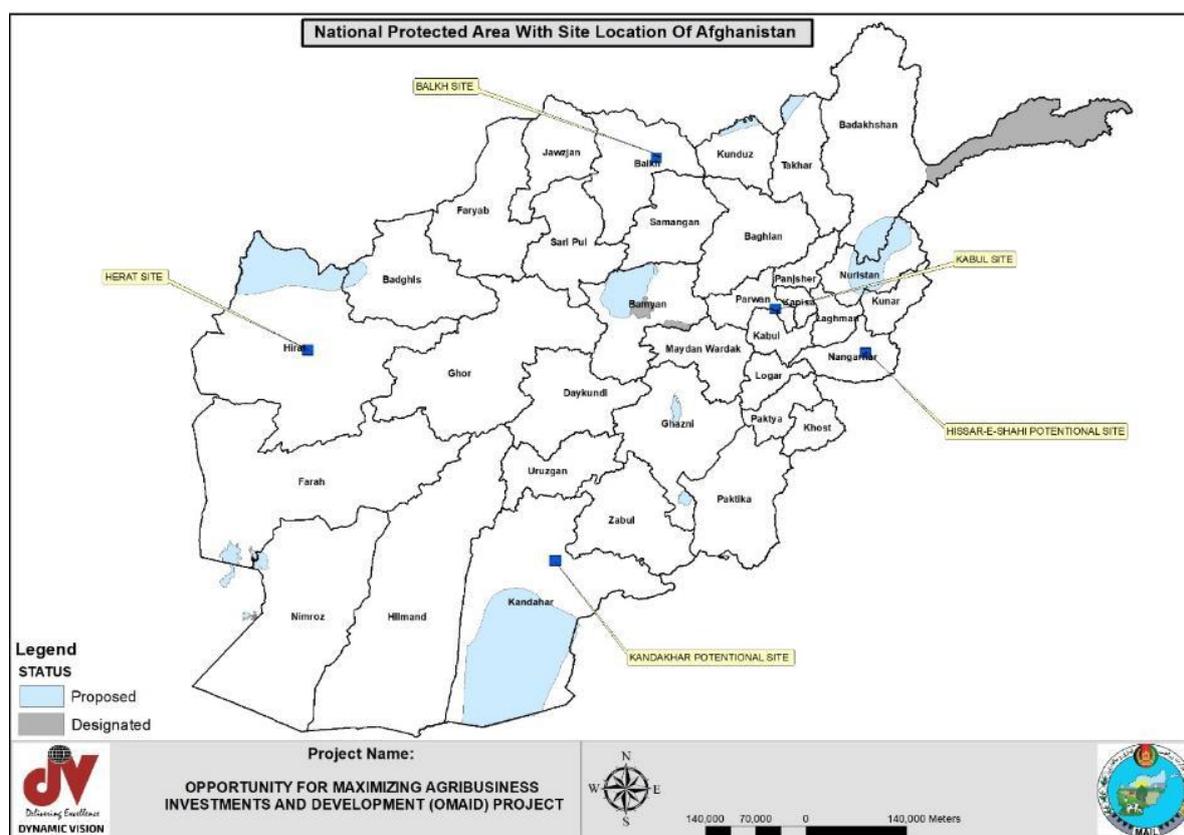


Figure 11: National Protected Areas in Afghanistan (Data from NEPA, 2019)

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 4-8**). The target 5 provinces support 36 percent of the total national population with the majority located in the largely urbanised Kabul Province.

Table 4-8: Population Profile

Administrative Level	Total Population			Population Density (Persons / Km ²)
	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 4-9**). 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 4-9: 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 Education

Education is one of the most important aspects of human development, and Afghanistan is faced with substantives challenges in promoting education. Basic adult literacy (referring to the population aged 15 and over) remains low across the five target provinces (see Table 4-10).

On average half of males have basic level of literacy, although this is higher in the Kabul Province. Female literacy rates are substantial lower given their historical and current restrictions in accessing education. Nationally, only 20% of females have obtained basic adult literacy, while it is higher in both Kabul and Balkh Provinces.

A key constraint to education is the enrollment rate of both boys and girls. The national net attendance rate for boys and girls at primary school level is estimated at 66% and 47% (Central Statistics Organization, 2018), however there are noted difference between urban and rural populations. Rural net attendance rates are generally 10% lower for boys and 30% for girls compared to urban areas.

Table 4-10: Adult Literacy Rates

Administrative Level	Percent Literate Population	
	Males	Females
Afghanistan	49.4	19.9
Balkh Province	45-59	15-29
Herat Province	30-44	30-44
Kandahar Province	15-29	<15
Kabul Province	>60	30-44
Nangarhar Province	45-59	15-29

Source: (Central Statistics Organization, 2018)

With respect to the 5 target provinces (See Table 4-11) the primary school attendance rates for boys and girls largely tracks along national urban and rural trends. Attendance rates are higher in the Kabul and Balkh Provinces, while rates are generally lower in the more rural provinces.

Table 4-11: Net Child Primary School Attendance Rates

Administrative Level	Percent Literate Population	
	Males	Females
Afghanistan	66.3	46.8
Balkh Province	60-74	60-74
Herat Province	60-74	45-59
Kandahar Province	30-44	15-29
Kabul Province	>75	60-74
Nangarhar Province	60-74	30-44

Source: (Central Statistics Organization, 2018)

4.4.5 Language

Afghanistan supports a wide range of major and minor languages, however both Dari and Pashto function as the two majority official languages and are most widely spoken, by 77% and 45% of the national population respectively (Asia Foundation, 2019).

There has been no systemic survey of language use by province in Afghanistan. However, language use is closely linked to the major ethno-linguistics regions of the nation (as depicted in Figure 4-12). The Balkh Province falls within the majority Uzbek ethnolinguistic region and will reflect a high use of Uzbek alongside the two official languages. Herat Province will have a high proportion of Tajik, Aimak speakers alongside Pashtun. Kabul Province is dominated by Pashtun but, given its urban context and influx of migrants and internally displaced people it can be expected that it will support all major and minor languages. Finally, the Nangarhar and Kandahar Provinces support mostly Pashtun.

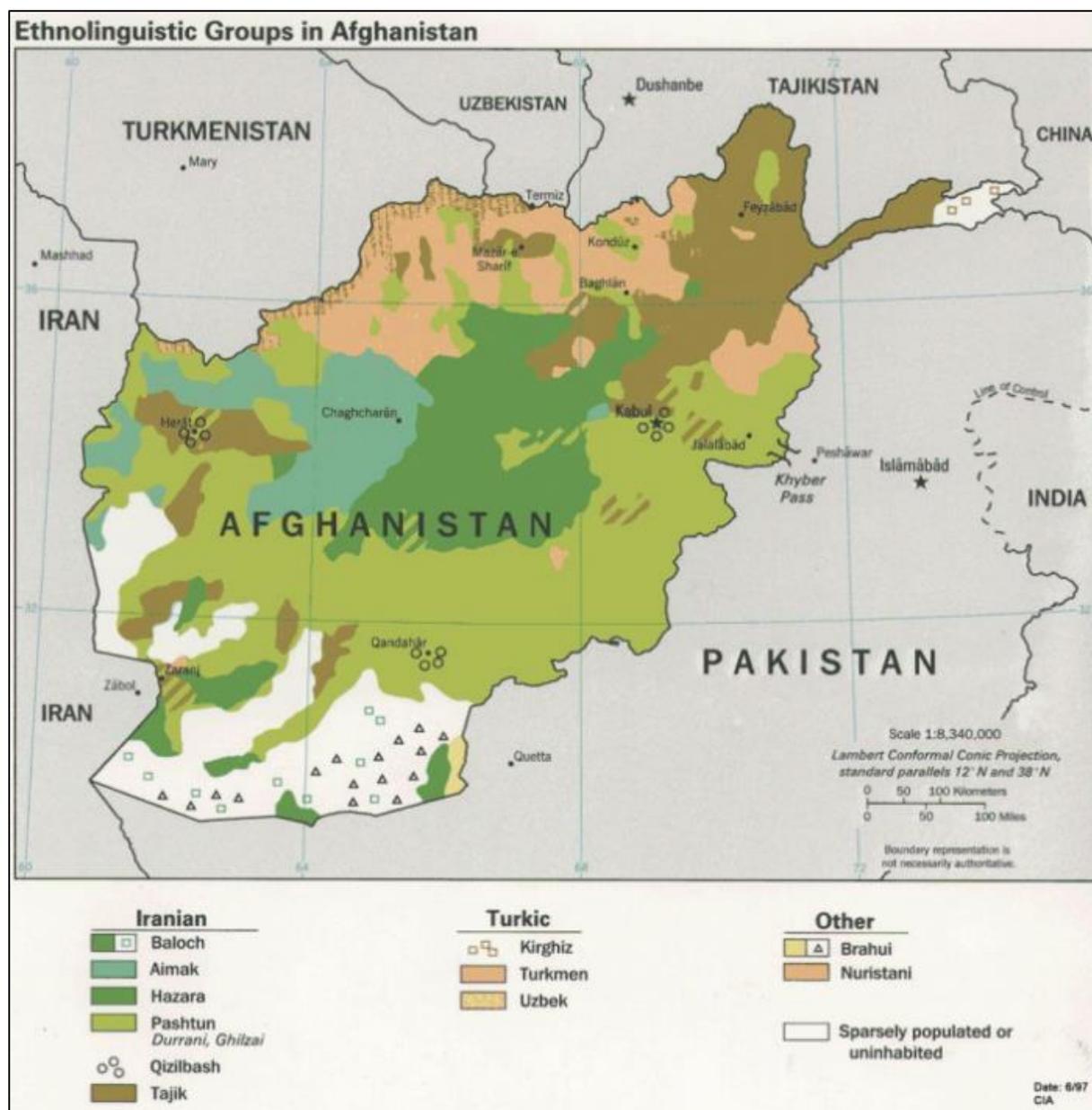


Figure 4-12: Ethnolinguistic Regions (Source: CIA,n.d.)

4.4.6 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.

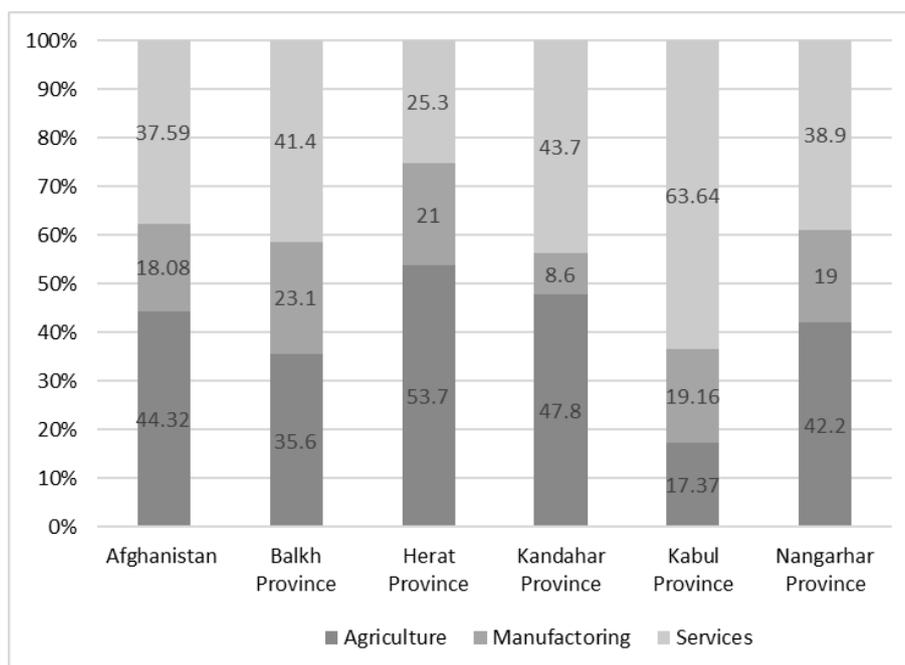


Figure 13: Employment by Key Economic Sectors (Central Statistics Organization, n.d.)

Gender-based discrimination and violence is pervasive throughout Afghanistan, and it is exacerbated by ongoing conflict, legacies of historical conflict and fragile governance. In particular the role of women in the formal economy as well as trade in produce is deeply controlled. Enforcing rules that increase women representation without systemic support from all parties (including male leadership) opens the very real possibility of abuse or retaliatory action on women.

In addition, child labor is common in Afghanistan where quarter of Afghan children between ages 5 and 14 work for a living or to help their families in an informal capacity (Central Statistics Organization, 2018). Under Afghanistan's Labor Law, 18 is the minimum age for employment, while limited types of employment are permitted for children between the age of 15 to 17. The IAFPs and ACCs, including associated facilities, will need to ensure full compliance with local labor law and be fully aware of child labor risks.

Finally, forced labor is also common in Afghanistan, and includes informal labor that operates outside of existing labor laws or has aspects closely linked to human trafficking, land tenancy and bonded labor.

4.4.7 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.

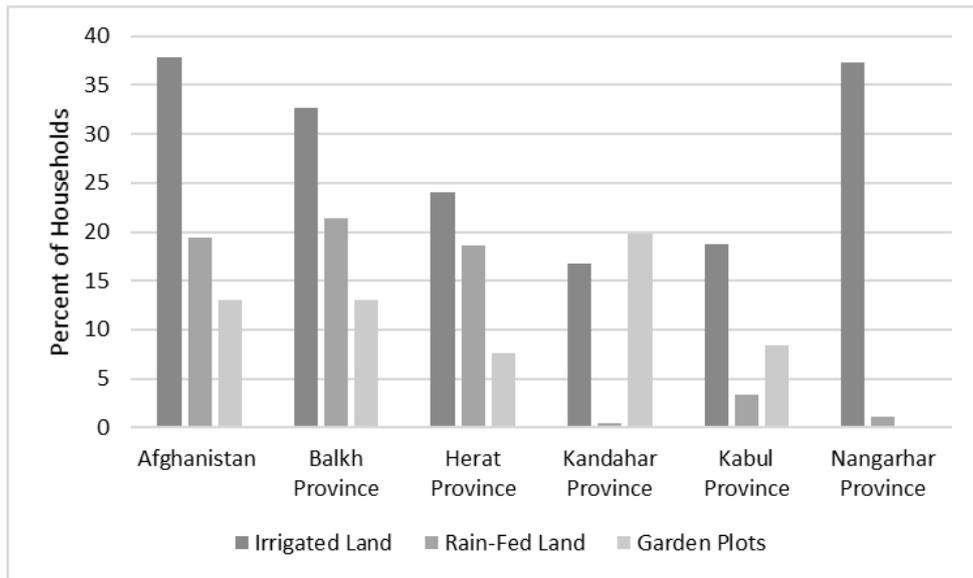


Figure 14: Households with Agricultural Land (Central Statistics Organization, 2018)

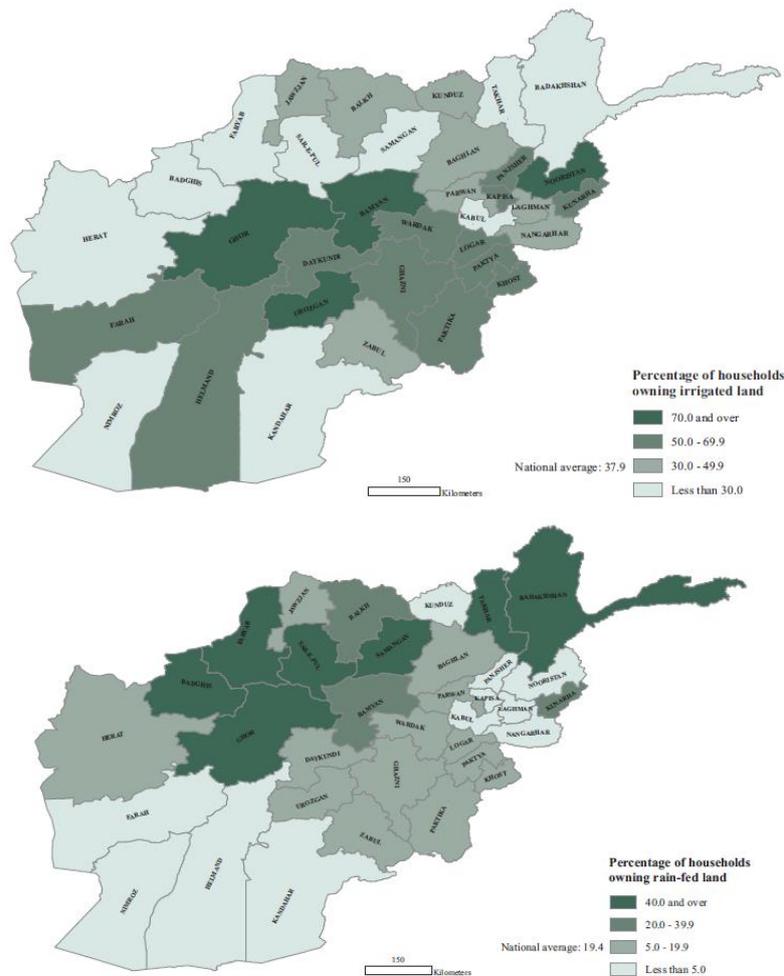


Figure 15: Distribution of Households Owning Irrigated or Rain-Fed Farmland

4.4.8 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 is fully owned and remains under the jurisdiction of the State, (including specific ministries, agencies, or parastatals). Public land has no specific ownership and may be used by all citizens of Afghanistan, and the Government of Afghanistan administers such land 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.

4.4.9 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.

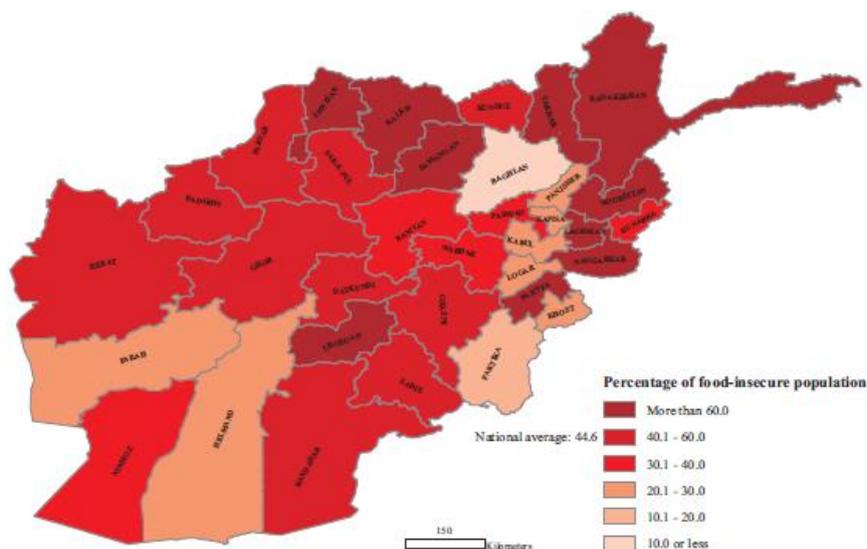


Figure 16: Food Insecurity Rates (Central Statistics Organization, 2018)

4.4.10 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 4-12**). 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 4-12: 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
Nangarhar Province	66.3	0.305

Source: (National Statistics and Information Authority, 2019)

4.4.11 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 with neighboring households, 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.

4.4.12 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.

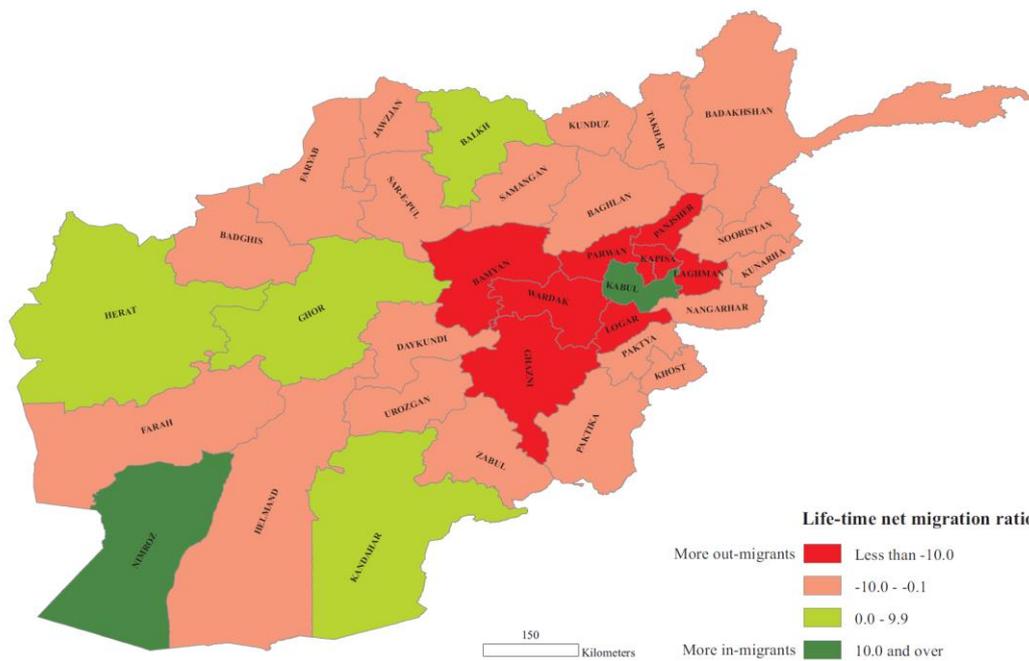


Figure 17: Internal Migration Rate by Province (Central Statistics Organization, 2018)

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.

