



Additional Financing Appraisal Environmental and
Social Review Summary
Appraisal Stage
(AF ESRS Appraisal Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 12/17/2023 | Report No: ESRSAFA663



I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Country | Region | Borrower(s) | Implementing Agency(ies) |
| Afghanistan | SOUTH ASIA | | |
| Project ID | Project Name | | |
| P181622 | Additional Financing For The Afghanistan Community Resilience And Livelihoods Project | | |
| Parent Project ID (if any) | Parent Project Name | | |
| P178760 | Afghanistan Community Resilience and Livelihoods Project | | |
| Practice Area (Lead) | Financing Instrument | Estimated Appraisal Date | Estimated Board Date |
| Social Sustainability and Inclusion | Investment Project Financing | 1/8/2024 | 2/15/2024 |
| Estimated Decision Review Date | Total Project Cost | | |
| 1/4/2024 | 0 | | |

Public Disclosure

Proposed Development Objective

The objective of the Project is to provide short-term livelihood opportunities and deliver urgent essential services in rural and urban areas.

B. Is the project being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?

Yes

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project Activities

This Additional Financing (AF) for the Afghanistan Community Resilience and Livelihoods Project will continue to provide short-term livelihood opportunities and deliver urgent essential services in rural and urban areas. Four main design changes are proposed in the AF based upon the experience of the past 18 months with the parent project: (i) geographical scale-up in rural and urban areas;(ii) increased livelihood opportunities for Afghan women through a new Women’s Economic Activities sub-component; (iii) heightened focus on climate resilience activities by increasing community awareness of climate risk mitigation and adaptation, and incentivizing the climate resilience-focused



subprojects; and (iv) support for the recent influx of returnees from Pakistan so that they may participate in project activities and receive necessary assistance in terms of job opportunities and services in their areas of return.

The AF will extend the closing date until June 2025, and CRLP will continue to be implemented through United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Facilitating Partner Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and private sector urban contractors.

The aforementioned design changes are integrated into the existing project components as follows:

Component 1: Emergency Livelihoods Support and Services in Rural Areas. This component will continue to provide livelihoods support and services through rural cash-for-work activities. CRLP currently covers six regions, 26 provinces, 67 districts and 6,220 communities in rural areas, which total only 18 percent of the rural districts in the country. The AF will expand the rural coverage and add three new underserved provinces (Kunduz, Zabul, and Farah). Under the AF, a total of six regions, 19 provinces, 27 districts with 2,600 communities will receive assistance. It is estimated that an additional 372,000 HHs will receive jobs by creating over 13 million labor days, and 3.2 million people in these areas will receive services such as the rehabilitation of small-scale community assets (e.g., improved roads, protection walls, community drainage and water canals, agroforestry, and climate resilient infrastructure).

Component 2: Emergency Livelihoods Support and Services in Urban Areas. This component will continue to provide livelihood opportunities for unskilled and semi-skilled labor and respond to urgent service delivery needs in urban areas through small-scale labor-intensive works (LIWs). A total of seven cities will be targeted through the AF. CRLP will continue to operate in Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, Jalalabad and Mazar-e-sharif by expanding to neighborhoods in these cities that have not been previously covered under CRLP. In addition, two new provincial capital cities will be included: Gardiz in Paktia province and Ghazni in Ghazni province. The AF will directly benefit approximately 62,000 HHs by creating 2.8 million labor days. Approximately 1.9 million urban residents will benefit from improved services under LIW.

Component 3: Social Grants for Women and the Most Vulnerable in Rural and Urban Areas. This component will continue to provide communities with cash transfers and in-kind grants to assist the most vulnerable groups and households who are not able to participate in physical works (Components 1 and 2). Over 63,000 vulnerable households are estimated to receive benefits under this component. Beneficiaries would include female heads-of-households and persons with disabilities. An additional sub-component will be included to pilot vocational training and livelihood activities for female heads-of-households.

For both rural and urban areas, a “whole of community” approach will be taken to assist host communities as well as recent returnees from Pakistan.

Component 4: Strengthening community institutions for inclusive service delivery especially for women. This component builds the capacity of Community Development Councils and local communities for long-term sustainability and social resilience. It will continue to support Facilitating Partners’ costs for activities related to community planning, implementation, monitoring and training on a variety of topics such as community mobilization, development planning, women’s well-being, grain banks, and health awareness (through the WB/ARTF-supported health project). Importantly, communities will continue to be trained on disaster risk management and climate adaptation.