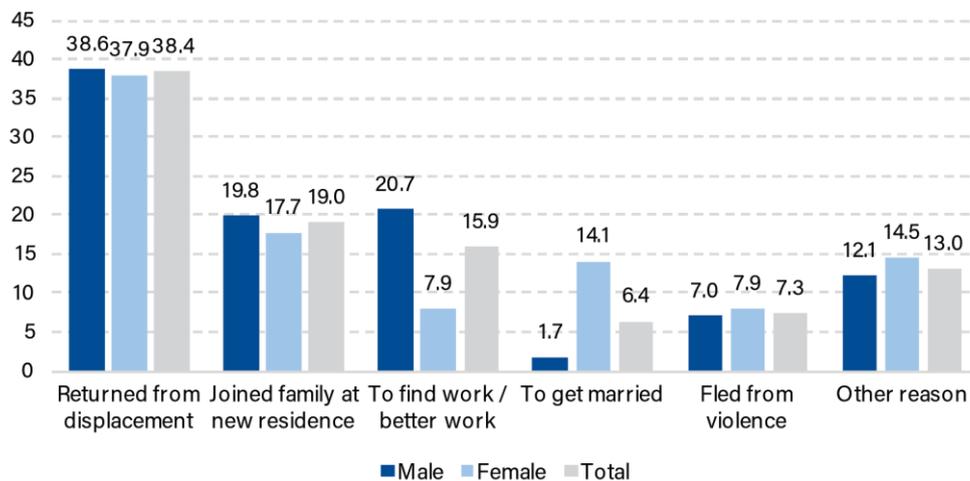


Figure 18: Reason for Migration (Central Statistics Organization, 2018)

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.

4.4.13 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, and ACCs 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.

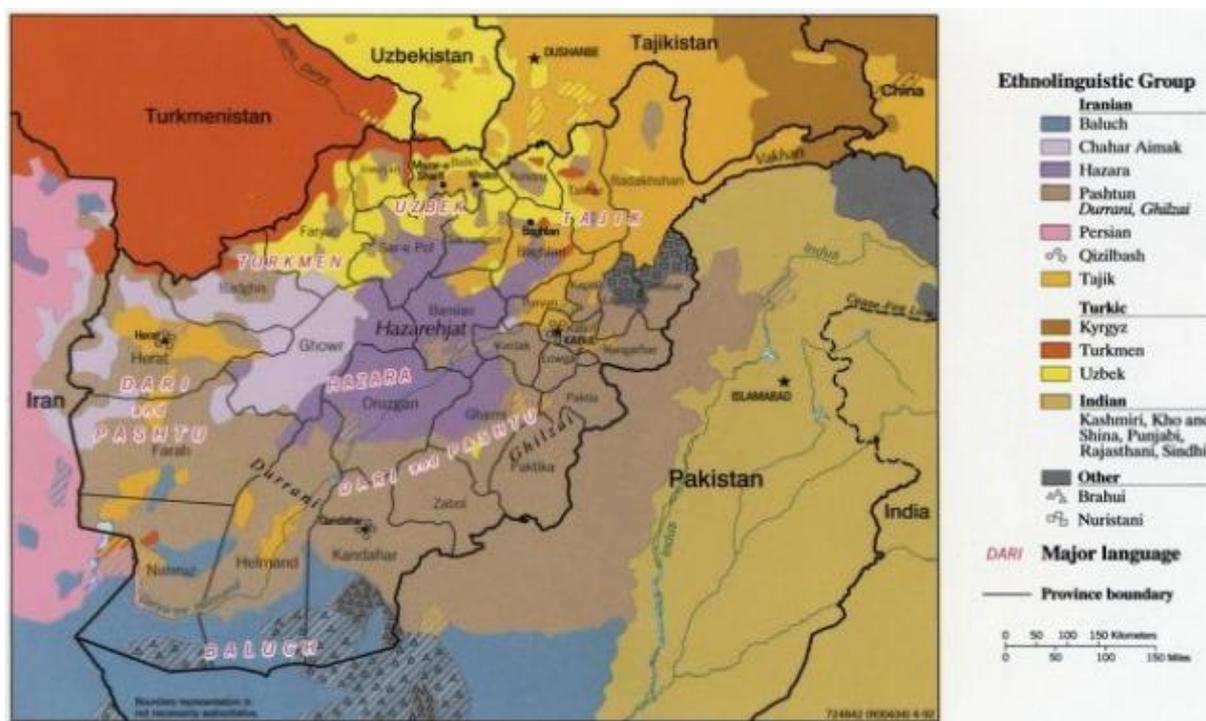


Figure 19: Ethnolinguistic Groups (Source: Central Intelligence Agency, n.d.)

4.4.14 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 Improvised Explosive Devices (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)

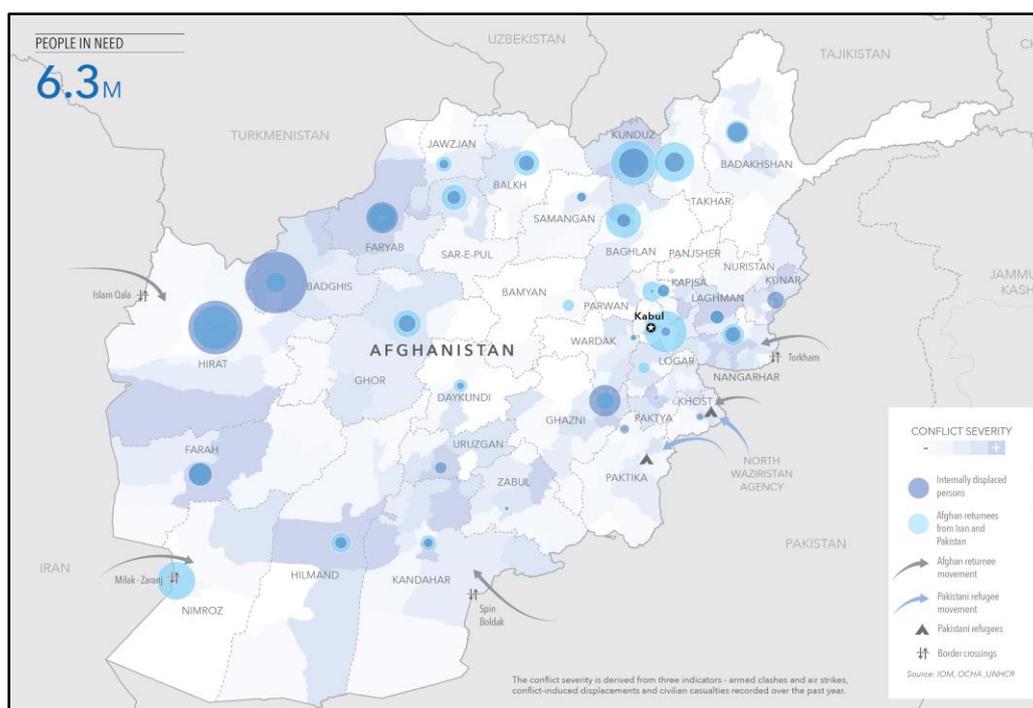


Figure 20: Conflict Severity (UNOCHA, 2019)

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-e-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

Artemisia steppe is used for livestock grazing with 49 percent of the area having little to no vegetation (United Nations Environment Programme, 2003).

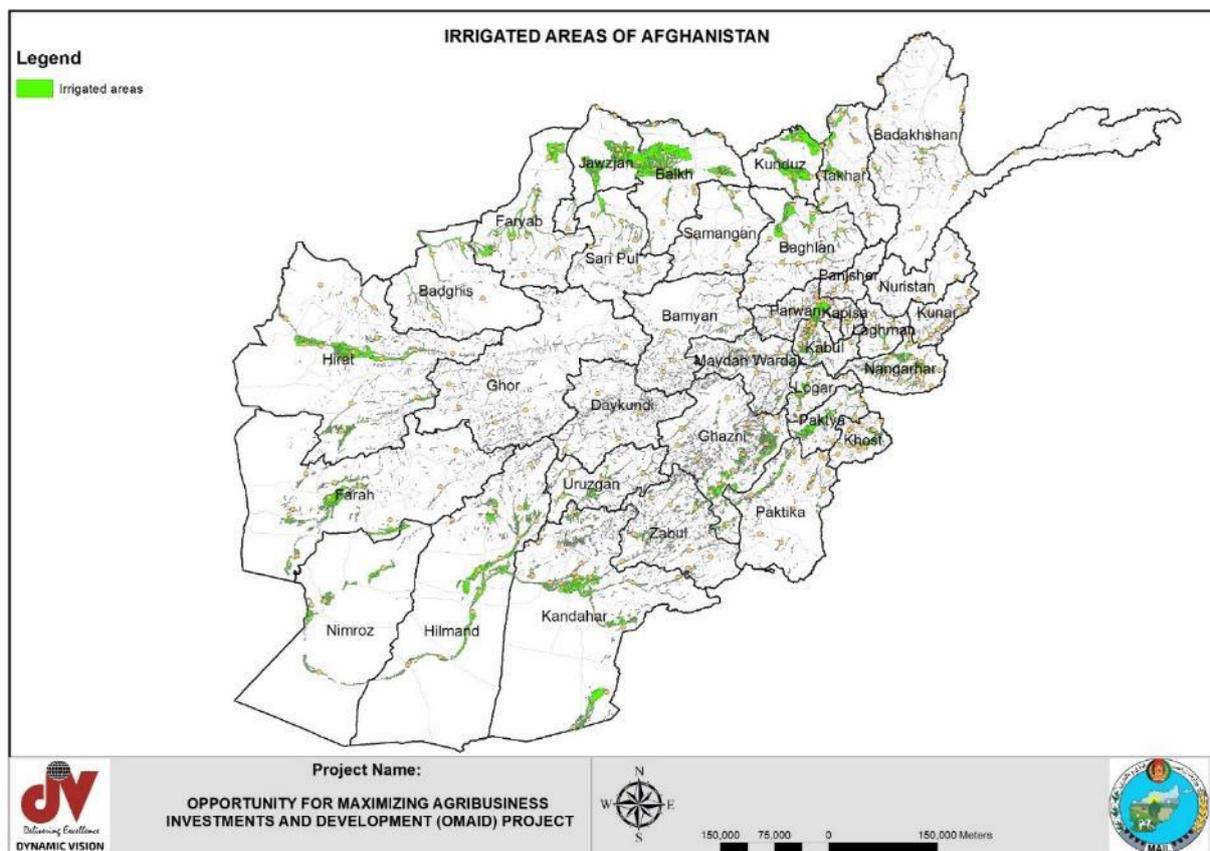


Figure 21: Irrigated Areas of Afghanistan

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 through multiple routes to multiple locations throughout Afghanistan. However, Kuchis will be likely be found in all five target provinces – either moving between their primary destinations or semi-settled during the summer months. Other smaller groups of traditional 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 the north-eastern region of Afghanistan (mostly Nuristan Province). These two small nomadic groups are unlikely to be found in the five target 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.

This ESMF and the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) being prepared in tandem, will apply the World Bank Safeguard Policies, the objectives of which and when they are triggered is provided in **Table 5-1**.

Table 5-1: World Bank Safeguard Policies and Objectives and Triggers

Policy	Objective	Trigger for Policy
OP/BP 4.01 Environmental Assessment	<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 influence¹⁰.</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>

¹⁰ The Project area of influence is the area likely to be affected by the project and activities and facilities that are components of the project, impacts from unplanned but predictable developments and indirect project impacts, associated facilities outside the project which are required for the project and cumulative impacts resulting from the project. (International Finance Corporation (IFC), January 2012).

Policy	Objective	Trigger for Policy
<p>OP/BP 4.04 Natural Habitats</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 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>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>
<p>OP/BP 4.36 Forests</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>

Policy	Objective	Trigger for Policy
<p>OP/BP 4.09 Pest Management</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>(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>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> <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>OP/BP 4.11 Physical Cultural Resources</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>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>

Policy	Objective	Trigger for Policy
	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.	
OP/BP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement	<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 resettlement; and provide assistance to affected people regardless of the legality of land tenure.</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> <p>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.</p>

5.1 WORLD BANK SAFEGUARDS LIKELY TO BE TRIGGERED BY THE PROJECT

The likely locations of the various facilities to be developed within the OMAID Project are not all known with confirmed location of only one IAFP (BAIP). Locations for the ACCs are still unknown. Further preparatory work needs to be concluded as to the specific geographic reach of all the proposed facilities to be developed as they are identified with more detail on the specific districts affected and their social-biophysical characteristics. The activities are expected to definitely trigger OP/BP 4.01 (Environmental Assessment) with other OPs listed in the table below triggered depending on the proposed facility type and location.

Box 1: World Bank Safeguard Policies triggered by Project

Operational Policy and Bank Procedure	Triggered	
	Yes	No
OP/BP 4.01 Environmental Assessment	X	
PO/BP 4.03 Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities		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

Operational Policy and Bank Procedure	Triggered	
	Yes	No
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

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 IAFP and ACC under Component 2 of the OMAID Project. The overall intent is to ensure that borrowing nations have the systems, resources, and capacity to effectively implement their commitments with respect to environmental and social safeguarding on policies, programs, and subsequently individual projects. The World Bank may provide support with respect to capacity building and implementation practices where gaps are found.

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 migratory or compensatory measures, whenever feasible. The assessment process considers the natural environment (air, water, and land); human health and safety; and social aspects. Country context and the local regulatory environment are also 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, *inter alia*, 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 support the development of a number of IAFPs which will involve the development of peri-urban industrial sites of around 20-50ha in extent which include land clearing, road, power and water infrastructure construction, possible displacement of people, establishment of food processing units that may generate waste and pollution, and result in the influx of large numbers of labor into the industrial zone.

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 C:* A proposed project is classified as Category C if it is likely to have minimal or no adverse environmental impacts. Beyond screening, no further EA action is required for a Category C project.
- *Category F1:* A proposed project involving WB investment through a financial intermediary in sub-projects that may result in adverse environmental impacts. These projects may be categorized as Category A, B and/or C.

The OMAID Project has been screened and assigned an environmental and social assessment *Category A* Project because it is planning to support the development of agri-food parks which

could include basic infrastructure (connecting and internal roads, water and energy access, communication, landfills, etc.), processing plants, food testing laboratories, and storage facilities, as well as waste management facilities, which may produce pollution and waste (CRIDA, January, 2019). The construction and operation activities could have significant and irreversible adverse environmental and social impacts directly at the facility location and its surrounds, 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. After the identification of exact locations for the IAFPs & ACCs the requirements for an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) (or a suitably comprehensive regional or sectoral EA), Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) (at construction and for operational phases), an Occupational Health and Safety Plan (OHS Plan) (at construction and for operational phases) and Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) must be considered and undertaken by a consultant independent of the Project feasibility study and detailed design, where found necessary. Compliance with WB Environment, Health and Safety General and Sector Specific Guidelines related to air emissions and ambient air quality; energy conservation; wastewater and ambient water quality; water conservation; hazardous materials management; waste management; and noise, Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) as well as national law, is required and environmental, health and safety management systems should be put in place. Full time environmental and social specialists and health and safety specialists should be involved with onsite teams (see section 13 for further details).

The World Bank requires meaningful and participatory stakeholder consultations in the Project planning process to ensure that stakeholder views and concerns are made known to decision-makers and taken into consideration. Consultation will further continue throughout the Project implementation, as necessary, to address ongoing environmental and social issues. Stakeholder consultation is to be undertaken in the preparation of any relevant Project environmental and social assessments (ESIAs), with the ESIA report disclosed in a timely manner, at an accessible place, and in a form and language understandable to key stakeholders. This includes making the report available to the public through presentations at public meetings, hard copy displays in public places and publication on the World Bank, and, if possible, the GoIRA, websites. All materials that are disclosed will be made available in English, Dari, and Pashtun.

At a minimum, Projects that trigger Category A ESIA 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 ESIA are finalized; and (2) once a draft ESIA 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 ESIA at a public place accessible to stakeholders.

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. An ESIA and ESMP are being prepared as part of this process for BAIP.

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 agricultural input, such as 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 the 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 (according to the WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard and Guidelines to Classification, 2019).

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, by stimulating agricultural production in the region, it may have the indirect effect of encouraging farmers to seek out these products 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).

Sub-Component-2 of the Project funds activities that could lead to land acquisition for the establishment of the IAFPs and the ACCs. A Land Acquisition and Resettlement Policy Framework (LARF) has been prepared and is to be 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 on any funded IAFPs or ACCs.

In principle, the Project will require that any land required for physical infrastructure (i.e. the IAFPs and ACCs) will be secured via voluntary land agreements, sale, or donations, which are fully based on a willing-seller-willing buyer basis and where legal expropriation cannot be adopted by the Project.

Voluntary land donations will only be considered where it is proven that it has been secured via legal means, and it has not resulted in the illegal extinction of any formal, customary, or informal rights on the land by any party. It must be shown that such donations are made at the landowner(s) own choice, is free of any form of coercion or force, and donation has been made to the mutual benefit and consent of all parties.

At present, only 1 IAFP site is known, while the location of the remaining IAFP and all 745 ACCs site unknown, therefore the potential scale of displacement cannot be estimated. Each potential site will need to be assessed individually in terms of land acquisition and displacement impacts. Where required, this will include the preparation of a RAP that will determine eligible persons and compensation entitlements.

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.

5.5 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.

This safeguard is triggered as there is a likelihood that the Project would stimulate the expansion of agricultural activity in the areas around the ACCs, and possibly the IAFPs, resulting in the possible conversion of natural habitat into farmland, the potential diversion of water from natural systems for irrigation the potential for increased spread of pesticides from agricultural areas to natural habitats, and the potential for soil and water pollution due to chemicals/hazardous materials spills and wastewater/ waste discharge. These are potential indirect effects of the increased economic opportunity provided by the Project. The direct effect of clearing areas for the particular Project funded facility could also be loss of natural habitat.

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 developer'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.

Developers are encouraged to incorporate analyses of any major natural habitat issues, including identification of important natural habitat sites, the ecological functions that they 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 (see note on stakeholder consultation in section 5.2).

The Project will be implemented in peri-urban and rural areas. Outside urban centers various fauna and flora are more likely to concentrate, whose natural habitat could potentially be affected by the Project's activities mainly with the construction of IAFPs and other infrastructure, land clearing to accommodate expansion of agriculture and in-migration to the new economic opportunities. No specific safeguard instrument is required, and this issue will be considered as part of the ESMF and assessed within the scope of each site-specific ESIA and the preparation of ESMP.

5.6 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.

5.7 FORESTS (OP 4.36)

The World Bank OP 4.36 addresses the management, conservation and sustainable development of forest ecosystems and their associated resources. These are essential for lasting poverty reduction and sustainable development and it is important to harness the potential of forests in a sustainable manner to support sustainable economic development and protect the services and values of forests. The Bank does not support the significant conversion or degradation of critical forest areas or related critical natural habitats.

The Project areas may include plantation zones (pistachio, walnuts, fine nuts etc.) which could be impacted by the proposed developments, i.e. IAFPs and ACCs, either directly or indirectly. The use of fuelwood and charcoal as an energy source could cause the over-exploitation of forests if development of agro industries is stimulated; the use of fuelwood and charcoal is not allowed under this project and as reflected in the exclusion list.

5.8 REQUIREMENTS FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

Stakeholder engagement is a central pillar under the World Bank safeguards and is required under BP/OP 4.01, 4.10, 4.12. In principle, the safeguards require the involvement of stakeholders in the World Bank supported policy, program or project development and 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 website and other relevant websites.

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 (including Dari and Pashtu) that are understandable and accessible to the groups being consulted.

For Category A projects this will include a briefing document and the disclosure of the environmental assessment will be located at a public place accessible to stakeholders. The disclosure materials (including the briefing document and environmental assessments) will be made available in hardcopy at any proposed public places particularly in the project areas.

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 these platforms 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

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)¹¹. The General EHS Guidelines (International Finance Corporation (IFC), 2007) 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.

¹¹ 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.

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 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

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

5.10 SECTOR SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

The above-mentioned EHS Guidelines are technical reference documents with general and specific examples of GIIP. Industry sector EHS Guidelines have been developed by the WBG to guide users in specific industry sectors to meet performance levels and measures considered achievable in new facilities by existing technology at reasonable cost. The following sector specific guidelines are mandatory to be applied to all ACCs and IAFPs of the OMAID Project:

5.10.1 Food and Beverage Processing

The Food and Beverage Processing Guidelines (IFC, 30 April 2007) cover the processing of meat, vegetable and raw materials into value-added food and beverage products for human consumption. The EHS issues addressed for food and beverage processing are:

- Environment – solid waste, waste water, energy consumption and emissions to air.
- Occupational H&S – physical hazards, exposure to noise, biological hazards, chemical hazards and exposure to heat and cold.
- Community H&S – process equipment and staff hygiene, food safety impacts and management.

Performance indicators and monitoring guidelines are provided for emissions and effluent, resources use and waste generation, environmental monitoring, and occupational H&S (guidelines, accident and fatality rates, monitoring).

5.10.2 Vegetable Oil Production and Processing

The Vegetable Oil Production and Processing Guidelines (WBG, 12 February 2015) apply to facilities that extract and process oils and fats from a variety of seeds, grains and nuts (including canola, castor, cottonseed, mustard, olive, palm, palm-kernel, peanut (groundnut), rapeseed, safflower, sesame, soybean and sunflower). They also cover crude oil production and refining processes, from the preparation of raw materials to the bottling and packaging of final products for human or animal consumption. The EHS issues addressed for food and beverage processing are:

- Environment – solid waste and by-products, water consumption and management, energy consumption and management, atmospheric emissions, greenhouse gas emissions and hazardous materials.
- Occupational H&S – physical hazards (confined space entry, electrical hazards, risk of fire and explosion, noise) and chemical hazards.
- Community H&S – food safety impacts and management.

Performance indicators and monitoring guidelines are provided for emissions and effluent, resource use and waste, occupational H&S (guidelines, accident and fatality rates, monitoring).

5.10.3 Dairy Processing

The Dairy Processing Guidelines (WBG, 30 April 2007) apply to the reception, storage, and industrial processing of raw milk and the handling and storage of processed milk and dairy products but not to farming activities or collection of raw milk from farmers. The EHS issues addressed for dairy processing are:

- Environment – industrial process wastewater and its treatment, solid organic waste management, atmospheric emissions (including odor) and energy consumption.
- Occupational H&S – physical hazards (exposure to same-level fall hazards due to slippery conditions, use of machines and tools and collisions with internal transport equipment, biological hazards (biological and microbiological agents associated with inhalation and ingestion of dust and aerosols, skin irritation or allergic reactions from high levels of humidity), chemical hazards (exposure to gases and vapors during cleaning), heat and cold and noise and vibrations.
- Community H&S – food safety and impacts.

5.10.4 Meat Processing

The Meat Processing Guidelines (IFC, 30 April 2007) cover the processing of meat, focusing on slaughtering and processing from reception of the animals until the carcasses are ready for sale or further processing into value-added food products for human consumption. The EHS issues addressed for meat processing are:

- Environment – solid waste, waste water, energy consumption and emissions to air.
- Occupational H&S – physical hazards, exposure to noise, biological hazards, chemical hazards and exposure to heat and cold.
- Community H&S – process equipment and staff hygiene, food safety impacts and management.

Performance indicators and monitoring guidelines are provided for emissions and effluent, resources use and waste generation, environmental monitoring, and occupational H&S (guidelines, accident and fatality rates, monitoring).

5.10.5 Poultry Processing

The Poultry Processing Guidelines (IFC, 30 April 2007) cover the processing of chickens, but can be applied to other similar types of poultry processing, such as turkey and ducks into

value-added food products for human consumption. The EHS issues addressed for poultry processing are:

- Environment – solid waste, waste water, energy consumption and emissions to air.
- Occupational H&S – physical hazards, exposure to noise, biological hazards, chemical hazards and exposure to heat and cold.
- Community H&S – process equipment and staff hygiene, food safety impacts and management.

Performance indicators and monitoring guidelines are provided for emissions and effluent, resources use and waste generation, environmental monitoring, and occupational H&S (guidelines, accident and fatality rates, monitoring).

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, and ACCs), access to finance and institutional strengthening. A strategy and action plan from 2019 to 2023 focusses on the provinces of Mazar-e-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 A projects in the terms of this legislation and also that all IAFPs are considered Category A and that ACCs, depending on their size, may be considered Category A or Category B [or other process to follow such as screening to submit for ACCs that are neither Category A Not Category B]. 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 cooperation with NEPA, MAIL and MUDL, amongst others. The water use license and activity permission is required for all IAFP 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. Given the size and scope of activities at the ACCs, a water use license is not needed because ACCs are designed for collecting and integrating the agricultural products only and water usage is expected to be limited. The 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 of 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 Section 10 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 (including the movement of vehicles, trucks, and equipment) 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.

There is an urgent need for the passing of regulation to improve health and safety, the quality of products, and measures for improvement and sustainability, via producers' associations, certification mechanisms (e.g. of pesticide residues) in this sector.

6.2 ALIGNMENT OF WORLD BANK AND AFGHANISTAN LAW RELEVANT TO THE ESMF

The World Bank safeguard policies and the Afghanistan laws are generally aligned but some WB requirements are not included in the local legislation. These are summarized in **Table 6-**

Table 6-3: Alignment of World Bank and National Regulatory Requirements

Aligned Policies and Laws	Other Requirements Not Included
<p>Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) should be applied to any project, plan, policy or activity that is likely to have a significant adverse effect on the environment.</p> <p>An ESIA is required before project design and implementation – the national regulations following international guidelines.</p> <p>The ESIA considers the natural environment (air, water, and land); human health and safety; social aspects (involuntary resettlement, indigenous peoples, and physical cultural resources); and transboundary and global environmental aspects in an integrated way.</p> <p>The ESIA considers alternatives, covers an identified project area of influence and identifies measures to avoid, remedy, or mitigate significant adverse impacts with monitoring of likely impacts and benefits on affected environmental and persons.</p> <p>Stakeholder consultation and public disclosure of project information and ESIA reports during preparation is included at least twice - during scoping and before completion of the final report.</p> <p>A screening process to determine the project category is undertaken with Category I requiring a full ESIA and Category II another level of environmental assessment – which the national regulations term an Initial Environmental Examination (IEE).</p> <p>The Afghanistan Environmental Law recognizes other sectoral laws while WB has safeguards for specific interests – in general, these are fairly aligned where in place.</p> <p>Statutory auditing against the ESIA and applicable legislation required with annual submission of monitoring report.</p> <p>Management of cultural heritage resources through retention of competent professionals and a chance finds procedure.</p> <p>The consideration of feasible alternatives to avoid or minimize physical and economic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independence of EA experts preparing the ESIA – they should not be affiliated to the Project. • Addition of an advisory panel of independent, internationally recognized experts for projects that are highly risky or contentious or involve serious and multidimensional concerns. • The development of an ESMS to identify risks and impacts, the organizational structure of the project, stakeholder engagement, and establish ongoing monitoring and a review with emergency preparedness and response system. • The development of a SEP, enhanced participation of women in consultation or sharing project benefits and continued consultation with stakeholders during implementation. • The identification and location of vulnerable groups within the affected community and they should benefit equally from the project. • Consultation in the language preferences of the affected communities and ensuring vulnerable groups are not disproportionately impacted by the project. • The use of internationally recognized guidelines for community health, safety and security, the provisions for the use of security personnel and the implementation of a grievance mechanism for affected communities. • The application of internationally recognized guidelines for pollution prevention with the consideration of ambient environmental circumstances and a selection of plant operating conditions. • Ecosystem services and specific requirements for projects in legally protected or internationally recognized areas. • Compensation for those with no recognizable legal right or claim to the land and/or assets, compensation at full replacement cost without considering depreciation and supplemental

Aligned Policies and Laws	Other Requirements Not Included
<p>displacement, development of an applicable RAP/LARP or resettlement and/or livelihood restoration framework</p>	<p>Resettlement Action Plan and/or an Environmental and Social Action Plan if land acquisition and resettlement are the responsibility of the government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of conditions of employment to workers, the right to freedom of association, organize and collective bargaining, protection of the rights of migrant workers, workers' grievance mechanism and provision of adequate accommodation and basic services. • Specific provisions for waste and hazardous materials management, including minimization, recover, reuse. Exercising international recognized management practices for wastes and hazardous materials.

6.3 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

1. Conventions and Treaties (Entry into Force Date)
<p>1. General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) (2012) <p>2. Agriculture and Food Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2013) ○ Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (2013) <p>3. Environmental and Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) (2002) ○ Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2013) ○ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (2002) ○ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (2002) ○ Paris Agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2017) ○ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (1986) ○ Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) (2013) ○ Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2012)

1. Conventions and Treaties (Entry into Force Date)

- Vienna Convention for Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna Convention) (2004)
- Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances (Montreal Protocol) (2004)
- Basel Convention for the Control of Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal (Basel Convention) (2013)
- 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)
- Minamata Convention on Mercury (2017)

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.

International management system standards have been developed by the International Standards Organization (ISO) to manage the inter related parts of any business in order to achieve its EHS and general objectives, amongst others. Organizations can be certified against these standards. The systems of relevance to the OMAID Project are:

- Quality Management System (ISO 9001): An international standard to demonstrate the ability to consistently provide products and services that meet customer and regulatory requirements.
- Food Safety Management System (ISO 22000): A management system applied to the food chain that provides assurance that effective food safety and management has been applied.
- Environmental Management System (ISO 14001): An environmental management system is used to manage environmental aspects, fulfil compliance obligations, and address risks and opportunities of an organization.
- Social Responsibility Management System (ISO 26000): The ISO 26000 standard aims to assist organizations in addressing their social responsibilities while respecting cultural, societal, environmental, and legal differences and economic development conditions. It provides a practical guide to identify and engage stakeholders and enhance the credibility of reports and claims made about social responsibility. It applies the principles of accountability, transparency, ethical behaviour, respect for stakeholder interests, rule of law, international norms and human rights.
- Occupational Health and Safety Management (OHSAS 18001): This British Standards Institute Standard (BSI) standard sets the minimum requirements for occupational health and safety management best practice and has been adapted into the ISO 45001 standard.

An Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) and an Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Management System is required for any Project facility developed.

6.4 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Ministries and Agencies directly involved in the Project are described further in Section 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 ACCs.

- *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 ACCS and IAFPs.
- *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 Section establishes the guiding environmental and social principles that form the ethical basis for the planning and implementation of this ESMF, by the OMAID Project including all sponsored policies, programs, or infrastructure. 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 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 and even though the Project is situated in peri-urban and rural areas this poor air quality could impact proposed Project facilities. 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, Mazar-e-Sharif, Kandahar, Herat) and industrial zones (IAFPs) where IAFP and ACCs could be planned and any additional development may contribute to cumulative effects. National Ambient Air Quality Standards were published in 2011 but there is a low level of compliance. The air quality WHO air quality Guidelines (Global update 2005). The WHO guidelines offer guidance on thresholds and limits for key air pollutants that pose health risks.

Table 8-1: Afghanistan and WHO Air Quality Standard

	Averaging Period	WHO Guideline Value in	Afghanistan maximum allowable concentration value in
TSP	24 hours	-	300
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	hours 1 hours 30 minutes	-	10 30 60
Lead (Pb)	1 year	-	0.5
Sulphur Dioxide SO ₂	24 hours 10 minutes	125 (interim target-1) 50 (Interim target-2) 20 (guideline) 5000 (guideline)	50
Nitrogen dioxide NO ₂	1 year 1 hour	49 (guideline) 200 (guideline)	40 80
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	1 year 24 hours	70 (interim target-1) 50 (interim target-2) 30 (interim target-3) 20(guideline)	70

		150 (interim target-1) 100(interim target-2) 74 (interim target-3) 50 (guideline)	150
Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5})	1 year	35 (interim target-2) 23 (interim target-2) 15 (interim target-2) 10 (guideline) 75 (interim target-1) 50 (interim target-2) 37.5 (interim target-3) 25 (guideline)	3 mg/L
Ozone	8-hour daily maximum	160 (interim target-1) 100 (guideline)	100
Source: Afghanistan National Air Quality Standards and WHO Air Quality Standards 2015			

- 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. The efficient and sustainable use of water resources is an important consideration and intensive water use should be avoided where possible. The WHO drinking water quality Guidelines (4th edition 2017). The guidelines have formed an authoritative basis for the setting of national regulations and standards for water safety in support of public health. Afghanistan National Water Quality Standards have been prepared subsequently of WHO guidelines. The water quality standards and comparing with ESHS guideline is indicated in below table:

Table 8-2: Afghanistan National Water Quality Standards have been prepared subsequently of WHO guidelines

Afghanistan and WHO drinking Water Quality Guideline		
Parameters	Afghanistan National water quality Standard	WHO

Micro- biological (e.g. E-coli)		
Turbidity	5 NTU	5 NTU
TDS	1000 – 2000 mg/L	-
PH	6.5-8.5	6.5-9.5
Total Hardness	500 mg/L	-
Nitrate (as NO ₃)	50 mg/L	50 mg/L
Nitrate (as NO ₂)	3 mg/L	3 mg/L
Barium	0.7 mg/L	1.3 mg/L
Boron	2.4 mg/L	2.4 mg/L
Arsenic	0.05 mg/L	0.01 mg/L
Fluoride	1.5 mg/L	1.5 mg/L
Lead	0.01 mg/L	0.01 mg/L
Cyanide	0.05 mg/L	Previously 0.07 mg/L
Nickel	0.07 mg/L	0.07 mg/L
Nitrate as Nitrogen	11 mg/L	11 mg/L
Zinc	3 mg/L	-
Selenium	3 mg/L	0.04 mg/L
Chloride	250 mg/L	-
Sulphate	250 mg/L	-
Source: Afghanistan National Water Quality Standards and WHO Drinking Quality Standards 2017		

- 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. Activities that result in an increased demand for wood fuels should be avoided.
- 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). Typical waste types expected to be generated by the project are related to construction sites and light manufacturing, and including domestic wastes, packaging, food wastes, organic wastes, construction and demolition materials, and limited hazardous wastes.

- **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. Small private sewage systems exist in which sewage is piped to septic or holding tanks, which are meant to leach or percolate into the ground or be pumped out for disposal and have the potential to pollute groundwater and make it unsuitable for domestic use.
- **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.
- **Land Acquisition:** The establishment of physical infrastructure at each of the one or two IAFPs and the 745 ACCs will require the securing of land. While the Project requires that any form of displacement be avoided at the IAFPs and ACCs to the maximum practical extent possible, it is not possible to categorically exclude it.

Physical and economic displacement and resettlement related to compulsory land acquisition are deemed a key social impact that will need to be screened out at each IAFP and ACC site, or addressed via a Resettlement Action Plan if it cannot be avoided.

In addition, there is the potential that the establishment of the IAFPs and ACCs will trigger increased demand for land by private developers for the establishment of the facilities or the associated improvement in market trade may result in the increased commercialization of local agricultural land. Both may result in land-grabs and forced evictions of land occupants from the target land. Land grabs and extra-legal eviction is a noted risk where land-rights and rights of informal occupants is not well established and protected under national law.

- **Vulnerable People, Gender and Gender Based Violence:** 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 people is complex in Afghanistan; however, the major groups will include (1) elderly headed households, (2) female-headed households and women in general, (3) child-headed households, (4) persons with no rights to land, (5) internally displaced persons, (6) persons with disabilities, (7) and ethnic minorities.

Women in particular are deemed vulnerable and gender-based discrimination and violence is pervasive throughout Afghanistan, and it is exacerbated by ongoing conflict, legacies of historical conflict and fragile governance. The role of women in agriculture tends to be less visible and centred at the home. Men dominate the external small-scale trade of agricultural goods for cash income. These factors will be a limiting factor in supporting gender initiatives in the Project, including promoting gender-based trade and businesses development.

- **Labor Influx:** The establishment of the proposed one or two IAFPs and the 745 ACCs will require both a short-term construction and long-term operational workforce. This demand may induce labor influx into areas neighbouring the proposed facilities. The increased inward movement and settlement of workers or work-seekers may result in a number of indirect impacts including increased demand on residential land, competition for project benefits, tensions with local residents, etc. but may also introduce some benefits in terms of new skills, business development etc. Where influx is seen as a definitive impact at either the IAFPs or ACCs, suitable measures will need to be put in place to mitigate the impacts of influx (See Annexure F – Labour Influx Management Plan).
- **Child Labor:** Child labor is common in Afghanistan where quarter of Afghan children between ages 5 and 14 work for a living or to help their families in an informal capacity. Under Afghanistan's Labor Law, 18 is the minimum age for employment, while limited types of employment are permitted for children between the age of 15

to 17. The IAFPs and ACCs including associated facilities will need to ensure full compliance with local labor law and be fully aware of child labor risks.

- **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, and ACCs 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 the development of the planned one or two IAFPs and the proposed 745 ACCs, together with a range of benefits (referred to as negative and positive impacts). These impacts could be direct, indirect and/or cumulative¹² occurring at both the construction phase and the operational phase of each of the proposed IAFPs and ACCs.

It is anticipated that the significance of direct impacts would be higher at the IAFPs which have a larger footprint, an industrial make-up and thus a higher potential for pollution, a greater water, energy and infrastructure demand, as well as the potential for social impact including land acquisition, worker influx etc. ACCs, on the other hand, would also have direct impacts but could result in more indirect and cumulative impacts by stimulating the expansion of agricultural activities in the surrounding areas thereby increasing the conversion of natural habitats to agricultural use, encouraging the diversion of water from natural ecosystems for irrigation and resulting in the spread of pesticides from agricultural fields into nearby habitats.

A high-level consideration of the likely environmental and social impacts associated with the IAFPS and ACCs has been provided in this section and should be used as a guide for any planned Project development. Where negative impacts are possible, broad mitigation measures to avoid, minimize or remedy impacts are provided. Consideration of the attributes of each specific, identified location and planned activity would shape the detail of each impact assessment to be carried out. This cannot be done here in any comprehensive manner due to fact that the location and nature of the IAFP and ACC facilities are not yet known (apart from the BAIP) and the necessary information on the proposed development and its bio-physical and social environment has not yet been collected. These will be defined as further detail on the specific IAFPs and ACCs is developed during the environmental and social impact assessments (ESIAs) that will be conducted. Nonetheless, a consideration of the activities to be carried out by ACCs depend on the size and targeted products and will likely only entail collection without further processing other than washing and potential treatment with a pesticide to reduce risk of damage to the product prior to transport to the IAFP. At some ACCs, activities may entail cooling, sorting and limited initial value-add processing, and it is also likely impacts of the BAIP is provided in the discussion of the potential impacts from the limited information known about this development, as noted in Section 2.3.1.

The environmental and social impact assessment presented here (see **Table 9-1**), therefore, are essentially a generic profile of impacts that may occur at each of the proposed IAFPs and ACCs and would warrant further investigation under the their respective ESIAs. Each impact will have a “probability” assigned to it to assist in focusing an assessment. The probabilities are broken into the following categories:

¹² A “direct Impact” is an effect caused by a proposed action and occurs in the same time and place; an “indirect impact” is an effect caused by the proposed action at a later in time or some distance from the activity, but is reasonably foreseeable; and a “cumulative impact” is an effect caused by the proposed action that results from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present and reasonable foreseeable future actions. (Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute, 2020. <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/40/1508.7>)

1. **Unlikely (Unl):** The environmental and social impact is unlikely to occur or will only happen in extremely rare conditions or in unique environments.
2. **Possible (Poss):** The environmental and social impact may possibly occur; however, the overall probability of the impact occurring is low.
3. **Probable (Prob):** 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 (Def):** 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. As the site of only one of the two proposed IAFPs (i.e. BAIP) is known and none of the 745 ACCs has been defined, it is not possible to determine the significance (or severity) of the impacts at each site. As such, the nature of the impact 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). For this impact assessment it is assumed that the facilities will be designed to GIIP and so the engineering designs will include mitigation of basic impacts, e.g. biological wastes will be handled and stored in a manner that meets GIIP which will include the basic management of wastes, discharges etc. Furthermore, these facilities will be required to operate in compliance with these GIIP under the oversight of private operators.

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

1. **Negligible Impact (Neg):** The impact will be negligible or are effectively non-existent to the Project or to the local natural or social environment.
2. **Low Impact (Low):** The impact is of low significance or, where present, will be minimal to the Project or to the local natural or social environment.
3. **Medium Impact (Med):** The impact is of moderate significance, and will be material or substantial to the local natural or social environment.
4. **High Impact (High):** The impact will be significant and may require special intervention to avoid substantial negative impacts on the local natural or social environment. Inversely, the Project may promote increased benefits via the development of supporting infrastructure.

(Impacts are shown as positive (+ve) or negative (-ve).)

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 IAFPs and ACCs 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 facility development. OHS in agriculture and in food processing operations are highlighted.

Unplanned events should be considered. These are when *“a project operation loses control, or could lose control, of a situation that may result in risks to human health, property, or the environment, either within the facility or in the local community”* (International Finance Corporation (IFC), 2007). All projects should have an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) in line with these and other risks of the facility including the tenants of IAFPs and based relevant to the size/scale of the ACCs.