Component 5: Implementation Support. This component will continue to support the costs of the UN implementing partner, UNOPS, to manage and oversee the program including technical support, training, financial management, procurement, environment and social monitoring, and reporting results.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

The parent project is operating in 6220 rural communities in 26 provinces and eight cities across the country. The AF will expand the rural coverage by adding 2 new underserved provinces (Kunduz and Zabul), including 13 districts and 1230 communities. The PDO remains same as the parent project i.e. to provide short-term livelihood opportunities and deliver urgent essential services in rural and urban areas. For both tranches under the AF, a total of six regions, 19 provinces, 27 districts with 2,600 communities will receive assistance. It is estimated that an additional 372,000 HHs will receive jobs by creating over 13 million labor days, and 3.2 million people in these areas will receive services such as the rehabilitation of small-scale community assets (e.g., improved roads, protection walls, community drainage and water canals, agroforestry, and climate resilient infrastructure).

Rural expansion areas were chosen based upon several criteria: (i) areas where returnees from Pakistan are expected to settle. The top three destination provinces for returnees (Nangahar, Kandahar, and Kunduz) are included; (ii) areas that were postponed for coverage under the parent project because of budget adjustments and procurement delays; (iii) districts that have received relatively less assistance over the past five years or will likely receive less assistance over the next one year; (iv) areas with Integrated Food Security Phase Classification 3 (crisis) and 4 (emergency); (v) areas that will allow women’s participation in CDCs and project activities; (vi) FP presence especially to assist in cities (Component 2); and (vii) sufficient population size in order for the project to reach the most number of poor Afghans. There are no Indigenous people that meet the criteria of ESS7 in the country.

D.2 Overview of Borrower’s Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

UNOPS as the main implementation agency for the parent project will remain responsible for the implementation of the AF project. UNOPS already has an existing management structure to implement the project which includes qualified staff and resources to support management of E&S risks and impacts of the AF project. The E&S performance remained satisfactory during the implementation of the parent project, with the exception of the occupational health and safety aspects of the project, which resulted in the project being downgraded to moderately satisfactory. For the AF, UNOPS will add two additional E&S staff to provide refresher training to NGOs and increase monitoring efforts.

The ESF instruments of the project that will be updated for the AF will ensure relevant E&S aspects are covered in sufficient details, particularly provisions pertaining to labor occupational health and safety and working conditions. These revisions will also include lessons learned from the parent project to ensure relevant ESF instruments are tailored to the current context of the country. UNOPS will continue to retain the current institutional arrangement throughout the implementation of the AF activities.



II. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Moderate

The environmental risks of the AF project remains moderate. The key environmental risks and impacts include (i) generation of low to medium noise and dust pollution from minor civil works; (ii) removal of vegetation and land degradation in the rehabilitation sites and extraction of construction materials to supply the rehabilitation works; (iii) generation and improper disposal of general construction waste; (iv) occupational health and safety risks for the laborers; and (v) low capacity of the contracts and SPs to manage E&S risks including OHS risks. Similar to the parent project, the proposed activities under AF project are expected to be of small scale and to be carried out within the existing footprints and are thus expected to have temporary, reversible, and localized impacts although widespread across the rural and urban areas. The overall environmental impacts of this project will be positive by enhancing community resilience to the effects of the ongoing crisis through income generation, maintenance of community productive infrastructure and flood risk management and mitigation. In addition, climate resilience activities under the AF project would yield additional positive impacts to the communities.

A.2 Social Risk Rating

Substantial

The social risks for AF project are rated as “Substantial” due to several main factors: (i) restrictions on women’s movement and employment, as well as social inequalities, exclusion, and potential discrimination of certain categories of people such as returnees; (ii) occupational and community health and safety and criminality; (iii) risks of child or forced labor; (iv) FCV and unstable security conditions including the occurrence of possible armed conflict, terrorist attacks, and/or presence of unexploded ordinance; and (v) low capacity of IPs, NGOs and construction firms to manage E&S risks. Overall, the AF will have significant positive benefits in the form of wage employment and improvements in basic services and amenities such as clean water, sanitation, tertiary road rehabilitation, and supporting community institutions for long-term resilience and sustainability.

B. Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Relevant

This standard is relevant. The proposed AF activities will mainly involve rehabilitation of community infrastructure, roads and associated infrastructure, and protection and slope reinforcement through cash for work schemes. The AF activities will also further strengthen the climate risk management and resilience of communities through measures to better equip entities to cope with climate shocks and natural disasters. In addition, the proposed AF activities will provide greater opportunities for women to receiving vocational training and undertake home production activities including kitchen gardens, poultry-raising, and other food processing activities. The risks and impacts are minor in nature and expected to be temporary, reversible, and site-specific, without the likelihood of impacts beyond the actual footprint of the project. The AF project interventions may have potential environmental and social risks and impacts such as generation of waste including construction waste, low to medium noise and dust pollution, possible child labor, forced labor, occupational and community health and safety, and possible risks of excluding poor and vulnerable

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groups such as poor women, recent returnees from Pakistan, and individuals displaced by the ongoing conflict and security situation in the country.

An Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) and updated/revised Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) have been prepared and will be disclosed by appraisal. The ESCP outlines the commitment of UNOPS, which will be cascaded down to NGOs and contractors, to screen, assess and manage E&S risks and impacts while the revised SEP embodies the consultation and engagement processes to be undertaken by the AF project throughout at all stages.

The Environment Social Management Framework (ESMF) prepared for the parent project will be revised and updated as per the proposed AF activities and lessons learned during the implementation of the parent project. The existing E&S screening template, generic ESMP to manage impacts of minor rehabilitation works, simplified LMP, and measures to manage OHS and CHS risks will be updated based on lessons learned. The ESMF will continue to have, an exclusion list for project activities that will not be supported by the project, monitoring and supervision and reporting requirements, capacity building and training, and cost estimation provision. UNOPS will continue to ensure site-specific ESMPs will be made part of contract for each implementing NGO/contractor. The contractors and/or NGOs will conduct the E&S risk screening of each sub-project and implement site-specific mitigation measures following the ESMP. In addition, UNOPS will revise the existing SEA/SH action plan for the parent project. The ESMF will be revised/updated prior to signing of any new contracts funded under the AF, between UNOPS and NGOs/CSOs/contractor who will be implementing the project activities.

The implementation of E&S instruments will continue to be regularly monitored and reported on by the UNOPS. As part of broader monitoring oversight, Third-Party Monitoring Agent (TPMA) will also continue its engagement for E&S risk management monitoring throughout the implementation of the AF project activities. The TPMA will provide quarterly reports covering the field level E&S issues.

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

ESS2 is relevant. The AF project will continue to involve direct workers, contracted workers and community workers. The AF project activities will be conducted mainly by direct workers such as social mobilizers, employees of implementing partners and the community workers who will be engaged and mobilized for cash-for-work schemes. As the large majority of workers will be from the rural communities and urban neighborhoods where the small-scale works are happening, no large-scale labor influx is expected. As the AF project will continue to include labor-intensive non-technical work, the main labor risks include OHS risks, low capacity of SPs to adequately assess the OHS risks, low capacity of contractors to adhere to OHS measures, potential use of child and adolescent labor in project activities, disability constraints and special needs of gender and age groups for each of the foreseen activities.

During the implementation of AF activities, labor management related risks and OHS issues affecting the workers of the implementing agency, contracted workers and community workers will be monitored and managed. In line with requirement of ESS2, the revised ESMF will retain the simplified LMP that includes a Code of Conduct and checklist covering key OHS procedures and measure to prevent and respond to SEA/SH. The GRM system established under the parent project, which is consistent with both ESS2 and ESS10 requirements, will be maintained functional throughout the implementation of AF project, to enable workers to share their concerns. The use of forced labor or the use of

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child labor for any person under the age of 18 in hazardous work situations is prohibited and will be regularly monitored by UNOPS and TPMA.

UNOPS, implementing NGOs and contractors will continue to assess OHS risks and apply adequate OHS measures (including emergency preparedness and response measures) in line with the revised ESMF (including simplified LMP and generic ESMP) and the ESCP. The OHS measures as spelled out in the revised ESMF will consider the World Bank Group's General Environment, Health, and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs).

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Relevant

This standard is relevant. The proposed AF activities are expected to have minor risks, and negative impacts on the existing natural resources which may include soil disturbance and erosion, air and dust emissions, noise, removal of vegetation, land degradation in the rehabilitation sites, extraction of construction materials, etc. The proposed construction work would also risk topsoil/fertile soil and water bodies contamination through uncontrolled spillages, waste generation, and debris. These listed risks remain moderate and will be minimized with standard and readily available mitigation measures as being implemented under the parent project. The revised ESMF of the parent project will retain the generic ESMP covering guidance and mitigation measures to address these risks as per the requirements of ESS3. Moreover, the generic ESMP has particular provisions for sustainable practices for resource efficiency and pollution abatement.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

Relevant

ESS4 remains relevant. The project interventions under the additional financing will continue to be implemented in targeted communities in close coordination and collaboration with the community members. The AF activities can potentially pose community health and safety risks and impacts during the rehabilitation of community infrastructure works, Cash-for-Work. Furthermore, there is the potential risk of communicable diseases spreading within the communities. The project will exercise appropriate measures against introducing the infection to local communities. The revised ESMF will continue to have a basic Life and Fire Safety (L&FS) and Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) checklist to be covered in all sub-project sites and clear protocols to guide safe planning and implementation of construction works. Adequate safety training (e.g. daily safety awareness talks) and safety gears will be provided for workers by the relevant contractors with whom they will be working, and road safety issues will be addressed through appropriate provisions in works contracts.