Table 9-1: High Level Assessment of Potential Environmental, Social and OHS Impacts

Ref.	Impact	Description	D / I ¹³	Construction ¹⁴			Operation			Cumulative Impact		
				P ¹⁵	N ¹⁶	I ¹⁷	P	N	I	P	N	I
1.0 Biophysical Environment												
1.1	Reduced Air Quality	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. These emissions could include particulates, gases, pathogens, and a combination of these from point sources (such as stacks) or fugitive sources (such as multiple areas of a facility or activity). Sensitive receptors (people or natural ecosystems) include those downwind of the emission at a distance that could be impacted. Barikab (BAIP), for example, has a village to the west of the proposed site and a residential structure to the south of the proposed site within 50 meters to 30 km. Dust could be generated from activities on site as well as emissions from agro-processing (such as dairy processing). If the winds were from the north and east emissions could be transported to these receptors. Cumulative impacts could result in areas where other developments/facilities are present or being proposed which contribute to the emissions into a common airshed.	D, I	Prob	Neg	Med	Prob	Neg	Med	Prob	Neg	Med
1.2	Contribution to	Land use change during land clearance, which mainly occurs during construction, would contribute to GHG by	D, I	Poss	Neg	Low	Prob	Neg	Med	Prob	Neg	Low

¹³ D – Direct; I - Indirect

¹⁴ P – Probability; N – Nature; I - Impact

¹⁵ Unl – unlikely; Poss – possible; Prob – probable; Def - definite

¹⁶ Neg – negative; Pos - positive

¹⁷ Neg – negligible impact; Low – low impact; Med – medium impact; High – high impact.

Ref.	Impact	Description	D / I ¹³	Construction ¹⁴			Operation			Cumulative Impact		
				P ¹⁵	N ¹⁶	I ¹⁷	P	N	I	P	N	I
	Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	<p>reducing natural habitats. During construction or operation, the use of diesel or other fuels, processes used in the production of food, as well as methane from waste products, would contribute to GHG with global warming potential.</p> <p>The concentration of similar activities would combine this potential impact depending on engineering controls and the application of GIIP.</p>										
1.3	Noxious Odors	<p>During the operation phase odor could be emitted from the processes and the storage/ use of waste materials, for example from improper disposal of animal carcasses. These odors would be noxious for nearby communities and for facility workers.</p> <p>There is likely to be a combination of processing facilities in the same area and cumulative impacts could result if noxious odors were to be emitted from all facilities.</p> <p>Barikab (BAIP), for example, has a village to the west of the proposed site and a residential structure to the south of the proposed site. Noxious odors could be generated during agro-processing (such as dairy processing). If the winds were from the north and east odors could be transported to these receptors.</p>	D	Unl	Neg	Low	Prob	Neg	Med	Poss	Neg	Med
1.4	Unacceptable Increase in Noise Pollution	Noise levels from activities on the site would increase due to the operation of machinery and the processing of food, at construction and operation stages respectively. These noise levels will most likely be above ambient noise levels if the IAFPs and ACCs are located away from other similar activities and could result in an impact on the surrounding communities and on-site workers. The dB noise value based on regulatory threshold. 65 dB, 85 db, both will need to be mitigated through a combination	D, I	Prob	Neg	Med	Prob	Neg	Med	Prob	Neg	Med

Ref.	Impact	Description	D / I ¹³	Construction ¹⁴			Operation			Cumulative Impact		
				P ¹⁵	N ¹⁶	I ¹⁷	P	N	I	P	N	I
		<p>of operating hours/avoiding night time and engineering controls/adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) for workersThe location of sensitive receptors in terms of noise propagation will need to be established to determine sensitive receptors.</p> <p>It is likely that other activities and operations will be situated in the vicinity, with traffic to and from the area and, as the traffic and facilities develop, they will add to the background noise levels further impacting sensitive receptors.</p> <p>At Barikab (BAIP) the residential areas in close proximity (50 meters) to the IAFP location could result in an unacceptable increase in noise pollution.</p>										
1.5	Contamination and Infection from Biological Materials and Wastes	<p>During the operation phase, biological/organic waste will be generated. The storage, transport and disposal of these wastes will need to take into consideration and the potential for them to contain pathogens and chemicals. These could cause infection of people who come in contact and contamination of land and water bodies if they leak into the environment. The control of infection or contamination in the waste management process could be limited by the lack of suitable waste facilities in the region and the availability of waste facilities should be considered in the mitigation and management of hazardous and general waste. The ineffectiveness of the local government waste management system is a concern and the support required by the Project to provide adequate facilities to manage this impact needs to be taken into account.</p> <p>The need for adequate and affordable waste disposal facilities, in particular for hazardous waste In the agro-</p>	D, I	Poss	Neg	Low	Prob	Neg	High	Prob	Neg	High

Ref.	Impact	Description	D / I ¹³	Construction ¹⁴			Operation			Cumulative Impact		
				p ¹⁵	N ¹⁶	I ¹⁷	P	N	I	P	N	I
		<p>processing industries the agriculture produce have significant quantities of organic wastes (e.g., manure/slurry, crop biomass) and potentially hazardous chemical wastes (e.g., herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, ripeness), and also used oil, cleaning substance of machineries and piping are categorized as chemical waste, it will be experienced by all agro-processing facilities to be located in the IAFPs and could result in a cumulative impact. A coordinated approach is required to avoid undesirable long-term waste storage and indiscriminate dumping of waste and provide properly engineered disposal options.</p> <p>At Barikab (BAIP) the planned mix of agro-processing units (fruit, juice, nuts and dairy) would result in a demand for hazardous and general waste facilities.</p>										
1.6	Contamination and Contagion from Hazardous and General Wastes	<p>During both the construction and operation phases, the sites will generate general and construction waste and during the operation phase, the proposed facilities will need to manage general, and hazardous waste (chemicals etc.). The control of contamination in the waste management process could be limited by the lack of suitable waste facilities in the region and the availability of waste facilities should be considered in the mitigation and management of hazardous and general waste. The ineffectiveness of the local government waste management system is a concern and the support required by the Project to provide adequate facilities to manage this impact needs to be taken into account.</p> <p>The need for adequate and affordable waste disposal facilities, in particular for hazardous waste, will be experienced by all agro-processing facilities to be located in the IAFPs and could result in a cumulative impact. A</p>	D, I	Prob	Neg	Low	Def	Neg	High	Def	Neg	High

Ref.	Impact	Description	D / I ¹³	Construction ¹⁴			Operation			Cumulative Impact		
				P ¹⁵	N ¹⁶	I ¹⁷	P	N	I	P	N	I
		<p>coordinated approach is required to avoid undesirable long-term waste storage and indiscriminate dumping of waste and provide properly engineered disposal options.</p> <p>At Barikab (BAIP) the planned mix of agro-processing units (fruit, juice, nuts and dairy) would result in a demand for hazardous and general waste facilities.</p>										
1.7	Overexploitation of Surface Water Resource	Surface water is mostly seasonal and, as such, is limited in supply. To use surface water for the facilities would result in an overexploitation of this resource which could affect downstream users (communities and natural ecosystems). It is unlikely that this water source would provide sufficient water for the planned processing facilities.	D, I	Poss	Neg	High	Unl	Neg	High	Unl	Neg	High
1.8	Contamination of Surface Water	Contamination of surface water may occur during construction of the IAFP and ACC sites, as well as during operation of the sites if dirty water is not controlled and waste water is discharged into the environment. The main issues would be suspended solids, hydrocarbons and chemicals for construction. Wastewater from food processing may have a high biochemical and chemical oxygen demand resulting from organic wastes and the use of chemicals and detergents. Pathogenic bacteria, pesticide residues, suspended and dissolved solids are likely to be present in waste water. Uncontrolled discharges of these waste waters, as well as of sewage, could result in an unacceptable waste load to the environment and surface waters which will affect the immediate area as well as downstream users. Extreme flood events could result in facilities being damaged and flooded which could lead to contamination of the surrounding surface waters. These events could result from increased climate variability due to climate change.	D, I	Prob	Neg	Low	Prob	Neg	High	Prob	Neg	High

Ref.	Impact	Description	D / I ¹³	Construction ¹⁴			Operation			Cumulative Impact		
				P ¹⁵	N ¹⁶	I ¹⁷	P	N	I	P	N	I
		<p>Various developments attracted to the wider area could add to the likely contamination from the IAFPs and ACCs resulting in a cumulative impact.</p> <p>At Barikab (BAIP) the risk of flooding is low, but contamination from the planned agro-processing units and from other industries attracted to the area is likely. If this contamination is not contained and managed, the environment could be impacted.</p>										
1.9	Overexploitation of Ground Water Resource	<p>During both construction and operation phases, site and processing water is likely to be sourced from groundwater, with higher demand during operation. The volumes are not yet quantified. The pressure on ground water is generally high as this is the main water resource in many regions in Afghanistan. If the resource is overutilized its sustainability will be compromised which could negatively affect other water users.</p> <p>The development of a number of agro-processing units in one area will increase demand on ground water and other industries attracted to the area will compete for this supply, which could result in a cumulative impact.</p>	D, I	Poss	Neg	Low	Prob	Neg	High	Prob	Neg	High
1.10	Contamination from Chemical and Hydrocarbon Spills	Chemical, hydrocarbon and other hazardous substances stored and used at the facilities could spill, resulting in the contamination of soils, surface water or groundwater. Although it is anticipated that these incidences will be localized, the movement of any contamination into the soil, ground or surface water would need to be controlled and cleaned up.	D	Prob	Neg	Low	Prob	Neg	Med	-	-	-
1.11	Loss of a Natural Resource i.e. Natural Habitat,	The clearance of land for any development (facilities and access/ services (such as roads, power, communication)) may result in the loss of natural habitats, land capability and soils. Clearing during construction and inadequate management, rehabilitation and revegetation could	D, I	Poss	Neg	Med	Poss	Neg	Med	Poss	Neg	Med

Ref.	Impact	Description	D / I ¹³	Construction ¹⁴			Operation			Cumulative Impact		
				P ¹⁵	N ¹⁶	I ¹⁷	P	N	I	P	N	I
	Fauna/Flora , Soils and Land-Capability	cause soil loss and erosion during construction and operation. Uncontrolled clearing could lead to a loss of biodiversity and the erosion of bare land if left for lengthy periods. The use of fuel wood and charcoal for energy production could encourage the illegal gathering and overexploitation of natural resources and result in deforestation in source areas. Stimulation of agricultural development as the opportunities open up would increase the likelihood of natural resources being impacted. These could all have an indirect and cumulative impact.										
1.12	Uncontrolled Release from Seismic Event	The regions targeted by the Project are situated in areas that experience seismic events with a strong to severe risk. If an earthquake were to damage the proposed facilities' structures during operation and even during construction, materials (for example, nitric acid for Clean-in-Place process) contained in those structures/facilities could be released into the environment. A seismic event could trigger other consequences, such as explosions and fire. These consequences would have direct impact at the site of any facility and indirect impact in the zone of impact of pollution or contamination. The impact of other facilities experiencing the same consequences at the same time would result in a cumulative impact.	D, I	Poss	Neg	High	Poss	Neg	High	Poss	Neg	High
1.13	Inefficient energy consumption	Energy may be used inefficiently leading to high levels of consumption which would be a strain on the supply network and indirectly contribute to increased environmental impacts at the source. It could also result in the cumulative impact on a fragile energy supply system.	D, I	Poss	Neg	Low	Poss	Neg	Med	Poss	Neg	High
1.14	Climate Change	There is a need to look forward and not only study historical trends as climate change may result in different	D, I	Poss	Neg	Med	Prob	Neg	Med	Prob	Neg	High

Ref.	Impact	Description	D / I ¹³	Construction ¹⁴			Operation			Cumulative Impact		
				p ¹⁵	N ¹⁶	I ¹⁷	P	N	I	P	N	I
	(Leading to Future Changed Conditions)	<p>conditions to those presently recorded and understood. Long term change in conditions may increase the facilities' impact in the following way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy usage to cool facilities increases due to higher temperatures contributing to reduced energy efficiency and increased greenhouse gas emissions. • Amplified rainfall variability could result in greater flood events than predicted that could damage infrastructure, increase the likelihood of pollution (and possibly pathogens) entering water courses and natural systems could get impacted. Flooding could also threaten the physical integrity of containment systems. • A changed receiving environment (e.g. increased water temperatures) could mean limits set on emissions and discharges do not mitigate the damage to surrounding ecosystems. • The sustainability of the water resources being used could be reduced due to changed conditions, such as increased incidence of droughts. • Biosecurity could be compromised as controls to manage and contain hazardous material (such as dangerous pathogens) within the system could be breached by unanticipated extreme events. • The alteration of disease vectors could require a change in the management of workers. • Workplace conditions could be affected by unexpected heat waves leading to increased likelihood of heat exhaustion. <p>The interactions between climate change, society and the facility should be evaluated. These could be direct impacts as well as indirect impacts and could become cumulative if emissions unacceptably increase pollutants</p>										

Ref.	Impact	Description	D / I ¹³	Construction ¹⁴			Operation			Cumulative Impact		
				P ¹⁵	N ¹⁶	I ¹⁷	P	N	I	P	N	I
		in an airshed with contributions from numerous other sources and discharges add to an increased waste load in the receiving waters from a number of other facilities.										
2.0 Social Environment												
2.1	Physical Displacement	<p>The establishment of physical infrastructure at each of the one or two IAFPs and the 745 ACCs will require the securing of land. As the location of the facilities is not known, the required land may support formal, customary, and informal rights as well as a range of land occupants (owners, tenants etc.) that would need to be relocated to support the developments.</p> <p>While the Project requires that any form of physical displacement be avoided at the IAFPs and ACCs to the maximum practical extent possible, it is not possible to categorically exclude it. Physical displacement and resettlement are deemed a key social impact that will need to be screened out at each IAFP and ACC site, or addressed via a Resettlement Action Plan if it cannot be avoided.</p>	D	Poss	Neg	High	Poss	Neg	High	-	-	-
2.2	Economic Displacement	<p>The establishment of physical infrastructure at each of the one or two IAFPs and the 745 ACCs will require the securing of land. As the location of the facilities is not known, the required land may support a range of land-uses (i.e. agricultural land, commercial land, communal grazing land) that would need to cease to support the development.</p> <p>While the Project requires that any form of economic displacement related to the compulsory acquisition of land be avoided, it is not possible to categorically exclude it. Economic displacement related to the acquisition of land and removal of activities on the land are deemed a key social impact that will need to be screened out at</p>	D	Poss	Neg	High	Poss	Neg	High	-	-	-

Ref.	Impact	Description	D / I ¹³	Construction ¹⁴			Operation			Cumulative Impact		
				P ¹⁵	N ¹⁶	I ¹⁷	P	N	I	P	N	I
		each IAFP and ACC site, or addressed via a Resettlement Action Plan if it cannot be avoided.										
2.3	Loss of Community Facilities or Services	<p>The establishment of physical infrastructure at each of the one or two IAFPs and the 745 ACCs will require the securing of land. The land may support community facilities or services, that would need to be relocated or reinstated in order to secure the land.</p> <p>While the Project requires that any such losses be avoided to the maximum practical extent possible, however it is not possible to categorically exclude it. Such impacts will need to be screened out at each IAFP and ACC site, or addressed via a Resettlement Action Plan if it cannot be avoided.</p>	D	Poss	Neg	High	Poss	Neg	High	-	-	-
2.4	Loss of Access to Communal Natural Resources	<p>The establishment of physical infrastructure may require the clearing of land that supports natural resources (natural vegetation, water sources etc.) that is communally owned or used as a communal resource.</p> <p>While the Project requires that any such losses be avoided to the maximum practical extent possible, however it is not possible to categorically exclude it. Such impacts will need to be screened out at each IAFP and ACC site, or addressed via a Resettlement Action Plan if it cannot be avoided.</p>	D	Poss	Neg.	Med	Poss	Neg	Med	-	-	-
2.5	Potential Land-Grabs and Forced Evictions	<p>There is the potential that the establishment of the IAFPs and ACCs will trigger increased demand for land by private developers for the establishment of the facilities. In securing land for the IAFPs and ACCs, local landowners may resort to land-grabs and forced evictions of land occupants from the target land.</p> <p>In addition, the establishment of the IAFPs and ACCs and associated improvement in market trade may result in</p>	D, I	Poss	Neg	Med	Poss	Neg	High	-	-	-

Ref.	Impact	Description	D / I ¹³	Construction ¹⁴			Operation			Cumulative Impact		
				P ¹⁵	N ¹⁶	I ¹⁷	P	N	I	P	N	I
		<p>the increased commercialization of local agricultural land. The process of commercialization may result an indirect impact of increased land-grabs and forced evictions of land occupants from small-holdings in order to create larger commercial farms.</p> <p>Land grabs and extra-legal eviction is a noted risk where land-rights and rights of informal occupants is not well established and protected under national law.</p>										
2.6	Loss of Tangible Cultural Heritage	<p>The establishment of physical infrastructure related to the IAFPs and ACCs may result in the destruction of features of cultural, historical, or archaeological value if they are located within the Project footprint.</p> <p>While the Project requires that any such losses be avoided to the maximum practical extent possible, it is not possible to categorically exclude it. A chance find procedure has been prepared (See Annexure E) as a guide to the protection of any finds.</p>	D	Poss	Neg	High	Poss	Neg	High	-	-	-
2.7	Ethnic Tension with Indigenous People, Ethnic Minorities and Nomadic People	<p>There is no formal legal definition of indigenous persons in Afghanistan but rather what is termed Tribal People, which in turn gets integrated and intermixed with Ethnic Minorities. The interplay between ethnic majorities and minorities has been a key factor in the ongoing conflict and political power relations.</p> <p>The location of 1 IAFP is known however the location of the remaining IAFP and all 745 ACCs is unknown. As such, no definitive statement can be made in terms whether groups, that may be considered indigenous peoples, may or may not be present.</p> <p>Ethnic tension and conflict are endemic in Afghanistan and ethnic minorities (including nomadic people) are</p>	D, I	Poss	Neg.	High	Poss	Neg	Med	Poss	Neg	High

Ref.	Impact	Description	D / I ¹³	Construction ¹⁴			Operation			Cumulative Impact		
				P ¹⁵	N ¹⁶	I ¹⁷	P	N	I	P	N	I
		particularly vulnerable. Competition for benefits from the construction and operations of the IAFPs and ACCs may further exacerbate any pre-existing ethnic tensions found around the specific sites, particularly where local ethnic majority / elite seeks to gain politically from the project, engage in bribery and coercion as well as isolate any ethnic minorities (including nomadic people) from agricultural land or agri-business opportunities.										
2.8	Increased Traffic Risks	The establishment of physical infrastructure will introduce construction and operational industrial traffic, that may pose safety risks to commuter and pedestrian traffic traveling in the vicinity of the IAFPs and ACCs.	D	Def	Neg	Low	Def	Neg	Med	Def	Neg	Med
2.9	Restriction of Mobility and Public Thoroughfares	The restriction of access to the land acquired for the one or two IAFPs and the 745 ACCs may result in the loss of public roads, informal paths or footpaths thus impeding public mobility and other public thoroughfares.	D	Poss	Neg	Low	Poss	Neg	Low	-	-	-
2.10	Undermining Labor Rights	<p>Labor rights (including the rights of women, child labor) may be undermined at the various proposed IAFPS and ACCs, where national law and international ILO obligations are ignored.</p> <p>Gender-based discrimination and violence is pervasive throughout Afghanistan, and it is exacerbated by ongoing conflict, legacies of historical conflict and fragile governance. In particular the role of women in the formal economy as well as trade in produce is deeply controlled. Enforcing rules that increases women representation without systemic support from all parties (including male leadership) opens the very real possibility of abuse or retaliatory action on women.</p> <p>In addition, child labor is common in Afghanistan where quarter of Afghan children between ages 5 and 14 work</p>	D, I	Def	Neg	High	Def	Neg	High	Def	Neg	High

Ref.	Impact	Description	D / I ¹³	Construction ¹⁴			Operation			Cumulative Impact		
				P ¹⁵	N ¹⁶	I ¹⁷	P	N	I	P	N	I
		<p>for a living or to help their families in an informal capacity. Under Afghanistan’s Labor Law, 18 is the minimum age for employment, while limited types of employment are permitted for children between the age of 15 to 17. The IAFPs and ACCs including associated facilities will need to ensure full compliance with local labor law and be fully aware of child labor risks.</p> <p>Finally, forced labor is also common in Afghanistan, and includes informal labor that operates outside of existing labor laws or aspects closely linked to human trafficking, land tenancy and bonded labor. The IAFPs and ACCs including associated facilities will need to ensure full compliance with local labor law and be fully aware of issues around forced labor risks.</p>										
2.11	Labor Influx	<p>The establishment of the proposed one or two IAFPs and the 745 ACCs will require both a short-term construction and long-term operational workforce. This demand may induce labor influx into areas neighboring the proposed facilities</p> <p>The increased inward movement and settlement of workers or work-seekers will result in a number of indirect impacts including increased demand on residential land, competition for project benefits, tensions with local residents, etc. but may also introduce some benefits in terms of new skills, business development etc.</p> <p>Where influx is seen as a definitive impact at either the IAFPs or ACCs, suitable measures will need to be put in place to mitigate the impacts of influx (See Annexure F – Labor Influx Management Plan).</p>	D, I	Def	Neg	Med	Def	Neg	High	Def	Neg	Med

Ref.	Impact	Description	D / I ¹³	Construction ¹⁴			Operation			Cumulative Impact		
				P ¹⁵	N ¹⁶	I ¹⁷	P	N	I	P	N	I
2.12	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 proposed facility.	I	Def	Neg	Med	Def	Neg	Med	Def	Neg	Med
2.13	Market / Trade Links	The establishment of facility infrastructure will improve accessibility / market trade links with beneficiary farmers	D, I	Def	Pos	Low	Def	Pos	High	-	-	-
2.14	Improved Access to Input Support and Extension Services	Local farmers will benefit from improved access to input support and extension services where they are provided as part of the IAFP and ACC infrastructure. This will likely provide long-term benefits to local beneficiaries and will both directly and indirectly support farming development in their respective catchments.	D, I	Def	Pos	Low	Def	Pos	High	-	-	-
2.15	Promotion of SMME Business Development	The IAFP and ACC infrastructure will be established to promote private SMME development. This will likely provide long-term benefits to local beneficiaries and will both directly and indirectly support business development in their respective catchments.	D, I	Def	Pos	High	Def	Pos	High	-	-	-
2.16	Promotion of Local Employment	The establishment of the IAFPS and ACCs will support private development which will likely require a short-term construction workforce and long-term operational workforce.	D, I	Def	Pos	High	Def	Pos	High	-	-	-
2.17	Promotion of Local Content	The establishment of the IAFPS and ACCs will require the procurement of goods and services during the construction phase, and private businesses will require ongoing procurement of goods and services during their operational life.	D, I	Def	Pos	High	Def	Pos	High	-	-	-
2.18	Improved Representation of Women	The Project makes provision for supporting women via capacity development, access to business development services, hand-holding and infrastructural support.	D, I	Def	Pos	High	Def	Pos	High	-	-	-

Ref.	Impact	Description	D / I ¹³	Construction ¹⁴			Operation			Cumulative Impact		
				P ¹⁵	N ¹⁶	I ¹⁷	P	N	I	P	N	I
2.19	Increased Gender Based Discrimination and Violence	<p>Gender-based discrimination and violence is pervasive throughout Afghanistan, and it is exacerbated by ongoing conflict, legacies of historical conflict and fragile governance.</p> <p>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. These factors will be a limiting factor in supporting gender initiatives in the Project, including promoting gender-based trade and businesses development</p> <p>Due caution will also be needed in terms of promoting the role of women in the proposed IAFPs and ACCs without broad support of local stakeholders (including male leadership). Without such support, such actions open up the very real possibility of abuse or retaliatory action on women.</p>	D, I	Def	Neg.	High	Def	Neg.	High	-	-	-
2.20	Conflict and Insurgency	The security situation in Afghanistan remains volatile, and Project infrastructure located at multiple provinces that are relatively unstable, Never-the-less, future potential conflict remains a key risk for the development and operations of the IAFPs and ACCs	D, I	Prob	Neg	High	Prob	Neg	High	Prob	Neg	High
3.0 Occupational Health and Safety												
3.1	Introduction of Occupational Physical Hazards	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rotating and Moving Equipment 	D	Poss	Neg	High	Poss	Neg	High	-	-	-

Ref.	Impact	Description	D / I ¹³	Construction ¹⁴			Operation			Cumulative Impact		
				P ¹⁵	N ¹⁶	I ¹⁷	P	N	I	P	N	I
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrical Industrial Vehicle Driving and Site Traffic Working at Heights Electricity Cranes and Lifting Equipment Mechanical Elevated Work Platforms Scaffolding 										
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eye hazards Welding/ Hot Work Working Environment Temperature Slip, Trip, Fall Excavations Portable Electrical Equipment 	D	Prob	Neg	Med	Prov	Neg	Med	-	-	-
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise Vibration Ergonomics, Repetitive Motion, Manual Handling Illumination Dust 	D	Prob	Neg	Low	Prob	Neg	Low	-	-	-
3.2	Introduction of Occupational Chemical Hazards	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Explosions Corrosive, oxidizing, and reactive chemicals Air Quality 										
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Explosions Corrosive, oxidizing, and reactive chemicals 	D	Poss	Neg	Med	Poss	Neg	Med	-	-	-
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Quality 	D	Unl	Neg	Low	Poss	Neg	Low	-	-	-
3.3	Introduction of Occupation	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, such as dust, biological and										

Ref.	Impact	Description	D / I ¹³	Construction ¹⁴			Operation			Cumulative Impact		
				P ¹⁵	N ¹⁶	I ¹⁷	P	N	I	P	N	I
	al Biological Hazards	microbiological agents (e.g. pathogens such as brucellosis and TB in dairy processing; fungi in nut production). These agents are classified into four groups. Group 3 and 4 biological agents present a risk of spreading to the community are thus require extraordinary protective measures.										
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group 1: Biological agents unlikely to cause human disease 	D	-	-	-	Poss	Neg	Low	-	-	-
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group 2: Biological agents that can cause human disease 	D	-	-	-	Prob	Neg	Med	-	-	-
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group 3: Biological agents that can cause severe human disease 	D, I	-	-	-	Unl	Neg	Low	Unl	Neg	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group 4: Biological agents that can cause severe human disease 	D, I	-	-	-	Unl	Neg	Low	Unl	Neg	Low		
3.4	Introduction of Occupational 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.	D	-	-	-	Poss	Neg	Low	-	-	-
3.5	Introduction of Occupational Special 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:										
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confined Space 	D	-	-	-	Prob	Neg	High	-	-	-
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lone and Isolated Workers 	D	-	-	-	Prob	Neg	Med	-	-	-

9.1 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 and ACCs. 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. All management and monitoring should be incorporated into an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) (see Section 12 and Annexure I – Framework for Environmental and Social Management Plan) and be contained within an Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS), such as ISO14001 (Environmental) and ISO26000 (Social), or an Occupational Health and Safety System, such as OSHAS18001 (see Section 6.3).

A generic set of mitigation measures are summarized in **Table 9-2**. This list is not exhaustive and should be used only as a guide.

Table 9-2: General Mitigation Measures to Reduce Impacts

Potential Impact	Recommended Mitigation Measures
Physical Environment	
Air Emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Air Quality Management Plan. • Put in place air quality (process (e.g. combustion) emissions and dust emissions) management actions so as to manage generation during the construction and operation phase of the facility. • Ensure emission control and abatement (such as exhaust stacks) is considered in the choice of technology, machinery and equipment and this to be operated efficiently. Routine maintenance to be undertaken. • Avoid open burning of combustible material. • Undertake properly designed incineration of waste material, where unavoidable, in a properly designed facility and monitor emissions. • Cover skips and stockpiles where possible to limit emissions or, if not possible, put in place dust suppression mechanisms. • Enclose silos and containers used for bulk storage of powders and fine materials, as well as conveyors, removing particulate matter from the process where possible. • Traffic speed controls to be established on unpaved roads to control dust generation. • Establish suitable air emissions monitoring during the operation phase of the facilities.
Greenhouse (GHG) Emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and quantify GHG emissions to understand the contribution of the activity or facility. • Reduce fossil fuel energy use by adopting energy-efficient production and management practices. Where feasible consider using renewable energy (e.g. solar, wind, biofuel). • Establish a GHG management plan that includes methods of mitigating emissions and a monitoring program.

Potential Impact	Recommended Mitigation Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize waste products from activities and processes to prevent GHG emissions to the atmosphere.
Odor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The facilities may need additional engineering controls to contain and neutralize odors from point sources and fugitive odor emissions, such as enclosing relevant activities, properly storing waste and operating under a vacuum. Ensure wastewater treatment facilities are properly designed and maintained for the anticipated wastewater load. Ensure facility handling areas and collection devices, such as fecal matter, fat traps, are emptied and cleaned regularly. Consider the use of wet scrubbers, where appropriate, to remove odor emissions where facilities are in close proximity to residential areas. Regular communication with surrounding communities to monitor any potential issues. A waste management plan will be developed to ensure correct control, storage and disposal of waste.
Noise and Vibration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Noise and Vibration Management Plan. All equipment and vehicles to be in good working order, well maintained and have adequate noise suppression systems were necessary. All equipment to be switched off when not in use. Good driving practice to minimize noise generation. All structures and facilities to be designed to withstand earthquakes to an acceptable level. An earthquake response plan to be developed to manage any high-risk releases from facilities.
Landscape and Visual Intrusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All construction sites to be boarded off from public view. Good housekeeping practices to keep sites neat and clean.
Biological Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Waste Management Plan covering all waste types for facilities life cycle. The development of well-designed and operated waste handling facilities, in particular for hazardous waste, that could be produced by the facilities is critical. Collaboration with GoIRA at regional and national level may be necessary. Biological/organic waste management to be carried out in a manner that meets international health and food safety standards. These biological/organic waste will be considered hazardous base on definition the biological waste encompasses blood and blood products, pathological waste, cultures and stocks of infectious agents and associated biologicals, contaminated animal carcasses and bedding, sharps, and biotechnology by-product effluents (i.e. recombinant DNA). but the major sources of biological contaminants in food are, animal guts, fecal contamination, soil and water contaminated by non-treated and also human contamination due to poor personal and it maybe hygiene, fecal contamination, failure in infection. In addition, cross-contamination of food products spread from processing environment due to poor/improper and sanitation

Potential Impact	Recommended Mitigation Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimize inventory storage time for waste materials to reduce putrefaction. • Treatment of process wastewater may require additional engineering controls to remove pathogens and to contain odors. • Consider recycling organic materials for other beneficial purposes. • A waste management plan will be developed to ensure correct control, storage and disposal of waste. • All waste to be transported by appropriately licensed operators, disposed of in an appropriately licensed waste disposal facility and/or treated by a registered waste operator in a safe manner. Comprehensive records will be kept.
<p style="text-align: center;">Hazardous and General Waste</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of well-designed and operated waste handling facilities, in particular for hazardous waste that could be produced by the IAFPs, is critical. Collaboration with GoIRA at regional and national level may be necessary. • 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” and cover all phases of the facility development. • Use uncontaminated sludge from on-site wastewater treatment for agricultural fertilizer or production of biogas. • All waste should be classified, and hazardous waste managed according to international best practice. • Properly designed waste disposal facilities to treat and dispose of hazardous and general waste need to be designed, constructed and operated within the catchment of the industries and activities producing this waste material. These facilities should meet the required international standards in terms of design, operation and closure. • All waste to be transported by appropriately licensed operators, disposed of in an appropriately licensed waste disposal facility and/or treated by a registered waste operator in a safe manner. Comprehensive records will be kept. • 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 recognized capacity for the task. A hydrocarbon management plan should be developed.
<p style="text-align: center;">Surface Water and Groundwater Supply & Use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface water will not be used for any production facility requirements as this is not a sustainable source. • Ensure the efficient use of raw water, optimizing water consumption and reducing consumption and also monitoring and repairing any potential leaks to reduce loss through spills as much as possible and exploring recycling options. • Develop a surface water management plan and storm water management for managing runoff/reduce flooding/ reducing contamination about the wastewater both in construction and operation phases of the facility.

Potential Impact	Recommended Mitigation Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep clean and dirty water separated and channel clean storm water into natural drainage courses in a way that does not compromise the integrity of the drainage course to operate effectively and in a natural way. • Obtain a good understanding of the ground water regime surrounding each facility site so as to determine what groundwater would be available without impacting on other groundwater users, including discussion/ interactions with the surrounding community. • Develop a ground water management plan for both construction and operation phases of the project. • Monitor ground water quality and usage.
<p>Surface Water and Ground Water Contamination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a surface water & storm water management plan, the ground water is mostly extracted from wells and also the wastewater discharged will be direct to the WWTP in both construction and operation phases of the facility. • All hazardous liquids to be contained in an adequately sized, containment that holds 120% of the tank contents. • Develop a Hydrocarbon Management Plan together with an Emergency Spill and Response Plan to manage spills, leaks and land contamination and remediation. • Reduce the effluent load of process wastewaters by preventing raw materials, intermediates, product, by-product and wastes from unnecessarily entering the wastewater system and cleaning the wastewater by removing material and disinfecting the wastewater. • All structures and activities of the facility to be developed outside the 1:100-year flood lines taking climate adaptation into account. • All structures and facilities to be designed to withstand earthquakes to an acceptable level. • An earthquake response plan to be developed to manage any high-risk releases from facilities. • Ensure wastewater treatment facilities are properly designed, and undertake regular wastewater monitoring/ testing to ensure the quality of the effluent at discharge meets national or EHS guideline standards, and facilities are properly maintained for the anticipated wastewater load and to continue meeting discharge standards. • All sanitation facilities (toilets/latrines, sewer system, sewerage treatment) 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. • Any waste water discharge to be contained, checked, treated where required and released, only if permitted. Any wastewater treatment residuals to be recycled if of acceptable quality or disposed of in an appropriately licensed waste disposal facility (see Waste). • Handle, store and dispose of all chemicals in the required manner to limit spills and leaks to the environment and risk to workers. Develop a Hazardous Material Management Plan. • Monitor surface water quality.

Potential Impact	Recommended Mitigation Measures
<p>Soil and Land Capability and Contamination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP¹⁸). • Store all top soil removed during site preparation in a manner that allows reuse for rehabilitation activities. • Rehabilitate all disturbed areas to control erosion (water and wind) and reinstatement of viable habitat, where possible. • Implement Chemical Hazard Safety Management Plan. • Follow procedures for the safe handling, storage and disposal of Hazardous Chemicals. • Train all relevant employees on the safe handling and storage of hazardous chemicals and ensure MSDS sheets available as reference. • Develop a fuel storage and transport procedure. • Develop an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP).
<p>Loss of a Resource (fauna, vegetation, soils, land)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a vegetation clearance and soil management procedure that includes screening for critical habitat such as areas with high conservation values. • Avoid conversion of existing critical, natural or high conservation value habitats wherever possible. • Minimize land clearance to as small an area as possible and for a limited time to avoid unnecessary exposure to erosion. • Avoid the introduction of invasive species, as well as control and reduce their further spread. • Monitor topsoil management and use regularly. • Avoid unnecessary access and exposure to sensitive habitat areas. Regularly inspect and monitor sensitive habitats. • Establish and respect setbacks from water courses – including appropriate buffer zones, strips along water sources of any time. • Ensure reshaping and revegetation occurs as soon as possible and is monitored. Rehabilitated areas to be surveyed to check levels of erosion and plant growth. Maintenance to be undertaken where necessary. • 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.
<p>Energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select energy efficient machinery and equipment and train operators in energy efficient practices. • Ensure properly matched pumps, systems and power sources. • Reduce heat loss within the system and improve cooling efficiency in the plant • Investigate ways to recover heat within the design
<p>Climate Change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies in the management of the facilities. • Develop a Climate Risk Management Plan.

¹⁸ An EPRP should cover the administration of the plan (policy, purpose, distribution, definitions etc.), organization of emergency areas, roles and responsibilities, communication systems (worker and community; emergency services), emergency response procedures, emergency resources, training and updating, checklists and business continuity and contingency.

Potential Impact	Recommended Mitigation Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the ESMP is a dynamic and continually adapting document that takes changing conditions into account.
Social Environment	
Physical Displacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of the IAFPs and ACCs will try avoiding all forms of physical displacement, to the maximum extent possible. Where this cannot be avoided, the facility will adopt the provisions of the Resettlement Policy Framework (See Annexure D). A Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) will be developed.
Economic Displacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of the IAFPs and ACCs will try avoiding all forms of economic displacement, to the maximum extent possible. Where this cannot be avoided, the facility will adopt the provisions of the Resettlement Policy Framework (See Annexure D). A Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) will be developed.
Access to Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of the IAFPs and ACCs will try avoiding all land held under communal or public tenure and which is actively used by local communities. Where this cannot be avoided, the facility will adopt the provisions of the Resettlement Policy Framework (See Annexure D). A Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) will be developed.
Access to Communal Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of the IAFPs and ACCs will try avoiding all communal land that support communal natural resources or communal uses, to the maximum extent possible. Where this cannot be avoided, the facility will adopt the provisions of the Resettlement Policy Framework (See Annexure D).
Community Facilities or Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of the IAFPs and ACCs will try avoiding all forms direct losses or disruption to community facilities or services, to the maximum extent possible. Where this cannot be avoided, the facility will adopt the provisions of the Resettlement Policy Framework (See Annexure D). A Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) will be developed.
Potential Land-Grabs and Forced Evictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of the IAFPs and ACCs will follow all due process and legal means in securing land, and illegal land grabs or forced eviction will not be supported in any means. Any prospective developer will need to show that land has been secured via legal means (i.e. legal ownership, legal sales, land donations with consent of land-owners and users).
Traffic and Public Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The construction and operations contractor will develop a Traffic Management Plan for both on-site and off-site traffic. Establish traffic management measures and systems to ensure the safety of communities and workforce as part of feasibility assessments. Good driving practice (speed limits) to be adhered to in public areas and road safety to be communicated to surrounding communities. Regular communication with surrounding communities to monitor any potential issues Provide training to vehicle operators on safe driving practices and the standard operating procedures for the Project.

Potential Impact	Recommended Mitigation Measures
Tangible Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment under the ESIA to identify cultural heritage. • Where found, establish measures to avoid, conserve, relocate or compensate impacted heritage in collaboration with the Institute of Archaeology. • This includes adoption of a Chance Find Procedure as presented in Annexure E.
Indigenous People, Ethnic Minorities and Nomadic People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of each IAFPs and ACCs will need to assess the potential presence and context of local ethnic minorities and vulnerable groups (specifically nomadic people) that may be present in and around the proposed development site. This includes determining whether such groups may be defined as indigenous people consistent with WB criteria.
Restricted Mobility and Public thoroughfares	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ESIA will identify any active public roads, informal paths or footpaths. • Where found, the Proponent will establish alternative paths in consultation with the local authorities and communities.
Labor Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All national labor law and ILO obligations should be met as part of the human resources management systems. Child labor will not be permitted in any form at the IAFPs and ACCs where is it inconsistent with labor law (18 is the minimum age for employment, while limited types of employment are permitted for children between the age of 15 to 17). • The development of the IAFPs and ACCs will support the development of women-owned businesses. In this regard, each IAFPs and ACC will support programs and measures that will be established by the OMAID project. It will ensure that the role of women will be actively supported and protected, and attempt to draw in all key stakeholders (including local men) to promote such approaches. A Gender Action Plan will be developed.
Labor Influx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The risks of labor influx will be assessed for each IAFP and ACC under the ESIA and will consider the provisions made in the Labor Influx Management Plan prepared as an annexure to this ESMF.
Pressure on basic services and public infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capacity of local utilities, services and facilities will be assessed as part of feasibility assessments. • Mitigation to be developed as necessary. Develop a Public Health Action Plan.
Conflict and Insurgency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A suitable security specialist to be appointed under a dedicated office for the construction contractor and operation management entity / contractor to manage safety risk related to the security situation in Afghanistan. • This office will need to develop security plans for each facility, in consultation with the implementing agencies and stakeholders.
Stakeholder Communication, Engagement and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing agencies to develop a Project level Communication and Engagement Plan to raise awareness and understanding of the Project at all target regions and sites.

Potential Impact	Recommended Mitigation Measures
<p>Grievance Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ESIA and RAP studies to include self-contained Stakeholder Engagement Plans consistent with national law and international requirements. • The construction and operational contractors will include stakeholder engagement plans targeting IAFP and ACC beneficiaries on site as part of their ESMP. • All Stakeholder Engagement Plans will consider the principles and provisions of Section 11 of this ESMF including the establishment of a functional Grievance Mechanism.
<p>Occupational Health and Safety</p>	
<p>Physical Hazards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety Management System developed and implemented. • Leadership commitment and involvement in OHS. • Regular Inspections to identify Physical Hazards and Job Risk Analysis to determine proper controls including use of PPE and implementation of corrective actions. • Safety Training plan implemented. • Process for issuing, training and maintenance of Personal Protective Equipment. • Effective and tested Emergency Response Plan. • Effective Equipment Maintenance Plan implemented.
<p>Chemical Hazards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical Hazard identification and Job Risk Analysis to determine proper controls including use of PPE and Safety Management Plan Implemented. • Implement a sound purchasing procedure to avoid procurement of Hazardous Chemicals not internationally approved for use and ensure full traceability of all materials and products throughout the supply chain. • Maintain all systems utilizing chemicals – heating and cooling systems – and prevent and control exposure to chemicals. • Implement procedure for the safe handling, storage and disposal of Hazardous Chemicals. • Train all relevant employees on the Safe handling and Storage of Hazardous Chemicals. • Use required Personal Protective Equipment when using Hazardous Chemicals.
<p>Biological Hazards to workers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Hazard Safety Management Plan Implemented. • Ensure adherence to internationally recognized food safety standards consistent with the principles and practice of HACCP¹⁹ and Codex Alimentarius²⁰. • Comply with internationally recognized veterinary precautions for management of waste, sludge and by-products.

¹⁹ Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point system adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission – science based and systematic, identifying hazards and measures for their control to ensure the safety of food.