The management of security issues under the AF project will be governed by the project security management plan (SMP) which has been prepared for the parent project. In order to manage the contextual security risks, UNOPS will implement and require the contracted NGOs and contractors to adhere to the UN security protocols and any measures necessary to ensure consistency between the Protocol and the ESF requirements including security risk assessment and any security management measures necessary for the implementation of the Project AF activities and for the provision of security to Project workers, sites and/or asset. The revised ESMF includes a brief description of the Protocol and any such measures.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

Not Currently Relevant

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ESS5 is not relevant. The AF project is not expected to involve resettlement, land acquisition and/or asset loss as there will be no new construction under the AF project and all rehabilitation work will be on existing footprint on public and community land. The AF project will not support any activity that would cause land acquisition or voluntary land donation. An exclusion list including prohibition of such land impacts is already incorporated in the environmental and social screening checklist of the ESMF for parent project which will be used for the AF project as well.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Not Currently Relevant

ESS6 is not relevant. The project is not foreseen to have impacts on biodiversity or living natural resources. Under the proposed AF project, small scale civil works which are rehabilitation and repair in nature will be carried out in existing infrastructure. The revised ESMF will continue to include guidance for screening subprojects and apply mitigation hierarchy to avoid or minimize any potential negative impacts on biodiversity and living natural resources.

ESS7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

Not Currently Relevant

ESS7 is not relevant as there are no IP/SSAHUTLCs in Afghanistan as per standard definition of ESS7.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

Not Currently Relevant

ESS 8 is not relevant. None of the project activities are expected to have impacts on tangible and intangible cultural heritage during cash-for-works and rehabilitation and or renovation activities. Nevertheless, the proposed generic ESMP to be included in the project’s ESMF will incorporate “Chance-Finds” procedure to be followed during construction.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

Not Currently Relevant

The standard is not relevant because no Financial Intermediaries are involved in the project activities.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

UNOPS has revised and updated the stakeholder engagement plan (SEP) which was developed under the parent project in accordance with ESS10. The revised SEP lays out the plan for meaningful consultations and engagement with all stakeholders throughout the project lifecycle. It describes the strategy and specific engagement methods that would facilitate the effective participation of the different affected groups. The revised SEP also delineates the roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the SEP, as well as monitoring and reporting Mechanism(s). It describes the principles, processes, and structure of the project-level grievance mechanism(s) (GM).

Under the AF interventions of the project, the key stakeholders include project beneficiaries, poor and ultra-poor households including female-headed households, women, recent Afghan returnees from Pakistan, IDPs, elderly people and People with disabilities (PWD), CDC members, community members, and leaders including religious leaders (Mullah Imams), NGOs and contractors. The AF SEP will not only identify the relevant stakeholders but will also provide details on to engage them in the project through appropriate means. The Project stakeholders will be invited to join the participatory design process during the subproject identification and selection stage. The designs will be shared with the communities and their opinions will be taken into account to finalize the design following a public disclosure

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organized with the CDCs. Specific attention has been provided in the SEP for specific groups including the vulnerable communities to design culturally appropriate processes that are respectful to their traditional mechanisms. The SEP will be updated and redisclosed during implementation by incorporating feedback from affected, vulnerable groups and interested parties on how they would like to be engaged during the implementation of the project. UNOPS will continue to identify and engage, through meaningful consultations, with all stakeholders, paying special attention to the inclusion of women, and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. The SEP acknowledges the challenges with engaging marginalized and vulnerable social groups such as IDPs, returnees, pastoral nomads, and those living in remote or inaccessible areas and proposes strategies to engage with them.

B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways No

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas No

B.3 Other Salient Features

Use of Borrower Framework No

The use of borrower's framework is not being considered.

Use of Common Approach No

Common approach is not applicable.

C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities

C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required during implementation?

The ESMF prepared for the parent project will be revised and updated as per the AF project activities and will be implemented throughout the project implementation period. The revised ESMF will include lessons learned from the implementation of the parent project which would help in further strengthening of the screening checklist, generic ESMP and LMP, as part of the ESMF.

The SEP prepared for the parent project has been revised and will be implemented throughout the project implementation period.

The parent project ESCP has been updated to reflect the changes required for AF activities.

III. CONTACT POINTS

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V. APPROVAL

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