²⁰ Food Code comprising a collection of internationally recognized standards, codes of practice, guidelines and other recommendations to protect consumer health.

Potential Impact	Recommended Mitigation Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt best practice methods for cleaning systems (such as, cleaning in place (CIP²¹)) to ensure worker safety as well as food safety. • Train all relevant employees on the Safe handling and Storage of Biological Agents. • Use required Personal Protective Equipment to eliminate the inhalation or ingestion of potentially contaminated dust and aerosols (such as in milk powder operations). • Surveillance of worker’s health, where necessary • Monitoring
<p>Biological Hazards to Food Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a sound purchasing procedure and ensure full traceability of all materials and products throughout the supply chain. • effective thermal processing used as a kill step (ex: cooking, pasteurization) • Exhaust ventilation adequately equipped and maintained. • use of appropriate process controls, storage temperatures (ex: cooler, freezer) – processing parameters (ex: temperature and time for cooking, water activity during dehydration) – adequate cooling system • effective cleaning and sanitizing procedures (ex: SSOPs) • use of food technologies to prevent the growth of bacteria or other biological hazards – packaging techniques (ex: use of vacuum packaging, modified atmosphere packaging) – preservatives – processing techniques (ex: dehydration)
<p>Radiological Hazards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify Radiological Hazards and Job Risk Analysis to determine proper control of risk including use of PPE and Safety Management Plan Implemented. • Shielding and limiting the radiation source must be the first step. • Implement procedure for the safe handling, storage and disposal of Radiation Sources. • Train all relevant employees on the Safe handling and Storage of Radiation Sources. • Use required Personal Protective Equipment when using or exposed to Radiological Sources.
<p>Special Hazard Environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confined Space Safe Working Procedure developed and implemented. • All relevant employees trained on the Confined Space Safe Work Procedure. • Develop and implement a Safety Plan for Lone and Isolated Work. • All relevant Employees to be trained in the Safety Plan for Lone and Isolated work.

9.2 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

²¹ CIP is the cleaning of complete items of equipment or pipeline circuits without dismantling, shortening cleaning time and recovering the cleaning solutions.

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 SCREENING, PREPARATION, APPRAISAL, APPROVAL AND MONITORING

The OMAID Project Implementing Agencies, in this case MoIC and MAIL, are ultimately responsible, The E&S obligations and oversight MoIC and MAIL will be fully covered base on policy and regulations each entity has. In case unavailable they will be arranged and developed according to the sub-project concept and scope. Any arrangement with the private sectors and other operators is the responsibility private sector directorate and either MAIL has its related directorate to look after any ACCs arrangement. Hence, it will be verified through their own staff, outside experts or existing environmental, social and OHS institutions, that any ACC or IAFP 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 IAFPs and ACCs.

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 IAFPs and ACCs 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 ACCs and IAFPs will need to go through a screening process.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the development of an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the OMAID Project are outlined in detail in Annexure G. These are based on the 2017 Afghanistan ESIA Regulation requirement (Regulation No 11.1, Annex V) and the World Bank Content of an Environmental Assessment Report for a Category A Project (OP 4.01, Annex B). Specific ToR will be developed for each ACC or IAFP after screening and scoping and will be submitted to NEPA for approval.

10.1 SCREENING OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND SITES

Screening of IAFPs and ACCs will occur at project inception, as soon as sufficient detail on the IAFP or ACC is known. This will include the nature and scope of the facility and ancillary facilities²², proposed location and area of influence, and associated facilities or activities²³. 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 IAFP and ACC Screening

Screening is required for all IAFPs and ACCs. The intent of screening is to:

²² Ancillary facilities include water supply services, underground sumps, waste water treatment works, water distribution facilities, general effluent water treatment plant, water recycling, parking lot, fuel station, road connectivity, sites for related infrastructure, solid water management facility, etc.

²³ Associated facilities or activities are those not funded as part of the Project but would not have been constructed or expanded if the Project did not exist and without which the Project would not be viable (International Finance Corporation (IFC), January 2012).

1. determine whether the IAFPs or ACCs 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 IAFP and ACC undertakes an appropriate level of environmental and social assessment. In order to decide on this, a project report and screening checklist must be submitted to NEPA. This screening report will be prepared by MOIC for the one or two IAFPs, and MAIL (via the Grant Operations Management Entity) for each of the proposed 745 ACCs. MAIL, MoIC will review the reports and escalate them to the Secretariat and the World Bank.

An environmental and social Screening Checklist is provided in Section 10.1.3 and the IAFPs and ACCs 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 IAFPs and ACCs 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 IAFP or ACC 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 IAFP and ACC. 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 IAFPs and all ACCs for the OMAID Project will be categorized base on the activities and potential impacts from the project to the environment and environment to the project, according to practice if the ACCs allocate for just collecting agricultural product then a sample checklist will be developed for understanding the project impact. In case if ACCs have some process of adding value to the products like sorting the fruit and vegetables and producing tomato paste or extracting fruit it will require some specific process such as washing, cooling, sorting, packaging then based on the size/ footprint and nature of equipment on the site it will be categorized as A or high impact project. Thus it would be Category A 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 IAFP and ACC screening provided here should be filled in by MOIC for the one or two IAFPs and by MAIL (via the Grant Operations Management Entity) with support from the private developers for each of the 745 ACCs.

In the event that a number of ACCs 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 ACC individually, unless their type and complexity vary significantly. The ACCs 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

OMAID Project - IAFP/ACC Environmental and Social Screening	
IAFP/ACC Name	
Location/ Co-ordinates	
IAFP/ACC Proponent	
Size/ Capacity	
Estimated cost (USD)	
Type of IAFP/ACC or Activity:	
Motivation and Objectives for the IAFP/ACC:	
Measures to ensure the IAFP/ACC is technically and financially sustainable:	

Screening Questions ²⁴	Yes	No	Remarks
Location			
Are there environmentally sensitive areas (forests, pastures, rivers and wetlands) or threatened species that could be adversely affected by the IAFP/ACC?			
Does the IAFP/ACC 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 IAFP/ACC 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 IAFP/ACC reduce people’s access to the pasture, water, public services or other resources that they depend on?			
Might the IAFP/ACC alter any historical, archaeological or cultural heritage site or require excavation near such a site?			
Is the IAFP/ACC area adjacent to or within a declared pollution control area?			
Is the project/facility area adjacent to or within a special area for protecting biodiversity?			
Physical and Biological environment			
Will the IAFP/ACC require large volumes of construction materials or materials used during operation (e.g. gravel, stones, water, timber, firewood)?			
Will the project/facility use water and if so, what is the estimated amount and source of this?			
Will the project/facility lead to an increase in the originally designated water abstraction amount?			
Does the proposed project/facility involve water sources under dispute?			
Will the project/facility 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 IAFP/ACC lead to soil degradation or erosion in the area?			
Might the IAFP/ACC affect soil salinity and/or seriously contaminate the soil?			
Will the IAFP/ACC create solid or liquid waste that could adversely affect local soils, vegetation, rivers, streams or groundwater?			
Will the project/facility cause air pollution, gaseous and odor emissions from the plant operations?			
Will the project/facility 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 IAFP/ACC have adverse impacts on natural habitats and in particular sensitive habitats that will not have acceptable mitigation measures?			
Alternatives			
Is it possible to achieve the objectives above in a different way, with fewer environmental and social impacts?			
Land and Social Issues			

²⁴ The impacts considered should include direct, indirect and cumulative impacts, as defined in Section 9.

Screening Questions ²⁴	Yes	No	Remarks
Might the IAFP/ACC 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 IAFP/ACC 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 project/facility cause the physical or economic displacement or involuntary resettlement of individuals or families? If yes, how many people will be affected, and how many people would lose more than 10% of their land or residential/commercial structures?			
Will the IAFP/ACC require acquisition of land (public or private) and/or other assets for its development?			
Will the IAFP/ACC affect the livelihoods of particular groups within the communities, especially vulnerable groups such as the landless? If yes, how many people will be affected that are considered to be squatters (persons with no local or customary rights) and how many people would be considered to be vulnerable?			
Will the project/facility cause social conflicts to arise from the influx of construction laborers from other areas?			
Will the project/facility 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 IAFP or ACC? Which groups have not been consulted?			
Will the IAFP/ACC affect the livelihoods of particular groups within the communities, especially vulnerable groups such as the landless?			
Will the IAFP/ACC affect the well-being and livelihoods of women, particularly female-headed households?			
Will the IAFP/ACC affect the well-being and livelihoods of local sedentary livestock grazers, as well as restrict the movement or grazing patterns of Kuchis?			
Will the IAFP/ACC benefit all groups within the community equally?			
Are there ongoing land or water disputes within the community/ with neighboring communities?			
Will the IAFP or ACC activities lead to conflict on land usage?			
Does the IAFP or ACC cause any temporary or permanent removal of vegetation, residential infrastructures such as garden, toilets, kitchen, etc.			
Might the IAFP or ACC 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 project/facility area?			
Occupational Health and Safety			
Do the IAFP/ACC have human health and safety risks, during construction, operations or later due to discharge of wastes, poor air quality, noise and foul odor, etc.?			
Will the project/facility cause occupational health hazards due to fugitive dust, materials handling, noise, or other process operations?			
Will the proposed project/facility use pesticides that fall in WHO classes 1A, 1B or II?			
Does the project/facility 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 IAFP/ACC 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

OMAID Project - IAFP/ACC Environmental and Social Screening - REVIEW			
IAFP/ACC Name			
Location/ Co-ordinates			
Proponent			
Screening Checklist Reviewed			
Screening Review Questions	Yes	No	Remarks
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			
Reviewer's Conclusion:			
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	Yes	No
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:		
Completed by the Reviewer:		
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. According to the NEPA categorization process any project with high potential impact should be conducted ESIA and ToRs shall be developed however for the small project no need to conduct ESIA, so according to the initial screen and activities prediction submitting to the NEPA for certification but the best practice will be in the structure of contract one individual OHS officer should be assigned reporting to the client in case of any activities which may impact the Environment or to the human health 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 & Social Management plan (ESMP) complete with budget and identification of responsibilities.
- Finalization of the ESIA report.

The TOR for an ESIA are described in more detail in Annexure G. As the Barikab IAFP (BAIP) has commenced the terms of reference for the ESIA is most comprehensive and serves as a good example of the type of issues to be covered at an IAFP, the process to be followed for the ESIA and the components that should be addressed. This can be found in Annexure B.

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 IAFP/ACC/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 IAFP/ACC at the design phase. Mitigatory measures and alternatives will thereby be included in the IAFP/ACC 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 IAFPs and ACCs and, it may be necessary to establish site specific targets with an appropriate timetable for achieving them (see Annexure C):

- The facility 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 facilities 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 IAFP or ACC. 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 Plan (ESMP).

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, movement of vehicles associated with the construction phase and likely increased traffic associated with the construction phase, 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)

In the case of a crisis or an emergency following an adverse natural or manmade event, Component 3 of the Project (CERC) will enable the rapid response of GoIRA to the crisis or emergency. In this event, a full OHS and E&S risk review of the situation would be undertaken which may result in a changed approach to the environmental, social, health and safety aspects of the Project. If this is the case, the ESMF will be revised to reflect these changes.

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.

- *ESIA Process.* Description of ESIA Process from Screening and Scoping to Baseline Data Collection, Impact Assessment, Mitigation and Management with stakeholder consultation and public disclosure.
- *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 specifically cumulative impacts (or an explanation of why a cumulative impact is not an issue), 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.
 - Results of Screening Process.

- Scoping Report.
- 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 ESIA will be made available in Dari and Pashtun. 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 IAFP/ACC REVIEW AND APPROVAL

The IAFP/ACC 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**. (Refer to Annexure G for the TOR of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment.)

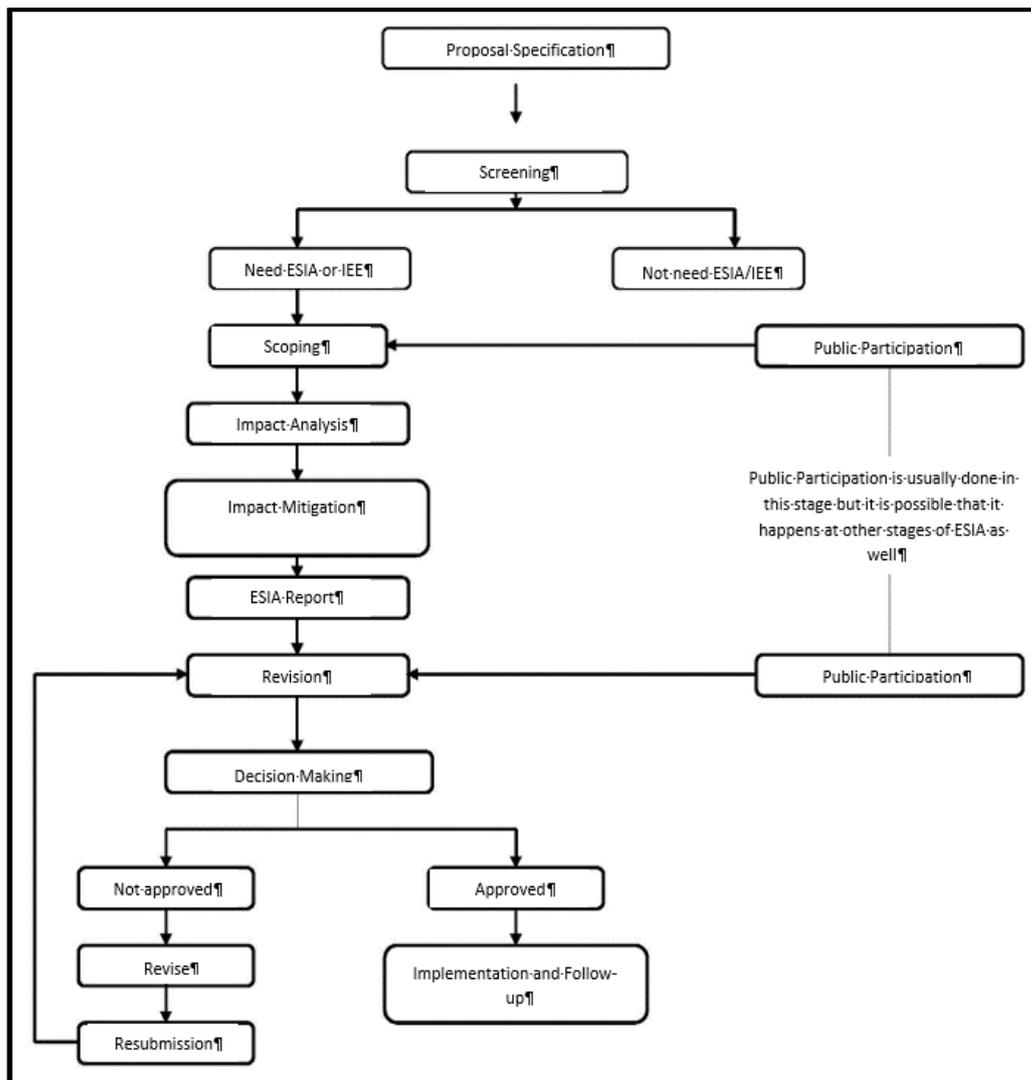


Figure 22: National ESIA Process

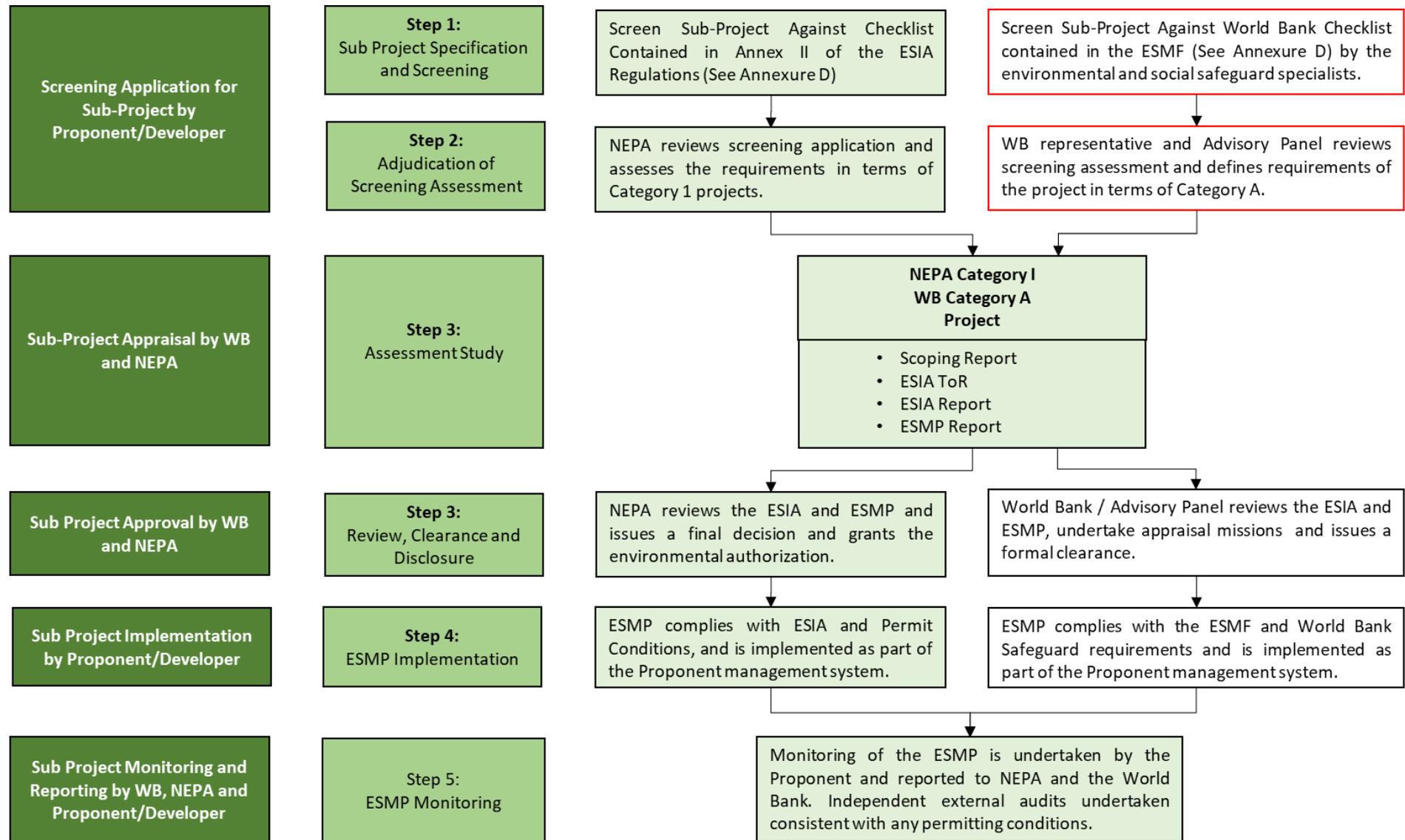


Figure 23: ESMF ESIA Process

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. E&S obligation will be delegated to the operators or private sector by proper inserting contractual clauses in the contract document, awareness programs and also in case of non-compliance in the initial stage some meetings should be conducted to identified the risk and described the impact to the Environment and Human health. If the meetings don't work out, then oral and official warnings will be given to the operators. The ESMF will be implemented by the implementing agencies for the IAFP/ACCs. 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 10-1**. (See Annexure G for TOR of ESIA.)

Table 10-1: 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
If ESIA is necessary:			
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

No	Stage	Institutional Responsibility	Implementation Responsibility
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 ESIA will be expected to prepare a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) to facilitate the engagement process. The plan will be prepared with due consideration of the fundamental principles of 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/IAFP/ACC 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/IAFP/ACCs.
- Information is disclosed in an accessible, transparent, and timely manner to allow stakeholders to gain a clear understanding of the Project/IAFP/ACCs.
- 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/IAFP/ACCs.
- 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/IAFP/ACCs.

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):

- *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 IAFP/ACC.
- *Environmental and Social Impact Assessment – Reporting Phase:*
 - Draft ESIA Reports to be placed at strategic points in the IAFP/ACC’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 IAFP/ACCs will identify and consult with the full range of stakeholders, including those that have an active interest in the IAFP/ACC or are potentially impacted parties. A broad list of the likely stakeholders is presented in **Table 10-2**. Detailed stakeholder profiling will need to be undertaken for each IAFP/ACC.

Table 10-2: 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	Provincial Council	Interested Party

Stakeholder Group	Key Stakeholders	Category of Stakeholder
Government	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
	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 IAFP/ACC development, construction and operational phases. (see also **Section 11**).

10.5 ANNUAL MONITORING REPORTS AND REVIEW

To ensure the effective implementation of the IAFP/ACCs, MOIC and MAIL will undertake regular monitoring and reviews of the IAFPs and ACCs respectively against site-specific ESMP requirements. 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 IAFP/ACC or group of IAFP/ACCs. 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 IAFP/ACC 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 IAFP/ACC level monitoring will cover the ESIA, environmental permits and monitoring and evaluation. Annual monitoring reports will be produced by MOIC and MAIL 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 IAFP/ACCs. It is also important to indicate that monitoring will be conducted by assigned environment and social management specialist and EHS officer through regular inspection of the activities, if the inspectors see some non-compliance of E&S during the inspection, in the initial stage some awareness for identifying the risk and pursue to awareness regular warning shall be given to the operator to correct the negative impacts. 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 10-3**. The environmental, social, health and safety standards that should apply to the IAFP and ACCs 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 IAFP/ACCs.

Table 10-3: Project monitoring indicators and responsibilities

Ref	Impact Issue	Monitoring Parameter / Indicator	Frequency	Responsibility
Environmental Impacts and Benefits				
0.1	Surface Water (Quality) in the point of downstream	Physio-chemical and bacteriological water analysis (temperature, pH, BOD, COD, EC, TDS, nitrates, heavy metals, pesticides, bacteria, turbidity, etc.)	Monthly	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
1.1	Surface Water (Quality) in the point of discharge	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

Ref	Impact Issue	Monitoring Parameter / Indicator	Frequency	Responsibility
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
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 waste type/classification, treatment, storage, disposal	Monthly	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
1.17	General Waste	Quantity per waste type/classification, treatment, storage, disposal	Monthly	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
Social Impacts and Benefits				
2.1	Physical Displacement	Progress on preparation of RAP. No of APs with Paid Compensation No. of APs with Replacement Assets (land or structures) No. of APs engaged in livelihood restoration programmes. No of APs engaged in vulnerable people support programmes. No. of active and close grievances. No of engagement meetings.	Bi-Annual	Resettlement Contractor / Implementing Agency
2.2	Economic Displacement	Progress on preparation of RAP. No of APs with Paid Compensation No. of APs with Replacement Assets (land) No. of APs engaged in livelihood restoration programmes. No of APs engaged in vulnerable people support programmes. No. of active and close grievances. No of engagement meetings.	Bi-Annual	Resettlement Contractor / Implementing Agency

Ref	Impact Issue	Monitoring Parameter / Indicator	Frequency	Responsibility
2.3	Loss of Community Facilities or Service	Progress on Preparation of RAP. Progress on Provision of Replacement Community Assets	Bi-Annual	Resettlement Contractor / Implementing Agency
2.4	Loss of Access to Communal / Public Land	Progress on Preparation of RAP. Progress on Provision of Community Development Funds Progress on Provision of Replacement Communal / Public Land.	Bi-Annual	Resettlement Contractor / Implementing Agency
2.5	Loss of Access to Communal Natural Resources	Progress on Preparation of RAP. Progress on Provision of Community Development Funds Progress on Provision of Replacement Natural Resources.	Bi-Annual	Resettlement Contractor / Implementing Agency
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.	Bi-Annual	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
2.7	Traffic Safety	Progress on Road Construction or Upgrades Number of Traffic Incidents and Emergencies	Bi-Annual	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
2.8	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.	Bi-Annual	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
2.9	Labor Influx	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).	Bi-Annual	Construction Contractor Operation Manager

Ref	Impact Issue	Monitoring Parameter / Indicator	Frequency	Responsibility
2.10	Pressure on Basic Services and Public Infrastructure	Construction and Operational Workforce Requirements. Record of electricity and water usage. Implementation of Recruitment Practices / Influx Management Plan. Formation of Informal Settlements / Housing Around the Project Site. Level of Engagement with Local Authorities.	Bi-Annual	Construction Contractor Operation Manager
2.11	Market / Trade Links	Number of Active Beneficiaries / Sellers Using the IAFPs and ACCs. Number of Sales Made from Active Beneficiaries / Sellers. Amount of Materials / Goods Bought from Active Beneficiaries / Sellers. Number of Active Off-Takers Using the IAFPs, or ACCs.	Bi-annual	Operation Manager Private Developers
2.12	Improved Access to Input Support and Extension Services	Amount of Inputs and Support Services Provided at IAFPs, or ACCs. Number of Active Beneficiaries / Sellers Using the IAFPs, or ACCs. Amount of Materials / Goods Provided to Active Beneficiaries / Sellers. Number of f Technical Support Activities undertaken at the IAFPs or ACCs.	Bi-annual	MAIL
2.13	Promoting SMME Business Development	Number of Applicant SMMEs at the IAFPs, or ACCs. Number of Operational SMMEs at the IAFPs, or ACCs. Number of Women Owned SMMEs at the IAFPs, or ACCs.	Bi-annual	Operations Contractor Private Developers
2.14	Promoting Local Employment	Number of Construction and Operational Workforce by Place of Origen. Number of Tenant Businesses Workforce by Place of Origin.	Bi-annual	Construction Contractor Operations Contractor Private Developers
2.17	Promoting Local Content	Number of Local Suppliers or Service Providers by Place of Origin.	Bi-annual	Construction Contractor Operations Contractor Private Developers
2.18	Improved Representation of Women	Number of Construction and Operational Workforce by Gender. Number of Tenant Businesses Workforce by Gender. Number of Women Owned SMMEs at the IAFPs, or ACCs. Number of Gender Sensitive Facilities at the IAFPs, or ACCs.	Bi-annual	Operations Contractor Private Developers

Ref	Impact Issue	Monitoring Parameter / Indicator	Frequency	Responsibility
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.	Bi-annual	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 and fatalities (by type) between Project and the Public. Number of grievances related to community health and safety. Progress on resolution of Grievances.	Bi-annual	Construction Contractor Operations Contractor Private Developers
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.	Bi-annual	Construction Contractor 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, or ACCs.

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, or ACCs 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 an IAFP/ACC 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 IAFP/ACC will ensure that the IAFP/ACC 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, any contractual arrangement is afterward steps and it could be developed and arranged by technical specialist's base on the sub-project scope and some other determining interrelated policy and 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 MoIC.

An Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) and an Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Management System would be required for every Project facility developed (see Section 6.3). This system should ensure that impacts and risks are effectively managed during implementation and involve an iterative process of planning, implementing, evaluating and incorporation of lessons learnt.

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 IAFP/ACC developer. The requirements of the ESMF will need to be communicated to the sub-borrower. The obligations on Environmental health and safety will depend on what kind of contract exists (between the Borrower and the main contractor; between the main contractors and the sub-contractors). It will differ if the Borrower used the World Bank's standard procurement documents (SPDs) or used national bidding documents. If a FIDIC document has been used, there will be general provisions relating to health and safety. For example, the standard FIDIC, Conditions of Contract for Construction (Second Edition 2017), which contains no 'ESF enhancements', states (in the General Conditions, clause 6.7) that the Contractor will be required:

- to take all necessary precautions to maintain the health and safety of the Contractor's Personnel
- to appoint a health and safety officer at site, who will have the authority to issue directives for the purpose of maintaining the health and safety of all personnel authorized to enter and or work on the site and to take protective measures to prevent accidents
- to ensure, in collaboration with local health authorities, that medical staff, first aid facilities, sick bay, ambulance services and any other medical services specified are available at all times at the site and at any accommodation
- to ensure suitable arrangements are made for all necessary welfare and hygiene requirements and for the prevention of epidemics

The IAFP/ACC 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 IAFP/ACCs 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 IAFP/ACC will be developed individually and will undertake the necessary environmental and social assessment separately. The IAFP/ACCs will vary from an ACC composed of storage, warehousing, collection and packaging points or ACCs 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 IAFP/ACC 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 IAFP/ACCs 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 IAFP/ACCs;
 - 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 IAFP/ACCs. The intent of such engagement is to support the building of positive community relations and establishing open communication channels with potential Project/IAFP/ACC²⁵ beneficiaries.

11.1 CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

Consistent with World Bank policy, the Project and all associated IAFP/ACCs will support *citizen engagement* – or a two-way and iterative interaction between the citizens of Afghanistan and the implementing agencies IAFPs, or ACCs. The intent is to give citizens a stake in planning the Project and IAFP/ACCs 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 IAFP/ACCs. 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 IAFP/ACC 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, or ACCs. The media program should also focus on project beneficiaries including local businesses, farmer's 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 ACCs 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, or

In this Section the reference to Project includes facilities developed for IAFPs and ACCs

ACCs, 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 ACCs 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 ACCs 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 ACCs 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 IAFP/ACC 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 / IAFP/ACC 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, or ACCs. The office will remain constituted during the development phase and will remain operational for the life of the IAFP/ACC 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, or ACCs.
- 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 languages (specifically Pashto and Dari), and accessible and understandable to citizens with differing levels of literacy and skills. In addition, all disclosure materials will be made available both on the WB and key ministries websites, but also in hard copies at suitable public locations within each IAFP or ACC general location.

11.2 ENGAGEMENT UNDERTAKEN AS PART OF THE ESMF

The development of this ESMF was supported by stakeholder engagement which allowed for the disclosure of the ESMF documents, in Pashto and Dari, and for stakeholders to provide their comments and general feedback.

Stakeholder engagement on the disclosure of the ESMF, the RPF and the PMP was undertaken by the Project from 18 to 22 January 2020. The engagement included 11 separate meetings held at the national, provincial and district levels in the targeted provinces, as summarized in **Table 11-1**. Minutes and registers were taken at each of the meetings and these records can be found under the ESMF Annexure J.

The attendees at the 11 meetings ranged from representatives of key government departments, academia, civil society organizations, the private sector, community elders, farmers, and women. A summary of the meeting participants is presented in **Table 11-2**.

Table 11-1: Stakeholder Engagement Meetings

No.	Meeting Name	Date	Venue
1	National Authorities Meeting	18 Jan 20	Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Kabul
2	Academia, CSOs & NGOs	19 Jan 20	Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Kabul
3	Private Sector & Public	20 Jan 20	Dynamic Vision HQ - Kabul
4	Kandahar Government, Private Sector and CSOs	19 Jan 20	Directorate of Commerce and Industry – Kandahar
5	Daman District, Community Elders and Farmers	20 Jan 20	Daman District Governor - Kandahar
6	Balkh Government and Private Sector	19 Jan 20	Directorate of Industry and Commerce – Balkh
7	District Authorities, Community elders and project affected people	20 Jan 20	Kholm District Governor Office – Balkh
8	Provincial Government, Private Sector and CSOs	19 Jan 20	Directorate of Industry and Commerce – Nangarhar
9	District Authorities, Community Elders and Farmers	22 Jan 20	Rodat District Governor Office - Nangarhar
10	Herat Government Authorities and Private Sector	22 Jan 20	Directorate of Industry and Commerce – Herat
11	District Authorities, Community Elders and Farmers	22 Jan 20	MoIC-Herat

Table 11-2: Summary of Meeting Participants

No	Organization/ Department	No. of Persons
1	Ministry of Commerce and Industry (National and Provincial)	31
3	CRIDA	2
4	National Environmental Protection Agency (National and Provincial)	5
6	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (National and Provincial)	14
8	Ministry of Urban Development and Land (National and Provincial)	2
10	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation Development (National and Provincial)	2
12	Ministry of Economy Provincial Directorate	2
13	Ministry of Women Affairs Provincial Directorate	2
14	MoLSAMD Provincial Directorate	3
15	Ministry of Mine and Petroleum Provincial Directorate	2
16	NSIA Provincial Directorate	1
17	Human Right Commission	1
18	Academia	8
19	Civil Society Organization (CSO)	13
20	Private Sector	37
21	District Authorities	20
22	Community/ Village Elder	18
23	Farmer	26
24	Housewife	2
Total		191
Total (Men)		175
Total (Women)		16

The key issues or concerns raised by stakeholders, in no specific order, include the following:

- **Supporting Utilities:** Multiple stakeholders queried how the Project will be able to secure basic services and utilities (specifically water and electricity) as this will be important to support the IAFPs (and assuming the ACCs).
- **Organic and Chemical Waste Management:** Multiple stakeholders noted that the Project will require detailed waste management plans and measures to be put in place at the IAFPs to address organic and chemical waste management, as well as recycling.
- **Use of Pesticides:** Multiple stakeholders recommended that the PMP should focus on organic pesticides rather than chemical. This should be supported by awareness programs for farmers to stop using dangerous or illegal pesticides and switch to organic pesticides. In addition, the parks should put in place measures to stop the use of prohibited pesticides by farmers or restrict inputs with contain prohibited pesticides. This should include laboratories established at the IAFPs to test for pesticide use or pesticides on all inputs.
- **Farmer Support:** Multiple stakeholders recommended that financial support and capacity building should be provided to farmers and agricultural co-operatives that can provide inputs into the parks in order to improve the quality and quantity of their products.

Additional recommendations in this regard include the Government providing (1) access to irrigation to expand farming, (2) improved seed stock, (3) fertilizer, (4) certified pesticides, (5) cold storage, and (6) aid to farmers in managing pests as current pest control methods are not very effective.

- **Livestock Business:** Stakeholders noted that Project focusses on agricultural /crop products, but there are no specific plans to incorporate livestock businesses (livestock and meat production), and it was recommended that the Project support this sector.
- **Product Treatment and Packaging:** Stakeholders queried if the Project would provide infrastructure to support product treatment and packaging which would be required before the export of the products.
- **Local Content and Local Employment:** Stakeholders recommended that the parks and implementing agencies give priority to local products such as machinery as well as promoting local employment.
- **Gender Inclusion:** Multiple stakeholders indicated that the Project should provide working opportunities for women as well as opportunities for women-led enterprises that can be fostered in a safe environment.
- **Transport Benefits:** Stakeholders noted the ACCs are to be supported as farmers are required to transport products to urban centers and cities which is costly, and the ACCs will reduce this burden.

- **Environmental Implementation:** Stakeholders noted that the while the safeguard documents are being prepared, they are often not implemented appropriately. The Project will need to ensure that all environmental and social plans are well implemented.
- **Organizational Arrangements:** Stakeholders queried the organizational arrangements of the Project with respect to the operational management of the IAFPs (it is assumed this includes ACCs) and whether they will have the resources, personnel and capacity to manage the facilities.
- **Capacity Building:** Multiple stakeholders queried whether the implementing agencies (i.e. the MAIL and MOIC PMUs) will have the capacity to manage the project, and whether there will be capacity building and training to ensure that the Project is well managed. Capacity building should be undertaken before the Project is established to ensure the PMUs are capable of managing the environmental issues.
- **Private Sector Involvement:** Multiple stakeholders suggests that there should be private sector involvement in the management of the IAFPs (it is assumed this includes ACCs) as this is deemed critical to ensure their smooth operation and reduces reliance on the Government to manage the facilities.
- **Environmental Permitting:** Stakeholders noted that the ESMF is a positive tool to manage environment issues, however each private developer will still need to undertake separate ESIA's to obtain the Environmental Permits from the NEPA.

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 IAFP/ACCs.

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**.

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:

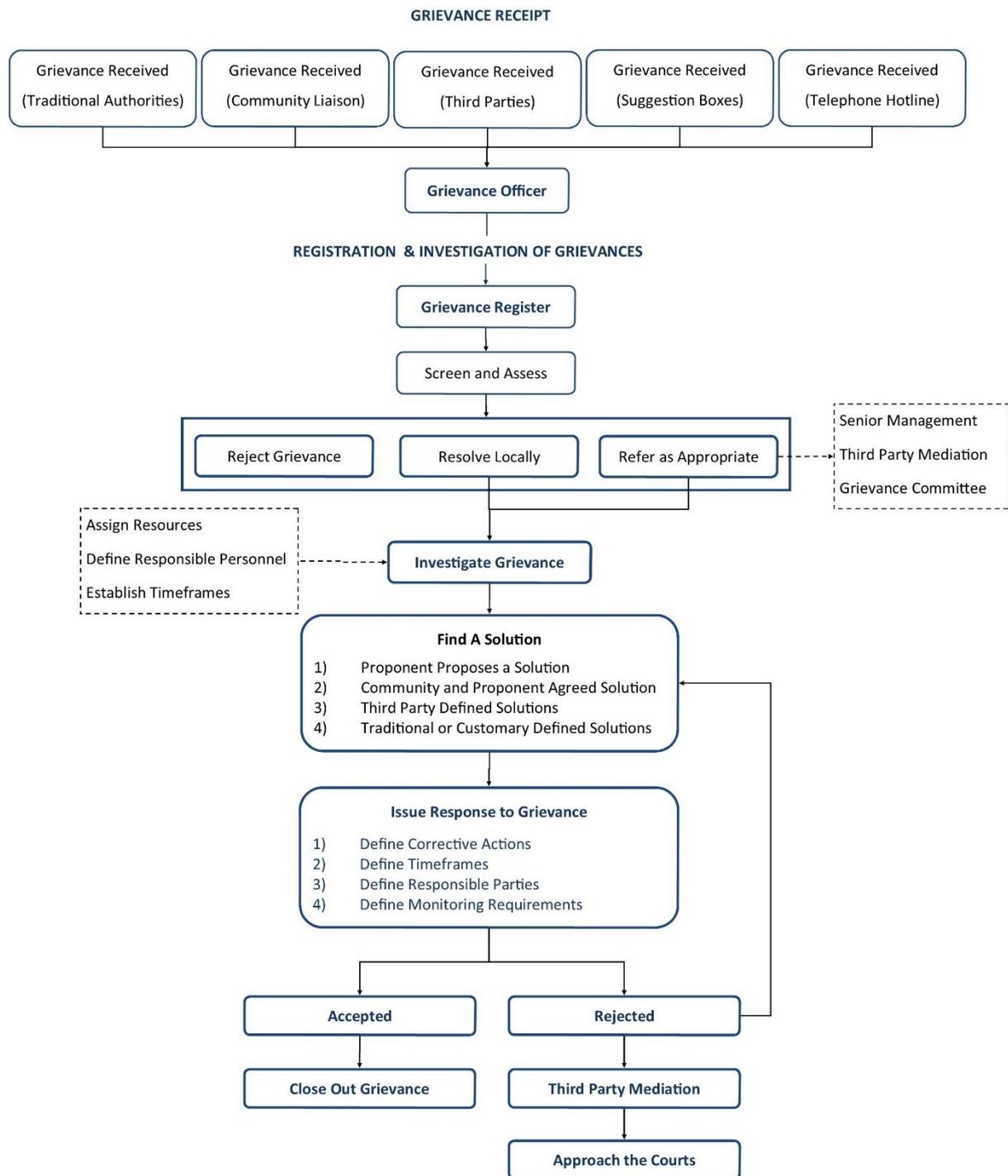


Figure 24: Grievance Mechanism

- **Level 1 – IAFP/ACC Grievance Redress Committee** – An IAFP/ACC Grievance Redress Committee will be established at each IAFP/ACC and administered by either MoIC or MAIL as appropriate to each IAFP/ACC. 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 IAFP/ACC Grievance Redress Committee will include:

- IAFP/ACC Proponent,
- MoIC / MAIL (Committee Secretariat),

- Representatives of Affected Communities,
 - Representatives of Village Shuras,
 - Representative of the Community Development Council
 - 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 IAFP/ACCs. The members of the Provincial Grievance Redress Committee will include:
 - MoIC and MAIL (Committee Secretariat),
 - Representatives of IAFP/ACC Proponents,
 - Representative of the Provincial Office of MUDL,
 - Representative of the Provincial Office of NEPA.
 - 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 IAFP/ACCs.
 - MoIC and MAIL (Committee Secretariat),
 - Representative of the Provincial Office of MUDL,
 - Representative of the Provincial Office of NEPA.
 - 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:

- **Receive Grievance** – The IAFP/ACC Grievance Redress Committee will receive complaints/grievances via the various established communication lines and report to the Provincial Grievance Redress Committee. The IAFP/ACC Grievance Redress Committee will ensure that each IAFP/ACC 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 IAFP/ACC 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.

- **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 IAFP/ACC Grievance Redress Committee (Level 1), or need to be escalated to the provincial level under the Provincial Grievance Redress Committee (Level 2).
- **Investigate and Resolve Grievances** – The IAFP/ACC 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 IAFP/ACC 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.
- **Close Out Grievances** – The IAFP/ACC 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.

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

MoIC 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:

- **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 IAFP/ACCs.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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:
 - *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).
 - *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.
 - *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.

- **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.
- **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.
- **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:

- Engagement with vulnerable people and women should be undertaken using existing community committees or forums, where this is viable.
- Ensure fair representation of vulnerable people and women in any committees or panels established under the ESMF.
- 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.
- If there are minority language groups present among Affected Persons, ensuring that the Project includes persons who can speak these languages.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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).
- 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 IAFP/ACC. To support this mandate, the implementing agencies are requiring including a social safeguard and a gender specialist as part of their staffing compliment (See Section 13). These specialists will be required to prepare and implement such programs based on the following general strategy:

- MoIC and MAIL in the development of the IAFPs, or ACCs will undertake to meet the following requirements with respect to women:
 - Ensure fair employment of women consistent with national law as condition of contracting of both the construction and operations contractors.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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 IAFP/ACC sites.
 - Ensure that suitable facilities including provision for security and privacy for women working of visiting each of the IAFP/ACC sites.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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).

- MoIC and MAIL in the development of the IAFPs, or ACCs will undertake to meet the following requirements with respect to vulnerable people in general:
 - Profile all stakeholder groups with respect to their vulnerability and plan suitable outreach and engagement approaches that is appropriate for each vulnerable group.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - Enhanced opportunities of employment for more vulnerable groups within communities, especially the landless.
 - Ensure fair employment of women consistent with national law as condition of contracting of both the construction and operations contractors.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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-Based-Violence support groups functional in the area.
 - Where the risk for Gender-Based-Violence is deemed to be high, MoIC and MAIL will appoint a GBV Services Provider to be operational at each of the IAFP/ACC sites.
 - Ensure that suitable facilities including provision for security and privacy for women working or visiting each of the IAFP/ACC sites.
 - MoIC and MAIL will attempt to maximize benefits for vulnerable households by prioritizing access to public input support and services provided at the IAFPs, or ACCs.

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

The management plan should recommend feasible and cost-effective measures to prevent or reduce significant negative impacts to acceptable levels. The WBG sector specific guidelines provide guidance in this regard (see Section 5.10) and are obligatory. The management plans should include measures to address emergency response requirements for accidental events. The predicted impacts and costs of all the measures should be estimated and the institutional and training requirements to implement them. The management plan should include proposed work programs, budget estimates, schedules, staffing and training requirements, and other necessary support services to implement the mitigating measures. Relevant clauses should be provided for inclusion in relevant contracts (see Annexure K). Consultation with affected parties to be undertaken for get their feedback on the mitigation measures. The suggested procedures or associated plans have been given in the mitigation table in the impact section (Section 9.3).

12.1 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The control and mitigation of potential adverse effects of IAFP/ACC 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 IAFP/ACC 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 IAFP/ACC. It should also consider the cumulative impacts of the IAFP/ACC activities together with other surrounding activities to ensure that a proactive approach to the effective management of environmental impacts during all phases of the IAFP/ACC activities from construction, operation, to decommissioning and closure. In addition, for the environmental compliance or non-compliance mechanism with ESMP, it is important aspect during the appraisal of IAFPs and ACCs and this should be commencing with the Environmental duties of the contractor or private sector operators

- Contractor's Safety, Social and Environmental Officer
- Environmental and Social Supervision during Construction (CSC)
- Compliance with legal and contractual requirements
- Reporting arrangements

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 IAFP/ACC 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.

Where involuntary resettlement is confirmed, the implementing agency (MOIC in the case of the one or two IAFPs and the MAIL with support from any private developers for the 745 ACCs), together with the World Bank, are required to assess the nature and magnitude of the likely displacement and established the need for a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP). The RAP will need to address the following:

- 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.

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 RAP that will need to be prepared on an IAFP/ACC by IAFP/ACC basis. The RAP will need to 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 one known IAFP 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, but present, and economic displacement will occur where undocumented occupants and land-users have been displaced.

The locations of the remaining one IAFP and the 745 ACCs 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. However, compulsory land acquisition cannot be categorically excluded therefore once the site(s) are selected, a close assessment of undocumented occupants and land-users will 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 (all IAFPs) and MAIL (all ACCs). 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 disclose 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 ACCs in *Figure 25*.

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 IAFP/ACCs will be accountable to the Council. The Council will meet regularly 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

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

- Review and authorize any relevant due diligence assessments, initial environmental and social assessments, ESIA, ESMPs or other relevant plans before submission to the authorities for permitting.
- Provide ongoing oversight support to Project sub-components via the review of annual work plans and the allocation of suitable budgets.
- Ensure that environmental and social legal and safeguard measures are included in annual work plans and budget is sufficient to meet these requirements.
- Support inter-ministerial coordination notably supporting coordination between relevant government ministries and directorates (including MoF, MoIC, CRIDA and MAIL).
- Ensure representation of PMU environmental and social safeguard specialists during Committee meetings, as well as key line ministries (MoIC, MAIL, MUDL etc.).
- 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.
- Undertake reviews of any monitoring report findings and authorize any corrective actions or management measures that need to be adopted.

The ASC will be a centralized national body constituted under the mandate of the HEC, and co-chaired by MoIC and MAIL. The Committee will also comprise representatives from key line ministries (MoF, MRRD, MoE) as well as other relevant agencies. The ASC will meet bi-annually or anytime it should be required, upon initiation from the Chair.

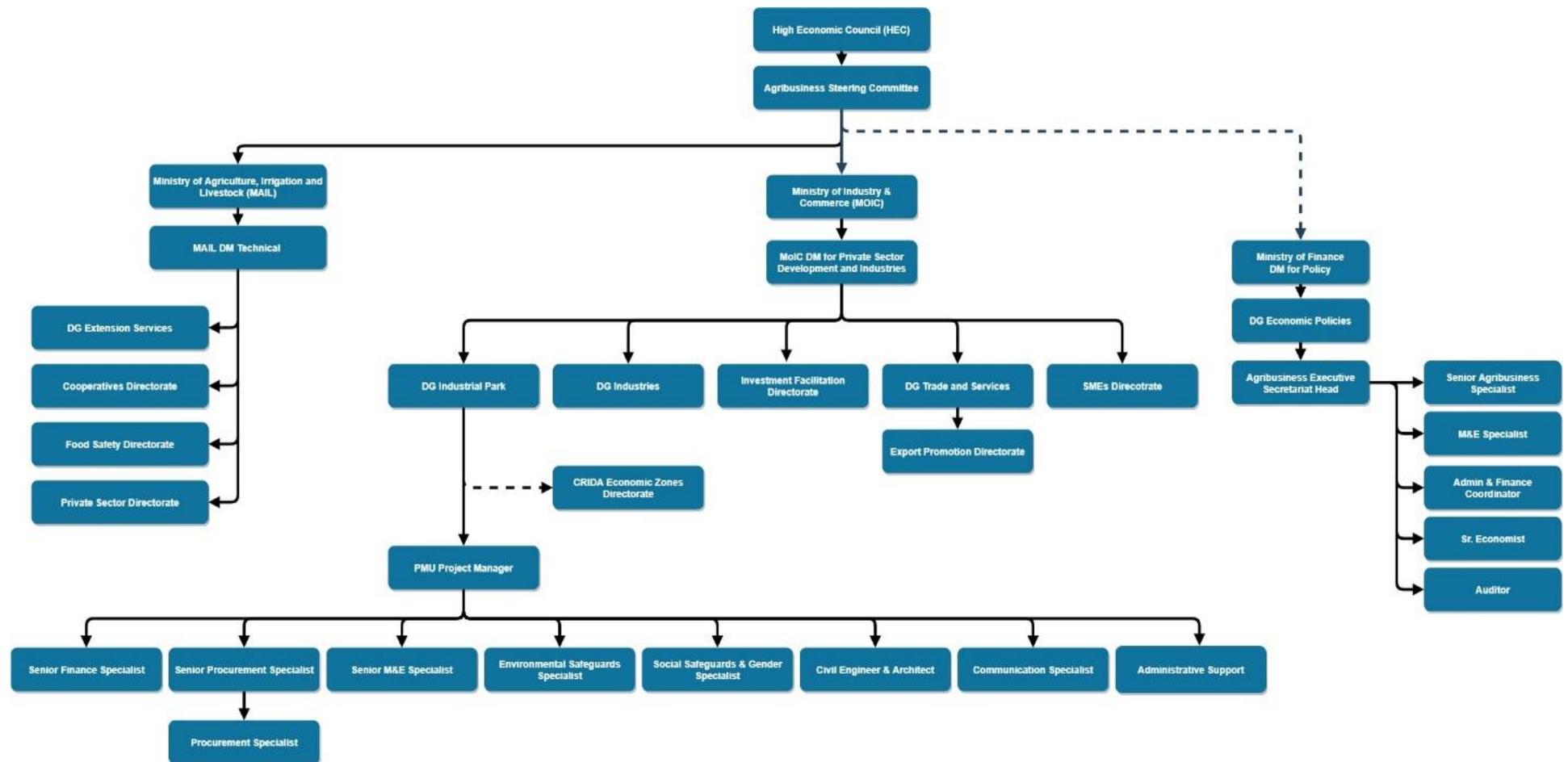


Figure 25: Project Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

13.1.3 Agribusiness Executive Secretariat

The Agribusiness Executive Secretariat (AES) will be established under the Policy Directorate of the Ministry of Finance and will be responsible for convening the ASC as required. The AES will also be responsible for (1) alignment of the Project with national budgets, (2) coordinating and supervising the implementation of the Agribusiness Charter's action plans, (3) supporting implementing agencies in preparation of annual workplans and budgets; (4) preparing quarterly reports; (5) carrying-out periodic assessments; (6) provide input into budget hearings and decisions on funding allocations; (7) undertaking due diligence of the proposed projects, (8) ensuring gender mainstreaming in programming; (9) expanding gender-sensitive occupational health and safety measures, (10) ensuring that investments are designed for resilience to the effects of climate change; and (11) information and communications dissemination of the Charter's achievements.

13.1.4 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 IAFPs and ACCs. The general responsibilities of the third-party would include:

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

13.1.5 Ministry of Industry and Commerce

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC) will be the primary planning and implementing agency for IAFPs and ACCs²⁶. To support the Project, MoIC will establish a Project

²⁶ Certain functions covered under Component 2.2. and specifically, in terms of the financing of ACCs may be deferred to MAIL as detailed Section 13.1.9 below.

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 headed by a Project Manager, who will be supported with day-to-day project operations by technical and administrative staff, including: (1) a civil engineer or an architect; (2) two permanent safeguards specialists (1 environmentalist and 1 social and gender specialist), (3) an M&E specialist; (4) a financial management specialist; (5) a climate change specialist; (6) two procurement specialists; and (7) administrative support staff, including communication. The PMU will also contract private service providers for cross-cutting activities such as investment promotion, training, and institutional development, among others.

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:

- 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.
- Establish a Terms of Reference for the required studies and appoint independent and competent external contractors to undertake the studies.
- Review any studies and submit them to the World Bank, the Agriculture Steering Committee, and the relevant permitting authorities for authorization.
- Establish environmental and social management measures to be included in annual work plans and determine budget requirements.
- 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.
- Undertake regular monitoring of construction contractors and private operators in terms of environmental and social compliance and recommend corrective actions.
- Support the World Bank or any independent third-party monitors in undertaking regular monitoring and evaluation studies.
- 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.

13.1.6 Capital Region Development Authority (CRIDA)

CRIDA will be required to adopt and meet the roles and responsibilities defined for MoIC under Section 13.1.5 with respect to the 1 IAFP under their mandate. Their responsibilities will be implemented via the establishment of a suitable Project Management Unit (PMU).

13.1.7 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 IAFPs and ACCs. 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:

- Determine the environmental and social requirements and standards to be adopted by the contractors as part of their conditions of contracting.
- Preparation of Project-specific Environmental & Social Management Plans (ESMP 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.
- Undertake all on-sites activities required to meet legal environmental and social requirements as established in the Project-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans.
- Provision of suitable staff, equipment, offices, resources and financing required to comply with the Project-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans.
- Undertake regular internal monitoring of all compliance requirements consistent with the Project-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans.
- Submit regular monitoring reports to MoIC, the World Bank and permitting authorities if required under any environmental permits.
- Undertake any corrective action or management amendments to resolve any issues identified during regular monitoring, or from instruction from MoIC.

13.1.8 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:

- Determine, in collaboration with MoIC, which environmental and social assessments are required, and establish a suitable Terms of Reference.
- 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.
- 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.
- Provide the required resources, staffing and finances to ensure the implementation of all environmental and social requirements as well as addressing any remediation in case of non-compliance with environmental and social requirements.
- Provide regular feedback to MoIC on level of compliance with relevant permits and World Bank safeguard policies.

13.1.9 Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) will be mandated to manage Sub-components 1.3, 1.4 and 2.2 of the Project. MAIL, via the established Project Implementation

Unit (PIU), will be responsible for overseeing the planning, construction, and operations of the ACCs including compliance with legal and World Bank safeguard measures. Under Sub-component 2.2, MAIL will recruit a technical assistance (TA) consulting firm to manage the grant scheme and beneficiary contributions for financing the proposed ACCs. The TA firm will assist prospective beneficiaries in developing ACC proposals for submission to the selection committee and will perform the secretariat to the selection committee.

The ACCs proposals that are eligible for financial assistance will be selected and approved by a committee established under the PMU. This selection committee will be chaired by MAIL and include representatives from MOF, MoIC, MAIL, Agribusiness Chamber. MAIL will have overall fiduciary responsibility for the disbursement of the funds under Sub-Component 2. 2. Under this arrangement, MAIL will be expected to fulfill the following roles:

- Establish environmental and social requirements that are to be included as conditions of funding grants for any ACCs.
- Provide ongoing support and supervision of the TA, consulting firm to ensure that environmental and social requirements are met by private developers.
- Review and authorize prospective ACCs based on sound business plans and loan applications made with technical support from the TA consulting firm.
- Establish environmental and social management measures (including meeting the requirements of this ESMF) that form part of the conditions of funding any ACCs.
- Undertake regular monitoring / auditing of the TA consulting firm and private developers at the ACCs.

13.1.10 Grant Operations Management Entity

The MAIL may appoint a private contractor (i.e. 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

- Provision of technical assistance in terms of including environmental and social safeguard requirements into prospective business plans and loan applications.
- Determine which environmental and social assessments must be undertaken by the private developer to meet national legislation and World Bank safeguard requirements.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Undertake regular monitoring / auditing of the construction and operations of all funded ACCs to assess levels of compliance with relevant permits and World Bank safeguard policies.

13.1.11 ACCs Developers

The ACCs 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:

- Determine, in collaboration with MAIL and the Technical Assistance Consulting Firm, which environmental and social assessments are required, and establish a suitable Terms of Reference including meeting the provisions of this ESMF.
- 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.
- Adopt the recommendations and actions provided in environmental and social assessment, including environmentally and socially friendly technologies, best practices, and other relevant mitigation measures into the Project design.
- Determine the resourcing, technology and costing requirements for meeting the environmental recommendations (including for addressing any remediation in case of non-compliance with environmental and social requirements) and include in the funding application or business plans.
- Provide regular feedback to MAIL and the Grant Operations Management Entity on the 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 IAFP/ACCs. The staffing requirements are recommended as follows:

- **Agriculture Steering Committee & Agribusiness Executive Secretariat** – 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.
- **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 the one or two 5 IAFPs.

- **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 may be supported by additional specialist staff depending on the nature of environmental and social impact at each IAFP. The exact staffing requirements should be established in the conditions of contracting between the contractor and MOIC.
- **Business Tenants** –All private business should provide a HSEC manager (or suitable position) as part of its operating staff. The HSEC manager may be a separate specialist position or integrated into the site manager’s roles and responsibilities, depending on the nature of the business and their environmental and social risks.
- **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 positions may be deferred to the Grant Operations Management Entity to avoid duplication of functions (see below). These specialists will be based in Kabul.
- **Grant Operations Management Entity** – 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 ACCs, 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 ACCs.
- **Private Developers** – MAIL will provide funding support to private developers for the planning, construction and operations of the ACCs. All private developers should provide a HSEC manager (or suitable position) as part of its operating staff. The HSEC manager may be a separate specialist position or integrated into the site manager’s roles and responsibilities depending on the nature of the operations and scale of environmental and social impacts at each ACC. 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 short-term contract to provide additional expertise. This may include:

- **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.
- **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.

- **Pest Management Specialist:** This specialist may provide additional support to the implementing agencies or contracted to prepare site-specific Pest Management Plans.

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 centralized positions will be based in Kabul, while IAFP and ACC specific positions will be based at the operations.

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:

- Undertaking a staff training needs assessments at each PMU to identify specific training gaps and develop targeted training programs.
- Provide critical training via the appointment to suitable training or technical specialists covering the following potential topics:
 - World Bank Safeguard Policies and alignment with national regulations,
 - Project management of any environmental assessments,
 - Components and operation of an Environmental and Social Management System,
 - Incorporating environmental and social mitigation measures in project designs, planning, bidding documents and evaluation criteria
- Support exchange programs and delegation visits to similar World Bank funded project in Afghanistan where environmental and social requirements have been adopted.
- Identify local and international training courses, certification schemes, conferences or programs that safeguard specialists may attend.
- 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 13-1**. Training should also target the private sector operators within the IAFPs as well as the ACCs.

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:

- 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.
- Undertake monitoring programs on behalf of the implementing agencies as part of required Monitoring and Evaluation requirements.
- 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.
- Provide technical guidance / supports as part of any relevant committees, evaluation panels or similar structures established by the implementing agencies.
- Provide technical training consistent with the training and capacity building requirements of the implementing agencies as well as private sector operators.

Table 13-1: Training Requirements

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

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

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 1 or 2 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 1 or 2 IAFPs. This will include the review of the contractor monitoring reports of the IAFPs including the activities of the private sector operators within the IAFP, 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 (ACCs)

Internal monitoring of day-to-day activities and the level of compliance with environmental & social requirements at the ACCs 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 ACCs. 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 ACC. 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 IAFP and ACC 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 one or two 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(s), they will ensure that the contractor will be required to meet all environmental and social safeguard requirements as a condition of contracting. The contractor(s) 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 Technical Assistance Contractor, will be directly responsible for ensuring that the costs for meeting environmental and social safeguards requirements are accounted for at the ACCs. MAIL will not develop the ACCs 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 technologies such as on-site wastewater treatment or other 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.

Given the relevant uncertainty of costs without specific details of one or two IAFPs and the 745 ACCs, 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 for construction of either the IAFPs or ACCs,
- **Tranche 3:** Funding for the operation and management costs in the initial two years,

A broad estimate of the internal costs of resourcing, capacity building, training and technical assistance for MoIC and MAIL is presented in **Table 15-1**. Given that no specific information is available for one of the two IAFPs and any of the 745 ACCs, no costing can be provided in terms of the environment studies, mitigation measures, technologies or staffing requirements. This will need to be established for each site-specific IAFP or ACC environmental assessments.

Table 15-1: Capacity Building, Training and Technical Assistance Cost

Implementing Agency	Position	Term / Units	No. Of Units	Cost / Units	Total (USD)
Staffing¹					
Independent Third-Party Monitor	-	Annum	5	45 000	225 000
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/ Technical Assistance Contractor	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
IAFP Construction and Operator Contractors	HSEC Manager (Construction)	Annum	3	40 000	120 000
	HSEC Manager (Operations)	Annum	2	40 000	80 000
ACC Private Developers	HSEC Manager (Construction)	No cost if integrated into Construction Site Manager roles			
	HSEC Manager (Operations)	No cost if integrated into Operation Site Manager roles			
Tenant Businesses	HSEC Manager	Annum	2	40 000	80 000
				Total	2 370 010
Training²					
MOIC and MAIL	Training Program and Materials Preparation	Once-Off	1	16 500	16 500
	Annual Workshops ³	Annum	5	22 200	111 000
Construction and Operator Contractors	Training Program and Materials Preparation	Once-Off	1	16 500	16 500
	Annual Workshops ⁴	Annum	5	22 200	111 000
				Total	255 000

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\$50 million and a US\$125 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 five target regions (Balkh, Kandahar, Kabul, Herat, and Nangarhar) in Afghanistan. The physical infrastructure will comprise of a network of the following interventions, Integrated Agri-Food Parks (IAFPs), and Agricultural Collection Centers (ACCs).

This Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been prepared to assist developers manage the environmental and social risks and impacts associated with the proposed physical infrastructure that will be developed by the Project's IAFPs, ACCs and associated facilities. 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. Potential environmental, social and OHS impacts and risks from the development of the IAFPs and ACCs result in positive and negative direct, indirect and/or cumulative benefits or negative impacts. Those significant negative impacts require mitigation and management and a high-level identification of impacts and mitigation/management is provided.

Central to ensuring effective environmental and social management is the assessment of impacts associated with each IAFP/ACC. In this regard, the implementing agency on each IAFP/ACC will undertake an appraisal of each IAFP/ACC to determine the type of assessment that will be required. As a Category A Project, each IAFP and ACC 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 management actions to mitigate and control the impacts. IAFP/ACC facility 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 IAFP/ACC 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 Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC) will be the implementing agencies for the Project. However, the construction and operation of the physical infrastructure could 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 IAFP/ACC is expected to establish a functional Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) that is appropriately scaled to the nature of the project impacts, under the umbrella of the appropriate management system (e.g. ESMS). The ESMP will be used to manage environmental aspects, fulfil compliance obligations, and address risks and opportunities of each IAFP/ACC.

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 IAFP/ACC. In addition, it will support regular monitoring, reviews and multi-level reporting.

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 have been determined based on the organizational structure for the IAFPs and ACCs and include the High Economic Council, the Agriculture Steering Committee, the Agribusiness Steering Committee, the MoIC and MAIL ministries together with the Capital Region Development Authority, developers, contractors and businesses. The implementing agencies will provide oversight over the Project developments together with training to build the awareness and technical knowledge of environmental,

social and OHS matters across all management, technical, support and safeguards staff. The appointment of external and competent specialists will be undertaken where necessary to assist or subsume some of the responsibilities or functions of the agencies.

To ensure the effective implementation of this ESMF, the implementing agencies will undertake regular monitoring, reviews and multi-level reporting outlined here with adequate funding from the Project.

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